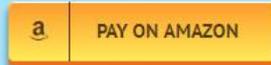


## November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

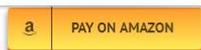
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**1. Delhi's bad air is an opportunity to underline linkages between the degradation of the Aravallis and the need for good legislation.**

- How do various government reports documented the threat for Aravallis?**
- What are the primary reasons for the degradation of the Aravallis?**
- What are the implications of degrading Aravallis?**
- What are the steps have been taken for conservation of Aravallis?**

**GS paper 3 ( Conservation )**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

Pradip Krishen . ( 2018, November , 04).  
Plain tales from the hills. Indian Express. Retrieved from  
<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/aravallis-hills-rocks-delhi-ncr-air-quality-5432007/>

**What is the context about?**

- Mining is big, easy money in Rajasthan today. The state boasts a long list of valuable minerals hidden in its hills and below ground — zinc, silver, uranium, copper, limestone, some of the most colourful marble in the world, mica, dolomite.**

- ❑ Recently the Supreme Court expressed shock that, 31 hills in the Aravalli area of Rajasthan have “vanished”.
- ❑ In a strongly worded order, the court directed the state government to stop illegal mining in 115.34-hectare area within 48 hours.

### **How do various government reports documented the threat for Aravallis?**

- ❑ The CAG report, 2017 highlighted that 98.87 lakh metric tonnes of minerals were illegally excavated over five years in five districts in the state. It also highlighted violations of green norms in the state, including flouting of earlier Supreme Court orders on the Aravallis.
- ❑ The hill-forest range has also been declared the most “degraded” in India by the Dehra Dun-based Wildlife Institute of India.
- ❑ The study conducted between January and April 2017 found that “most of the indigenous plant species have disappeared... and the most serious threat to wildlife and forests is from developmental activities, which are gradually destroying the remnants of the Aravalli”.

### **What are the primary reasons for the degradation of the Aravallis?**

Environmentalists blame following primary factors for the degradation of the Aravallis.

**Issue of ownership:** Until the 1960s, Aravalli land was considered common village land and utilised for grazing and other such purposes. But in the 70s and 80s, the process of privatisation came in, wherein land was apportioned among landowners and sold off at low prices.

**Definition of forest:** There is no clarity on how much of the Aravalli range is included under the legal definition of “forest”, which is to be notified as per sections 4 and 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), or as per the dictionary definition of forest.

**NCZ:** There is also contention regarding the classification of around 60,000 acres of the Aravallis as a Natural Conservation Zone (NCZ) — an area yet to be officially notified.

### **What are the implications of degrading Aravallis?**

- Loss of vegetative cover will lead to the natural drifting of Thar Desert towards the northwest.
- Increased desertification of the National Capital Region (NCR) and its adjoining areas can lead to more environmental hazards.
- These include more dust in the air, greater unpredictability of climate, meagre recharging of groundwater, and drying up of several natural water bodies.

- ❑ The area under perennial water courses in this region has contracted by nearly one-third and that under seasonal water flows by an even more alarming 97 per cent.
- ❑ Groundwater resources of urban hub of Gurugram are under severe strain.

**What are the steps have been taken for conservation of Aravallis?**

- ❑ The National Conservation Zone (NCZ), as defined in the Delhi NCR Regional Plan 2021, covers the entire Aravalli range.
- ❑ It includes its forests, water bodies and groundwater recharge areas.
- ❑ In this zone, construction is allowed only on 0.5 per cent of the area and that too only for regional parks and sanctuaries.
- ❑ Construction for commercial, residential, tourism and real estate purposes is strictly barred.