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SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Reclaims Forest Rights

Mere Notice Can't Snatch Private Land from Owners, Rules Apex Court

Sheikh Rayees • November 10, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a decisive blow to the State's sweeping claim over private forest lands, the Supreme Court has struck down a Bombay High Court ruling that had vested ownership of such lands in the Maharashtra government merely on the basis of a notice issued under the Indian Forest Act. The country's top court restored ownership to private landholders, reaffirming that procedural shortcuts cannot override property rights.

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