



Aravalis of Haryana Get Protected Forest Tag | Haryana | 16 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Haryana** has designated 24,353 hectares of [Aravali land in five of its districts](#) as protected forest, under the **compensatory afforestation swap** intended to offset the **destruction of tropical rainforests** in [Great Nicobar](#).

Key Points

- Though the goal was 26,000 hectares, Haryana was able to secure 24,353 hectares. For the remaining 1,647 hectares, the [Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change \(MoEFCC\)](#) is in discussions with the government of Madhya Pradesh.
- In November 2022, MoEFCC gave its approval, paving the way for a **colossal project in Great Nicobar**.
 - This **project involves constructing an international airport, a shipping port, a power plant, and a township**, spanning an area of 160 square kilometers.
 - More than 80% of this land is part of a pristine tropical forest, resulting in the **loss of almost a million trees**.
 - In February 2023, it was decided that [the compensatory afforestation](#) for this **forest destruction** in an island off India's mainland will be carried out in the Aravalis of Haryana.
 - The government of Haryana, which submitted its plan for compensatory afforestation will receive **Rs 3,000 crore to revive the Aravalis** in five of its districts.
 - The five districts are - **Gurgaon, Nuh, Rewari, Mahendergarh and Charkhi Dadri**.

Great Nicobar Island

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- Great Nicobar is the **southernmost and largest of the Nicobar Islands**, a sparsely inhabited 910-sq-km patch of mainly tropical rainforest in southeastern Bay of Bengal.
 - **Indira Point on the island, India's southernmost point**, is located 90 nautical miles (<170 km) from Sabang at the northern tip of **Sumatra, the largest island of the Indonesian archipelago**.
- **The Andaman and Nicobar Islands consist of 836 islands**, divided into two groups known as the Andaman Islands located in the north and the Nicobar Islands situated in the south, separated by the 10° Channel which is 150 kilometres wide.
- Great Nicobar has two national parks, a biosphere reserve, **small populations of the Shompen, Onge, Andamanese and Nicobarese tribal peoples**, and a few thousand non-tribal settlers.