



# Aravalli Green Wall Initiative

## Why in News?

On [World Environment Day \(5 June, 2025\)](#), the Prime Minister extended the '[Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam](#)' campaign initiative as part of the '[Aravalli Green Wall project](#)' to reforest the [Aravalli mountain range](#) from Delhi to Gujarat.

- As part of the initiative, the **Haryana government will restore 25,000 hectares of degraded forest land.**

## World Environment Day (WED)

### ▪ About & History:

- World Environment Day was **established in 1972** during the [United Nations Conference on the Human Environment](#) held in Stockholm.
  - Later that year, the [UN General Assembly](#) officially designated **June 5** as World Environment Day.
- The **first celebration** took place in **1973 with the theme "Only One Earth,"** marking the beginning of what would become the largest global platform for environmental awareness.
- WED celebration in 2021 started the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\)](#) which is a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the seas.

### ▪ WED 2025:

- The **Republic of Korea** will host WED 2025 with a focus on **ending plastic pollution globally.**
- The **theme for 2025** is "**Beat Plastic Pollution,**" a global focus on reducing plastic waste.
- **India** hosted the 45th celebration of World Environment Day in **2018** under the **theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.**

## Key Points

### ▪ About the Aravalli Green Wall Project Presentation:

- Inspired by [Africa's Great Green Wall initiative](#), the Aravalli Green Wall project aims to-
  - Restore over **1.1 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2027.**
  - Focus on [afforestation](#) with native species, soil health improvement, and [groundwater replenishment.](#)
  - Develop an "**ecological wall**" to mitigate urban heat islands and act as a carbon sink for NCR.

### ▪ Environmental Threats to the Aravallis:

- The Aravalli range, one of the oldest mountain ranges in India, **spans Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.**
- The region faces severe environmental degradation due to [illegal mining](#) and **rapid urbanisation.**

### ▪ Nursery Development Plan:

- The government will **develop 1,000 nurseries across 29 districts** of the Aravalli range to **support large-scale afforestation** under the Aravalli Green Wall project.
- To **mitigate degradation**, the government plans to increase tree plantation and expand green cover along the range.
- The initiative aims to **restore biodiversity**, **stabilise soil**, and **rejuvenate ecological balance**.
- **Distribution of Degraded Areas:**
  - **Rajasthan** holds the majority of degraded land: **81%**.
  - **Gujarat** accounts for **15.8%**.
  - **Haryana** has **1.7%**.
  - **Delhi** contains **1.6%** of the total degraded area.

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## Aravali Mountain Range



### About:

- The Aravallis, is the **oldest fold mountain on Earth**. Geological studies indicate that it is three billion years old.
- It spans **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**.
- During the winter months, it **shields the fertile alluvial river valleys of**

the **Indus** and **Ganga** from the harsh **cold westerly winds** blowing in from Central Asia.

▪ **Ecological Role of the Aravalli Range:**

- The Aravalli range acts as a natural shield against desertification by preventing the **eastward expansion of the Thar Desert**.
- It protects major cities such as Delhi, Jaipur, and Gurugram from desert encroachment and rising aridity.

▪ **Rivers:**

- The range serves as the origin point for several important rivers, **including the Chambal, Sabarmati, and Luni**.
- These rivers are crucial for agriculture, drinking water, and regional ecosystems across northwestern India.

▪ **Biodiversity Hotspot:**

- The forests, **grasslands**, and **wetlands** in the Aravalli support numerous endangered plant and animal species, making it a critical ecological habitat.

▪ **Threats to the Aravalli Ecosystem:**

- **Deforestation, illegal mining, overgrazing, and human settlements** are accelerating land degradation across the range.
  - These activities are damaging underground aquifers, drying lakes, and weakening the range's ability to support wildlife and biodiversity.

## Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

- **About:** It aims to **honor mothers by encouraging tree planting in their names**, combining environmental conservation with a tribute to motherhood, symbolizing how mothers, like trees, nurture and sustain life.
  - It was launched by the **Prime Minister** on **World Environment Day, 5th June, 2024**.
- **Objective:** To promote **environmental preservation, increase forest cover**, and support **sustainable development** while **honoring mothers**.
- **World Record Achievement:** On **22nd September 2024**, 128 Infantry Battalion & Ecological Task Force of the Territorial Army planted over 5 lakh saplings in one hour in Jaisalmer.