



Aravali Green Wall Project

For Prelims: International Day of Forests, Aravalli Green Wall Project, Africa's Great Green Wall, Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas.

For Mains: Causes of Land Degradation and initiatives to curb it.

Why in News?

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change inaugurated the [Aravali Green Wall Project](#) on the occasion of [International day of Forests](#) and unveiled the **National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Through Forestry Interventions**.

What is Aravali Green Wall Project?

▪ About:

- It is an ambitious plan to create a **1,400km long and 5km wide green belt buffer around the Aravali Mountain range covering states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi**.
- In the initial phase, **75 water bodies will be rejuvenated**, starting with five waterbodies each in every district of Aravalli landscape.
 - It will cover degraded land in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bhiwani, Mahendergarh and in Rewari districts of Haryana.
- The plan is inspired by **Africa's 'Great Green Wall' project**, running from Senegal (West) to Djibouti (East), which came into effect in 2007.



▪ Objectives:

- The overarching objective of India's Green Wall will be **to address the rising rates of**

land degradation and the eastward expansion of the Thar desert.

- The green belt being planned from **Porbandar to Panipat** will help in restoring degraded land through **afforestation along the Aravali hill range**. It will also act as a barrier for dust coming from the deserts in western India and Pakistan.
- It aims to **enhance the biodiversity and ecosystem services** of the Aravalli range by **planting native trees**, which will help in **carbon sequestration**, provide **habitat for wildlife**, and **improve water quality** and quantity.
- The involvement of local communities in afforestation, agro-forestry, and water conservation activities can **promote sustainable development**.
 - Further, it will help generate **income and employment opportunities**, improve **food security**, and provide **social benefits**.

▪ **Background:**

- According to [Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas](#) by [Indian Space Research Organisation \(ISRO\)](#), some **97.85 million hectares (29.7%)** of India's total geographical area (TGA) of 328.72 mha **underwent land degradation during 2018-19**.
- The Aravali has been identified as **one of the key degraded zones** to be taken up for greening under [India's target to restore 26 million hectares \(mha\) of its land](#).
- A 2016 report from the ISRO had also indicated that Delhi, Gujarat and Rajasthan had already degraded over 50% of their land.

What is Aravali Mountain Range?

▪ **About:**

- The Aravallis, is the **oldest fold mountains on Earth**.
- It spans over **800km from Gujarat to Delhi (through Rajasthan and Haryana)**.
- The **highest peak** in the Aravalli Range is **Guru Peak on Mount Abu**.

▪ **Impact on Climate:**

- The Aravallis have an impact upon the climate of northwest India and beyond.
- During monsoons, the mountain range gently guides the monsoon clouds eastwards towards Shimla and Nainital, thus **helping nurture the sub-Himalayan rivers and feeding the north Indian plains**.
- In the winter months, it **protects** the fertile alluvial river valleys (the para-Indus and Gangetic) **from the assault of cold westerly winds from Central Asia**.

What is Great Green Wall of Africa (GGW)?

▪ **About:**

- GGW is a project launched **by African union** to restore the continent's degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in the **Sahel**.
- The project plans **8km wide band** of trees **stretching 8,000km** across Africa.

▪ **Objectives:**

- It aims to **restore 100 million hectares** of currently degraded land.
- Also, the project envisages to **sequester 250 million tons of carbon** and create **10 million green jobs by 2030**.

▪ **Participating countries:**

- Eleven countries in the Sahel-Sahara region—**Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Senegal** have joined to combat land degradation and restore native plant life to the landscape.



[Source: PIB](#)

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