

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](#)

