



COP-16 Conference

Why in News?

Recently, the **Haryana Environment, Forest, and Wildlife Minister** led a delegation from New Delhi to attend the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\) - COP 16](#) in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, from 2nd to 13th December 2024.

Key Points

- **Platform for Collaboration:**
 - The event will serve as an effective platform for **Green Zone businesses**, scientists, financial institutions, [Non-governmental Organizations \(NGOs\)](#), and affected communities.
 - It aims to facilitate collaboration and develop sustainable solutions for [land restoration](#) and [drought management](#).
- **International Participation:**
 - COP-16 will bring together representatives from various countries across the globe.
 - The conference is expected to foster global discussions on combating desertification and addressing related challenges.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- **Established in 1994**, it is the sole **legally binding international agreement** linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- It addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.
- The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living **conditions for people in drylands**, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- The UNCCD works with the other two Rio Conventions to address the interlinked challenges of land, climate and biodiversity:
 - [The Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)
 - [The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#)