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Current Affairs - 03 November 2024

WHAT ARE THE KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM COP-16?

- The 16th meeting of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** took place in **Colombia**. Around 190 countries gathered to advance global biodiversity conservation efforts, continuing from the landmark agreements established at the **previous conference in Montreal, Canada, in 2022**.
- The primary goal was to push forward the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)** and ensure the implementation of key biodiversity targets set for the decade leading up to 2030.

Key Goals of the KMGBF:

- The 2022 Montreal meeting resulted in the **30-by-30 agreement**, a commitment to protect 30% of land and marine areas by 2030.
 - Currently, less than 17% of land and 10% of marine areas are protected globally.
- In addition to this overarching goal, the KMGBF identified 23 action-oriented global targets for biodiversity conservation, including:
 - **Reducing Invasive Species:** Halving the introduction of invasive alien species by 2030 and minimizing their impact.
 - **Addressing Pollution:** Aiming to bring pollution levels down to tolerable limits across all sources by 2030.
 - **Benefit-Sharing Mechanism:** Establishing a system to ensure fair benefit-sharing from the use of **genetic resources** and **digital sequence information (DSI)** derived from genetic materials.
 - **Integrating Biodiversity into Development:** Ensuring biodiversity considerations are embedded in national policies, regulatory frameworks, and development planning.
- However, implementing these targets requires substantial financial commitments. Estimates suggest that **around \$200 billion per year is needed**, but only a fraction of this has been pledged by international stakeholders.

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India's Contribution to COP-16:

- India, a consistent participant in biodiversity COPs, was represented by a delegation led by the Minister of State for Environment, Kirti Vardhan Singh.
- India presented an updated biodiversity action plan with several key highlights:
- **Budget Commitment:**
 - India plans to allocate approximately ₹81,664 crore for biodiversity and conservation efforts from 2025 to 2030.
 - From 2018 to 2022, the country spent ₹32,207 crore on conservation efforts, primarily through central government funding and allocations to various ministries and statutory bodies.
- **Call for International Finance:**
 - Emphasizing the need for global financial support, India's officials stressed the necessity of international resources to meet ambitious biodiversity targets, as highlighted in Target 19 of the KMGBF, which aims to mobilize \$200 billion annually, including \$30 billion through international financing.
- **Biodiversity Initiatives:**
 - India cited its contributions to global conservation, including the establishment of the **International Big Cat Alliance** for the protection of major big cat species, which serve as indicators of healthy ecosystems.
 - Furthermore, India has expanded its **Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance)** from 26 in 2014 to 85, with plans to increase the number to 100 soon.

Significance and Future Implications:

- The COP-16 conference highlights the global commitment to biodiversity conservation, with specific targets aimed at addressing issues like habitat loss, pollution, and climate change. However, the success of these initiatives heavily relies on adequate funding, which remains a challenge.
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WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL BUREAU



- It is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.
- It was constituted by amending the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Mandate: Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 it is mandated to

- Collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and disseminate the same to the state and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals.
- Establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank.
- Assist foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control.
- In the capacity building of the wildlife crime enforcement agencies for a scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes;
- It advises the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, relevant policies and laws.
- It also assists and advises the Customs authorities in the inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of the Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy governing such an item.
- It has developed an online Wildlife Crime Database Management System to get real-time data in order to help analyse trends in crime and devise effective measures to prevent and detect wildlife crimes across India.
- It has been successfully used to analyse trends, helping put in preventive measures as well as for successfully carrying out operations such as SAVE KURMA, BIRBIL, THUNDERBIRD, WILDNET, LESKNOW, THUNDERSTORM, LESKNOW-II
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change
- Headquarter: New Delhi



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SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030?

- It was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides member states with concrete actions to protect development gains from risk of disaster.



- It was adopted by the UN member states at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015.

- It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.

The Sendai Framework advocates for:

- The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries.
- It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk, but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders, including local government, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

Four Priorities:

- Understanding disaster risk
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and "Building Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Targets:

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality.
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally.



