



Deforestation for Mining in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

According to the Centre **approximately 273,000 additional trees are expected to be cut down for mining activities in the [Hasdeo Arand forests](#)**, as the **wildlife and biodiversity institutions have not recommended a total prohibition** on mining in the area.

Key Points

- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** provided information on two of the most contentious environmental issues in the country. The diversion of forests from **Hasdeo Arand in Chhattisgarh** and the **Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island in Andaman & Nicobar Islands** project of [Niti Aayog](#).
- The Government of Chhattisgarh commissioned the [Indian Council of Forestry, Research and Education, Dehradun](#), in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India to carry out a **Biodiversity Assessment Study of the entire Hasdeo-Arand Coalfields region**.
 - The study was conducted, and the report was subsequently submitted to the **ministry of environment, forest & climate change**.
 - According to the report, **94,460 trees have been felled in [Parsa East Kete Basen Mine](#)**, while over **5.3 million trees were planted as compensatory afforestation, mine reclamation and translocation**.
 - As informed by the Chhattisgarh government, **273,757 trees are required to be felled in the coming years for mining in Hasdeo Arand**.
- Hasdeo Arand is one of the **largest contiguous stretches of very dense forest** in central India spanning 170,000 hectares and has **23 coal blocks**.
 - In 2009, the **environment ministry categorised Hasdeo Arand to be a “No-Go” zone for mining** because of its rich forest cover but **allowed it again because there was no policy finalised**.

Hasdeo Arand Forest

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- 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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