Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Discuss the importance of urban lake conservation for sustainable water management. What measures can prevent encroachment and illegal groundwater extraction?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Urban flooding, groundwater recharge, ecological services, land-use regulation, enforcement, community participation.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Urban lakes are important ecological assets that store rainwater, support biodiversity and contribute to local water security. Encroachment, pollution and excessive groundwater extraction threaten these functions.

Major challenges:

1. Water depletion: Unregulated borewells can reduce groundwater availability.
2. Encroachment: Construction within protected lake areas reduces storage capacity.
3. Pollution: Sewage and contaminated runoff degrade water quality.
4. Governance gaps: Weak monitoring and fragmented institutional responsibilities hinder enforcement.

-

Measures required:

1. Clearly demarcate lake boundaries and Full Tank Level (FTL) areas.
2. Enforce groundwater extraction and land-use regulations.
3. Monitor water quality and remove illegal connections through due legal process.
4. Restore natural drainage, desilt water bodies where scientifically justified and strengthen sewage treatment.
5. Involve local communities in reporting encroachments and monitoring restoration.

-

Conclusion:

Urban lake conservation must combine legal enforcement, scientific restoration and accountable local governance to strengthen long-term water security.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP