Aravalli Green Wall Project

Prelims : Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

On World Environment Day (June 5) this year, the Union government is set to relaunch the Aravalli Green Wall Project.

- The original phase of the Aravalli Green Wall was launched in 2023, covering a 5-kilometre buffer zone around the range.
- The upcoming phase broadens the scope significantly, incorporating new initiatives and partnerships with local communities.
- This corridor will cover the 29 districts in the Aravalli range, including those in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi.
- **Aim** - To create a continuous green belt from Delhi to Gujarat, acting as a natural barrier against desertification and aiding in groundwater recharge across the Indo-Gangetic plains.
- **Objectives** - The plan focuses on
    - Restoring degraded forest lands,
    - Improving water retention through soil and moisture conservation, and
    - Encouraging the planting of indigenous species.
- One thousand permanent nurseries will be set up to revive India's oldest mountain range.
- **Funding** - Through the already existing and functioning schemes of MNREGA, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and Green India Mission.
- **Tools** - Advanced tools like satellite mapping and remote sensing will be used to monitor progress and ensure transparency.
- **Significance -** The range is home to 22 wildlife sanctuaries and 4 tiger reserves - Ranthambore, Sariska, Ramgarh-Vishdhari, and Mukunda Hills.
- It also houses the bird sanctuary, Keoladeo National Park and nearly 50 historic forts.
- The terrain varies from rolling ridges to steep hillocks, with the highest elevation being Guru Shikhar in Mount Abu, Rajasthan,.
- Several rivers, including the Chambal and Luni, originate in these hills, which are also rich in minerals and diverse flora and fauna.
- **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign -** Integrated with existing program like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.
- It encourages people to plant a tree as a symbol of love, respect, and *honour for their mothers*, while also pledging to protect trees and the Earth.
- The initiative aims to combat land degradation and restore degraded land areas.
- **The need of the hour -** Aravalli range has faced severe environmental degradation in recent decades.

Reference

NDTV | 'Aravalli Green Wall' Project

