NGT Seeks Reply on Aravali Land Occupation

Why in News?

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued a notice to Faridabad municipal corporation on allegations of illegally cutting **180 trees in the Aravallis and** <u>encroaching</u> on forest department land to expand a waste processing plant.

Key Points

- A committee appointed by the tribunal to investigate the allegations has submitted its report. The report highlights the violations committed by the corporation.
- The dispute surrounds a 50-acre land parcel in Pratapgarh village. Although the civic body owns 47 acres of this land, the remaining is still with the forest and health departments.
- The NGT panel recommended that:
 - The **municipal body** must take **permission from Haryana pollution board** before starting operations at the site.
 - They must also **set up a leachate treatment plant** and **create a green** area in the vicinity that will act as a **buffer zone** between the Aravallis and the waste processing unit.

National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- It is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand, and the first developing country to do so.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
- The NGT has five places of sittings, New Delhi is the Principal place of sitting and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four.

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