

Green Wall/ Bengal Barrier

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In news– The West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB)'s decision to set up a bio-shield – a wall of mega plantations – along its western fringe for stopping air pollutants from entering the state has raised questions.

About the green wall-

- It is expected that the **project will cover around 800 kilometres (km)** across the Purulia, Birbhum, Paschim Bardhaman and Jhargram districts.
- All four districts are part of the Rarh region and lie on Bengal's border with Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. **The West Bengal Biodiversity Board has been entrusted to execute the project.**
- The Board's rationale is that pollution from other states is responsible for close to half of West Bengal's pollution load.
- Several experts across India have pointed out that WBPCB's 'unique' plan, the execution of which may run into several crores and take years, may not serve its purpose.
- As per the experts, the green wall is not likely to have any direct role in countering the flow of transboundary pollution.
- They further mentioned that transboundary movement of pollution can be curbed only with a regional clean action strategy to cut emissions from a large number of pollution sources spread across the region.
- Green walling with plantations can only filter dust to some extent and that too if it is hugely extensive.
- As per a research, West Bengal receives less transboundary pollution at a proportional scale, compared to many states.

The Great Green Wall or Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel-

- It is a project led by the African Union, initially conceived as a way to combat desertification in the Sahel region and hold back expansion of the Sahara, by planting a wall of trees stretching across the entire Sahel.
- The modern green wall has since evolved into a program promoting water harvesting techniques, greenery protection and improving indigenous land use techniques, aimed at creating a mosaic of green and productive landscapes across North Africa.
- The project is a response to the combined effect of natural resources degradation and drought in rural areas.
- It seeks to help communities mitigate and adapt to climate change as well as improve food security.