



# Soul of Steel Challenge

## Why in News?

A '**Soul of Steel**' challenge was launched in **Uttarakhand** on 14 January which aims to test one's **high-altitude endurance**.

- The general area of the expedition would be the [Nanda Devi National Park](#).

## What is the Soul of Steel Challenge?

- The challenge is an initiative of CLAW Global and is being supported by the Indian Army.
- The idea behind Soul of Steel is pooling of skill sets and creating a challenge that will **unlock the human ability to survive, stabilise and thrive in high altitude areas**.
  - It is based on the lines of the '**Ironman triathlon**' long-distance triathlon **challenge in Europe**, which tests an individual's grit and endurance.
- Apart from life skill training and youth development, the challenges would globally **promote adventure [tourism](#) in Uttarakhand**.

## What is CLAW Global?

- **CLAW (Conquer Land Air Water) Global**, is a **team of Special Forces veterans and [people with disabilities](#)** from different nationalities, religion, abilities etc., to project the power of self-belief and collective effort to create a powerful perception of ability and freedom.
  - It was set up in January 2019 by **Major Vivek Jacob**, a para special forces officer who retired after 14 years of service after a combat skydive injury.
- CLAW introduced '**Operation Blue Freedom**' - **a movement to express the powerful spirit and ability of people with disabilities**.

## Note

- **Armed Forces Veterans Day** is celebrated every year on **January 14**. On this day, in 1953, the **First Indian Commander-in-Chief** of the Indian Army, **Field Marshal KM Cariappa** formally retired from the Services.
  - He led the Indian Forces to Victory in the [1947 war against Pakistan](#).
  - The day was **first observed in 2016**.

[Source: TH](#)

