



Human-Wildlife Conflict in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 12 Apr 2024

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Uttarakhand's Nainital and Pauri districts'** remote villages are facing **migration** due to increasing **human-wildlife conflict** and **poor connectivity** in rural areas, which leads to a fluctuating health graph.

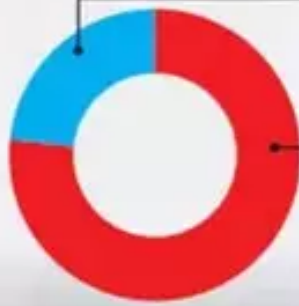
Key Points

- Over the past decade, **264 individuals** lost their lives to large felines in Uttarakhand, with **leopards being responsible for 203 deaths and tigers for 61.**
- These **wildlife incidents have caused significant disruptions** in the affected areas, leading to the closure of schools and triggering protests in villages such as Sawaldeh, Patrani, Dhela, and Pauri.
 - The state government established the **country's first human-wildlife conflict-mitigating cell**, allocated **special funds to compensate affected families**, and introduced a helpline number. However, the state of affairs is still unstable.
- **Wildlife attacks have influenced electoral events in the area.** In Tehri in 2022, locals refused to participate in assembly elections, mirroring actions taken during the 2014 Lok Sabha polls in Pauri.

Deaths in big cat attacks in U'khand

264

Human lives lost in last 10 yrs



61 Killed by tigers

203 Killed by leopards

Govt compensation increased from ₹4 lakh to ₹6 lakh for families of those killed in wildlife attacks



UTTARAKHAND

Pauri
Garhwal

Nainital

Corbett Nat'l Park

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**

