

3. COP14 of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Prelims: Environment- Climate Change

Mains: GS-III- Environment- Conservation, Environmental Pollution & Degradation

Why in News?

- ▶▶ The 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is being held in New Delhi, India between 2nd and 13th September 2019.

Highlights:

- ▶▶ Over 3,000 participants from all over the world are expected to participate in COP14.
- ▶▶ The Parties to the Convention will agree on the actions each will take over the next two years and beyond to take planet earth on to a sustainable development path.
- ▶▶ Ministers from 196 countries, scientists and representatives of national and local governments, non-governmental organizations, city leaders, the private sector, industry experts, women, youth, journalists, faith and community groups will talk at the conference.
- ▶▶ UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement that links environment and development to sustainable land management.
- ▶▶ It addresses specifically arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as drylands, home to some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples.
- ▶▶ It was established in 1994 and entered into force in 1996.
- ▶▶ It is one of the three Rio Conventions along with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- ▶▶ India became a signatory to UNCCD on 14th October 1994 and ratified it on 17th December 1996.
- ▶▶ The chief agendas for COP14 are reversing land degradation and its outcomes while accelerating positive achievements for people and for ecosystems with a view to delivering on the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals.