



Uttarakhand Identifies Degraded Land for Restoration | Uttarakhand | 29 Nov 2025

Why in News?

The Uttarakhand Forest Department has identified **30,000 hectares of degraded forest land** for ecological restoration, and the initiative is being linked with national climate commitments and the **RECAP4NDC Project**.

Key Points

▪ About the Restoration Drive:

- The Forest Department has mapped **30,000 ha of degraded forest land** across districts such as **Pauri, Tehri, Almora, Champawat, Pithoragarh**, and parts of **Kumaon** where forest quality has significantly declined due to grazing pressure, **recurring forest fires**, **invasive species** and **soil erosion**.
- The restoration plan will combine **assisted natural regeneration (ANR)**, enrichment plantations, **soil-moisture conservation structures**, and removal of invasives like **Lantana camara** and **Parthenium**.
- Priority sites include **ridge zones, catchment areas, and wildlife corridors**, particularly those influencing the **Ganga and Yamuna river basins**.
- The programme contributes to India's commitment under the **UNFCCC Bonn Challenge**, where India pledged to restore **26 million ha of degraded land by 2030**.
- Uttarakhand is among states piloting **LiDAR-based forest mapping**, helping identify degraded landscape patches using 3D terrain and vegetation data.

▪ RECAP4NDC Project:

- **RECAP4NDC - Restore, Conserve and Protect Forest & Tree Cover for NDC Implementation** is a national climate-forestry programme supporting India's forest restoration goals.
- **It assists India in meeting its NDC target** of creating an additional **2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent carbon sink** through expanded forest and tree cover.
- **It is implemented by MoEFCC with GIZ India** (a German government-owned enterprise) under Indo-German development cooperation.
- Its key areas of work include **landscape restoration planning, community-based forest management, agroforestry promotion**, assisted natural regeneration and ecosystem-based restoration.