

## The Aravalli Hills

Are one of the world's most significant geological and ecological features, acting as the "green lungs" and "protective shield" for North India.

### 1. Geological & Historical Marvels

- **Oldest in the World:** Formed during the **Precambrian era** roughly 2 to 3.2 billion years ago, the Aravallis are significantly older than the Himalayas (which are only about 50 million years old).
- **Once Taller than the Himalayas:** Geologists believe that in their prime, the Aravallis were towering peaks, likely higher than the modern-day Himalayas, before being worn down by billions of years of erosion into their current "residual mountain" form.
- **Cradle of Civilization:** The range provided copper and other metals to ancient civilizations. Carbon dating shows mining activities here as far back as the **5th century BCE**, with links to the Indus Valley Civilisation.

### 2. Ecological & Climatic Shield

- **Natural Barrier:** The range acts as a vital barrier preventing the eastward expansion of the **Thar Desert** into fertile regions of Haryana, Rajasthan, and the Gangetic plains.
- **Water Recharge Hub:** Its fractured rocks act as massive sponges, recharging critical groundwater aquifers for megacities like Delhi, Gurugram, and Faridabad.
- **Climate Regulator:** It influences the trajectory of the southwest monsoon, directing rainfall towards the lower Himalayas and shielding North India from cold westerly winds coming from Central Asia during winter.

### 3. Biodiversity & Wildlife

- **Wildlife Corridors:** It hosts the

#### **Northern Aravalli Leopard Wildlife Corridor**

, a 200 km stretch from Sariska Tiger Reserve to the Delhi Ridge, which is essential for the movement of leopards, hyenas, and jackals.

- **Medicinal Treasure Trove:** The forests are home to rare medicinal herbs like **Guggal, Moosli, and Ashwagandha**.
- **Great Green Wall:** India is currently implementing the **Aravalli Green Wall Project**, an ambitious 1,400 km long and 5 km wide green belt extending from Gujarat to Delhi to restore degraded land and combat desertification.

### **Key Facts About Aravalli Peaks & Range:**

- **Highest Peak:** Guru Shikhar (1,722 m / 5,650 ft).
- **Location:** Mount Abu, Rajasthan (Sirohi District).
- **Other Major Peaks:** Ser Peak (2nd), Delwara (3rd), Jarga (4th).