



Delhi-Alwar RRTS Project

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Why in News

The **Supreme Court**-Appointed Committee has permitted construction of a stretch of the proposed Delhi-Alwar **RRTS (Rapid Rail transit system)** corridor under the **Aravalli Biodiversity Park** and the extended ridge area.

Key Points

- **Committee's Report:**
 - The committee observed that the **project is in public interest** and since the proposed rail corridor will run **20 metres below the ground**, trees will not have to be cut.
 - There will be **no construction on the surface** in the Morphological Ridge area.
 - **A ridge** or a mountain ridge is a geographical feature consisting of a **chain of mountains or hills that form a continuous elevated** crest for some distance.
 - The Aravalli **ridge areas**, which are essentially extensions of the Aravalli ranges and extend over 7,000 hectares in Delhi, are **considered the lungs of the capital (Delhi)**.
- **Delhi-Alwar RRTS Corridor:**
 - It is a **164-km rapid rail corridor**, which will be a mix of **elevated tracks and tunnels**. It is slated to be implemented in three phases.
 - A 3.6-km stretch of the corridor is supposed to pass below the extended or '**morphological**' ridge in South Delhi.
 - 1.7-km of the 3.6-km stretch under consideration will pass below the **Aravalli Biodiversity Park** near Vasant Kunj, Delhi.

- **Significance of Corridor:**

- **Travel Time:**

- It is expected to reduce travel time **between these places to 117 minutes – a little less than two hours.**

- **Air Quality:**

- It is expected to **improve the air quality in Delhi/NCR** (National Capital Region), because the share of public transport is expected to increase.

- **Ease in Road Traffic:**

- Road **traffic congestion is expected to ease with a better transport network** and the project is expected to address regional connectivity issues and develop an efficient multimodal transport system connecting Delhi-NCR with road, rail and air.

Aravalli Biodiversity Park

- It is developed on 699 acres of land **located in South Delhi** near Vasant Vihar.
- The area is **highly degraded** due to past mining and infested with **Prosopis juliflora** (an Invasive Shrub).

- The **biodiversity of Delhi is nearly extinct.**

- The **prime objective of ABP is to bring back the lost biodiversity of Delhi Aravallis.** The other objective of ABP is to promote nature education among students and create environment awareness among the public.
- It is also **helping in preserving the threatened medicinal plants of the Aravallis.**

Source: IE