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UPSC

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Q: What is desertification? Give reasons for rise in desertification? What solutions can India adopt to fulfill its target of achieving LDN, under UNCCD, by 2030?

Ans:

Desertification can be defined as the diminution or destruction of the biological potential of the land which can ultimately lead to desert like conditions. It is a systemic phenomenon resulting from excessive felling of trees which manifests itself in the loss of soil fertility, high wind velocity, low precipitation, increasing aridity and extremes of temperatures in the affected area.

Although desertification can develop from natural causes, it can also happen due to the exploitative interaction of man with the natural ecosystem.

Exploitative Human Interactions:

Uncontrolled and overexploitation of grazing land, indiscriminate cutting of trees, excessive mining in arid and semi-arid regions for extraction of minerals, intensive and uneconomic exploitation of water resources leading to fall in water table,

good introduction, but you can keep it bit short

please write your n points

and uneconomic land use for agricultural by cultivation on marginal lands affect adjacent fertile lands and cause soil erosion. The abiotic and biotic are fine tuned in equilibrium in nature. Such exploitations disturb this balance.

### Combating Desertification by international strategy

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is a condition where further land degradation is prevented and by which degraded land can be restored.

• India has initiated for a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration, by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. "BONN CHALLENGE"

• Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, PM - <sup>proper water-budgecting</sup> Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme  
are seen to tackle land degradation

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- Protection of vegetative cover to prevent soil erosion
- The practice of sustainable agriculture.
- Introduce alternative farming and Industrial Techniques.
- Sustainable land use - & awareness.

you can give some data about rising desertification and draw some map with region of occurrence, also, LDN can explained using a chart with three components of avoid, reduce and revive

make it short, use space wisely

overall it's a good answer, it can have some more data or references. please do write conclusion.

marks 4/10