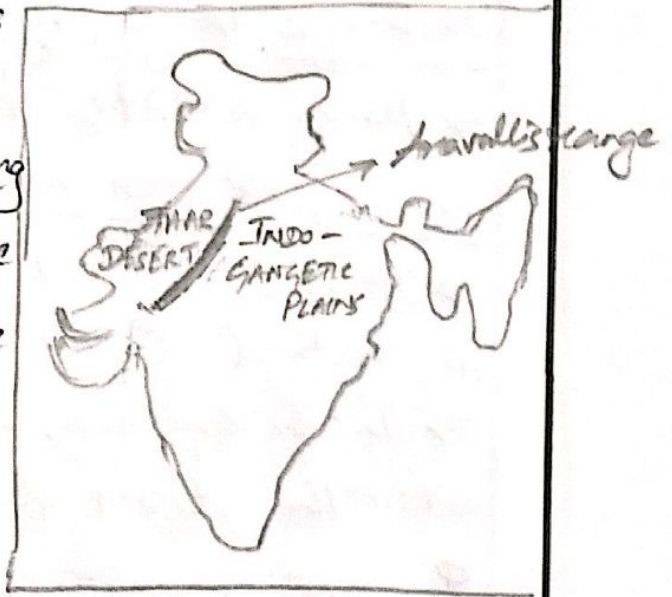


Discuss the significance of Aravalli Mountains & examine the impact of rising illegal mining in Aravalli Mountains?

Aravalli range of Mountains extend from the state of Gujarat upto Haryana, covering parts of Rajasthan, Delhi. These are the oldest mountain range in India & holds utmost significance because of —



- a) Provisioning services: They serve as catchment areas for rivers that originate from the hills & thus help irrigate the plains.
- b) Regulating services: They prevent dust storms originating in Thar region to reach the Indo-gangetic plains.
↳ Also, they are primarily responsible for scanty rainfall in Rajasthan.
- c) Supporting services: They form the only forest area available in state of Haryana & thus supports huge biodiversity.
- d) Cultural importance: Apart from famous hill stations on it like Mt. Abu, the power centre of India is located on the Raisina hills, which is part of Aravalli.

With growing commercialisation of Aravalli mountains, there is a large-scale impact on the region such as —

⇒ Indo-gangetic plains, especially the western side have received increased instances of dust storms.

⇒ Illegal mining poses a threat to groundwater recharge in growing cities such as Faridabad, Gurgaon.

⇒ Mining activities have resulted in damage of houses, irrigation network systems of local habitants.

⇒ It is also linked to increasing pollution level in National Capital Region.

⇒ In the long run, degradation of hills may ~~alter~~ alter the desert landscape of Rajasthan.

~~The suo moto actions of government~~

Illegal mining has always remained a cause of ~~concern~~ concern for the state governments & only by taking suo moto actions on illegal activities will ensure sustainable usage of Aravilli's ecosystem.