



Aravali Green Development Project

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** has launched the **Aravali Green Development Project** aimed at **ecological restoration** and **desertification control** across 3,700 hectares in 19 districts along the Aravali range.

Key Points

- **About:** The Rs 250 crore project, spanning **five years**, aims to restore the **Aravali ecosystem**, combat land degradation and desertification, with the first year focused on plantation and the following year on maintenance.
 - The project is aligned with the **Aravali Green Wall Project**, which aims for massive plantations across the Aravalis, **from Delhi to Ahmedabad**.
- **Geographical Focus:** The project **spans 19 districts from Alwar to Sirohi**, covering approximately 550 kilometers (80% of the Aravali range in Rajasthan).
- **Monitoring and Oversight:** The project will be monitored by the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** using indicators like flora and fauna recovery, **groundwater level changes**, and microclimatic shifts.
- **Project Goals:**
 - Restoration of the deteriorating Aravali ecosystem.
 - Prevention of sandstorms from the **Thar Desert** reaching the National Capital Region (NCR) serving as an **ecological defense mechanism** for North India.
 - Combat **soil erosion**, **desertification**, and the adverse impacts of deforestation.
 - Helps in improving biodiversity, groundwater recharge, and **long-term ecological sustainability**.
- **Plantation Strategy:**
 - Indigenous and climate-resilient species, including **Khejri (state tree)**, **Babool**, **Dhak**, **Neem**, **Ber**, and native grasses like Sevan and Dhaman for soil stabilization.
 - Species chosen for their adaptability to varying climates (dry zones in Sikar to humid areas in Dungarpur and Sirohi).
 - **Plantation will occur exclusively on forest land**, avoiding areas with human habitation or encroachments.
 - Long-term sustainability is emphasized with careful maintenance to ensure the survival of saplings in **arid zones like Jaipur and Sikar**.