



WCCB Newsletter

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Inside this Issue

Guest Column: DG (SSB)

Wildlife Enforcement
Operations by WCCB

Field Sensitization/Training
Programs

Hindi Pakhwada 2021
Celebration

Exit-Point Detection by WCCB

Operation WILDNET-IV

Major Global Developments

PRI Awareness Programs

WCCB in News

From Additional Director's Desk

New Delhi: This quarter was a big success for WCCB as we were able to seize huge quantity of wildlife contrabands and arrest several wildlife traffickers across country with the help of Enforcement Agencies of the States and Central Paramilitary Forces in intelligence led enforcement operations. I am sincerely grateful to all the enforcement agencies for engaging with us in conducting such operations. I am also thankful to the dedicated team of WCCB for putting-in untiring effort in all these operations.



WCCB has been at the forefront in India's fight against illegal wildlife trade and is committed to end wildlife crime. We shall always remain committed towards this end, thereby preserving the wildlife heritage of India. I once again thank all the Central and State enforcement agencies for their support in executing wildlife enforcement operations.

The third issue of the WCCB newsletter covers a wider perspective of global wildlife crime scenario besides giving a birds-eye view of all the major activities undertaken by us. We hope you enjoy reading this issue and also look forward to your feedbacks for the coming editions. In the end, I would like to wish all a very Happy Deepawali and pray that the coming festivities bring happiness and joy to all. Best wishes to you and your families. Jai Hind!— *Smt. Tilotama Varma, Additional Director, WCCB*

“Killing animals for sport, for pleasure, for adventure, and for hides and furs is a phenomenon which is at once disgusting & distressing. There is no justification in indulging in such acts of brutality.”

—Dalai Lama



Picture in Focus



WCCB staff members participating in a writing competition during 15-day long 'Hindi Pakhwada 2021' celebration, organized by WCCB at its Bureau Headquarter in New Delhi, from 14 to 28 Sept, 2021.

सशस्त्र सीमा बल की वन्य जीव अपराधों की रोकथाम में भूमिका

सशस्त्र सीमा बल वर्ष 2001 से नेपाल एवं वर्ष 2004 से भूटान सीमा पर सीमा सुरक्षा के लिए तैनात है। भौगोलिक दृष्टि से बल की तैनाती अत्यंत कठिन एवं दुर्गम क्षेत्रों में है। नेपाल व भूटान हमारे मित्र राष्ट्र हैं और इनके साथ लगने वाली सीमाएँ खुली हैं। इसके कारण से सीमाएँ तस्करों के लिए अनुकूल रही हैं। इन सीमाओं पर नशीले पदार्थों, वन्य जीवों व उत्पादों, अवैध हथियारों एवं जाली नोटों की तस्करी होती है। सीमा सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से इन अपराधों को रोकना सशस्त्र सीमा बल के लिए चुनौती पूर्ण रहता है।

भारत के उत्तर में हिमालय क्षेत्र में स्थित नेपाल एवं भूटान देश की सीमाएं भारत के उत्तराखण्ड, उत्तर-प्रदेश, बिहार, पश्चिम बंगाल, सिक्किम, असम और अरुणाचल प्रदेश से लगती है। इन सीमाओं का एक बड़ा भू-भाग वनाच्छादित है। जहाँ एक ओर पीलीभीत टाइगर रिजर्व, दुधवा नेशनल पार्क, कतरनिया वन्य जीव अभ्यारण्य, वाल्मीकि टाइगर रिजर्व जैसे वन्य क्षेत्रों की सीमाएं नेपाल से मिलती है, वहीं भूटान सीमा पर गोरुमारा राष्ट्रीय पार्क, मानस राष्ट्रीय पार्क अवस्थित है। ये वन क्षेत्र वन्य जीवों एवं पदार्थों की दृष्टि से धनी माने जाते हैं। अपनी भौगोलिक स्थिति के कारण ये क्षेत्र विभिन्न अपराधों एवं वन्य जीवों/पदार्थों के अवैध व्यापार के लिए उपयुक्त माने जाते हैं।

अपने दायित्व के निर्वहन के लिए बल ने दोनो सीमाओं पर सीमा चौकियां अलग-अलग भू-भागों में जैसे-पहाड़ी, वन क्षेत्र, तराई क्षेत्र, बाढ़ सम्भावित क्षेत्र, वामपंथी उग्रवाद प्रभावित क्षेत्र इत्यादि में स्थापित की है।

