



Rajasthan Questions Findings on Parsa Mine Clearance | Rajasthan | 19 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL)** has questioned the legitimacy of a report by the [Chhattisgarh State Scheduled Tribes Commission \(CSSTC\)](#), which found **irregularities in environmental clearances** for the **Parsa coal mine** in the State's Surguja region.

- The **Parsa coal block** is located in the **north central part of the [Hasdo-Arand](#)**.

Key Points

- **Earlier Findings:**
 - According to RRVUNL, in 2023 the **CSSTC, set aside allegations regarding the Parsa mine** following a detailed inquiry by the Surguja district administration.
 - In 2024, The Commission recommended **canceling forest clearances for the Parsa mine**, alleging they were obtained using forged gram sabha consent documents.
 - RRVUNL countered that the [gram sabha](#) approval issue is under [judicial review](#), with no adverse court observations on alleged irregularities.
- **Role of RRVUNL and Adani Group:**
 - The **Parsa coal mine, allotted to RRVUNL**, is developed and operated by the Adani Group, despite ongoing opposition from activists and sections of local communities.
- **Legitimacy of the Report:**
 - RRVUNL questioned the Commission's report, and stated that the report was based on inputs from a small group of individuals, despite the issue involving thousands of local stakeholders.
- **About Chhattisgarh State Scheduled Tribes Commission:**
 - The Chhattisgarh government **formed the Tribal Advisory Council to recommend policies related to [Scheduled Tribes](#)**.
 - Some of the tribes in Chhattisgarh include the [Gonds](#) of Bastar, [Baiga](#) tribes, Pahari korwa tribes, Abhuj Maria, Bison Horn Maria, [Muria](#), Halbaa, Birhor's tribes, Bhatra, and Dhurvea.
 - The **Chief Minister** of Chhattisgarh is the **Chairman of the Council**, and the Minister of Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Department is a member.

Hasdeo Arand Forest

- Hasdeo Arand, a sprawling forest in the **northern part of Chhattisgarh is known for its biodiversity and its coal deposits**.
- The forest falls under **Korba, Sujapur and Surguja districts** with significant tribal population.
- The **Hasdeo river, a tributary of [Mahanadi](#)**, flows through it.
- Hasdeo Arand is the **largest un-fragmented forest in Central India consisting of pristine Sal (*Shorea robusta*) and teak forests**.
- It is a **noted migratory corridor** and has a significant **presence of [elephants](#)**.



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