

## LEGISLATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE IN INDIA: A CRITICAL APPRAISAL

*Kaustav Dhar*

*Field Investigator, ICSSR Impress Project, KIIT School of Law, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, India*

### ABSTRACT

*“When the last tree has been cut, When the last river has been poisoned,  
When the last fish has been caught, Then we will find out that we can’t eat Money.”*

– Anonymous proverb [1]

*The connection between man and nature has always been subjected to philosophical discussion. In the ancient eras of Vedas, it was supposed that there is certain purpose behind each and every creation of nature, and all these creations are somehow inter-reliant on each other for their very existence. Saints used to orate that there should always be a balance maintained between man and nature for their conjoint existence, survival, growth and development. But we hardly practice what we preach. In our modern world, the same ideology exists but with different standpoint. Stress has always been on making the mankind understand and realize that all other creations of nature is as vital and crucial as man and he needs to appreciate their existence as well, because their survival is crucial for the survival of mankind in this planet. [2]*

**KEYWORDS:** *Creation of Nature, Mother Nature, Terrific Economic Growth*

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### INTRODUCTION

In the pre-historic and historic time, it was considered as the *dharm*a of each individual man to protect and preserve nature and their environment. Their seriousness, love and respect towards nature are visible when we find various instances where ancient people used to worship nature and its objects. All the creations of nature i.e., trees, waters, land and animals were showered with equal importance, love and respect. [3]

Due to the terrific economic growth, the world has witnessed a gigantic technological advancement as a result of which mankind became the ultimate conqueror. In the zeal of conquering more and more, mankind has forgotten its very existence. [4] As a result of which, his actions became so demonic in nature that he did not even spare **Mother Nature**. He became so much engrossed in technological expansions, he forgot the bitter truth i.e., exhaustion of natural resources will eventually lead to the very demolition of mankind. Thus, the originator himself became the destructor.[5] As an outcome, new types of crimes has been documented i.e., green crimes (crimes against environment and wildlife).

The present study seeks to find out: - a) to study the evolution of legal provisions relating to wildlife protection in India; b) to critically review the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and c) to identify the lacunae/dearth in the Act and suggest possible recommendations thereof.

### Global Awareness about Wildlife Protection

Wildlife trade is the leading threat to wildlife preservation. The rampant poaching, in wildlife and its products are primarily driven by demands in the international markets. One of the most powerful motives for the exploitation of plant and animal species is income production through trade, especially in poor countries lacking other major resources. In recent times, people are more and more concerned with the environmental degradation and try to find out the cause. Some believe that free trade leads to depletion of natural resources and pollution of environment. Some identify poverty as the primary cause of environment degradation and recognize the need for a new era of economic growth. Dead and living animals are traded for a number of purposes including food, clothing, ornaments, and exhibition in zoos, research, medicines and trophies. With significant profit margins to be made, the illegal trade in wildlife is flourishing, and even the so-called legal wildlife trade is rife with corruption, and blatant disregard for both international and national laws.

To check and control these illegal activities, various laws and conventions has been introduced. Two major conferences held, where various countries became signatories realizing the essence and need to combat the adverse threat on environment and wildlife.

**Stockholm Conference** was held by United Nations Conference on the human environment in Stockholm from June 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 1972. [6] This conference was reckoned as the first major attempt to save the global problems of conservation and regulation of human environment by International Agreement on a Universal level. It states that it is natural human tendency to use his creativity for his advancement and progress but he should not cause damage to water, air, forest assets and animals in his endeavor as it would adversely affect the ecosystem. **Principle 2** of the conference was “*Natural resources like earth, air, water, land, flora, fauna and especially representative samples of ecosystems must be safeguarded through careful planning*”. **Principle 4** says “*preservation of wildlife must receive importance in planning for economic development*”. **Principle 7** focuses on “*the steps that should be taken by the State to prevent the disposal of such substances into sea which are lightly to cause marine environment dangerous and also sea lives and vegetation dangerous*”. [7]

