



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

# Delhi's Central Ridge Declared a Reserved Forest

Published On: 18-05-2026



The Delhi Government has officially declared around 670 hectares of the Central Ridge area as a "Reserved Forest" under Section 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The move grants the highest level of legal protection to one of Delhi's most ecologically sensitive green zones and aims to strengthen conservation efforts against encroachment, urbanisation and ecological degradation.?

## Key Highlights of the Development

The Central Ridge lies around Sardar Patel Marg and the President's Estate area.

### The move provides stronger legal safeguards against:

Illegal construction

Encroachment

Deforestation

Ecological damage

The declaration came after a delay of more than three decades in granting full legal protection to the area.

## About Delhi Ridge

Delhi Ridge is the northernmost extension of the ancient Aravalli Range, one of the oldest fold mountain systems in the world. It acts as the "green lungs" of Delhi by regulating climate, absorbing pollution and supporting biodiversity.

## Major Features:

Extends across nearly 35 km in Delhi.

### Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040  
Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

Spread over about 8,000 hectares in the National Capital Territory (NCT).

**Characterised by:**

Quartzitic rocks

Thin nutrient-poor soil

Dry deciduous and thorn forest ecosystem

**Ecological Importance**

**The Ridge:**

Acts as a carbon sink

Absorbs particulate pollution

Protects Delhi from hot desert winds from Rajasthan

**Supports biodiversity including:**

Nilgai

Jackals

Porcupines

Several bird species.

Divisions of Delhi Ridge

**Delhi Ridge is divided into four major sections:**

Northern Ridge

Central Ridge

South-Central Ridge

Southern Ridge

The Southern Ridge is the largest component and includes the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary.

**What is a Reserved Forest?**

A Reserved Forest is the most protected category of forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

Key Features

Declared under Section 20 of the Act.

**Kamaraj IAS Academy**

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

### **Activities such as:**

Grazing  
Hunting  
Tree cutting  
Resource extraction

are prohibited unless specifically permitted.

Reserved forests account for more than half of India's recorded forest area.

### **Environmental Concerns Related to Delhi Ridge**

#### **Invasive Species**

The invasive plant *Prosopis juliflora* (Vilayati Kikar), introduced during British rule, has spread extensively and threatens native Aravalli vegetation by:

Consuming groundwater  
Preventing growth of native species.

#### **Urban Encroachment**

The Ridge faces threats from:

Illegal settlements  
Road expansion  
Construction activities  
Debris dumping.

#### **Ecological Restoration Debate**

#### **Environmentalists have criticised:**

Miyawaki plantations  
Theme-based forests  
Non-native plantation drives  
for disturbing the Ridge's natural dry forest ecosystem.

#### **Supreme Court and Ridge Conservation**

The Supreme Court recently expressed concerns regarding the effectiveness of the Delhi Ridge Management Board (DRMB) in protecting Ridge forests and stressed the need for holistic conservation of the Aravalli ecosystem.

#### **Kamaraj IAS Academy**

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040  
Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

### **Additional Key Facts:**

#### **Aravalli Range:**

One of the oldest fold mountain systems in the world.

Extends from Gujarat through Rajasthan to Delhi and Haryana.

Acts as a natural barrier against desertification from the Thar Desert.

#### **Indian Forest Act, 1927:**

Consolidates laws related to forests and forest produce.

#### **Classifies forests into:**

Reserved Forests

Protected Forests

Village Forests

#### **Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary:**

Located in the Southern Ridge of Delhi.

Forms part of the Northern Aravalli leopard wildlife corridor.

#### **National Green Tribunal:**

Established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act.

Deals with environmental protection and conservation cases.