



## COMMITTEE ON ECO SENSITIVE AREA IN GOA: ENVIRONMENT

**NEWS:** Western Ghats: Expert panel to visit Goa over demand for exclusion of some villages from eco-sensitive zone

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Once draft notification declaring 56,825.7 sqkm of the Western Ghats as ecologically sensitive area finalised, villages marked as ESA will see a complete ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining as well as phasing out of existing mines in five years.

### Purpose of the Committee Visit to Goa

- **Objective:** A committee appointed by the Union Environment Ministry, led by former Director-General of Forests, Sanjay Kumar, is scheduled to visit Goa.
- **Review Focus:** The committee will assess Goa's submissions regarding the designation of eco-sensitive areas (ESAs) in the Western Ghats.
- **State Objections:** The Goa government has requested the exclusion of 21 villages in Sattari taluka, North Goa, from ESA designation due to concerns over development restrictions.

### Significance of Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESAs)

- **Definition:** ESAs are zones designated around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries to serve as protective buffers, aiming to reduce ecological damage from human activities.
- **Restrictions:** These areas limit or regulate mining, industrial activities, and large-scale development to protect biodiversity and the local environment.
- **Environmental Protection:** ESAs are crucial for preserving the unique biodiversity and ecological balance in regions like the Western Ghats, which are rich in flora and fauna.

### Objectives of Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESAs)

- **Habitat Preservation:** ESAs protect the natural habitats of various plant and animal species, ensuring biodiversity conservation.
- **Ecological Balance:** By restricting disruptive activities, ESAs help maintain the health and stability of ecosystems in sensitive regions.
- **Regulated Development:** Controlled, sustainable development within ESAs ensures that the environment's integrity is not compromised, allowing for balanced growth.

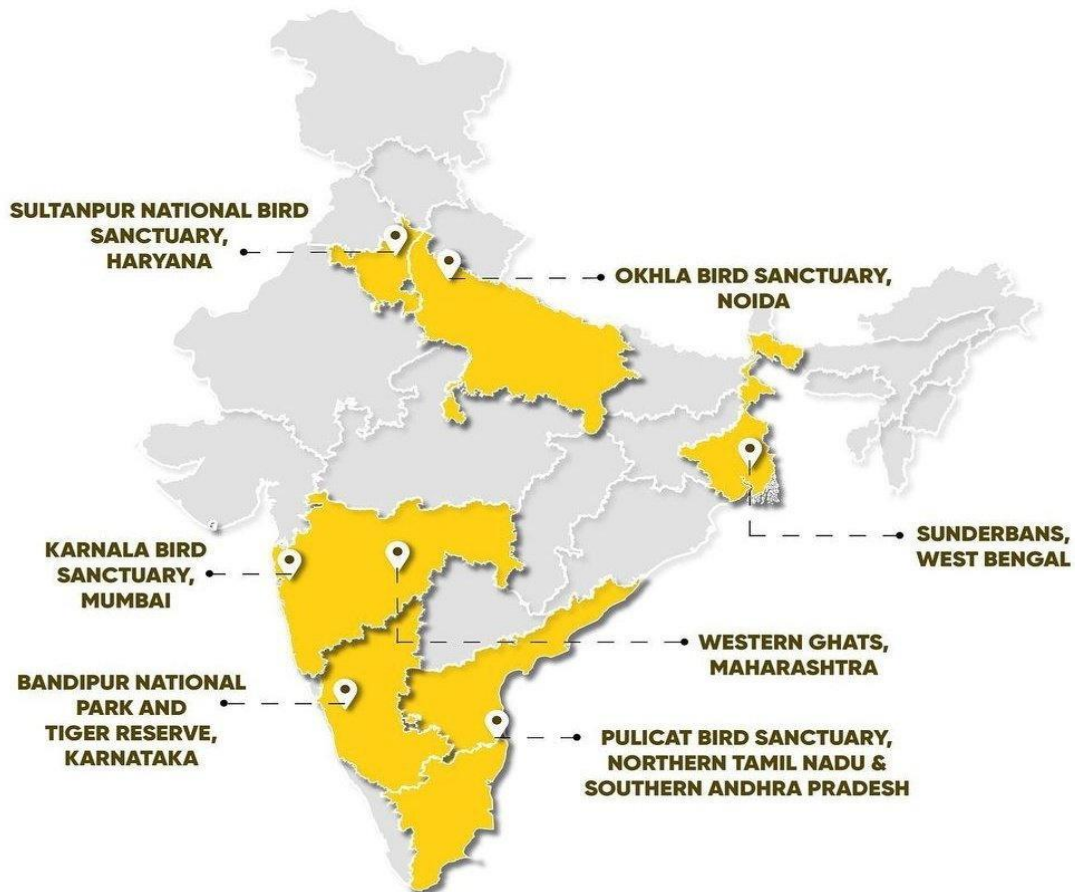
### Draft Notification on Western Ghats ESA

- **New Notification:** The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change recently reissued a draft notification designating over 56,800 sq. km of the Western Ghats as eco-sensitive.



- **Impact on Goa:** This designation affects areas in Goa, leading to the state's request for the exclusion of certain villages from the ESA list to avoid restrictions on development.

## ECO SENSITIVE ZONES OF INDIA



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/western-ghats-expert-panel-go-a-demands-on-eco-sensitive-area-demarcation-9650199/lite/>

SINCE 2006