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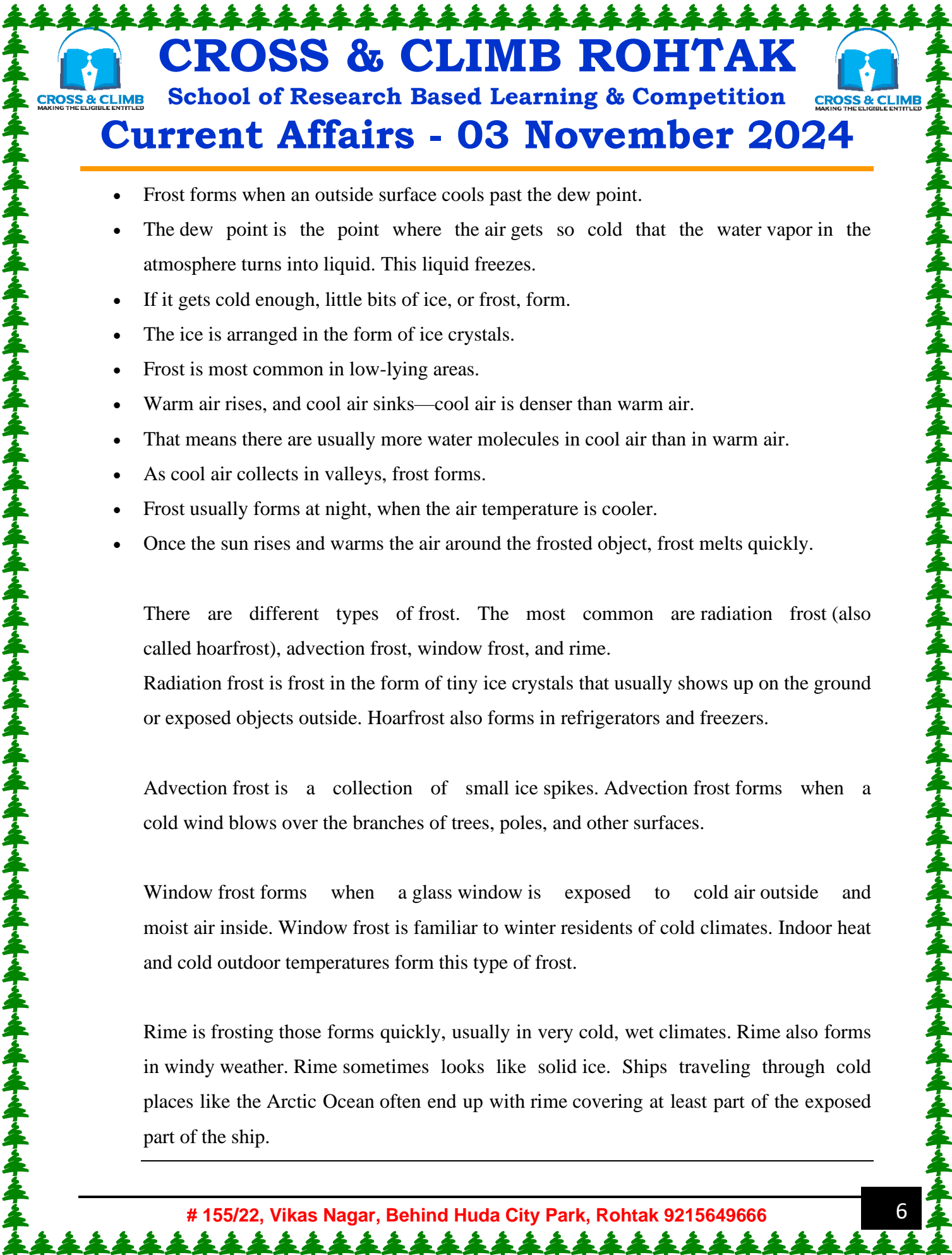
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP.
 - Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.
 - Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.
 - Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries.
 - Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people.
 - The Sendai Framework covers technological hazards in addition to natural hazards, which represent an evolution compared to its predecessor, the Hyogo Framework for Action.
 - These technological hazards include chemical/industrial hazards further to radiological, nuclear, biological, and others.
 - It works hand in hand with the other 2030 Agenda agreements, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, and ultimately the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is tasked to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework.
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WHAT IS FROST?



Researchers have developed a new strategy that involves adding a thin layer of graphene oxide that prevents frost formation before it begins.

- Frost is water vapor, or water in gas form, that becomes solid.
- Frost usually forms on objects like cars, windows, and plants that are outside in air that is saturated, or filled, with moisture.
- Areas that have a lot of fog often have heavy frosts.



