World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

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

Why in News?

Recently, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought were celebrated with great enthusiasm under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana WDC–PMKSY.

- **Aim –** To promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
- **History –** Observed globally on June 17, 1995 declared by the UN General Assembly.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought,2026

- **Organised by –** United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- **Host Country, 2026 –** Kenya.
- **Theme 2026 – *Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.***
    - **Recognize –** Rangelands' economic value, biodiversity role, and ecosystem services.
    - **Respect –** Pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities' knowledge.
    - **Restore –** Invest in sustainable management, governance, drought readiness, and community led efforts.
- **Slogan, 2026 –** No such thing as a free lunch. Invest in healthy soil
- **Purpose –** Rangelands cover more than half of the world's land surface yet remain among the most undervalued ecosystems.
- They face increasing pressures from climate change, land degradation and competing land uses.

Rangelands – They are vast expanses of land dominated by native vegetation such as grasses, shrubs, and open woodland

References

1. PIB | World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
2. FAO | World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
3. UNCCD | World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought