Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Discuss the major challenges in protecting endangered wildlife in India. Suggest measures to strengthen wildlife conservation and prevent wildlife crime.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; habitat conservation; human–wildlife conflict; poaching; illegal wildlife trade; protected areas; community participation; enforcement and monitoring

Model Answer

Introduction

India's biodiversity supports ecological stability, livelihoods and ecosystem services. However, habitat loss, poaching, human–wildlife conflict and weak enforcement can threaten endangered species and undermine conservation initiatives.

Major Challenges

1. Habitat Fragmentation: Infrastructure development and land-use changes can fragment habitats and restrict wildlife movement.

2. Poaching and Illegal Hunting: Hunting for commercial gain, trophies or other purposes threatens vulnerable species and may disrupt ecological balance.

3. Human–Wildlife Conflict: Encounters between wildlife and nearby communities can result in human casualties, livestock losses and retaliatory killing of animals.

4. Enforcement Gaps: Difficult terrain, limited staff and cross-border trafficking networks can complicate wildlife crime investigations.

Measures to Strengthen Conservation

1. Stronger Enforcement: Effectively implement the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and strengthen specialised wildlife crime investigations.

2. Habitat Protection: Maintain wildlife corridors, restore degraded habitats and minimise ecological damage from development projects.

3. Technology and Coordination: Use camera traps, monitoring systems and intelligence-sharing to detect threats and support enforcement.

4. Community Participation: Improve awareness, provide timely compensation for verified losses and involve local communities in conservation.

Conclusion

Effective wildlife protection requires habitat conservation, strong enforcement and cooperation with local communities. Protecting endangered species is essential for preserving India's ecological heritage.

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