सशस्त्र सीमा बल सीमा की सुरक्षा के साथ-साथ राष्ट्रीय सम्पदा से परिपूर्ण इन वन्य क्षेत्रों की रक्षा का दायित्व भी बेहतर ढंग से निभाता है। सीमाओं के इस बड़े भू-भाग पर फैले वन्य क्षेत्रों में तैनात बलकर्मियों को अपराधियों, तस्करों एवं शिकारियों की गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिए सदैव तत्पर रहना होता है।

पिछले कुछ वर्षों में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर वन्य जीवों व पदार्थों की खरीद फरोख्त ने पूरे विश्व में इनकी तस्करी को बढ़ावा दिया है। भारत में वन्य जीवों व पदार्थों का अवैध व्यापार मुख्यतया अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मांग को पूरा करने के लिए किया जाता है। हमारे देश में भी इन पदार्थों की सीधी मांग रही है।

भारत-नेपाल व भारत-भूटान सीमा पर वन्य तस्करों से जवाब किये गये वन्य जीवों एवं पदार्थों के आधार पर यह स्पष्ट है कि इनका अवैध व्यापार, म्वाजपब जानवरों को पालने, खाने, पारम्परिक दवाईयां बनाने, कपड़े बनाने, आभूषण बनाने इत्यादि में इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। इन पदार्थों की मुख्य मांग पश्चिमी देशों व

चीन में है। भारत-नेपाल व भारत-भूटान की सीमा चीन से सटी होने के कारण भी भूटान और नेपाल सीमा पर स्थित वन, वन्य अपराधों के अवैध शिकार व व्यापार के लिए और अधिक संवेदनशील हो जाते हैं।

बल की नेपाल और भूटान की सीमाओं पर उपस्थिति एवं प्रचालन कार्यकलापों ने वन सम्पदा व वन्य जीवों को रक्षा कवच प्रदान किया है। बल के सतर्क जवानों ने इन क्षेत्रों से संपदा और जीवों की होने वाली तस्करी एवं उनके अवैध शिकार पर प्रभावी रूप से अंकुश लगाया है। सशस्त्र सीमा बल ने गत वर्षों में वन्य पदार्थों, लकड़ियों एवं प्रतिबंधित वन्य जीवों जैसे टोके, सैंड बोआ सॉप, हाथी दाँत, गैंडे व हिरण के सींग, शेर, चीता, बाघ एवं हिरण की खाल इत्यादि की भारी मात्रा में जब्ती कर इन वन्य क्षेत्रों को सुरक्षित बनाने का भरसक प्रयत्न किया है। पिछले तीन वर्षों में बल ने 243 वन तस्करों को गिरफ्तार करने में सफलता अर्जित की है।

इसी तरह दक्षिणी भारत में पाई जाने वाली लाल चंदन लकड़ी, जिसकी तस्करी भारत-नेपाल सीमा पर होती थी, को भी रोकने में एस.एस.बी. ने अहम भूमिका निभायी है। बल ने इसकी समय-समय पर भारी मात्रा में जब्ती कर इसको सीमा पार पहुँचाने की तस्करों की हर कोशिश को विफल किया है।

उत्तराखण्ड के उत्तरी हिमालय क्षेत्र में लगभग 12 हजार फुट की ऊँचाई पर पायी जाने वाली एक दुर्लभ जड़ी बूटी है- यारसा गंबू इसे 'कीड़ा जड़ी' के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, जिसकी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में कीमत लगभग 20 से 25 लाख रुपये प्रति किलो आंकी जाती है। यारसा गंबू को हिमालयन वियाग्रा के रूप में भी जाना जाता है। एस.एस.बी. ने अपने तैनाती के बाद से ही इसके तस्करी पर प्रभावी तौर से अंकुश लगाया है जिसके कारण इसकी तस्करी अब न के बराबर रह गयी है।

सशस्त्र सीमा बल ने इन क्षेत्रों में अपनी सक्रियता से वन्य जीवों की तस्करी को रोकने के अतिरिक्त पशु बलि के लिए भारत से नेपाल में होने वाली पशु तस्करी को रोकने में भी अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।

