Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Human-wildlife conflict poses challenges to wildlife conservation as well as rural livelihoods. Examine its major causes and discuss measures to promote coexistence between local communities and wildlife in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 06/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Habitat fragmentation, expansion of human settlements, livestock depredation, crop damage, retaliatory attacks, economic insecurity, wildlife corridors, timely compensation, community participation, early-warning systems, trained tracking teams and landscape-level conservation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Human-wildlife conflict occurs when interactions between people and wild animals cause harm to livelihoods, property or wildlife. It has become an important challenge in India's conservation landscapes.

Major Causes

Habitat fragmentation, encroachment, infrastructure development and declining natural prey availability can increase wildlife movement into human-dominated areas. Livestock depredation and crop damage create economic insecurity among rural communities.

Consequences

Such conflicts can result in human injuries, livestock losses, retaliatory killing of wildlife and hostility towards conservation authorities. They can also threaten the safety of forest personnel monitoring animals.

Measures for Coexistence

Timely compensation for livestock losses, community-based monitoring and effective grievance redressal are essential. Wildlife corridors, habitat restoration, early-warning systems and trained rapid-response teams can reduce conflict. Local communities should participate in conservation planning and awareness programmes.

Conclusion

Wildlife conservation cannot succeed without community support. A balanced approach combining ecological protection, livelihood security and institutional coordination is essential for long-term human-wildlife coexistence.

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