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Karnataka HC upholds law on restricted zones around monuments

The Karnataka High Court ruled on the constitutional validity of Sections 20A, 20B, and 20C of the Ancient Monuments Act.

A judicial verdict confirming the legality of restrictions on construction within a 200-metre radius of ancient monuments.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Karnataka High Court** upheld the constitutional validity of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, on **October 16, 2026**.
- The court ruled that **Sections 20A, 20B, and 20C** do not infringe upon citizens' fundamental rights.
- Restrictions apply to prohibited and regulated areas extending up to a **200-metre radius** from protected monuments.
- The **2010 amendment** introduced stringent restrictions on new constructions with retrospective effect pending fresh distance surveys.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act was enacted by Parliament in 1958.

The **Archaeological Survey of India** (ASI) functions under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Entry 40 of the **Union List** in the Seventh Schedule deals with archaeological sites and remains of national importance.

Article 49 of the Constitution directs the State to protect monuments and places of national importance.

The **2010 amendment** to the Principal Act prohibited construction within 100 metres of protected monuments and regulated construction in the next 200 metres.

The Archaeological Survey of India was founded in **1861** by **Alexander Cunningham**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Karnataka HC upheld the constitutional validity of the Ancient Monuments Act restricting construction near monuments.

Syllabus Relevance: Important for questions on judicial review, fundamental rights, and statutory interpretation under Polity Unit 5.

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