नेपाल एवं भूटान की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सीमाओं पर तैनाती के पश्चात् जब बल ने सीमांत इलाकों में और खासकर नेपाल बार्डर के आस-पास अपनी सक्रियता बढ़ाई तो जो खबरें सामने आयीं वो चौका देने वाली थी। नेपाल में गढीमाई मंदिर में भारी संख्या में पशुओं की बलि देने की प्रथा थी। यहां हर 5 साल में होने वाली इस प्रथा में लाखों पशुओं की बलि दी जाती थी जो विश्व की सबसे बड़ी पशु बलि प्रथा मानी जाती है।



श्री कुमार राजेश चंद्रा (आईपीएस)
महानिदेशक,
सशस्त्र सीमा बल

ऐसी मान्यता है कि 2 दिन के इस मेले में लगभग 5 लाख निरीह पशुओं की बलि दी जाती थी और इस बलि के लिए भारी तादाद में भारत की ओर से जानवरों की तस्करी होती थी। वर्ष 2015 में सशस्त्र सीमा बल ने इसके खिलाफ मुहीम छेड़ने का बीड़ा उठाते हुए सीमाओं पर तैनात सभी ईकाइयों को सीमा से सटे गाँवों में सक्रियता और चौकसी बढ़ाने के निर्देश दिए। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के बाद सशस्त्र सीमा बल को इस क्षेत्र में बड़ी कामयाबी हासिल हुई। पशुओं की होने वाली तस्करी में कमी आने से पशुबलि प्रथा को रोकने में सशस्त्र सीमा बल की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रही है।

अपने कर्तव्य के निर्वहन के लिए सशस्त्र सीमा बल राज्यों के वन विभाग, वन्यजीव अपराध नियंत्रण ब्यूरो, पसकसपमि ब्पउम ब्दजतवस टनतमंनद्ध राजस्व, पुलिस और इंटेलिजेंस एजेंसियों के साथ बेहतर तालमेल से कार्य करता है। सीमा क्षेत्रों में संचार और सड़क मार्गों को बेहतर किया जा रहा है। सीमा पर आधुनिक उपकरणों जैसे सीसीटीवी कैमरा, नाइट विजन और थर्मल इमेजिंग जैसे उपकरणों की उपलब्धता से भी वन्य जीवों की तस्करी और वन्य अपराधिक घटनाओं को रोकने में सफलता मिली है।

सशस्त्र सीमा बल आगे भी वन्य अपराधों की रोकथाम में अपनी मुहिम को ऐसे ही जारी रखेगा। बल इसी तरह अपनी गौरवपूर्ण विरासत के साथ सदैव राष्ट्र की सेवा करता रहेगा।

SSB in partnership with WCCB

SSB has been a key partner of WCCB in its endeavor in fighting the illegal wildlife trade. Several wildlife operations & training programmes have been conducted by joint team of WCCB and SSB in the past years across the Indo-Nepal Border. A glimpse of the joint wildlife operations and training programmes undertaken by WCCB in partnership with SSB.

Joint Wildlife Operations

A Leopard-Skin was seized from Samuktola, West Bengal on 30.01.2020, in a joint operation of WCCB, SSB and W.B Forest Department.; On 17.08.2020, three Deer Antlers were seized from 03 accused by joint team of WCCB, Jaldapara Wildlife Division and 17 BN SSB near Rangali bazna. On 01.10.2020, WCCB & 8th BN SSB, conducted a joint operation and arrested one accused and seized one leopard skin at Naxalbari.; On 30.01.2020, a joint operation was conducted by SSB, WCCB and W.B Forest Dept. resulting in seizure of 01 Leopard skin and arrest of one accused.; On 06.09.2020, joint team of WCCB, Police, Forest Dept., and SSB, arrested three accused and seized 02 Elephant tusks, 01 Deer antler with skull, 01 Hand made gun (Gazimara), 26 Ammunition, 06 Crackers, from Baksa, BTAD Assam.; On 28.09.2020, joint team of WCCB and officials of Binnaguri Forest Range, W.B & 17 BN SSB Falakata, arrested two accused and seized 05 live Tockay Geckos.; On 20.10.2020. SSB team posted at Tentulberia, South Bengal Frontier seized 54 Lorikeet birds of 06 rare varieties and WCCB provided assistance in identification and immediate care to the birds and handing them over to Alipore Zoo, Kolkata. On 02.11.2020, one deer skull was seized from a suspect at Bagdogra, Siliguri by join team of WCCB and SSB.; On 12.11.2020 joint team of WCCB, SSB & Assam Forest Dept. seized 04 Elephant tusks and arrested two persons near Koila-Moila range under Chirang Forest Division, Assam.; On 20.11.2020, on intelligence of WCCB, a joint wildlife operation was conducted by 34th BN SSB Alipurduar & W.B Forest Directorate near Chilkana in which 01 live pangolin was rescued and 01 person was arrested.; On 12-01-2021, on Intelligence of WCCB, 15th BN SSB seized a live Pangolin and apprehended 04 persons from Kanjalgaon area of Assam.; On 09.02.2021, joint team of WCCB and 8th BN SSB seized one Deer antler from one accused near Atal market.; 05 Kg. of Pangolin scales were seized and two persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB, SSB and Assam Forest Dept., on 17.04.2021 at Khanapara, Guwahati.; On 20.07.2021, joint team of WCCB and 41 BN SSB Ranidanga, seized of 2.12 kgs. of Pangolin scales and arrested three persons, at Bagdogra, Siliguri



