Ethics & Morality · GS - III

Environmental conservation measures in ecologically sensitive regions often generate conflicts between ecological protection and local livelihoods. Examine this challenge with reference to the Environmentally Sensitive Areas notification controversy in Kerala.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/10/2026	GS - III	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Biodiversity conservation, ecologically vulnerable regions, livelihood security, land-use restrictions, participatory governance, scientific demarcation, public consultation, compensation, sustainable development.

Model Answer

Introduction

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) are intended to protect ecologically important regions from activities that may cause environmental degradation. However, disputes can arise when proposed restrictions affect agriculture, housing and livelihoods.

Major challenges

- **Ecological protection:** Sensitive landscapes support biodiversity, regulate water flows and provide essential ecosystem services.
- **Livelihood concerns:** Farmers and residents may fear restrictions on cultivation, construction, land transactions and future economic opportunities.
- **Uncertainty and mistrust:** Inadequate communication, unclear boundaries and concerns about implementation can intensify local opposition.

- **Political tensions:** Conflicting priorities among governments, environmental groups and local communities can delay conservation measures.

Way forward

Authorities should use transparent, science-based mapping and clearly explain the legal implications of notifications. Local communities must participate in consultations before decisions are finalised. Livelihood-sensitive regulations, appropriate compensation where legally warranted, sustainable farming support and accessible grievance-redress mechanisms can improve acceptance.

Conclusion

Environmental protection and human welfare need not be competing objectives. Participatory decision-making and proportionate restrictions can protect vulnerable ecosystems while safeguarding legitimate community interests.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP