

Basel convention

April 1, 2020

Why in news?

The 14th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP-14) was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

- **About the convention:**
- Basel Convention deals with the **Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**.
- It is an **international treaty** that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to **prevent the transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries (LDCs)**.
- However, it **does not address the movement of radioactive waste**
- The Convention is also intended to **minimize the amount and toxicity of wastes generated**, to ensure their environmentally sound management and to **assist LDCs in the environmentally sound management of the hazardous and other wastes they generate**.
- It was adopted in 1989 and entered into force on 5 May 1992.
- Parties are 187.
- It is headquartered in **Basel, Switzerland**.
- **Haiti and the United States have signed the Convention but have not ratified it**.
- The **joint meetings of three conventions on chemicals and waste** – *COP 14 to Basel Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal* was held along with the *ninth meeting of the COP to Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (COP 9)* and the *ninth meeting of the COP to Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (COP 9)* took place.

- The theme of the meetings this year – ***“Clean Planet, Healthy People: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”***.
- In COP 14 to Basel Convention, **technical guidelines on e-waste and inclusion of plastic waste in the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure** were decided. Decision was taken to **amend the convention to include unsorted, mixed and contaminated plastic waste under PIC** procedure and improve the regulation of its Trans boundary movement. This is a significant step taken towards addressing plastic pollution.
- Under the Stockholm Convention, the COP decided to **list “Dicofol” in Annex A without any exemption**.
- Under the Rotterdam Convention, **two new chemicals (Phorate and HBCD) were added** in the list for mandatory PIC procedure in international trade.