Sensitization Programmes

WCCB conducted a sensitization programme for SSB on 17.12.2018 at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand in which 48 officials from SSB and State Forest Dept. participated, on 18.12.2018, at Champawath in Uttarakhand in which 45 SSB officials participated, on 19.11.2019, at Kolkata, West Bengal, attended by 46 SSB officials, on 17.03.2020, at ITS Kolkata, West Bengal, on 18.01.2021, at SSB Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, attended by 24 SSB officials.



Enforcement Operations



Delhi Joint team of WCCB and Delhi Forest Dept. seized 17 canines and 11 claw of big cat species and arrested one person from Delhi, on 02-07-2021.

Madhya Pradesh: On 02-07-2021, joint team of WCCB and M.P Forest Dept. seized Indian soft shell Turtles and arrested three persons from M.P.

Andhra Pradesh: 08 Kg. of Ambergris (Sperm Whale's Vomit) was seized and 08 persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB and Andhra Pradesh Police from Guntur, on 02-07-2021.

West Bengal: One live Malabar Hornbill was seized by joint team of WCCB and Barasat Forest Range Office from the possession of two persons on 06-07-2021, at Bhabanipur.

Kerala: Joint team of WCCB and Kerala Forest Dept., seized 19 kg. of Ambergris (Sperm Whale vomit) and arrested 03 persons from Thrissur, Kerala, on 09-07-2021.

Nepal: On intelligence of WCCB, a Leopard-skin and a Pangolin-skin along-with scales, were seized & 02 wildlife traffickers were arrested by CIB, Nepal, on 09-07-2021 at Kathmandu.

Maharashtra: 720 pieces of Paint brushes, made out of Mongoose hairs, were seized by joint team of WCCB and Pune Forest Division from Pune, on 10-07-2021.

Odisha: 08 Leopard-skins, 02 Tiger-claws, 01 Leopard-canine, and a fake Tiger-skin were seized & 07 persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB along-with Chhattisgarh & Odisha Forest Dept. team, in an operation conducted on 09/10-07-2021 at Kalahandi.

West Bengal: Joint team of WCCB and Kolkata Police seized 3.11 kg. of Pangolin-scales & 38 Pangolin-claws from the possession of two persons at Kolkata, on 11-07-2021.

Maharashtra: 10 Tiger/Leopard claws were seized and three persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB, Buldhana & Melghat Tiger Reserves, from Nandura, on 13-07-2021.



Enforcement Operations



Uttar Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB & U.P. Forest Dept. seized 02 Indian Flapshell Turtles with 20 Claws & arrested 03 persons from Saharanpur, on 15-07-2021.

Andhra Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB and Andhra Pradesh Forest Dept. seized three Red Sand Boa snakes and arrested 04 persons from Guntur, on 16-07-2021.



Assam: 12 kg. of dry Pangolin-scales & 15 Tokay Geckos (13 live & 02 dry), were seized and two persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB and Assam State Forest and Police Dept. from Bokajan, on 18-07-2021.

Odisha: On an intelligence of WCCB, one Leopard skin was seized and four persons were arrested by Deogarh Forest Division, Odisha, on 19-07-2021.



West Bengal: 02 kg. of dry Pangolin scales were seized & 03 persons were arrested in a joint operation of WCCB and 41st BN SSB, Ranidanga, on 20-07-2021.

Himachal Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB and H.P Police seized 02 Leopard skins along with 14 claws and 12 canines from Mandi, on 20-07-2021.



West Bengal: 02 Indian Star Tortoises were seized by WCCB team from a person at Kalighat area of Kolkata, on 22-07-2021.

