

Ecologically Sensitive Area

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Ecologically Sensitive Area Latest News

The Western Ghats, one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, may soon receive stronger legal protection in at least three states through the notification of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs).

About Ecologically Sensitive Area

- ESAs, also called **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** are designated regions identified for special environmental protection because of their **rich biodiversity, fragile ecosystems** or critical ecological functions.
- The **Central Government can notify certain** areas as Ecologically Sensitive Areas **under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**
- Under this recognition certain activities are **prohibited, some are tightly regulated**, while others are **encouraged to ensure development** does not come at the cost of ecological damage.
- Getting an ESA status also means that any development project in the area **will be subject to stricter environmental scrutiny.**
- **Significance of ESZ**

- **Eco-Sensitive Zones are created as “shock absorbers”** for the protected areas, to minimize the negative impact on the “fragile ecosystems” by certain human activities taking place nearby.
- These areas are **meant to act as a transition zone** from areas requiring higher protection to those requiring lesser protection.

Source: BS

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