

International Relations

First Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS)

Why in the news?

The First Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) will be organized on 5th – 6th November 2024 in New Delhi.



- ❖ It will be organized by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)
- ❖ The theme of the summit: 'Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia'.
- ❖ Chief Guest: The Hon'ble President of India is expected to grace the event as the Chief Guest.

Environment And Geography

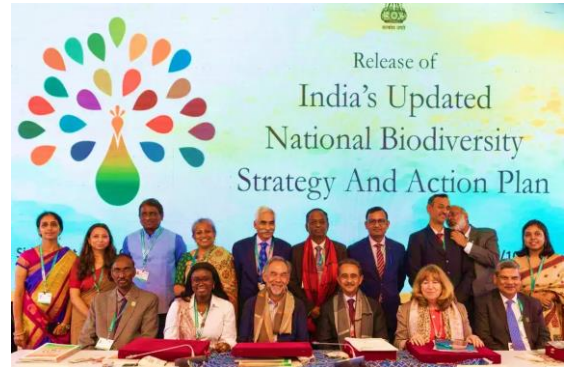
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Why in the news?

India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was launched at the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 16) in Colombia.

- ❖ It was launched by Minister of State for Environment, Kirti Vardhan Singh.

About NBSAP:



- ❖ It outlines 23 National Biodiversity Targets that align with the KM-GBF's global objectives.
- ❖ These targets focus on reducing threats to biodiversity, ensuring sustainable use of resources, and enhancing tools for implementation.
- ❖ Each target is linked to specific strategies aimed at promoting ecosystem resilience, species recovery, and sustainable management practices.

Science And Technology

V404 Cygni

Why in the news?

Physicists at MIT and Caltech have reported that they have observed a "black hole triple" (V404 Cygni) for the first time.

- ❖ It consists of a black hole hungrily feeding on a companion star while being orbited by a more distant, cautious star.
- ❖ It is located within the Milky Way and around 8,000 light-years from Earth.



Defence And Security

Exercise Garud Shakti

Why in the news?

The 9th edition of India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces "Exercise Garud Shakti 24" will be conducted from November 1 to 12.

- ❖ The Indian Army contingent comprising 25 personnel participated in the exercise at Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ **Aim of the exercise:**
 - To acquaint both sides with each other's operating procedures, and enhance mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the Special Forces of both armies.

- To develop bilateral military cooperation and strengthen the bond between two armies through the conduct of discussions and rehearsal of tactical military drills.



Sports

Under-19 World Boxing Championships

Why in the news?

India delivered an impressive performance winning 17 medals, including four golds in the Under-19 World Boxing Championships

- ❖ The Under-19 World Boxing Championships was held in **Colorado, USA**.

About the Indian Squad:

- ❖ The Indian squad, featuring 19 boxers, 9 men and 10 women, saw 12 athletes reach the finals, with every female boxer winning a medal.
- ❖ The four gold medalists included Hemant Sangwan, the only male champion, and female champions Krisha Verma, Parthavi Grewal, and Vanshika Goswami.



Index and Report

AI Preparedness Index

Why in the news?

According to LinkedIn, Singaporean workers are also the fastest in the world to adopt AI skills.

- ❖ Covering a total of 174 countries for 2023, the IMF has ranked the top 10 countries most prepared for AI, as of 2023:

Rank	Country	AI Preparedness Index Score (0-1)
1	Singapore	0.80
2	Denmark	0.78
3	United States	0.77
4	Netherlands	0.77
5	Estonia	0.76
6	Finland	0.76
7	Switzerland	0.76
8	New Zealand	0.75
9	Germany	0.75
10	Sweden	0.75

❖ India's Position in AI Preparedness:

- India leads the way with the highest percentage of users, as 45% of respondents reported using ChatGPT, according to BCG, with the country boasting 338 startups.
- India with an AI Preparedness Index rating of 0.49, ranks 72 in a total of 174 countries, with Bangladesh (0.38) on 113, Sri Lanka (0.43) on 92, and China (0.63) on 31.

