



Mining in Kete Extension Coal Block

Why in News?

The [Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board \(CECB\)](#) has issued a circular to organize a public consultation for the [Parsa East-Kente Basan \(PEKB\)](#), Parsa and Kete Extension coal block projects in the [Hasdeo Arand region](#).

Key Points

- While some villagers support the project, citing potential development benefits, others have raised concerns.
 - The [Lemru elephant reserve](#), established in 2021, has a mining project area within a 10-kilometre radius of the reserve. With mining, the region will witness increased [human-elephant conflict](#).
- According to the sources, the **public hearing will proceed on 2nd August 2024**, as it is a **mandatory process for securing environmental clearance**.

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.**

Lemru Elephant Reserve

- The reserve is located in the **Korba district of Chhattisgarh.**
- The reserve is **aiming at reducing human-animal conflict** and destruction of property in addition to providing a permanent habitat to the elephants.
- Earlier, the state government notified the reserve (Conservation Reserve) in October 2020 under **Section 36A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLPA).**
 - Section 36A has a special provision that gives the Union government a say in the process of notification in case the land to be notified as **conservation reserve** has areas belonging to the Centre.
 - **Elephant reserves are not recognised under the WLPA.**

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