



Human-Wildlife Conflict in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 01 Mar 2024

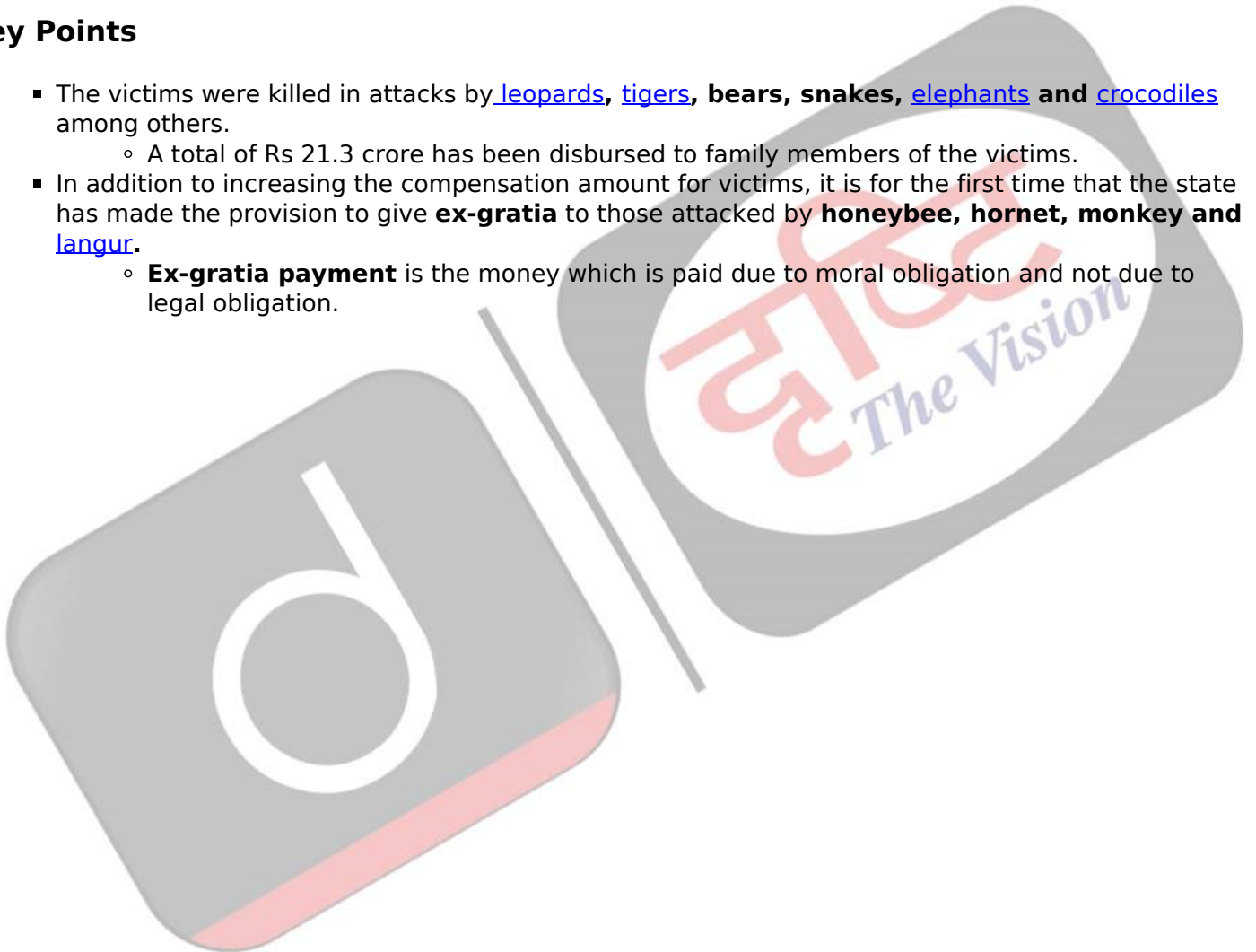
Why in News?

According to the State Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal, **444 people** in the Himalayan state have **lost their lives to [human-wildlife conflict](#) since 2017.**

Key Points

- The victims were killed in attacks by [leopards](#), [tigers](#), **bears**, **snakes**, [elephants](#) and [crocodiles](#) among others.
 - A total of Rs 21.3 crore has been disbursed to family members of the victims.
- In addition to increasing the compensation amount for victims, it is for the first time that the state has made the provision to give **ex-gratia** to those attacked by **honeybee, hornet, monkey and langur**.
 - **Ex-gratia payment** is the money which is paid due to moral obligation and not due to legal obligation.

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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**

