



Green Manifesto, 2024 | Haryana | 05 Sep 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 including **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.

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