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) popularly known as **Earth Summit** was held in June, 1992 at Rio De Jenerio. The Earth Summit 1992 produced some important documents which can be considered as its remarkable achievement in the prevention and improvement of environment all over the world. It also focuses on forest principles which comprises of principles to support sustainable management of forests worldwide. Through this conference, the Precautionary and Polluter Pays Principle has been introduced. One of the principles says active participation and cooperation of youth and younger generation is also solicited for ensuring their better future by preserving natural resources. [8]

### Historical Evolution of Legislations on Protection of Wildlife in India

*“A good deed done to an animal is as meritorious as a good deed done to a human being, while an act of cruelty to an animal is a bad as an act of cruelty to a human being”.*

– Prophet Mohammed[9]

At the first glance, we can picturize that history and wildlife does not go conjointly. If we ask a layman about history, they will say history reminds us of battles, wars, soldiers, kings, monuments and so on. On the other hand, wildlife reflects a picture of National Geographic channel, where we can see animals wandering in different parts of a forest. [10]

On putting them in a single frame, we can study how over the years' different groups of people have interacted with wildlife. India has always a rich heritage of civilizations, nature and wildlife. Love and respect for wildlife and nature clearly have its reflect in the Indian mythology. It has been a tradition and custom in ancient days, where we find nature and wildlife were worshipped. People of those eras has always safeguarded natural habitat like a mother does for her child. In India, the study of wildlife can be categorized into two eras. [11]

- Pre-Independence Era
- Post-Independence Era

### **Wildlife Protection in Pre-Independence Era [12]**

In **ancient India**, animals were always linked with gods and goddesses. India being a very religious country, these instances of linking up animals with gods and goddesses facilitated a lot in the conservation of wildlife. For instance, we have seen Python has been connected with Lord Vishnu, snake has been linked up with Lord Shiva, swan with Goddess Saraswati and lion with Maa Durga and many more. By this, people's love and respect for animals improved and they used to feel animals are very holy and pious. Many ancient sculptures and monuments also reflect the love for animals. We have also seen the significance of nature and wildlife in various ancient texts like Vedas, Upanishads and Purans. The ancient scriptures direct people to safeguard and defend natural habitat including wildlife. It is assumed that ancient literature and philosophy is perhaps the source from where these notions emerged. Domestic and wildlife animals have been worshiped by the Hindus. The Yajur Veda, the Bridha Samiti, the Yajnavalkya Smriti and the Vishnu Samhita, all stresses on the need that man should peacefully co-exist with animals. There were many tales which revolves round the stories of wildlife like Panchatantra and Buddhist Jataka. Even the sacred Indian literatures Gita, Ramayana and Mahabharata teach us to love, care and respect wildlife and show mercy and sympathy towards them. Animal worship was a common phenomenon those days. Almost all birds and animals were under the benevolence of a God. We have witnessed several ancient animal deities i.e., half animal and half deity. Tiger has been worshiped for many years. It symbolizes destroyer of an evil. We see Goddess Durga riding tiger or lion and heading towards her mission to destroy evil. The elephant is worshipped throughout as God Ganesha as a son of Lord Shiva. [13] He is a symbol of wisdom. Even today we see how religious people are towards cow. The present scenario totally reflects that.

Archeological witnesses and evidences clearly reflects animal remains and also states that the condition of animals slightly changed in the **medieval period**. The Harappan and Indus Valley civilization also witnessed range of bones of wildlife which includes jackal, chital, one horned rhino, wild ass and many more. [14] Under the reign of Ashoka he believed in the protection of birds and animals and also discouraged hunting. In the Mauryan period, Ashoka was perhaps the first to who passed laws to protect and preserve forest and wildlife. He made special laws for protection of wildlife. It is said that Ashoka also set up sanctuaries for the preservation of wild animals. [15] Kautilya in his Arthashastra also focused on the preservation of forests. There were rules set up that the rulers were directed to safeguard animals and forests. In the other hand, Mughals were said to be famous for hunting. During Mughal period, conservation and protection of wildlife was taken seriously. We witness establishment of gardens, fruit orchards and parks within their palace.

