

Need for comprehensive measures to preserve and safeguard the Aravalli mountain ranges from environmental degradation.-laid

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): The Aravalli range, one of the world's oldest mountain systems, is facing accelerated degradation due to unchecked mining, construction activity, and dilution of environmental safeguards. Spanning four states, the Aravallis play a critical role in groundwater recharge, climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, and preventing desertification in north-western India. Recent reports indicate continued illegal mining, forest diversion, and real estate expansion, even in areas classified as ecologically sensitive. This destruction has contributed to declining groundwater levels, worsening air pollution in the NCR region, loss of wildlife corridors, and increased vulnerability to extreme heat and desertification. These challenges are only intensifying due to climate change. Despite multiple judicial directions recognising the Aravallis as a natural ecological barrier, enforcement remains weak and fragmented across states. Compensatory measures and post facto clearances have failed to arrest irreversible damage to this fragile ecosystem. Given India's commitments to climate resilience and sustainable development, the continued neglect of the Aravallis represents a serious policy failure. There is an urgent need for a comprehensive, legally binding protection and restoration framework, backed by inter-state coordination, transparent monitoring, and strict accountability, to safeguard this vital natural shield for present and future generations.