Green Manifesto, 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **People for [Aravallis](#)** group initiated the development of a **'Haryana Green Manifesto 2024'** in response to the growing environmental crisis in the state.

Key Points

- **Green Manifesto: The document was created after a unique participatory exercise, gathering inputs from rural and urban stakeholders across 17 districts of Haryana ahead of the assembly elections.**
  - Experts in ecology, agriculture, urban planning, and sustainable architecture contributed to shaping a green vision for Haryana.
- **Key Demands in the Green Manifesto:**
  - Legally designate the **[Aravallis](#) and [Shivaliks](#)** as **["critical ecological zones](#)"** to prohibit destructive activities and commercial projects.
  - Promote the use of **alternative building materials** to preserve the remaining hills.
  - Designate **[Mahendergarh district](#)** as a **"pahadi dark zone"** and cease all **mining and stone-crushing operations** due to critically low groundwater levels (1,500-2,000 feet).
  - Withdraw the state's appeal in the **[Supreme Court](#) to legalize [mining](#)** in the National Capital Region (NCR).
  - Remove landfills in **Bandhwari, Pali, and near ITI colony** on the Old Sohna-Alwar road.
  - Halt illegal dumping and burning of chemical waste from industrial units in **Bhiwadi, Khori Khurd, and other villages in [Nuh district.](#)**
  - Provide compensation and **quality farmland to villagers** whose lands have been impacted by these activities.
- **Demands for Forest Protection:**
  - Provide legal protection to all forests by i**ncluding un-notified forests as ["deemed forests](#)"** under **the [Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900.](#)**
  - Legislate a **Tree Act for Haryana,** similar to the stringent **Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.**
  - Declare all **[open natural ecosystems (ONEs)](#)**, such as the **[blackbuck](#) natural habitat in Fatehabad district,** as conservation or community reserves.
  - Remove **Haryana's ONEs from the [Wasteland Atlas of India](#),** which categorizes these ecosystems as **'unproductive'** land for agriculture or industrial use.
  - Implement an action plan to increase **[Haryana's forest and tree cover](#) to 10% within four years.**
  - Reintroduce traditional **[Haryana tree species,](#) such as Lesoda, Khejri, Indrok, and Jaal,** and promote native planting in an ecologically correct manner (tall trees, under-storey trees, shrubs, climbers, grasses) to create biodiversity-rich spaces.
- **Demands for Food Security:**
  - Promote **[crop diversification](#)** as a key climate-change adaptation strategy.
  - Ensure **guaranteed purchase of every crop** grown by farmers at the **[Minimum Support Price (MSP)](#)** announced by the Centre.
  - Incentivize **[natural farming](#)** practices that improve soil health.
  - Scale up the **'keeth pathshalas' (insect schools),** which have been educating farmers in some villages for the **past 15 years, to all districts.** These schools teach the balance

between vegetarian and non-vegetarian insects, reducing the need for insecticide spraying.

Aravali Mountain Range

- The Aravallis is the **oldest folded** mountain on Earth.
- It spans over **800 km from Gujarat to Delhi** (through Rajasthan and Haryana).
- The highest peak in the Aravalli Range is **Guru Peak on Mount Abu**.
- **Impact on Climate:**
    - The Aravallis have an impact upon the climate of northwest India and beyond.
    - During monsoons, the mountain range gently guides the monsoon clouds eastwards towards Shimla and Nainital, thus helping nurture the sub-Himalayan rivers and feeding the north Indian plains.
    - In the winter months, it protects the fertile alluvial river valleys (the para-Indus and Gangetic) from the assault of cold westerly winds from Central Asia.