During the **British Colonial system**, each and every heritage of India were used for the purpose of revenue collection, be it forests, land or wildlife. There was exploitation observed all over. Illegal hunting, poaching, trade and trafficking of wild animals became a routine activity. From the British period only India started experiencing green crimes. Genocide and cleansing of forest was largely witnessed by the country for agricultural purposes. India at present suffer major wildlife crisis. With the increase in commercial interest, the wildlife is at stake. In interiors and remote areas, financially deprived people are often caught committing poaching and illegal trade of forest products to earn their livelihood. [16]

Gradually after ages the government realizes the urgency or necessity of natural habitat and wildlife resources. This leads to the enactment of various laws by Central as well as State Government. After the passage of twenty-five years of independence, in 1972 Wildlife Protection Act was enacted to curb crimes against wildlife. [17]

### **Wildlife Protection in Independent India**

Eventually, India has witnessed a rapid decline of wildlife which is a severe anxiety now. Where some animals and birds are already extinct, others are in the que. Regions or zones which once used to be forest with wildlife have now turned into concrete forest of buildings. Even various National Parks and Sanctuaries are now devoid of wildlife. There are various laws which have become outmoded. In modern times, the first law which focuses on the protection of wildlife is Indian Penal Code, 1860 in which Sec. 47 gives the definition of animals and Sec 428 says that killing of animal is a punishable offense. Though certain provisions speak about the rights of animals in Indian Penal Code, 1860, but this statute is not a specific provision dealing with rights of wildlife.

Successively, in 1987 a new act was enacted for prohibiting the killing of wild elephants and protecting and preserving their rights i.e., Elephant Preservations Act. Contravention of any of the provisions of the Act will attract fine, imprisonment or both. [18]

In 1887, another act was enacted to protect certain birds from being killed during their breeding period. But, the purpose of this act was restricted to certain specified birds only. The Act did not achieve desirable results as a result another Act was enacted by Britishers i.e., Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912. Any infringement of the provisions will lead to penalty.

The Act was amended in the year 1935, and certain additions and alterations were made. As per Sec 11, a specified area was declared as a sanctuary for birds and animals and killing of such wildlife is strictly forbidden. [19]

Finally, after independence, the Parliament enacted The Wildlife (Protection) 1972 under Article 252 of the Indian Constitution on the request of several States to frame legal provisions to safeguard the rights of wildlife. The object of the Act has been well explained by the Supreme Court in *State of Bihar v. Murad Ali Khan*, [20] in the following words –

*“The policy and object of Wildlife laws have been a long history and are the result of increasing awareness of the compelling need to restore the seriousness ecological imbalances introduced by depredations inflicted on nature by man. The state to which the ecological imbalances and the consequent environmental damage have reached is so alarming that unless immediate determined and effective steps were taken, the damage might become irreversible. The prevention of flora and fauna, some species of which are getting extinct at an alarming rate, has been a great and urgent necessity for the survival of humanity and these laws reflect grave situation emerging from a long history and the callous insensitiveness to the enormity of the risks to mankind that go with the deterioration of environment.”*

The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers the Central and State Government to declare any area a wildlife sanctuary, national park or closed area. Carrying out any industrial activity within the closed area is prohibited. The Act also provides for authorities to administer and implement the provisions laid down in the Act. It also regulates hunting of wild animals, protects specified plants, sanctuaries, national parks and closed areas, and restricts trade and commerce of wild animals and their article. However, inadequacy was felt in the functioning of the Act as a result of which the Act underwent several amendments. [21]

### **Amendments in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**

- Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 1982.
- Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 1986.
- Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 1991.
- Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 1993.
- Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002.
- Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006.
- Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2010.
- Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2013.
- Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2017.

