

Bihar Special

Mekong Ganga Dhamma Yatra

Why in the news?

The 4th Mekong Ganga Dhamma Yatra which marks a century of Dhamma reached Bihar on 3rd December, 2024.

- ❖ The delegates of the pilgrimage from Thailand were welcomed by Governor of Bihar Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Raj Bhavan.
- ❖ **Objective of the yatra:**
 - It will convey the gratitude of Thai people to India for the gift of Dhamma almost 2300 years ago and also to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sending the Holy Relics to Thailand earlier this year.
 - The main purpose of this yatra is to bring together people of two countries India and Thailand.
 - Supachai Verapuchong of Bodhi-gaya Vijalaya 989 Institute is leading the delegation which will complete the pilgrimage on 10th December.
- ❖ The Dhammayatra, from December 2nd to December 10th 2024, will cover Patna, Bodhgaya, New Delhi and Gujrat before returning to Thailand.

- ❖ Bodhigaya Vijjalaya 980 Institute (BGVI) is a leading think tank and Buddhist society of Thailand.



Economy

Uber Shikara :First Water Transport Service

Why in the news?

Asia's first water transport service "Uber Shikara" has been launched in J&K's picturesque Dal Lake.

- ❖ The service was launched by Uber India and South Asia President Prabhjeet Singh, who booked the inaugural shikara ride via the app.
- ❖ It aims to combine technology with tradition allowing travellers to pre-book shikara rides through the popular ride-hailing app.



- ❖ The seven shikaras are stationed at Nehru Park, an island park located in the heart of Dal Lake.

Shikaras

- ❖ Shikaras are traditional wooden boats that are found on Dal Lake and other bodies of water in Srinagar.
- ❖ These boats, which typically seat six people with a boatman at the back, are a symbol of Kashmir's cultural legacy.
- ❖ While some shikaras are still used for fishing and transport, they are now primarily used by tourists for scenic rides around the picturesque Dal Lake.

Environment And Geography

Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary :57th Tiger Reserve of India

Why in the news?

The Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has been notified as the 57th tiger reserve of India.

- ❖ It was notified after in-principle approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change through the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

- ❖ The notification was issued under Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, acknowledging the core area as a critical tiger habitat.

- The core area spans 763.8 square kilometers, while the buffer area covers 507.6 square kilometers, making the total area of the Ratapani Tiger Reserve 1,271.4 square kilometers.

About Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary:

- ❖ The sanctuary encompasses a World Heritage Site – the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters – and many historical and religious destinations.
- ❖ It is located in the Raisen district with a substantial cover of teak forests and is less than 50 kilometres away from Bhopal.
- It will be the 8th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh.



Miscellaneous

IN-SPACE

Why in the news?

The NCVET has officially recognized the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE) as an awarding body.

- ❖ NCVET stands for the National Council for Vocational Education and Training and is under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ❖ **Significance:** The recognition aims to strengthen the vocational education and training landscape in the space sector.
- ❖ The IN-SPACE operates as an autonomous agency under the Department of Space.

Awards and Honors

Turner Prize

Why in the news?

Scottish artist Jasleen Kaur has won the prestigious Turner Prize.

- ❖ She was recognised for her exhibition *Alter-Altar*, which features a unique installation of a Ford Escort car decorated with a giant doily.

About the Turner Prize:

- ❖ It is a major UK contemporary art award established in 1984.
- ❖ It is awarded annually to a British artist for exceptional exhibitions or projects.



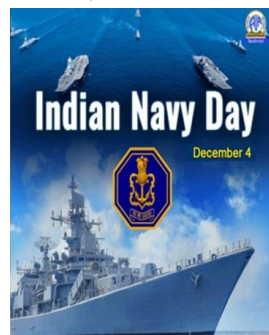
Important Days/ Dates

Navy Day

Why in the news?

Indian Navy Day is annually observed on December 4.

- ❖ **History of this day:**
 - Indian Navy Day honors the success of **Operation Trident**, an audacious mission during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
 - On December 4, 1971, the Indian Navy launched a surprise attack on Karachi, crippling Pakistan's key port and asserting India's naval prowess.



- ❖ **Objective:** To honor and recognise the critical role of the Indian Navy in safeguarding the nation's maritime interests and security.
- ❖ **Theme 2024:** "Strength and Power through Innovation and Indigenisation".

Navy Day Celebrations, 2024

- ❖ On December 4, 2024, the Indian Navy conducted an extraordinary operational demonstration at Blue Flag Beach, Puri, Odisha, to celebrate Navy Day 2024.
- ❖ The event was graced by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, in her capacity as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS).
- ❖ It is the second time the Indian Navy has chosen a location outside a major naval station to showcase its power and capabilities.

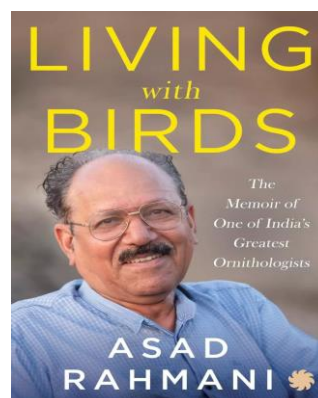
Books And Authors

Living with Birds

Why in the news?

Living with Birds is the memoir of one of India's greatest ornithologists named Asad Rahmani.

- ❖ It is about a life spent studying India's birds and landscapes, fighting for endangered species and shaping the country's fledgling conservation movement.
- ❖ Ornithology is a branch of zoology dealing with the study of birds.

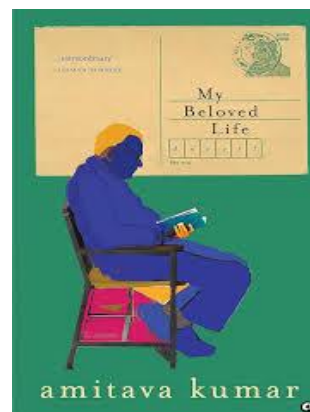


My Beloved Life

Why in the news?

My Beloved Life has been authored by Amitava Kumar.

- ❖ It is about ordinary people and their trials and triumphs, about love and loss and the sweeping changes in a newly independent India.



News in Short

❖ As per the registrations done on the e-Shram portal of the Central Government:

- Bihar is on the third position in the country in terms of employment by singing and playing in weddings and other ceremonies.
- Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of people in the country who are employed in the field of music followed by Maharashtra.

❖ The Indian government has abolished the windfall tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), crude oil, petrol, and diesel, effective immediately.

- A windfall tax is an additional levy imposed on extraordinary or unexpected profits made by companies or industries.

➤ India introduced the windfall tax on domestic crude oil production in July 2022, following a sharp rise in global crude oil prices.

➤ The tax aimed to capture excess revenue generated from these unexpected gains.

❖ **Legendary squash player Raj Manchanda**, the Arjuna Award recipient and winner of six national titles passed away on 1st December, 2024.

❖ **Zhongshan National Atmospheric Background Station**: China's first atmospheric monitoring station in Antarctica is now functional.

➤ It will conduct "continuous and long-term operational observations of concentration changes in Antarctic atmospheric components.

➤ The station is located in **Larsmann Hills** in East Antarctica.



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