Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

A business house is working on a project that could displace a forest community from their habitat. As the administrative officer of that district, what ethical challenges are you likely to face?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Development versus displacement, tribal rights, environmental justice, livelihood, informed consent, public interest, rehabilitation, intergenerational equity

Model Answer

Introduction

The situation presents a classic conflict between economic development, environmental protection and the rights and dignity of vulnerable communities.

1. Major Ethical Challenges

The first challenge is balancing public interest and private economic benefits against the community's right to livelihood, culture and habitat. Displacement may cause loss of traditional occupations, social networks and cultural identity.

2. Justice and Participation

The officer must ensure procedural justice through genuine consultation, informed participation and compliance with laws protecting forest-dwelling communities. Decisions taken without meaningful participation may become

ethically unjust even if legally authorised.

3. Environmental Responsibility

The project must be assessed for ecological consequences, including biodiversity loss and impacts on future generations.

4. Administrative Dilemma

The officer must resist political or corporate pressure while remaining impartial and transparent.

Conclusion

Development should be inclusive and sustainable, with avoidance of displacement wherever possible and fair rehabilitation, compensation and livelihood restoration where displacement is unavoidable.

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