



Debris in Gurugram's Green Belt

Why in News?

Recently, the **Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG)** faces backlash for dumping garbage and debris from the **Gurgaon-Faridabad highway** into the **ecologically sensitive green belt of Baliwas village** in the [Aravalli forest](#).

Key Points

- **Importance of the Green Belt:**
 - The green belt is **vital for [groundwater](#) recharge, agriculture, recreation, and houses the revered Hill of Devta temple**, intensifying local opposition.
 - Environmentalists highlight the **area's role in preventing desertification and maintaining the balance** of the **Aravalli forest ecosystem**.
- **Concerns:**
 - Baliwas residents fear being trapped between the Bandhwari waste dump and the new dumping site.
 - Environmentalists caution that **continued dumping could lead to irreversible ecological damage**, affecting soil quality, biodiversity, and groundwater recharge.
- **Government and Administrative Response:**
 - [Haryana State Pollution Control Board \(HSPCB\)](#) plans to inspect the site, raising hopes for stricter enforcement.
 - The MCG Commissioner promised action, forming a dedicated team to assess the situation and recommending strict measures against violators to protect the green belt.

Aravallis

- **About:**
 - The Aravalli Range extends from Gujarat to Delhi through Rajasthan, 692 km in length and varies between 10 to 120 km in width.
 - The range acts as a natural green wall, **with 80% located in Rajasthan and 20% in Haryana, Delhi, and Gujarat**.
 - The Aravalli mountains are divided into two main ranges **the Sambhar Sirohi Range and the Sambhar Khetri Range in Rajasthan**, where their extension is about 560 km.
 - It serves as an **ecotone** between the **Thar Desert and [the Gangetic Plain](#)**.
 - Ecotones are areas where **two or more ecosystems, biological communities, or biotic regions meet**.
 - **Gurusikhar (Rajasthan)**, the highest peak in the range, reaches an elevation of 1,722 meters.
- **Significance of Aravalis:**
 - The Aravallis **prevent the [Thar Desert](#) from encroaching** on the Indo-Gangetic plains, historically serving as a catchment for rivers and plains.
 - The range **supports 300 native plant species, 120 bird species**, and exclusive animals like jackals and mongooses.
 - During [monsoons](#), the Aravallis **direct monsoon clouds eastward**, benefiting sub-Himalayan rivers and North Indian plains. In winter, they **shield fertile valleys from cold westerly winds**.

- The range **aids in groundwater replenishment** by absorbing rainwater, thus reviving groundwater levels.
- The Aravallis act as the **“lungs” for Delhi-NCR**, mitigating some effects of the **region's severe air pollution**.

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