Major changes were made in the Amendment Act of 1986. The objective and purpose behind the amendment has been well described in *M/s. Ivory Traders & Manufacturers Association, and others v. Union of India and others*, [22] by the Delhi High Court –

*“Under the scheme of the Act, trade or commerce in wild animals, animal articles and trophies within the country is permissible and regulated under Chapter V. Since there is hardly any market within the country for wild animals or articles and derivatives thereof, the stocks acquired for trade within the country are smuggled out to meet the demand in foreign market. This clandestine trade is abetted by illegal practices of poaching which have taken a heavy toll of our wild animals and birds”.*

The Amendment Act of 1991 also made extensive changes. The title of the Act was changed to Wild Animals, Birds and Plants (Protection) Act, 1972. It brought major changes in many sections like Sec 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 18, 19, 24, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 49, 49A, 49B, 49C, 50, 51, 54, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64 and 66. Also changes were introduced in Schedule II, III and IV of the Act. The purpose of the 1991 amendment was to familiarize the concept of national park and sanctuaries and territorial water bodies inside it, so as to protect and preserve the marine or aquatic life of such water body. It also introduces the concept of forming zoo authority to control the zoos. [23]

In 2006 amendment another major change was acquaint with i.e., National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. With the objective of tiger conservation and harmonizing the rights of the tribal people living in and around tiger reserves, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 was amended in 2006 to provide the National Tiger Conservation Authority, which will be responsible for implementation of Project Tiger Plan for protecting endangered tigers and to harmonize and felicitate the implementation of the Tiger Conservation Plans prepared by the State Governments taking into account the needs and concern of the local people. The Amendment Act of 2006 was aimed at putting in place, a mechanism which would balance and manage the livelihood needs of the local people with the imperatives of tiger conservation. [24]

The 2010 Amendment Act made significant changes in enhancing penalties, ban on trade of peacock feathers, CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) should be implemented fully by India. [25]

The 2013 Amendment Bill proposed to prohibit the use of animal traps. It also proposed to make provisions for CITES to combat illegal international trade of wildlife and to increase the punishment for such offences. [26]

### Identifying the Dearth in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Offering Possible Solutions

In view of the extent of wildlife crime in recent times, depicting national and international ramifications and the ever changing modus operandi of criminals, the following is suggested:

Degrees of protection are provided to various animal and plant species listed in Schedule I to VI of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. On perusal of the Schedules, it can be seen that the common names of species are accompanied with their respective scientific names or family names. However, certain discrepancies are observed between the common and scientific names of the listed species. Further, the scientific names of species are updated by the scientific community of the world from time to time but it does not get reflected in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Some such instances of discrepancies are listed below in the table with suggested amendments:

**Table 1**

Species	Discrepancy Observed	Amendments Required
Terrapin ( <i>Batagur baska</i> ) (Schedule I Part II, 1-E)	Terrapins belong to two families- <i>Geomydidae</i> and <i>Emydidae</i> , whereas the scientific name <i>Batagur baska</i> is specifically for Northern River Terrapin.	Thus, review of this entry is required to clear out confusion on whether all Terrapins are included in the said schedule or just <i>Batagur baska</i> .
Hill Terrapin ( <i>Melanochelys tricarinata</i> ) (Schedule I Part II, 1-F)	The scientific name <i>Melanochelys tricarinata</i> is of Tricarinata Hill Turtle or Three Keeled Land Turtle.	Review of this entry is needed regarding what common name should be mentioned if a seizure is affected.
Ganges Soft-shelled Turtle ( <i>Trionyx gangeticus</i> ) (Schedule I Part II, 3)	The updated scientific name of Ganges Soft-shelled Turtle which is also known as Indian Soft-shelled Turtle is <i>Nilssonina gangetica</i> .	Rectification of this entry in Schedule I Part II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is necessary.
Indian Soft-shelled Turtle ( <i>Lissemys punctata punctata</i> ) (Schedule I Part II, 8)	The common name of Indian Soft-shelled Turtle is accompanied with scientific name <i>Lissemys punctata punctata</i> . Indian Soft-shelled Turtle has the scientific name <i>Nilssonina gangetica</i> .	Rectification of this entry is required to clear out the confusion as to which common name and scientific name to write in case a seizure is affected. The entry should be as Indian Flap-shelled turtle ( <i>Lissemys punctata punctata</i> )
Indian Tent Turtle ( <i>Kachuga tecta tecta</i> ) (Schedule I Part II, 9)	The scientific name of Indian Tent Turtle is <i>Pangshura tentoria</i> and the listed scientific name of <i>Kachuga tecta tecta</i> is the old scientific name Indian Roofed Turtle, which has been updated to <i>Pangshura tecta</i> .	Thus, once again rectification of this entry in the Schedule is required.
Sail Terrapin ( <i>Kachuga kachuga</i> ) (Schedule I Part II, 14-B)	The common name used for this species is Red Crowned Roofed Turtle which had the previous scientific name of <i>Kachuga kachuga</i> but has been updated to <i>Batagur kachuga</i> . Since the more readily used common name of the species is Red Crowned Roofed Turtle and not Sail Terrapin.	Review of this entry is needed to resolve the discrepancy between the common name and scientific name at the time seizure is affected.

The aforesaid discrepancies may lead to disparity between the documentation prepared by the enforcement agencies, to be submitted before the Ld. Court and the text of Schedule I to Schedule VI of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. This weakens the status of the case which may lead to adjudication due to legal discrepancies.

In certain cases, the common names of the species are accompanied with the entire family of the species e.g. Parakeets (*Psittacidae*). In such cases, it becomes challenging to interpret whether just the species referred in the common name is accorded protection in the Schedule or all species of the family or genus mentioned. In certain cases, various exotic species also fall under the mentioned family or genus. Enforcement agencies may get confused whether to apprehend exotic species falling under these discrepancies or not. Some such instances are discussed here in the table with suggested amendments.

Table 2

Species	Discrepancies Observed	Amendments Required
Pythons (Genus <i>Python</i> ) (Schedule I Part II, 14 A)	The entire genus of pythons is included in the Schedule. It is worth mentioning that various species of pythons are exotic to this country and are often traded into and within the country for pet purposes.	Proper mentioning and clarity in this regard is required whether the exotic species of this genus come under the purview of the Act or not.
Sea Horse (All <i>Sygnathidians</i> ) (Schedule I Part II A, 3)	In this entry, the misperception arises whether only Sea horses are to be considered protected or all species of <i>Sygnathidians</i> family. It further rises the question whether Pipe Fish which belongs to the same family comes under the purview of the Act or not.	Thus, proper review of this entry in the Schedule is necessary.
Hawks ( <i>Accipitridae</i> ) (Schedule I Part III 4-A)	The discrepancy that arises here is whether only the particular species mentioned in the common name are to be considered protected or all the other species that come under the same family. Further, if the entire Family is to be considered protected, various exotic species may also come under the scope of this Act.	Proper review in this regard is mandatory and it should be clearly stated whether exotic species will receive protection under this Act or not.
Doves including the Emerald Dove ( <i>Columbidae</i> ) (Schedule IV, 19)	Same as above.	Same as above.
	<b>Note: -</b> Schedule IV Sr. No. 11 mentions Birds. All entries within this i.e., from 1 to 80 suffer the similar kind of discrepancy.	There is an urgent need of proper review and rectification of the entries. It should be clearly mentioned whether only the particular species gets protection of the Act or all other species including the exotic species that falls within the family comes under the purview of the Act.
Fresh Water Frogs ( <i>Rana spp.</i> ) (Schedule IV, 13)	Confusion that arises here is that whether only Fresh water frogs are included in the Act or only <i>Rana</i> species.	Proper review of this entry is necessary.
Tortoise ( <i>Testudinidae</i> , <i>Tryonychidae</i> ) (Schedule IV, 15)	There are several exotic species of tortoises which falls under the Families <i>Testudinidae</i> , <i>Tryonychidae</i> .	Review of this entry is needed with proper mentioning that whether the exotic species will fall under the scope of the Act or not.