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- Frost forms when an outside surface cools past the dew point.
- The dew point is the point where the air gets so cold that the water vapor in the atmosphere turns into liquid. This liquid freezes.
- If it gets cold enough, little bits of ice, or frost, form.
- The ice is arranged in the form of ice crystals.
- Frost is most common in low-lying areas.
- Warm air rises, and cool air sinks—cool air is denser than warm air.
- That means there are usually more water molecules in cool air than in warm air.
- As cool air collects in valleys, frost forms.
- Frost usually forms at night, when the air temperature is cooler.
- Once the sun rises and warms the air around the frosted object, frost melts quickly.

There are different types of frost. The most common are radiation frost (also called hoarfrost), advection frost, window frost, and rime.

Radiation frost is frost in the form of tiny ice crystals that usually shows up on the ground or exposed objects outside. Hoarfrost also forms in refrigerators and freezers.

Advection frost is a collection of small ice spikes. Advection frost forms when a cold wind blows over the branches of trees, poles, and other surfaces.

Window frost forms when a glass window is exposed to cold air outside and moist air inside. Window frost is familiar to winter residents of cold climates. Indoor heat and cold outdoor temperatures form this type of frost.

Rime is frosting those forms quickly, usually in very cold, wet climates. Rime also forms in windy weather. Rime sometimes looks like solid ice. Ships traveling through cold places like the Arctic Ocean often end up with rime covering at least part of the exposed part of the ship.



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EXERCISE VAJRA PRAHAR 2024



- It is a joint military exercise between the Indian army and the US army. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted at Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA.
- The Indian Army contingent will be represented by Special Forces units and the US Army contingent will be represented by Green Berets of US.

Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR aims to promote military cooperation between India and the US through the enhancement of interoperability, jointness and mutual exchange of special operations tactics.

The exercise will enhance combined capabilities in executing joint Special Forces Operations in desert/semi-desert environments. And also will focus on a high degree of physical fitness, joint planning and joint tactical drills.

Drills/ aspects to be rehearsed during the exercise will include planning a Joint Team Mission, Reconnaissance Mission, employment of Unmanned Aerial Systems, execution of Special Operations, actions of Joint Terminal Attack Controller and Psychological Warfare in Special Operations.

Significance: It will enable the two sides to share their best practices and experiences for the conduct of joint Special Forces Operations. The exercise will facilitate the development of inter-operability, bonhomie and camaraderie between soldiers of both countries.



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WHAT IS THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (ICSSR)?

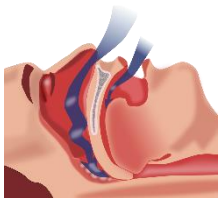


- It was established in the year 1969 by the Government of India to promote and fund research in the social sciences in the country.
- It was established on the recommendation of Prof. V. K. R. V. Rao Committee.
- It is an autonomous organisation working under the aegis of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.

Functions: It provides grants for projects, fellowships, international collaboration, capacity building, surveys, publications, etc. to promote research in social sciences in India.

- An all-India network of 24 frontline research institutes and six regional centres is maintained, and five recognized institutes are programmatically supported by the ICSSR.
 - The Documentation center of ICSSR - National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC)-provides library and information support services to researchers in social sciences.
 - ICSSR has developed the ICSSR Data Service to serve as a national data service for promoting a powerful research environment through the sharing and reuse of data among the social science community in India.
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WHAT IS OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA (OSA)?



- OSA is the most common sleep-related breathing disorder.
 - People with OSA repeatedly stop and start breathing while they sleep.
 - OSA occurs when a blockage in your airway keeps air from moving through your windpipe while you're asleep.
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- The blockage and lack of airflow can cause your blood oxygen levels to drop, triggering a survival reflex in your brain that wakes you up just enough to breathe again.
- This happens off and on many times during sleep.
- While that reflex is key in keeping you breathing, it also disrupts your sleep.
- When your breathing is reduced and you're not taking enough oxygen, it's called hypopnea. If your breathing completely stops, it's called apnea.
- Snoring is one of the biggest symptoms of OSA.
- Anyone at any age can have OSA. But it's most common in middle-aged and older adults.
- OSA has significant implications for cardiovascular health, mental illness, quality of life, and driving safety.

Treatment: Treatments for OSA are available.

- One treatment is a device that uses positive pressure to keep the airway open during sleep.
 - Another option is a mouthpiece to thrust the lower jaw forward during sleep.
 - In some people, surgery might be an option too.
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