

FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL

**—Forest Conservation but
make it about Capitalism—**



The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 is a bill that amends the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

It is causing serious concerns among environmentalists in India.

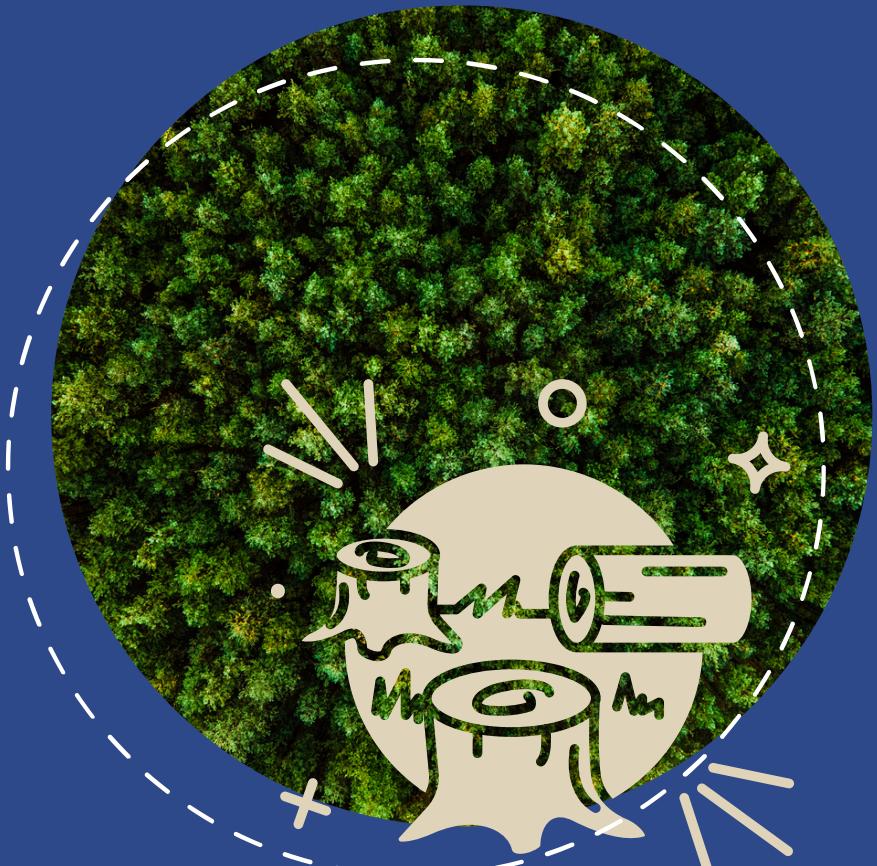
**Why are they
concerned?**

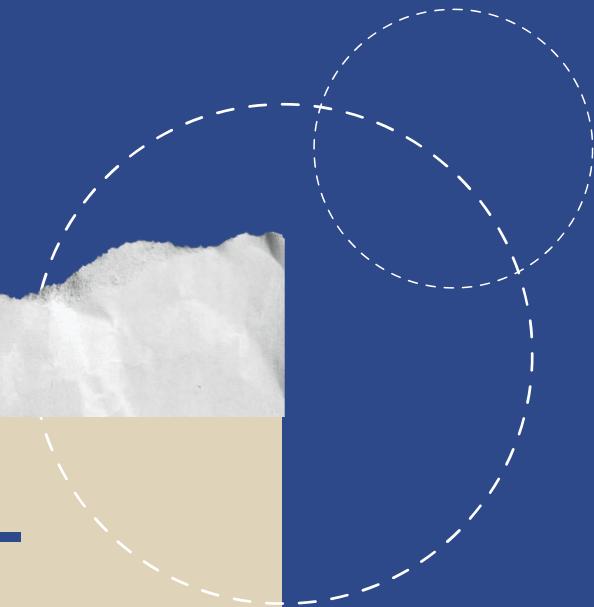


The proposed amendments seem to be in **favour of capitalistic ventures rather than the “protection” of India’s forests.**

The Bill focuses on:

- Prioritising Land unlocking and Plantation enclosures over forest conservation.
- Unlocking government, private, and institutional lands for *non-forest* use, which could lead to increased deforestation and loss of biodiversity.
- This can further lead to the conversion of forested areas into *commercial* or *industrial zones*.