<b>Table 2 Contd.,</b>		
Sharks	Only seven species of sharks had been included in the Act, whereas protection is not provided to other species of shark.	Keeping in mind the demand and trade in shark fins, the protection should be extended to other species of sharks as well.
Civets (all species of <i>Viverridae</i> except Malabar civet) <b>(Schedule II Part II, 1-A)</b>	Species like Palm Civets are easily found outside forested habitat not only in towns but in cities as well, which often leads to conflicts and unwanted accidents.	Such common species should preferably not be in Schedule II Part II. Thus, downgrading of this species could be thought of.
Primates	Various species belonging to the Order Primate are included in the Act individually. (The list of primates included in the schedules is enclosed in <b>Annexure I</b> ). In light of certain recent discoveries of primate species in India, species not listed individually, a blanket protection may be provided by enlisting the entire order in any of the Schedules of the Act.	There are certain Primates which should be included in the Schedules mandatorily. Their names are mentioned in <b>Annexure I</b> .

- The Act has no specific provision for speedy trial. As we all know “Justice Delayed is Justice Denied. So there is a strong necessity for a provision of speedy trial so that disputes are disposed of as early as possible to render quick justice under this special Act.
- The Act has no provision for Special Courts. There is an urgent need for special courts at least at district levels to facilitate speedy trials of the cases. Like we have Green Bench there should be Green Courts established at district levels which will solely focus on disputes relating environmental issues and wildlife issues.
- The jurisdiction of National Green Tribunals may also be extended to wildlife cases under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to cover wildlife offence cases along with environmental issues.
- As we have seen there are discrepancies between the scientific names and common names of the species thus there is a serious requirement for the upgradation of the Schedules. There should be a provision in the Act stating that all the Schedules should be reviewed at an interval of every 5 years at the very least.
- A provision for mandatory launching of special conservation projects when any species population fall to less than 20% of its historical range or historical population should be included.
- To enhance the protection of forest habitat and the dependent wildlife, provisions are to be made to enforce mandatory establishment of forest stations at regular intervals within the Protected Areas. These forest stations are to host a minimum strength of manpower to be prescribed by the Act for patrolling and protection purposes. The lower limit of density of manpower to be stationed at these forest stations will depend on the forest classification of the habitat which may be as follows:

In addition to this, territorial and urban areas are also to be brought under this purview where Wildlife Crime Control Cells / Units are to be established at district levels, by the State Government to attend to wildlife offences in the area.

- The Act should have provisions to designate a minimum strength of Forest Protection Force for protected areas based on a vulnerability index. The vulnerability index is supposed to be a function based on the forest cover, wildlife presence, human disturbance and other factors like proximity to international border, mining etc.

