

## **Aravalli Green Wall Initiative**

## Why in News?

On <u>World Environment Day</u> (5 June, 2025), the Prime Minister extended the <u>'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'</u> <u>campaign</u> initiative as part of the <u>'Aravalli Green Wall project'</u> to reforest **the <u>Aravalli mountain</u>** 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 <u>United Nations</u>
     <u>Conference on the Human Environment</u> held in Stockholm.
    - Later that year, the <u>UN</u> 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 <u>UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration</u>
    (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 Aravali Green Wall project aims to-
    - Restore over 1.1 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2027.
    - Focus on <u>afforestation</u> with native species, soil health improvement, and <u>groundwater replenishment.</u>
    - 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 <u>restore biodiversity</u>, 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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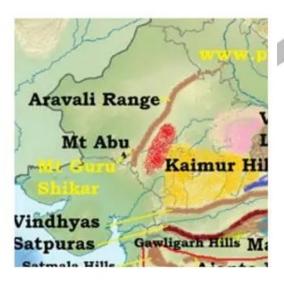
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# Aravali Mountain Range





#### 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 <u>Indus</u> and <u>Ganga</u> from the harsh <u>cold westerly winds</u> 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 <u>Chambal</u>, <u>Sabarmati</u>, and <u>Luni</u>.
  - 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:
  - <u>Deforestation</u>, <u>illegal mining</u>, <u>overgrazing</u>, and <u>human settlements</u> 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.

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/aravalli-green-wall-initiative