

COP 14 of UNCCD

April 1, 2020

Why in news?

India hosted the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019, to address the issue of land degradation and

▪ COP 14 of UNCCD:

- India took over the COP presidency from China for the next two years until the next COP is hosted in 2021. The Conference adopted the **Delhi Declaration**. The **takeaway messages are:**
- Land restoration is the cheapest solution to climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Land restoration makes business sense if regulations and incentives to reward investment are in place.
- Drought preparedness and response are critical in the face of climate change.
- To put people first is to ensure gender balance, engage youth, secure land rights.

▪ UNCCD:

- It is the **sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management**.
- It was established in 1994.
- Secretariat is located in Bonn, Germany.
- It specifically addresses the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands.
- All 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**.
- It is committed to a bottom-up approach,

encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.