- The Act should authorize Forest Officers (Chief Wildlife Wardens and/or Deputy Forest Officers) the powers to conduct electronic surveillance, and retrieve CDRs, CAFs, financial transaction statements and other such necessary evidences required in investigation of wildlife cases.
- There are no provisions of CITES in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Some vital provisions should be included to regulate trade of CITES enlisted species within the country. There should be a provision for registration of nurseries, farms and individuals where cultivation of plants and breeding of animals listed in CITES can be monitored. There should also be a provision mentioning that the nurseries, farms and individuals should submit a stock report quarterly to Chief Wildlife Wardens and/or Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.
- There should be a provision that various departments should have officers designated as Nodal Wildlife Officers to deal in matters and coordinate with other agencies in relation to wildlife crime. The agencies to be involved under this provision should include departments like police, customs, transport, railways, postal, intelligence bureaus and other departments.
- The Act has a particular provision which states that every wild animal, other than vermin, animal article, trophy, meat, vehicle, vessel, weapon, trap or tool that has been used for the commission of the offence should be seized under the provisions of the Act and shall be the property of the State and Central Government. But there is no particular confiscation procedure in the Act. The procedure should be detailed. Such provisions should be inserted mandatorily.
- Various sections of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 include the words ‘... or any officer authorized by the State Government’. The Notifications for these authorized officers have not yet been published for various States. Efforts may be initiated urgently to get such officers notified under this Act.
- We know that the two most crucial problems the nation is facing at present are the 2Ps, i.e., pollution and poverty. Majority of the crimes taking place as a result of poverty. Economically backward people are more prone to commit wildlife crimes because they can make money by killing and selling the products and derivatives of wild animals and plants. On the other hand, we can see the rate of pollution is increasing at an alarming rate. As a result of which not only the animal kingdom but also mankind suffers its bitter consequences. Checking these two major issues is an urgent requirement.
- Lack of awareness is another crucial and burning cause. Awareness about wildlife crimes is low in comparison with awareness about other form of crimes like body crimes, property crimes and corporate crimes. Even if though society is aware of wildlife crimes, they are very reluctant and indifferent towards such crimes. Awareness programs should be conducted in the mode of street shows or plays as a good play stir the heart and mind of the viewers and leaves a greater impact on them.
- At times, the Judges are not much concerned and aware about animals as they are concerned about humans. They are already piled up with various murder, rape, robbery, money laundering, fraud and corruption related cases. Thus, they often tend to act indifferent towards wildlife crimes and assign less importance to such cases. Thus such cases take a back seat.
- There is a need for specialized wildlife training schools or forest schools for forest guards and rangers who should undergo a proper and efficient training sessions.

**Table 3**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Density of Manpower (Individuals per 100 sq. km.)</b>
Very Dense Forest	All lands with tree canopy density of 70% and above.	10
Moderately Dense Forest	All lands with tree canopy density of 40% and more but less than 70%.	8
Open Forest	All lands with tree canopy density of 10% and more but not less than 40%.	5
Scrub	Degraded forest lands with canopy density less than 10%.	5
Non-Forest	Lands not included in any of the above classes.	Wildlife Crime Control Cell / unit at district levels (explained below)

### **Concluding Remarks**

With the passage of time, we can witness that the protected areas are becoming increasingly defenseless to devastation due to increasing pressure from industry. In the present scenario, wildlife has been the focus of intense debate. All species has been created by nature thus all species are equal and man has no authority to inflict harm on them which paves way to extinction. India is rich in heritage, not only from cultural and historical perspective but also possess a treasure of wildlife and natural habitat. Man should not lose these treasures in the zeal of heading towards industrialization and urbanization.

The government should take active participation to chalk out proper strategies for safeguarding the security. Not only the government, should the media also contribute equally. Like other offenses, they should cover up these issues as well. Since, wildlife is said to be a vital link in the web of the ecosystem, it is our duty to preserve and protect the wildlife for the future generations as well. We need to change. India is changing and to achieve the position, we wish to see our country in, will take a lot of time.

### **ANNEXURES**

#### **Primates that are Included in the Schedules**

- Sr.No.3-B. Capped langur (*Presbyx pileatus*) Schedule I Part I.
- Sr.No. 6-A. Crab-eating macaque (*Macaca irus umbroso*) Schedule I Part I.
- Sr.No.10. Golden langur (*Presbytis geei*) Schedule I Part I.
- Sr.No.12. Hoolock (*Hylobates hoolock*) Schedule I Part I.
- Sr.No.16-A. Leaf monkey (*Presbytis phayrei*) Schedule I Part I.
- Sr.No.19. Lion-tailed macaque (*Macaca silenus*) Schedule I Part I.
- Sr.No.25-A. Nilgiri langur (*Presbytis johni*) Schedule I Part I.
- Sr.No.1-A. Assamese macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) Schedule II Part II.
- Sr.No.3-A. Bonnet macaque (*Macaca radiata*) Schedule II Part I.
- Sr.No.4-A. Common langur (*Presbytis personata*) Schedule II Part I.

