Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Human-wildlife conflict is increasingly emerging as a challenge to biodiversity conservation and public safety in India. Examine its major causes and suggest measures for promoting coexistence between humans and wildlife.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Habitat fragmentation, elephant corridors, land-use change, human encroachment, infrastructure development, crop damage, wildlife conservation, early-warning systems, community participation, ecological connectivity.

Model Answer

Introduction

Human-wildlife conflict occurs when interactions between people and wild animals create risks to human safety, livelihoods or wildlife survival. Increasing encounters involving elephants highlight the need for integrated conservation strategies.

Major Causes

- **Habitat fragmentation:** Deforestation and agricultural expansion reduce natural habitats.
- **Infrastructure development:** Roads, railways and settlements obstruct traditional wildlife corridors.
- **Resource competition:** Shrinking food and water availability pushes animals towards human settlements.
- **Climate variability:** Changes in rainfall and resource availability can alter wildlife movement patterns.

Measures for Mitigation

- Protect and restore elephant corridors and wildlife habitats.
- Install early-warning systems and improve monitoring of animal movement.
- Develop wildlife-sensitive road infrastructure, including speed restrictions and underpasses where appropriate.
- Provide timely compensation for human injuries, deaths and crop losses.
- Involve local communities in conservation planning and awareness programmes.

Conclusion

Human safety and wildlife conservation must be addressed together. Landscape-level planning, scientific monitoring and community participation can promote long-term human-wildlife coexistence.

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