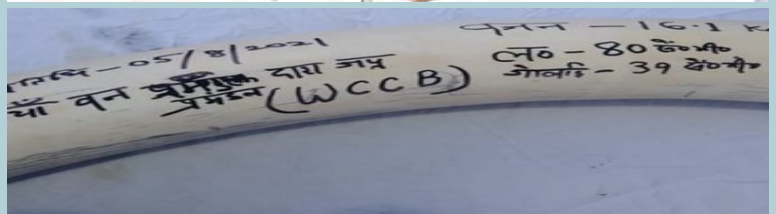
Odisha: 15.2 kg. of Pangolin scales were seized and 02 persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB and Odisha Forest Dept., on 24-07-2021 at Dhenkanal.

Uttar Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB and U.P. Forest Dept. seized 04 Common Sand Boa Snakes, 02 Red Sand Boa Snakes & 02 Indian Rat Snakes and arrested one wildlife trafficker from Lucknow, on 27-07-2021.



Assam: 5.8 kg. of dry Pangolin scales were seized by joint team of WCCB and Assam Forest Dept. at Lumding market, Assam, on 03-08-2021.

Bihar: Joint team of WCCB & Purnia Forest Division seized a large elephant tusk ivory piece (approx. 16 kg.) and arrested 05 persons from Purnia, Bihar, on 05-08-2021.



Enforcement Operations



Uttar Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB and U.P State Police & Forest Departments seized 265 gms. of Pangolin scales and arrested one person from Ghaziabad (U.P), in the intervening night 07 & 08 Aug, 2021.

Tamil Nadu: Joint team of WCCB and TNFD seized 05 Turtle carapaces, 10 Sea Shells, 01 Sea Fan, 05 Elephant-ivory-statues, 17 Elephant-ivory articles, 01 porcupine-quilt-made box, 01 pair of Spotted-Deer horns & 02 Sea Horses, at Kanniyakumari, on 07-08-2021.

Karnataka: On intelligence inputs of WCCB, Karnataka Police and Forest Dept. seized ivory artifacts including Elephant-Ivory articles, Deer Antlers, Porcupine quills, Sea horses, Tiger claws, Coral, and exotic animal pelts, on 08-08-2021.

Uttar Pradesh: on 11-08-2021, 193 Parakeets (159 Rose-Ringed & 34 Alexandrine) were seized and a person was arrested by joint team of WCCB & U.P Forest Dept. from Nazibabad,

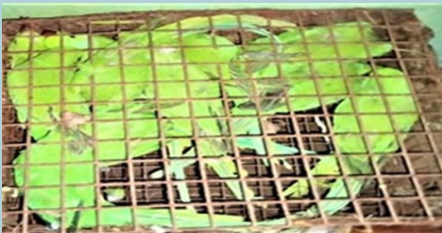
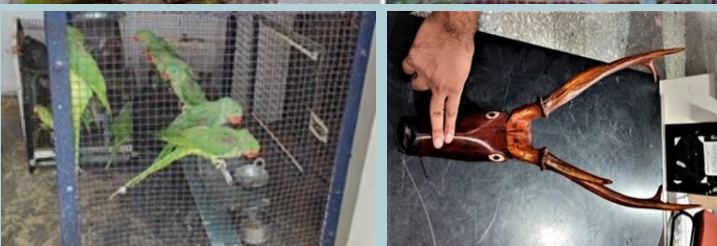
Rajasthan: On intelligence of WCCB, 25 Alexandrine Parakeets were seized and 02 persons were arrested by Rajasthan Forest Dept. from Jaipur, on 12-08-2021.

West Bengal: On input regarding illegal possession of an antler by a passenger, WCCB seized a pair of Deer Antler with skull, at Kolkata Airport, on 15-08-2021.

Tamil Nadu: 76 Rose-ringed Parakeets were seized by joint team of WCCB & TNFD at Salem, on 16-08-2021.

Maharashtra: Joint team of WCCB and Maharashtra Forest Dept. seized 11 Tiger/Leopard claws and arrested 02 persons from Karad, Satara District of Maharashtra, on 16-08-2021.

Tamil Nadu: 2247 live Star Tortoises, packed in pillow covers along-with few crabs were seized by joint team of WCCB & Customs Cargo Intelligence Unit from a cargo destined to Bangkok, on 16-08-2021.



Enforcement Operations



Maharashtra: A joint raid of WCCB & