

Great Green Wall (GGW) of Andhra Pradesh

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Why in news?

The Andhra Pradesh state government has planned to develop the Great Green Wall along its coastline to mitigate the impact of natural phenomena.

- GGW It is an ecological project with a front row of wind- and salttolerant trees, to create a <u>5-kilometer-wide</u> "living ecological shield" along its 1,053-kilometer coastline <u>by 2030</u>.
- Andhra Pradesh is considered one of *India's most climate-vulnerable States*, with more than 3.30 million people living within 5-km of the coast facing frequent cyclones, floods, and rising sea levels.
- Aim To protect coastal communities and ecosystems from environmental threats such as cyclones, floods, and erosion.

The **32%** of the Andhra Pradesh's coastline to be actively eroding and the shorelines of the Krishna and Godavari estuaries critically vulnerable.

Andhra Pradesh has been assessed as the 4^{th} most affected States in India in coastal erosion.

• 3 components of GGW -

- Seaward edge Consisting of mangroves that will absorb tidal energy and reduce storm surge impacts, and shelterbelts in the non-estuarine areas.
- Wind breaks Made of canal bund and roadside avenue plantations, and
- Community buffer Having agroforestry and community plantations.

- Multiple source funding Funds were drawn from
 - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS),
 - Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority of India (CAMPA),
 - Green Credit Program of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
 - District Mineral Funds, and
 - International Climate Finance.
- **Inspired from** The GGW drawing its inspiration from similar global and domestic projects like <u>Africa's Great Green Wall and the Aravalli Green Wall Project.</u>

Expected benefits

- Reduced damage from storms & cyclones for coastal infrastructure and settlements.
- Stabilised beaches/coastline and reduced erosion, salt-water intrusion etc.
- Enhanced biodiversity in coastal zones (mangrove habitats, refuge for birds, fish fry etc).
- Carbon sink benefits via increased vegetation cover.
- \circ Social/economic benefits: greening jobs, community participation, improved livelihoods.

References

- 1. The Hindu | Great Green Wall (GGW) of Andhra Pradesh
- 2. Realty+ Magazine | Andhra Pradesh to Build Great Green Wall

