

## 06 September 2019: UPSC Exam PIB Summary & Analysis

### *Swachh Mahotsav 2019*

**Context:**

The Swachh Mahotsav 2019 was held at New Delhi organised by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. The President gave away the Swachh Bharat Awards in various categories.

**Swachh Bharat Awards 2019**

- Best Swachh Iconic Place award: Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Swachh Award in Swachhta Action Plan category: Ministry of Railways
- Swachhta Pakhwada Award: Department of Defence
- PSU Category award for contribution to Swachh Bharat Kosh: Power Grid Corporation
- Award for Open Defecation Free (ODF) and Behavior Change: Gujarat and Sikkim
- Ganga Gram: Village Baghori in Uttarkashi
- Awards were also given to youngsters in the Swachh Bharat Summer Internship category.

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### *Exercise Yudh Abhyas – 2019*

**Context:**

The opening ceremony of Exercise Yudh Abhyas – 2019 was held at Joint Base Lewis MC Chord, Washington, USA.

**About Exercise Yudh Abhyas:**

- It is a joint military exercise between the Indian and US armies.
- The US contingent was represented by a company of 5-20 Infantry Battalion of the US Army while the Indian side was represented by the Assam Regiment.
- Both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralization of likely threats that may be encountered in UN peacekeeping operations.
- This is the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the joint exercise.
- The first edition was in 2004 and the exercise is designed to augment cooperation between the two armies while sharing training, cultural exchanges, and building joint operating skills.

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### *Meeting between Indian and South Korean Defence Ministers*

**Context:**

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh holds talks with Minister of National Defence of Republic of Korea, Mr. Jeong Kyeongdoo in Seoul, South Korea.

**Details:**

- The Defence Minister is on a 3-day visit to South Korea.
  - During the talks, the two leaders comprehensively reviewed bilateral defence cooperation.
  - They discussed the ongoing co-operation at Service-to-Service level and prospects for enhanced co-operation between defence industries of India and Korea.
  - They also exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual interest.
  - Two major agreements to promote defence educational exchanges and extend logistical support to each other's Navies were signed.
  - Rajnath Singh also visited the War Memorial to which he presented a copy of the citation received by the Indian 60th Para Field Hospital for its exceptional contributions during the Korean War.
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## ***28th Indo–Thai CORPAT***

**Context:**

The 28th edition of the **India -Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) is being conducted from 05 – 15 September 2019 at Bangkok.

**About the Indo – Thai CORPAT:**

- It is a collaborating exercise between the Indian and the Thai navies.
  - It is being conducted twice a year since 2003.
  - This exercise reflects both forces' shared commitment for the peaceful Indian Ocean and international maritime security and cooperation.
  - Objectives of the Indo – Thai CORPAT are to ensure effective implementation of United Nations Conventions on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) which specify regulations regarding
    - Protection and conservation of natural resources
    - Conservation of marine environment
    - Prevention and suppression of illegal, unregulated fishing activity/ drug trafficking/ piracy
    - Exchange of information in the prevention of smuggling, illegal immigration
    - Conduct of Search and Rescue operations at sea
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## ***14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)***

**Context:**

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

**Details:**

- 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.