Obituary

Bibek Debroy

Why in the news?

Bibek Debroy, chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) passed away on 1st November, 2024.

About Bibek Debroy:

- ❖ He was born in 1955, and received his education at Ramakrishna Mission School, Narendrapur; Presidency College, Kolkata (now Presidency University); Delhi School of Economics; and Trinity College, Cambridge.
- ❖ He served as a member of the NITI Aayog up to June 5, 2019. In September 2017, he was appointed chairman of the EAC-PM.



❖ **Some of his notable books:**

- Great Epics of India: Purana (1991).
- Foreign Trade Policy Changes and Devaluation (1992)
- Vishnu Purana (1992).
- Beyond the Uruguay Round: The Indian Perspective on GATT (1996)
- Indian Economy on a Fast Track (2004)
- The Holy Vedas (2006)
- Economic Freedom of the States of India (2011)
- Corruption in India: The DNA and the RNA (2012)
- Indian Railways (2017), The Valmiki Ramayana (2017), The Book of Limericks (2018) etc.

Books And Authors

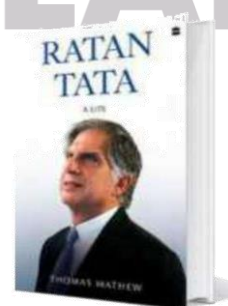
Ratan Tata: A Life

Why in the news?

The biography, Ratan Tata - A Life has been written by retired bureaucrat Thomas Mathew.

About the biography:

- ❖ It explores the remarkable journey from his isolated childhood through his first position within the Tata Group to his transformative tenure as chairman of Tata Sons.
- ❖ It uncovers lesser-known facets of his life, such as the obstacles he faced in school, his early career as an architect, and his first serious relationship.
 - **Title:** Ratan Tata: A Life
 - **Author:** Thomas Mathew
 - **Publisher:** HarperCollins India
 - This fascinating biography traces
 - Ratan Tata's years from his lonely childhood to his being appointed chairman of Tata Sons in 1991



SHAH RUKH KHAN Legend, Icon, Star

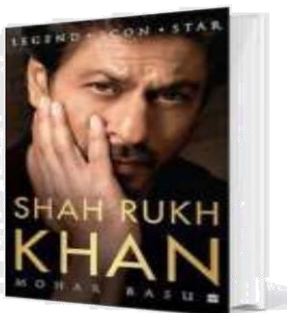
Why in the news?

The biography "SHAH RUKH KHAN Legend, Icon, Star" was written by Mohar Basu.

- ❖ It delves into the life and legacy of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan.
- ❖ It includes first-hand fan accounts (sourced from all over the world) and her insights and commentary on the phenomena that is SRK.

About the Author:

- ❖ Mohar Basu is renowned for her in-depth examination of Bollywood's development and the dynamics inside the business.
- ❖ She was once a film reviewer for Koimoi.com and The Times of India.
 - **Title:** Shah Rukh Khan: Legend, Icon, Star
 - **Author:** Mohar Basu
 - **Publisher:** HarperCollins
 - **Price:** ₹515



News in Short

- ❖ Duma Boko has been elected as the 6th President of Botswana.
 - He belongs to the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) political party.
 - Capital of Botswana: Gaborone.
- ❖ Rajesh Kumar Singh, a 1989-batch IAS officer from Kerala cadre assumed charge as the Defence Secretary.
- ❖ Indian wicketkeeper-batter Wridhiman Saha has announced his retirement from cricket.
- ❖ Collins Dictionary has named "brat" as its Word of the Year for 2024, calling it a "cultural phenomenon resonating globally."
 - Collins described "brat" as representing a "confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude," highlighting its significant impact over the years.
 - The term gained widespread attention after British artist Charli XCX released her album Brat in June 2024 sparking a cultural wave that influenced social media trends, storefront themes, and more.



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