- Sr.No.16. Pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*) Schedule II Part I.
- Sr.No.17-A. Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) Schedule II Part I.
- Sr.No.19. Stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca speciosa*) Schedule I Part II.

### Primates Not Included in the Schedules

- Arunachal macaque (*Macaca munzala*)
- White-cheeked macaque (*Macaca leucogenys*)
- Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*)
- Nicobar lion tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis umbroso*) which is a subspecies of Crab-eating macaque is not listed in the Schedules.

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## AUTHOR'S PROFILE



**Kaustav Dhar Address: 46/2, B.T. Road, "Deep Mahal", Flat No - 3/C, Koklkata - 700002. West Bengal, Mob No: +91 8777386702, +91 8961577062 Email Id: [kaustav11feb@gmail.com](mailto:kaustav11feb@gmail.com).**

## EDUCATION DETAILS

- Master of Laws (LL.M) on Criminal and Security Law from Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar and secured 74% in 2018.
- Bachelor of Laws (B.A.LLB 5 Years Course) from University of Calcutta, Kolkata and secured 69% in 2017.
- ISC (Class XII) from C.I.S.C.E Board and secured 77% in 2012. 🇮🇳 ICSE (Class X) from C.I.S.C.E Board and secured 68% in 2010.

### **PROFESSIONAL SYNOPSIS**

- Presently, appointed as the Field Investigator for Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS) Scheme under Ministry of Human Resource Development (ICSSR IMPRESS) Research Project titled “Policing a Smart City: Challenges and Priorities towards Urban Transformation of Kolkata and Bhubaneswar”.
- Recently completed a full-time internship as a Researcher at Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Eastern Region, Kolkata, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.
- Have also been appointed for a Volunteer-ship at Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Eastern Region, Kolkata, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change. (2019 - 2020).
- Recently finished an online internship as a Student Researcher at “Jus Dicere”.

### **RESEARCH & PROJECT WORK**

- Have done an empirical research on Environmental Law specifically focusing on Green Crimes i.e., Green Criminology.
- Did an empirical research on Awareness and Effectiveness of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Have Completed An Analytical Research On Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna And Flora (Cites) At Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Eastern Region, Kolkata, Focusing On A Comparative Study Of The Implementation Of Cites 6 Countries

### **WORKSHOPS & CERTIFICATE COURSES**

- Did a Certificate Course on Research and Thesis Writing organized by KIIT School of Law, KIIT Deemed to be University. (2017).
- Did a Certificate Course on “Criminology and Criminal Justice Administration” organized by KIIT School of Law (2018).
- Presently completed an Online Green Revolution Certificate Program initiated by International Centre for Culture and Education (ICCE) and supported by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Participated in a National Workshop on Developing LLB Curriculum in India Today organized by KIIT School of Law (2018).

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Secured 3<sup>rd</sup> Position in 6<sup>th</sup> Semester in academics in 5 Years B.A.LLB Course. Secured 2<sup>nd</sup> Position in 8<sup>th</sup> Semester in academics in 5 Years B.A.LLB Course. Secured 3<sup>rd</sup> Position in 9<sup>th</sup> Semester in academics in 5 Years B.A.LLB Course.
- Awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> Position in the 1st Legal Essay Competition 2016 organized by “LAW UPDATER” on the topic “Female Feticide is a major hindrance for the progress of Indian Society”.
- An Article published in Volume 5 of International Journal on Enviro Legal Research (ISSN: 2463-6401) on “Green Criminology Emerging as A Distinct Category of Crime: A Study on Today’s Youth on the Awareness and Effectiveness of the Available Legal Provisions”.

- Presented a Paper at 42<sup>nd</sup> Social Science Congress Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (Deemed to be) University, Bhubaneswar on “Awareness and Effectiveness of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972”.