

# Daily Current Affairs 15 January 2024



## Important News: National

### Pench Tiger Reserve becomes India's first Dark Sky Park

#### Why in News:

- The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has been marked as India's first Dark Sky Park and the fifth such park in Asia for protecting the night sky and preventing light pollution.

#### Key Points:

- The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra is India's first Dark Sky Park within a tiger reserve for earmarking areas around the park that restrict light pollution for stargazers to access pristine dark skies.
- Dark Sky Place certification focuses on lighting policy, dark sky-friendly retrofits, outreach and education, and monitoring the night sky.
- This designation positions PTR as a sanctuary where tourists can witness celestial spectacles, shielded from the intrusion of artificial light pollution.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) emphasises on the recognition of the intrinsic value of the night sky as a natural, cultural, and historical resource.
- The IUCN also highlights the need to preserve natural darkness for the sake of nature conservation, ecological integrity in protected areas, and the well-being of communities in healthy cities.

Source: Livemint



## Operation Sadbhavana

### Why in News:

- As part of 'Operation SADBHAVANA', the Indian Army is undertaking multiple welfare activities such as running of Army Goodwill Schools, Infrastructure Development Projects, and Education Tours, etc. for the children living in remote areas of Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.

### Key Points:

- The Army has adopted Topa Pir village in Poonch district as a model village under Operation Sadbhavana.
- To improve the standard of education and to provide them with quality education, the Indian Army is presently running seven (07) Army Goodwill Schools (AGS) under 'Operation SADBHAVANA' in Ladakh Region.
- More than 2,200 Students are currently studying in these schools.
- Women in remote areas of Ladakh are being empowered through various training programmes organised and funded through 'Operation SADBHAVANA' in Vocational Training Centres, Women Empowerment Centres, and Computer Centres at various locations in Ladakh.
- In addition, training classes for women are also being organised for various activities i.e. Pashmina Shawl Weaving, Wool Knitting, Extraction of Apricot Oil, Yak Cheese Making, and Yak Cheese Baking.

**Source: PIB**

## Government approves re-appointment of RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra for 1 year

### Why in News:

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the reappointment of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Deputy Governor Michael Patra for one year

### Key Points:

- The reappointment of Deputy Governor Michael Patra will be effective from January 15, 2024.
- The term of Deputy Governor Michael Patra was scheduled to end on January 14, 2023.



- Patra was appointed as RBI Deputy Governor in January 2020, and last year he got an extension of one year.
- Patra joined RBI in 1985 and has worked in various positions at the central bank.
- Currently, RBI is run by four deputy governors in addition to a Governor.
- The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The Central Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Calcutta but was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937.
- The Central Office is where the Governor sits and where policies are formulated.
- Though originally privately owned, since nationalization in 1949, the Reserve Bank is fully owned by the Government of India.

**Source: Money Control**

## Renowned classical singer Prabha Atre dies at 92

### Why in News:

- Renowned classical singer and three-time Padma awardee Prabha Atre passed away due to a cardiac arrest on 13 January.

### Key Points:

- Legendary classical singer and Padma Vibhushan recipient Prabha Atre, considered the doyenne of the Kirana gharana, passed away on January 13 in Pune.
- Born on 13 September 1932, Atre began singing at a very young age.
- She began her career as a singing stage actor and went on to play roles in a line-up of Marathi theatre classics like Sanshay-Kallol, Maanaapamaan, Saubhadra, and Vidyaharan.
- Atre specializes in different musical genres like Thumri, Ghazal, Geet, Khyal, and Natyasangeet, among others.
- In 2022, Atre was awarded a Padma Vibhushan and was also felicitated with the Atal Sanskriti Award by the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- Prior to that, Atre had received a Padma Shri in 1990, a Padma Bhushan in 2002, and a Padma Vibhushan in 2022.



## The Railway Ministry includes Udupi station (Karnataka) under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for redevelopment

### Why in News:

- The Udupi station under the Konkan Railway Corporation (KRCL) network has been included in the Railway Ministry's Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) for redevelopment.

