Land for life award, 2021

June 23, 2021

In news- Shyam Sundar Jyani, a Rajasthan-based climate activist, has won the prestigious United Nations' Land for Life Award for his environment conservation concept, **Familial Forestry.**

Key updates-

- The announcement was made by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- The unique concept of familial forestry **relates a tree with a family, making it a green "family member."**
- It involves **transferring the care of the tree and environment in the family so that a tree becomes a part of the family's consciousness.**
- More than a million families from more than 15,000 villages of desert-prone northwest Rajasthan in over 2.5 million saplings have been planted in the past 15 years, with active participation of students and desert dwellers.
- Jyani was chosen by the UNCCD among 12 shortlisted candidates across the globe.
- He is an associate professor of Sociology in Rajasthan's Bikaner, has been campaigning for Familial Forestry for over 15 years.
- Two candidates had been shortlisted from India – the other being **Jaggi Vasudev**, popularly known as **Sadguru,** who has been campaigning for environmental causes for several years.

About the Award-

- The award was launched at the UNCCD COP (Conference of Parties) 10 in **2011.**
- It is considered as the world's highest reward regarding land conservation and restoration.

- The Award will recognize innovative and excellent efforts in land restoration and conservation, particularly in regards to the **SDG 15 "Life on Land" and the Target 15.3 "Land Degradation Neutrality".**
- The winner will receive an individually tailored UNCCD secretariat support package for the duration of two years.
- This year's theme for the award was ***"Healthy Land, Healthy Lives"***.
- The Award ceremony will take place in August 2021 at the Eighth Kubuqi International Desert Forum in China.

More information– United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – JournalsOfIndia