

Forest Advisory Committee

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Forest Advisory Committee Latest News

Recently, the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has granted in-principle approval for the diversion of over 3,000 hectares of forest land across several states for key infrastructure projects.

About Forest Advisory Committee

- It is a **statutory body** established under the **Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980**.
- **Functions:** It considers questions **on the diversion of forest land for non-forest uses** such as mining, industrial projects, townships and advises the state government on the issue of granting forest clearances.
- **Process of Transferring Forest Land**
 - Once the FAC is convinced and approves (or rejects a proposal), it is forwarded to the concerned State government where the land is located.
 - The state government then has to ensure that **provisions of the Forest Right Act, 2006**, a separate Act that protects the rights of forest dwellers and tribals over their land, are complied with.

- The FAC approval also means that the future users of the land must provide compensatory land for afforestation as well as pay the net present value.
- It is under the **Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.

Source: HT

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