Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Human-elephant conflict is emerging as a major challenge for wildlife conservation and rural livelihoods in India. Examine its causes and suggest measures for mitigation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 09/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Habitat fragmentation, elephant corridors, agricultural encroachment, crop damage, human casualties, early-warning systems, community participation, habitat restoration, compensation, landscape-level conservation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Human-elephant conflict occurs when elephants and human activities overlap, resulting in casualties, crop destruction and damage to property. It poses challenges to both wildlife conservation and rural livelihoods.

Major Causes

- **Habitat fragmentation:** Roads, railways, mining and settlements disrupt elephant movement.
- **Loss of corridors:** Restricted movement forces elephants towards agricultural and residential areas.
- **Resource competition:** Elephants enter human settlements in search of food and water.
- **Human activities:** Encroachment and land-use changes increase encounters.

Mitigation Measures

- Protect and restore traditional elephant corridors.
- Develop early-warning systems and monitor elephant movements.
- Improve railway crossings and other wildlife-sensitive infrastructure.
- Ensure timely compensation for affected families and farmers.
- Promote community participation and awareness programmes.
- Strengthen coordination between forest departments and local administrations.

Conclusion

A landscape-level conservation strategy that integrates ecological protection with community safety is essential for reducing human-elephant conflict.

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