

Afforestation project Green Wall launched to revive the Aravallis

By IASToppers | 2023-03-28 15:30:00



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Recently, the union minister for environment, forest, and climate change inaugurated Aravalli Green Wall Project.



[Ref: wikimedia]

What is Aravalli Green Wall Project?

- The Aravalli Green Wall Project is a part of the **Union Environment Ministry's vision** to create green corridors across the country to **combat land degradation and desertification**.
- It was conceptualized on the lines of the **African Green Wall program**.
- It is a major initiative to green the **5 km buffer area** around the Aravalli Hill Range in **Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi**.
- The project will **increase the green cover and biodiversity of the Aravalli** through afforestation, reforestation, and restoration of water bodies.
- It will also improve the **soil fertility, water availability, and climate resilience of the region**.
- It will **benefit the local communities** by providing them with **employment opportunities, income generation, and ecosystem services**.
- The project reiterated the government's commitment to achieving the national goal of creating an additional **2.5 billion tonnes of carbon sink by 2030**.

Objectives

- Improving the **ecological health** of the Aravalli range
- **Prevent the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert** and to **reduce land degradation** by creating **green barriers** that will prevent **soil erosion, desertification, and dust storms**

- Promote **sustainable development and livelihood opportunities** by involving local communities in afforestation, agroforestry, and water conservation activities that will generate income, employment, food security, and social benefits.
- Enhancing India's image as a **global environmental protection and green development leader**.

Significance

- It will help in **carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change** to enhance the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Aravalli range by planting native tree species in the Aravalli region, providing **habitat for wildlife, and improving water quality and quantity**.
- **It will contribute to India's commitments** under various international conventions such as **UNCCD** (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), **CBD** (Convention on Biological Diversity), and **UNFCCC** (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

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