FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)

> ***Prelims:*** *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

Recently, India highlights progress in forest cover, restoration and climate action at COFO 28.

28th Session of FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)

- **Held in –** Rome, Italy, from 28 September–2 October 2026.
- India highlighted its progress in **forest & tree cover, landscape restoration, sustainable forest management and climate action**.
- India also reaffirmed its support for the proposed **United Nations Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation (2027 to 2036).**

India's Position at COFO 28

India emphasized the following priorities:

- **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) should be adopted** as an integrated approach to restoration.
- Restoration efforts should account for **national circumstances and the needs of local communities**.
- There is a need for increased **technology transfer and capacity building**.
- **Restoration programmes should deliver measurable outco**mes.
- Sustainable and effective financing mechanisms are particularly important for developing countries.
- Improved access to **climate, biodiversity, and blended finance is essential**.
- Enhanced coordination is required among **FAO forestry initiatives, Global Forest Goals, and other international forest processes**.
- Strengthening **South-South and triangular cooperation remains a priority.**
- Support is expressed for the proposed United Nations **Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation, 2027 to 2036**.

Key Indian Restoration Initiatives

- **Aravalli Green Wall –** Approximately **6.45 million hectares** of degraded land have been identified for restoration.
    - The initiative focuses on restoring degraded landscapes within the **Aravalli region**.
- **MISHTI –** This programme is dedicated to the restoration of mangrove ecosystems.
    - It also aims to enhance **climate resilience** and support **local livelihoods**.
- **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam – Plant4Mother –** This is a comprehensive tree-planting campaign involving both government and society.
    - **Over 3.5 billion saplings** have been planted under this initiative.
- **Bonn Challenge –** India has committed to restoring **26 million hectares** of degraded and deforested land by **2030**.
    - **To date, 21.76 million hectares** have been brought under restoration.

Climate Action: Key Metrics

- By 2021, India had created an **additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent**.
- The enhanced target is to achieve a carbon sink of 3.5 to 4 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent by 2035, relative to **2005 levels**.
- Forests and trees are therefore critical to India's **climate commitments and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) actions**.

Reference

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