The Bill promotes quick-growing monoculture plantations as replacements for diverse old-growth forests.

The bill's exemptions could allow for the clearing of significant forest areas, including ecologically rich landscapes in the Himalayas, Trans-Himalayas, and North Eastern regions.



"Security-Related Infrastructure"

"Public Utility"

The use of terms like these in the bill could allow for the establishment of various infrastructure projects on forest land without requiring clearance!

This could lead to unchecked development, further endangering our forests and wildlife



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The Bill **FAILS** to adequately address the protection of existing proprietary, customary, and livelihood rights related to forests.

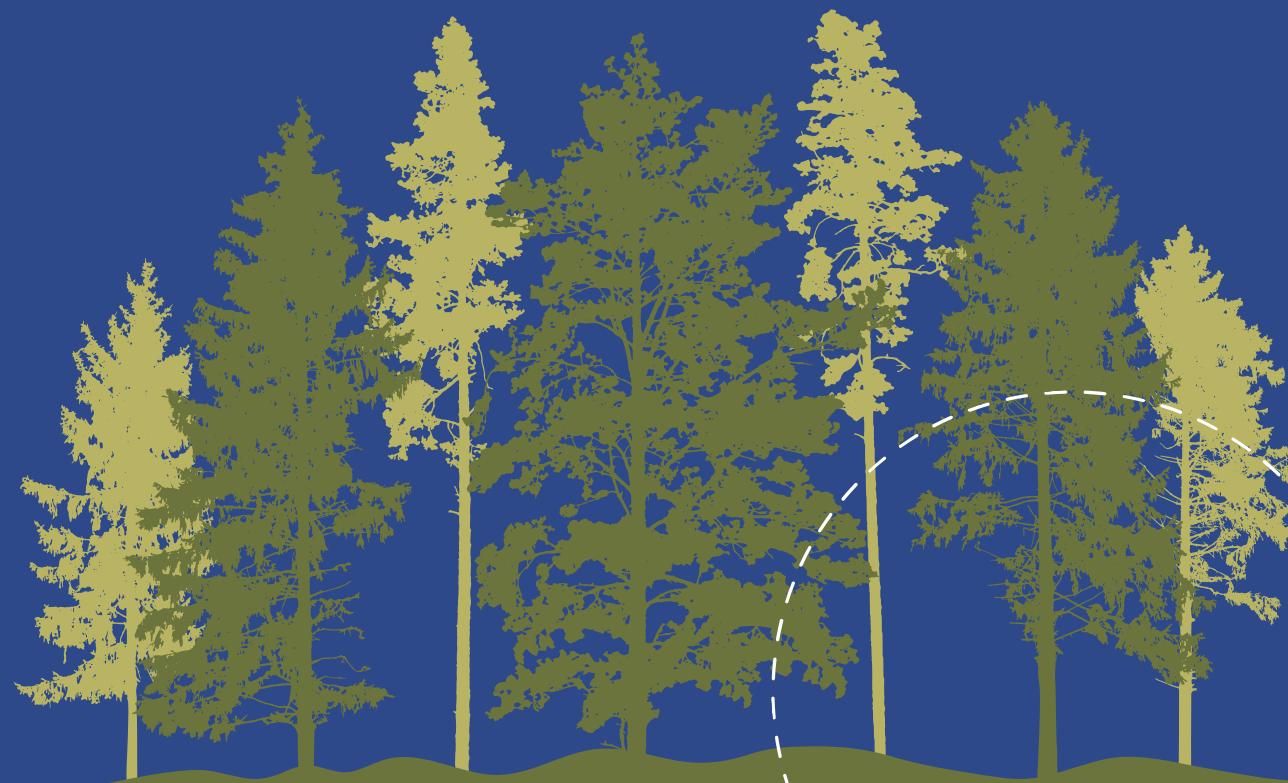
This can violate the rights of local communities and indigenous populations. The Bill seems to be in favour of capitalist interests that seek land for Commercial Exploitation.



The Bill undermines the work of the Original Act

Introduces exemptions for so-called “unclassed” forests (15% of India’s total forest cover) reducing protected land provided by the existing Act.

Expands the scope of permissible uses , increasing range of activities conducted on forest land.





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