



SC Stays Project in Uttarakhand Forested Area

Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme Court has halted a major hotel development in the **Bhimal-Mukteshwar region** due to concerns raised in a petition about extensive [deforestation](#) in the lush **Jilling Estate area**.

Key Points

- According to the court, the thickly forested patch was permitted to be deforested for a hotel project, which intends to carry out construction activities on an area of 20,000 square feet.
 - It would cause **irreparable damage to the fragile ecology** of the area that could adversely impact the interest of the state to maintain adequate **forest cover**.
- The main issue lies here is that the High Court permitted construction to go ahead without the mandatory environmental clearance under the [Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 2006](#).
 - SC had recently expressed serious concern over the lackadaisical approach of the state government in controlling [forest fires](#) that recur every year.

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