

# October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

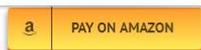
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## **1. SC directs Rajasthan govt to stop illegal mining in Aravalli hills within 48 hours**

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

N.A. ( 2018, October , 26). Implement the SC order on Aravallis in letter and spirit. Hindustan times. Retrieved from [www.hindustantimes.com](http://www.hindustantimes.com)

**What is the context about?**

- 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.
- The dire state of the three-billion-year-old Aravalli range, which straddles the states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat, because of the plunder of its mineral resources has been documented in detail in many government reports.

## **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 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.

### **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.