### Key Points:

- The redevelopment broadly includes platform improvement with covered shelters, covered foot overbridge, improved circulating and vehicle parking areas and other passenger amenities.
- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is an ongoing Indian Railways mission launched in February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways to redevelop 1,309 stations nationwide.
- Amrit Bharat Station scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach.
- The process involves the preparation of Master Plans, followed by their phased implementation.
- The aim is to enhance amenities at the stations, such as improving station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, and installing lift/escalators as needed.
- Additionally, the focus extends to maintaining cleanliness, providing free Wi-Fi, establishing kiosks for local products through initiatives like 'One Station One Product,' enhancing passenger information systems, creating Executive Lounges, designating spaces for business meetings, and incorporating landscaping.
- These improvements are tailored to meet the specific needs of each station.
- The scheme also envisions the improvement of buildings. It aims to integrate the station with both sides of the city and enhance multimodal connectivity.
- Special attention is given to providing amenities for Divyangjans. The scheme focuses on adopting sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions.



# 15 January Daily Current Affairs

6th Edition of the 'Youth Co:Lab' fellowship launched in New Delhi

## Why in News:

- Developed in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Citi Foundation, 'Youth Co: Lab' seeks to create a shared agenda among countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Key Points:

- Supporting youth-led startups in areas of agriculture fintech, innovative solutions for indigenous peoples and assistive technology will be high on the agenda of the 6th Edition of the 'Youth Co:Lab' fellowship launched in New Delhi on 12 Jan 2024.
- The fellowship led by the United Nations Development Programme in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission and NITI Aayog aims to develop 21st-century skills, catalyzing and sustaining youth-led start-ups and social enterprises across the country.
- 'Youth Co:Lab' aims to invest in and empower youth to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- 'Youth Co:Lab' in India was launched in 2019.

**Source: News on AIR**

## Govt's ZED scheme for MSMEs hits 1 lakh certification milestone

## Why in News:

- The Zero Effect, Zero Defect scheme (ZED) by the MSME Ministry, which aims to encourage environmentally sustainable manufacturing practices among MSMEs, has achieved the 1 lakh certification milestone.



## Key Points:

- Launched in October 2016 and revamped in April 2022, the ZED scheme offers certification for environmentally conscious manufacturing under three certification levels (gold, silver, and bronze) classified according to 20 performance-based parameters such as quality management, timely delivery, process control, waste management, etc.
- The scheme provides financial assistance of up to 75 percent of the total cost of certification, with a maximum subsidy ceiling of Rs 50,000 along with up to Rs 2 lakh support for handholding/consultancy to achieve the next certification level.
- For technology upgradation, the scheme offers assistance of up to Rs 3 lakhs for moving towards zero effect solutions/pollution control measures/cleaner technology.
- MSMEs are charged Rs 10,000 for bronze certification, Rs 40,000 for silver certification, and Rs 90,000 for gold certification.
- In December 2023, the MSME Ministry made the ZED scheme free for women-led MSMEs.

Source: Financial Express

# EXAM PREP

## Beach Games 2024

## Why in News:

- Madhya Pradesh emerges overall Champion of first ever Beach Games held in Diu.

## Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the overall champion at the inaugural Beach Games 2024, held at the blue flag-certified Ghoghla Beach in Diu.
- The state secured a staggering total of 18 medals, including 7 gold medals.



## 15 January Daily Current Affairs

- The competition, which unfolded from January 4-11, witnessed 1404 young athletes from 28 states and Union Territories participating in a diverse array of disciplines.
- Maharashtra clinched 14 medals, including 3 golds, while Tamil Nadu, Uttarkhand, and hosts Dadra, Nagar Haveli, Diu & Daman secured 12 medals each. Notably, Assam secured 8 medals, with an impressive 5 golds.
- Sports - Tug of War, Sea Swimming, Pencak Silat, Mallakhamb, Beach Volleyball, Beach Boxing etc.

**Source: DD News**

