

What is the Hasdeo movement?

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In news— Centre for Policy Research (CPR) was recently in news for the suspension of its FCRA registration. Among the ineligible activities listed by the I-T Department is the CPR being involved in the Hasdeo movement.

About the movement-

- It is a movement launched by activists against coal mining in the Hasdeo forests of Chhattisgarh.
- Hasdeo Aranya is a biodiversity-rich forest which also happens to be a rich source of coal.
- For months in 2022, tribals and activists had protested against the operation of three coal mines in the region: the Parsa East Kente Basan (PEKB), Parsa, and Kente extension.

Hasdeo forests-

- A sprawling forest in the **northern part of Chhattisgarh**, Hasdeo Aranya is known for its biodiversity.
- The **forest falls under Korba, Sujapur and Sarguja districts**, with a sizeable tribal population.
- The **Hasdeo river, a tributary of Mahanadi, flows through it.**
- **It is home to Adivasis from Gond, Lohar, Oraon**, and other parts of India, who live on 1,70,000 hectares of land rich in biodiversity.
- The Hasdeo forests are also the **catchment area for the Hasdeo Bango Dam** built across the Hasdeo river which irrigates six lakh acres of land, crucial to a State with paddy as its main crop.
- Besides, the forests are ecologically sensitive due to the rich biodiversity they offer and due to the presence of a large migratory corridor for elephants.

- **Hasdeo represents one of the largest coal reserves in India, having estimated reserves of 5.18 billion tonnes of coal.**
- There are more than 20 known coal mines on the Hasdeo reserve.
- After a joint study in 2010, the Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of Forest and Environment deemed the Hasdeo reserve a 'No Go Area,' prohibiting any sort of mining due to its rich biodiversity and exceptional ecology.
- In 2021, a report on the region by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, termed Hasdeo Aranya the "largest un-fragmented forests in Central India consisting of pristine Sal (*Shorea robusta*) and teak forests."
- The Hasdeo Aranya Coal Field (HACF), meanwhile, is spread over nearly 1,880 sqkm and comprises 23 coal blocks.



Further

reading:

<https://journalsofindia.com/centre-suspends-fcra-license-of-the-centre-for-policy-research-cpr/>