



5/Sept/23.

Q.

What is Ecocide and why is it criminalized by world countries. What is India's stand towards the same? 15 marks.

Ecocide refers to the situation of killing the ecosystem and destroying it, which includes cutting of trees, migration of species etc...

Why it is criminalized?

(1) Because it have a huge Ecological loss :-

- ↳ Deforestation
- ↳ extinction of many species.
- ↳ Climate Change
- ↳ Global Warming

(2) Because Ecosystem and Forests contribute alot and everything to Economy. Without ecosystem and forest, we cannot imagine our lives.

- ↳ Exporting huge amount of Raw material.
- ↳ Environmental destruction includes destruction of fossil fuels. Hence,
- ↳ Dependency on imports might increase

(3) Ecocide is often referred as the 'Megaproject of Death' because with the destruction of environment it implies death of Humans, Animals, Plants, Ecosystem.

Hence it should be criminalized.



India's Stand on Ecocide:

(1) Single law which includes many other laws like: Environmental (protection) Act 1986; Wildlife (protection) Act 1972; Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016. etc...

(2) Loss of forest area: Acc. to recently passed Forest Conservation Amendment Act, 2023, alot of exemptions are given. Which might lead to loss of forest by 20% - 25%.

(3) Compensation Challenges: Net value of area at present and compensation are also given alot of exemptions and is a critical challenge.

(4) Ambit should be widen of National Green Tribunal, which is an apex court for listening of issues relating Environment. exclude the Wildlife Protection Act 1972; Indian Forest Act, 1927 etc----

WAY AHEAD:

Environment laws and forest laws should be implemented strictly and Ecocide law should include the concept of changing the behaviour of the people towards the environment and our dependency on it.

Hence all stakeholders coordination and consensus should be taken care of. And by all means we should achieve the goal to protect our Environment, Because without it we can't exist.