STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

How Proper Implementation of Articles 48A and 51A(g) Can Save the Aravalli Mountains

Environment & Ecology

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Introduction

- The Aravalli mountains are one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world. They stretch across Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, and Delhi. The Aravallis are not just hills; they act like a natural protective wall. They stop the Thar Desert from spreading, help store rainwater underground, reduce air pollution, and support forests and wildlife.
- Today, the Aravalli range is in serious danger. Illegal mining, cutting of trees, and fast urban growth have badly damaged these hills. Because of this, nearby areas are facing water shortages, extreme heat, pollution, and desert-like conditions.
- If Article 48A and Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution are implemented properly, the Aravalli mountains can still be protected.

What Are the Major Threats to the Aravalli?

1. Illegal Mining: Large parts of the Aravalli are being dug illegally for stones and minerals. This destroys the hills, increases dust pollution, and damages water sources.

2. Deforestation: Trees are cut for roads, farms, and buildings. Without trees, soil erosion increases and animals lose their natural habitat.

3. Rapid Urbanisation

Cities like Delhi and Gurugram are expanding fast. Construction on hill areas is reducing green cover and increasing pollution.

4. Groundwater Depletion: The Aravalli helps recharge groundwater. Mining and tree loss reduce this ability, leading to water shortages.

5. Desertification1; The Aravalli acts as a barrier against the Thar Desert. If it weakens, fertile land may slowly turn into desert.

What Do Articles 48A and 51A(g) Say?

Article 48A

It directs the government to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife. This means the State must make strong laws and take action to stop environmental damage.

Article 51A(g)

It makes it a duty of every citizen to protect the natural environment—forests, rivers, lakes, and wildlife—and to show compassion towards living creatures.

How Proper Implementation Can Save the Aravalli

1. Role of the Government (Article 48A)

- Complete ban on illegal mining in Aravalli areas
- Strict punishment for violators
- Use of drones and satellite monitoring
- Large-scale tree plantation and forest restoration
- Strict environmental checks before construction projects
- Water conservation measures like check dams and recharge pits

2. Role of Citizens (Article 51A(g))

- Reporting illegal mining and tree cutting
- Participating in tree plantation drives
- Saving water and reducing waste
- Supporting eco-friendly development
- Taking legal action when authorities fail

When both the government and citizens act together, real protection becomes possible.

Benefits of Saving the Aravalli

1. Cleaner air and less heat in Delhi-NCR
2. Better groundwater levels
3. Protection of wildlife and biodiversity
4. Economic benefits through agriculture and eco-tourism
5. Prevention of desert expansion

Conclusion

- Articles 48A and 51A(g) are powerful constitutional tools to protect the Aravalli mountains. The government must lead with strong policies and strict enforcement, while citizens must act responsibly in daily life.

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- If we fail to protect the Aravalli today, future generations will pay the price. Saving the Aravalli means protecting India’s environment and future.

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