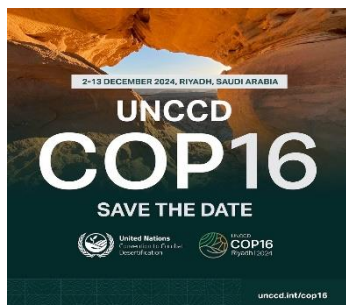


CoP16 of UN Convention to Combat Desertification

The COP16 of the UNCCD was held on 2nd December 2024 at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Key point

- ❖ The COP to the UNCCD is a conference which is held every two years with the previous session which was COP 15 that took place in May, 2022 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- ❖ The UNCCD is one of the three Rio conventions, which adopted in 1992 during the Rio 'Earth' Summit, alongside with UNFCCC and CBD.
- ❖ India's COP16 delegation is headed by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.
- ❖ It may be recalled that, sharing his stand regarding the environment, Bhupender Yadav actively supported the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign also and planted a tree sapling at the Indian Embassy, Riyadh.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- ❖ It is the only legally binding framework set up to address desertification and the effects of drought.
- ❖ It is a multilateral commitment to mitigate the impact of land degradation, and protect our land so we can provide food, water, shelter and economic opportunity to all people.
- ❖ There are 197 Parties to the Convention, including 196 country Parties and the European Union.
- ❖ The UNCCD permanent secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany.
- ❖ The Convention is based on the principles of participation, partnership and decentralization
- ❖ The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid ecosystems known as the drylands.
- ❖ A Conference of the Parties (COPs) is held every two years of the parties to the convention.

Brain Rot

Recently, brain rot' — a term was now officially recognised as the Oxford Word of The Year for 2024.



Key Point

- ❖ It refers to a decline in mental or intellectual abilities caused by excessive consumption of trivial or unchallenging online content.
- ❖ The term was first used in 1854 by Henry David Thoreau.
- ❖ It has gained popularity in recent years, particularly among younger generations, to describe the negative impact of social media and online culture.
- ❖ It's associated with specific online trends and memes, like "Skibidi Toilet" and "only in Ohio."
- ❖ It has sparked discussions about the potential harm of excessive social media use on mental health.
- ❖ It highlights the impact of digital culture on language and society.
- ❖ Younger generations are using the term to reflect on the potential downsides of social media.
- ❖ It contributes to ongoing discussions about technology, mental health, and the future of online culture.

40 Years of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

The 40th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy observed on December 3, 2024.



Key Point

- ❖ Bhopal Gas Tragedy is a catastrophic industrial disaster at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.
- ❖ The disaster was caused on December 3, 1984 when approximately 40 tons of toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas leaked out of a pesticide factory in the city of Bhopal.
- ❖ ₹126 crore was allocated in March 2024 by the Union government to Madhya Pradesh for disposal of 337 MT of the toxic waste, which was collected and kept in the premises of the factory in 2005.
- ❖ Even after 40 years of the Bhopal gas tragedy, the plan to dispose of 337 MT of toxic waste remains unimplemented.
- ❖ The government has yet to devise a plan to address the 11 lakh tonnes of contaminated soil plus mercury and nearly 150 tonnes of underground waste dumps present in the factory premises.
- ❖ The orders of the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) are ignored for years as groundwater contamination spreads.

About Methyl Isocyanate (MIC)

- ❖ A flammable, colourless liquid with a pungent odour.
- ❖ Chemical formula of MIC is CH_3NCO or $\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{NO}$.
- ❖ Evaporates quickly when exposed to air.
- ❖ Gaseous MIC is denser than air, accumulating at ground level.
- ❖ Obtained through the reaction of methylamine with phosgene.
- ❖ Primarily serves as a chemical intermediate in the production of pesticides.
- ❖ Utilized in the manufacture of polyurethane foams and plastics.

New Tiger Reserve

On December 1, the technical committee of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved the proposal to designate Madhav National Park, as a tiger reserve.



Key Point

- ❖ Madhav National Park is situated in Shivpuri District, Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ Madhav National Park was hunting reserve previously used by the Mughal emperors and the Maharaja of Gwalior. It is a historic and modern wildlife destination.
- ❖ It got the status of a National Park in 1958.
- ❖ Apart from being a curious natural beauty, the park has rich wildlife such as Nilgai, Chinkara, Chowsinga, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Leopard, Wolf and Jackal and thus a fitting place for wildlife lovers and the conservationists.
- ❖ This park is indeed the inhabitant rich combination of smaller and big lakes, forests, and grasslands; therefore, gives a lovely natural experience for the plants and animals..
- ❖ Madhav National Park is a part of the Ranthambhore-Kuno-Madhav (Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan) Tiger Corridor of Central India & Eastern Ghats landscape.
- ❖ Madhav National Park is a part of the Ranthambhore-Kuno-Madhav (Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan) Tiger Corridor of Central India & Eastern Ghats landscape.

Project Tiger Program:

- ❖ Project Tiger, launched in 1973, aims to ensure the preservation of Bengal tigers in their natural habitats.

- ❖ This ongoing initiative, under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change**, provides central assistance to tiger states for conservation efforts within designated tiger reserves.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh, known as the "**tiger state**," boasts a high population of these majestic creatures.
- ❖ The tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh include Kanha Tiger Reserve, Pench Tiger Reserve, Panna Tiger Reserve, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Satpura Tiger Reserve, Sanjay Tiger Reserve, and Ratapani Tiger Reserve.

World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC)

The WMTC 2024 will be hosted in Chennai, India from 4th to 6th of December.



Key point

- ❖ The event is being organized by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Chennai Branch.
- ❖ WMTC is one of the most significant international conferences held every three years under the World Maritime Technology Congress.

- ❖ The event brings together industry leaders, professionals and experts from around the world in maritime technology and related industries.

Short News

- ❖ UNESCO has internationally recognized West Bengal's tourism sector, naming it a premier destination for heritage tourism.
- ❖ Pavan Kampelli from India created history by clinching the bronze medal in eFootball at the 2024 Asian Esports Games in Bangkok.
- ❖ Most notably, Uber has recently launched Asia's first water transport service, Uber Shikara in the beautiful Dal Lake of Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The 4th edition of the India-Malaysia joint military exercise, 'HARIMAU SHAKTI' commenced on 2 December 2024 at Bentong camp in Malaysia's Pahang district.
- ❖ New Pamban Bridge which is India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge will replace the Pamban bridge which was constructed in the year 1913 to connect mainland India with Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Recently the technical committee of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved the proposal to designate which of the following national park as a tiger reserve?
- A. Madhav National park
 - B. Kanha National park
 - C. Bandipur National park
 - D. Sariska National park

Answer -A

2. The COP16 of the UNCCD was held on 2nd December 2024 at Which of the following places?
- A. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
 - B. Cairo Egypt
 - C. Bhopal ,India
 - D. Abidjan cote d'iveri

Answer -A