Ethics & Morality · GS - III

Discuss the role of zoological parks and inter-zoo animal exchange programmes in wildlife conservation in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 05/11/2026	GS - III	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Ex-situ conservation, conservation breeding, genetic diversity, animal welfare, scientific management, public awareness, institutional coordination, habitat conservation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Zoological parks play an important role in ex-situ conservation by protecting threatened species outside their natural habitats and supporting scientific research and public awareness.

Role in Wildlife Conservation

Inter-zoo animal exchange programmes facilitate the movement of animals between recognised zoos for conservation breeding, genetic management and maintaining healthy captive populations. The proposed transfer of four Asiatic lions from Gujarat’s Sakkarbaug Zoo to Mumbai’s Byculla Zoo, in exchange for tufted capuchin monkeys, illustrates institutional cooperation in zoo management.

Such programmes can help prevent inbreeding, improve genetic diversity and strengthen conservation education. Modern enclosures, veterinary facilities and species-specific care are essential for animal welfare.

Challenges and Way Forward

Animal transfers require scientific assessment, quarantine, veterinary supervision and suitable habitats. Zoos must follow recognised standards and ensure that animal welfare remains the priority. Ex-situ conservation should complement, not replace, in-situ protection of natural habitats.

Conclusion

Well-managed zoological parks and coordinated animal exchanges can strengthen India's biodiversity conservation efforts when supported by scientific planning, ethical practices and habitat protection.

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