



UP to Set up Four Modern Rescue Centres

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is establishing **four modern rescue centres** to manage the increasing encounters between **people and large carnivores**.

Key Points

About Rescue Centres

- The **forest and wildlife department** is establishing **four modern rescue centres** to address and **reduce human-wildlife conflicts**, especially involving large carnivores like **tigers, leopards, and jackals**.
- These rescue centres will be **strategically located across key regions**: Western UP, Terai, Awadh, and Bundelkhand, to provide safe shelter for wild animals that stray into human settlements.
- The specific locations for these centres include **Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary** (Meerut), **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**, **Sohagibarwa Wildlife Sanctuary** (Maharajganj), and **Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary** (Chitrakoot).
- The state government has allocated Rs 57.2 crore for the establishment of these rescue centres, emphasizing the importance of the initiative.

Human-Animal Conflict

- **Definitions:** **Human-animal conflict** refers to situations where human activities, such as agriculture, infrastructure development, or resource extraction, **come into conflict with wild animals**, leading to negative outcomes for both humans and animals.
- **Implications:**
 - **Economic Losses:** Human-animal conflict leads to **financial hardships** for farmers and herders due to crop destruction, infrastructure damage, and livestock loss.
 - **Safety Risks:** Wild animals, especially predators like tigers and lions, pose serious threats to human safety, with the potential for injury or death.
 - **Ecological Imbalances:** Killing predators **disrupts ecosystems** by causing prey population surges, leading to environmental harm.
 - **Conservation Challenges:** Negative perceptions from human-animal conflict **hinder conservation efforts** and the implementation of protective measures for wildlife.
 - **Psychological Impact:** The conflict causes fear, anxiety, and trauma, especially among individuals directly affected by animal attacks or property damage.
- **Government Measures to Tackle Human-Animal Conflict:**
 - **The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** The Act establishes **legal provisions** for hunting prohibition, wildlife habitat protection, and the creation of protected areas.
 - **The Biological Diversity Act, 2002:** India, as a signatory to the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity**, ensures that the Act aligns with existing forest and wildlife laws.
 - **National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016):** The Plan emphasizes enhancing protected areas, **conserving endangered species**, controlling wildlife trade, and promoting research and education.

- **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):** NDMA provides **guidelines for integrating disaster prevention** and mitigation into development plans and projects across Ministries and Departments.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT



When encounters between humans and wildlife lead to negative results, such as loss of property, livelihoods, and even life

Causes of HWC

- Agricultural Expansion
- Urbanization
- Infrastructure Development
- Climate Change
- Wildlife Populations Growth and Range Expansion

Impacts of HWC

- Grave injuries, Loss of life
- Damage to farms and crops
- ↑ violence against animals

WWF India during 2003-2004 developed the Sonitpur Model by which community members were connected with Assam Forest Dept and given training on how to drive elephants away from crop fields and human habitations safely.

In 2020, the SC upheld Madras HC's decision on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and closure of resorts in the area.

Data on HWC

- Tigers killed 125 humans between 2019 and 2021
- Death of 329 tigers due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes.
- Elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years
- Death of 307 elephants due to poaching, electrocution, poisoning and train accidents

Advisory for HWC Management (Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife)

- Gram Panchayats empowered to deal with problematic wild animals (WPA 1972)
- Compensation against crop damage due to HWC (PM Fasal Bima Yojna)
- Local/State depts. to adopt early warning systems and create barriers
- Paying a part of ex-gratia as interim relief within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family

State – Specific Initiatives

- **UP** - Man-animal conflict under **listed disasters** (in State Disaster Response Fund)
- **Uttarakhand** - **Bio-fencing** carried out by growing various species of plants in areas
- **Odisha** - Casting **seed balls** inside different forests to **enrich food stock for wild elephants**

