

## Prelim Bits 18-04-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Mangrove Pitta Birds

*First-ever census finds 179 mangrove pitta birds in two coastal Odisha districts.*

- **Mangrove pitta birds** - They are a nearly threatened species found in few pockets of eastern India.
- The habitats of these beautiful birds are confined to mangrove forest areas in Odisha's Bhitarkanika and Sundarban in West Bengal.
- Mangrove pitta is a resident non-migratory bird that generally feeds on crustaceans, mollusks and insects.
- The breeding season of this species ranges from April to August in Bhitarkanika.
- **The census** - The census was carried out by point count method, either by walking in the forest or using country boats in the creeks.
- In this census, a total of 179 individual mangrove pitta birds were counted.
- The highest concentration of the birds has been found in the mangroves near the Mahipura river mouth inside the Bhitarkanika National Park.
- **Bhitarkanika National Park** - It is a suitable congenial breeding place for this bird species.
- Bhitarkanika National Park is located in Kendrapara district in Odisha.
- The national park is mostly a wetland and a mangrove forest.
- It was declared as a Ramsar Site in August 2002.



### References

1. [The Hindu | First-ever census of mangrove pitta birds](#)
2. [The New Indian Express | Bhitarkanika home to 179 Mangrove Pitta birds](#)
3. [Odishatv | Country's first mangrove pitta bird census](#)

## Yuva Portal

*Union Minister of Science & Technology launched the Yuva Portal.*

- The portal will help in connecting and identifying potential young Start-Ups.
- Unless the stakeholders' participation is broad-based, the Startups may not remain sustainable.
- **One Week-One Lab programme** - The programme is launched to highlight India's global excellence in technology, innovation and startups.
- Each of the 37 CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) labs spread across the country is dedicated to a different exclusive area of work.
- It will offer the opportunity to the CSIR labs to showcase the work being done by them so that others can avail of it.
- The CSIR laboratories are unique and specialise in the specific areas which span from genome to geology, food to fuel, minerals to materials, and so on.
- CSIR-NPL (National Physical Laboratory) is the custodian of Indian Standard Time (IST), generated using an atomic time scale consisting of Caesium atomic clocks and Hydrogen masers.
- **Astronomy lab** - It is set up in the district of Karnal in Haryana.
- The lab will provide level-playing field to all and even Divyangs (person with disability) can excel in various forms of skill, art and craft.

## References

1. [PIB | YUVA PORTAL launched](#)
2. [Newsonair| Union Minister launches YUVA PORTAL](#)

## Marketing and Logistics Development for Promotion of Tribal Products from North-Eastern Region (PTP-NER)

*The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India has introduced a new scheme, PTP-NER.*

- The scheme is introduced for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of North-eastern Region.
- The scheme has the vision to strengthen livelihood opportunities for tribal artisans through increased efficiency in procurement, logistics and marketing of tribal products from North Eastern States.
- The scheme will apply to the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.
- The scheme helps tribal artisans to avail opportunities of enhancing income through the provision of backward and forward linkages.
- Under the scheme Tribal Artisan Melas (TAMs) will be organised at various districts of North-eastern Region.

## Reference

1. [PIB | Ministry of Tribal Affairs introduces a new scheme](#)

## Great Pacific Garbage Patch

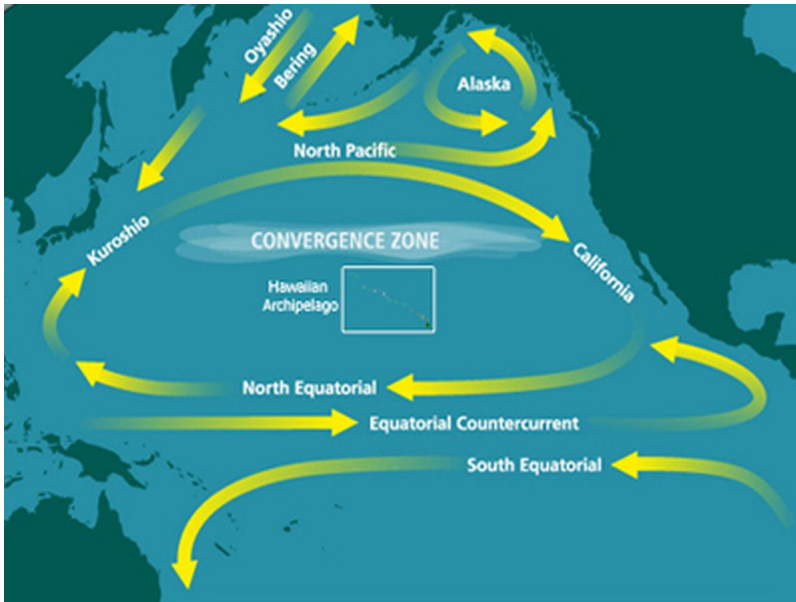
*Scientists have reported that the plastic trash has given rise to a previously unknown type of ocean community.*

- **Anthropocene epoch** - The name for a new period in the history of the earth characterised by the influence of one species on the planet's geology, ecosystems, even its fate: Homo sapiens.
- Scientists are still figuring out when this epoch really began, some include the first nuclear weapon test and rapid industrialisation after the Second World War.
- Creation of plastic trash also adds to this epoch, abundant in urban refuse, rivers, and forests, from the slopes of the highest peaks to the depths of abyssal trenches.

## Great Pacific Garbage Patch

- There are some water currents in the oceans that, driven by winds and the Coriolis force, form loops, called gyres.
- The North Pacific Subtropical Gyre (NPSG) is one such, located just north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean.
- It consists of the Kuroshio, North Pacific, California, and North Equatorial currents and moves in a clockwise direction.
- These currents flow adjacent to 51 Pacific Rim countries.
- Any trash that enters one of these currents, from any of these countries, could become part of the gyre.
- Inside this gyre, just north of Hawai'i, lies a long east-west strip where some of the debris in these currents has collected over the years.
- The eastern part of this is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.
- It is, per one estimate, 1.6 million sq. km big and more than 50 years old.
- The patch contains an estimated 45,000-1,29,000 metric tonnes of plastic, predominantly in the form of microplastics.
- The numerical density of plastics here is around 4 particles per cubic metre.
- Mass-wise, however, heavier, more visible objects that haven't yet broken down into smaller particles accounted for 92% in 2018.
- **Organic Community** - 98% of the debris in the garbage patch had invertebrate organisms.
- Pelagic species were also found on the debris.

*Pelagic species are those that inhabit the water column (not near the bottom or the shore) of coasts, open oceans, and lakes.*



## References

1. [The Hindu | The Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#)
2. [National Geographic | Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#)
3. [CNN | The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is now so huge and permanent that a coastal ecosystem is thriving on it](#)

## World Heritage Day 2023

*Every year on April 18, people celebrate World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites.*

- This day is dedicated to promote the importance of cultural heritage and raise awareness about the need to preserve historical sites and monuments across the globe.
- The day celebrates the unique and diverse cultural heritage across the world and encourages people to appreciate and safeguard it for future generations.
- **History and significance** - The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) proposed the idea of World Heritage Day in 1982.
- It was approved by UNESCO's General Conference in the following year.
- The first World Heritage Day was celebrated in 1983, and since then, it has become an important event for promoting awareness about cultural heritage.
- **Theme for World Heritage Day 2023** - The theme for World Heritage Day 2023 is "Heritage Changes".
- The theme for World Heritage Day 2023 is focused on the crucial issue of climate action and its relation to cultural heritage.

## References

1. [The Economic Times | World Heritage Day 2023](#)
2. [India today | World Heritage Day 2023](#)



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