



Balalatha's



# CSB IAS ACADEMY

The Road Map to Mussoorie...

PRELIMS EDGE – 2025 – 03/11/2024

## COP-16 :

**Context:** The 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity just concluded in Cali, Columbia.

### Background:

- COP-16 follows meetings in 2022 at Montreal, Canada (COP-15).
- At COP-15, nations agreed to **protect 30% of land and water by 2030**, known as the '30-by-30 agreement', at a time when less than 17% of land and 10% of marine areas were protected.
- At COP-15, the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)** was adopted. It a set **23 action-oriented global targets** for urgent action in the decade to 2030.
- The actions listed in each target needed to be initiated immediately and completed by 2030.
- Other than the 30-by-30 goals, other targets include reducing introduction of **invasive alien species** by 50% and minimizing their impact by 2030.
- KMGBF also aimed to **reduce pollution risks** and the negative impact of pollution from all sources to tolerable levels by 2030.
- KMGBF also aimed set up a mechanism for "**benefit-sharing from use of digital information on genetic sources**" and traditional knowledge, and integrating this into global policies and regulations.



### Key agreements reached at COP-16:

- **Finalization of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) Mechanism:** Parties finalized the mechanism for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of DSI on genetic resources. This includes creation of a global fund to support biodiversity conservation efforts.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Countries pledged to mobilize at least USD 20 billion per year by 2025, contributing to the overall target of USD 200 billion annually from domestic, global, public, and private sources by 2030. This aims to support and expedite the implementation of the KMGBF.
- **Alignment of National Strategies:** Parties agreed to align their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the KMGBF by 2025, ensuring coherent national actions toward global targets.
- **Subsidy Reforms:** A commitment was made to identify and reduce harmful subsidies by at least USD 500 billion per year by 2025, redirecting these funds toward incentives for biodiversity conservation.
- **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) Engagement:** A new program of work was established to enhance the participation of IPLCs in biodiversity conservation and policy, recognizing their role in conserving biodiversity.
- **Monitoring & Reporting Framework:** Parties adopted a comprehensive monitoring framework to assess progress toward the KMGBF targets, thus facilitating transparency and accountability in implementation.

#### India at COP-16:

- An Indian delegation, led by the Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh, participated at the proceedings.
- India presented an 'updated' biodiversity plan where it stated that it expects to **spend around ₹81,664 crore from 2025-30** on biodiversity and conservation.
- **From 2018-22, India spent ₹32,207 crore on biodiversity & conservation** and to meet higher financing needs, it would require funds from sources beyond routine govt expenditure.

*Source: What are the key takeaways from COP-16? (The Hindu)*

#### NAMO (New Agriculture Market Order) Drone Didi scheme :

**Context:** The Dept. of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare recently released operational guidelines for the NAMO Drone Didi Scheme.



**About NAMO Drone Didi scheme:**

- It is a government initiative for **modernizing Indian agriculture** through drone technology.
- **Aim:** To modernize agriculture, improve crop yields, and reduce labor costs while empowering rural women through new skills and job opportunities in drone technology.
- It is a part of **the Sashakt Nari-Viksit Bharat** programme.
- It is a **central sector scheme** under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

**Objectives :**

- **Empower Women:** Train and equip women from SHGs to operate and manage drones for agricultural tasks.
- **Enhance Productivity:** Use drones for precision farming, nutrient application, and crop monitoring.
- **Promote Technology:** Integrate drone technology into everyday agricultural practices.
- **Create Jobs:** Generate employment for rural women as drone pilots, mechanics, and in drone manufacturing.
- **Support Self-Reliance:** Reduce dependence on imported fertilizers and support the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

**Components :**

- **Drone Distribution:** Provide drones to **15,000 women SHGs** for rental to local farmers.
- **Training:** Offer training for women in SHGs on drone operation and maintenance.
- **Support Systems:** Establish maintenance and repair support for drones.
- **Integration:** Incorporate drone technology into traditional farming practices.
- **Job Creation:** Develop job roles related to drone technology in agriculture.

