Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Human-induced threats such as poaching and illegal firearms undermine wildlife conservation efforts in India. Examine the challenges and suggest measures to strengthen the protection of endangered species and their habitats.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Poaching; illegal firearms; wildlife crime; habitat protection; Project Cheetah; NTCA; WCCB; community participation

Model Answer

Introduction

India's wildlife conservation efforts face threats from poaching, illegal firearms, habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict. The reported shooting of a cheetah near Kuno National Park highlights the importance of strengthening field-level protection.

Major Challenges

- **Illegal hunting:** Locally manufactured firearms and organised hunting networks threaten vulnerable species.
- **Habitat fragmentation:** Infrastructure expansion and land-use changes disrupt wildlife movement.
- **Enforcement gaps:** Limited surveillance, inadequate personnel and coordination difficulties weaken protection.

- **Human-wildlife conflict:** Competition over land and resources can increase hostility towards wildlife.

Measures to Strengthen Conservation

- Strengthen intelligence-sharing among forest departments, police, NTCA and WCCB.
- Improve camera surveillance, patrolling and forensic investigation.
- Enforce firearms and wildlife protection laws effectively.
- Involve local communities through awareness, incentives and alternative livelihoods.
- Protect wildlife corridors and restore degraded habitats.

Conclusion

Wildlife conservation requires more than species reintroduction. Strong law enforcement, community participation and habitat protection are essential for long-term ecological security.

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