Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Coastal Regulation Zone regulations seek to balance ecological conservation with developmental requirements. Examine the significance of their enforcement in addressing unplanned urbanisation and coastal vulnerability in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Coastal Regulation Zone, Environment Protection Act 1986, CRZ Notification 2019, coastal ecosystems, urbanisation, mangroves, coastal erosion, disaster vulnerability, local governance, sustainable development.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's coastline supports ecologically sensitive habitats, economic activities and densely populated settlements. Unauthorised construction and deviations from approved plans threaten coastal ecosystems and increase disaster vulnerability. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) framework seeks to regulate such development.

Significance of CRZ Enforcement

1. **Ecosystem protection:** Regulation helps conserve mangroves, coral reefs, sand dunes, mudflats and other sensitive coastal habitats.
2. **Disaster risk reduction:** Restricting inappropriate construction in vulnerable coastal stretches can reduce exposure to cyclones, storm surges and coastal flooding.

3. **Sustainable urban planning:** Enforcement discourages unauthorised buildings and ensures development follows approved coastal management plans.
4. **Livelihood protection:** Conservation of coastal ecosystems supports fisheries and communities dependent on marine resources.
5. **Legal accountability:** Notices, penalties and demolition provisions help address violations and strengthen environmental compliance.

Challenges in Implementation

- Pressure from real estate and tourism development.
- Weak monitoring and inadequate institutional capacity.
- Conflicts between livelihood requirements and conservation restrictions.
- Poor coordination among municipal bodies and coastal authorities.
- Incomplete awareness of CRZ provisions among local communities.

Way Forward

- Strengthen satellite-based monitoring and periodic coastal mapping.
- Improve coordination between municipal corporations and State Coastal Zone Management Authorities.
- Ensure transparent approval procedures and consistent enforcement.
- Incorporate local communities into coastal management.
- Promote nature-based solutions, including mangrove restoration and protection of natural buffers.

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Conclusion

Effective CRZ enforcement is essential for climate-resilient and sustainable coastal development. India's coastal governance must integrate ecological protection, scientific planning and accountable urban administration.