*Source: Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has released the Operational Guidelines of Central Sector Scheme "NAMO DRONE DIDI" (PIB)*

Places in News**Philippines**

- **Typhoons Trami and Kong-Rey** have killed more than a hundred people in the Philippines.
- Philippines is an **archipelago in South East Asia**, bordered by Philippine Sea to the east, South China Sea to the west & Celebes Sea to the south.
- It consists of 7,641 islands, with Luzon and Mindanao the largest.
- **Capital: Manila** (on Luzon Island).
- **Mount Apo** (2,954 m) is the highest peak, and it is an active volcano.
- Philippines is **part of the Pacific Ring of Fire**, which makes it geologically active. It has >20 active volcanoes, including Mayon (recently erupted in 2023), Taal, and Mount Pinatubo.

Terms in News**Garuda Shakti :**

- An Indian Army contingent has departed for Jakarta, Indonesia to take part in the **9<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Indonesia Joint Exercise Garuda Shakti 24**.
- It is a **bilateral joint special forces exercise** between India and Indonesia to enhance military cooperation.
- It was **initiated in 2012**.

**Aims:**

- Enhance mutual co-operation between special forces
- Share best practices in counter-terrorism
- Conduct joint operations to improve interoperability

### Vajra Prahar

- An Indian Army contingent has departed for the **15th edition of Vajra Prahar, a joint Special Forces exercise with the US Army.**
- It was **started in 2010** as part of bilateral defense cooperation between India and the US.
- It is scheduled from 3rd to 22nd November 2024 at the Orchard Combat Training Centre, Idaho, USA.



### Chronic Wasting Disease :

- A case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was recently confirmed in the USA.
- CWD is a **fatal, transmissible disease that affects the brain and nervous system of deer, elk, and moose.**
- First identified in 1967, CWD is caused by **proteins in the body that misfold** (called prions), leading to symptoms that cause death.
- Transmission happens via animal-to-animal contact or contamination of feed/water by infected saliva.
- **Environmental contamination can occur** through soil exposure from infected carcasses or bodily fluids.
- High-risk areas include places where deer and elk gather closely, like feeding or watering sites.
- CWD **does not naturally infect cows, other livestock, or pets.**
- Although **no strong evidence exists that it can spread to humans**, officials advise against eating meat from infected animals.



**Practice Questions**

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the NAMO Drone Didi Scheme:**

1. It is meant to modernize the agricultural sector with the help of drone technology.
2. It will provide individual female beneficiaries with credit for buying drones.
3. Women will be trained in operating drones under the scheme.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the recently concluded 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP-16) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity:**

1. COP-16 seeks to expedite the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
2. COP-16 aims to slowly phase out govt. subsidies for products that negatively affect biodiversity.
3. COP-16 seeks to increase the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity conservation.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) None
- b) Only one
- c) Only two
- d) All three

**Q3. Which of the following statements regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is *incorrect*?**

- a. CWD is a fatal disease that mostly affects deer, elk and moose

- b. CWD can spread to livestock and thus cause major economic losses
- c. CWD can spread between infected animals via contact and bodily fluids
- d. There is no strong evidence that CWD can spread from animals to humans

**Q4. Consider the following military exercises that India takes part in and the country that it is jointly held with:**

- 1. Vajra Prahar: USA
- 2. Garuda Shakti: Indonesia
- 3. Mitra Shakti: Sri Lanka
- 4. Sada Tanseeq: Saudi Arabia

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q5. Consider the following countries located in East Asia:**

- 1. Vietnam
- 2. Cambodia
- 3. Philippines
- 4. Japan
- 5. Brunei
- 6. Laos
- 7. Malaysia

**How many of these nations share a border with the South China Sea?**

- a) Only three

- b) Only four
- c) Only five
- d) Only six

**Answers:**

- 1. C
- 2. D
- 3. B
- 4. D
- 5. B

