Centre of Excellence on Human–Wildlife Conflict (CoE-HWC)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance| Environment*

Why in News?

The Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Human–Wildlife Conflict was inaugurated on 10 July 2026 at Coimbatore.

- **Established by** –Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
- **Aim** – To strengthen India's scientific and institutional capacity to address the growing challenge of human–wildlife conflict (HWC) .
- **Role** – The Centre of Excellence will function as the **national nodal institution** for research, innovation, policy formulation, capacity building, and dissemination of best practices related to HWC management.
- It seeks to promote **science-based and evidence-driven decision-making** by integrating ecological research, technological interventions, and community-based conservation strategies.
- **Dedicated Portal – National Human–Wildlife Conflict Portal** was launched as a centralized digital platform for **data collection, analysis, knowledge sharing, and decision support**.
- The portal is expected to facilitate real-time documentation of conflict incidents, improve coordination among forest departments, researchers, and local communities, and support informed policy interventions.
- The Centre will prioritize **species-specific and region-specific conflict mitigation strategies**, particularly for **elephants, tigers, and leopards**, including the management of tigers dispersing outside notified tiger reserves.
- It also emphasizes preventive measures, awareness generation, and stakeholder participation to reduce damage to crops, livestock, property, and human lives while ensuring wildlife conservation.
- **3 themes** – The inaugural workshop highlighted three major themes:
  - Human–Elephant Conflict
  - Human–Big Cat Conflict
  - Technology and Innovation for Human–Wildlife Conflict Mitigation
- **Technologies used** – Artificial intelligence (AI), GIS, remote sensing, drones, camera traps, GPS telemetry, and digital databases.

Reference

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