

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 salt-tolerant trees, to create a **5-kilometer-wide** "living ecological shield" along its 1,053-kilometer coastline **by 2030**.
- 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 **4th 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 *Africa's Great Green Wall and the Aravalli Green Wall Project.*
- **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.
 - 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](#)