

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 14, 2024

NATIONAL

➤ India's First Dark Sky Park

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Pench Tiger Reserve became the fifth such park in Asia.
- ✓ The certification was given by the International Dark-Sky Association, a global dark-sky movement to promote astronomy.

DEFENCE

➤ 'Ugram', Indigenous Assault Rifle

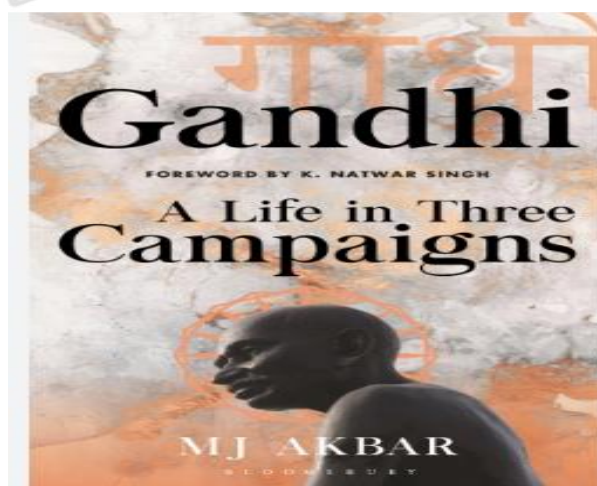
- ✓ **'Ugram'**, an assault rifle developed by the Defence Research & Development Organization (**DRDO**) in collaboration with a private firm was launched.



- ✓ The weapon, developed at the Armament Research and Development Establishments (ARDE), the DRDO's Pune-based laboratory, is designed to meet the Indian Army's 'GSQR' (General Staff Qualitative Requirement) of a rifle weighing less than four kg.
- ✓ The operational prototype of the 7.62 x 51mm assault rifle was unveiled by Dr S V Gade, director general (Armament & Combat Engineering Cluster).

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **"Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns"**
- ✓ "Gandhi: A Life in Three Campaigns" has been published by M.J. Akbar, with co-author K. Natwar Singh.



- ✓ The book examines Mahatma Gandhi's pivotal roles in three major movements: the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920), the Salt Satyagraha (1930), and the Quit India Movement (1942), underlining their significant impact in undermining British rule in India.

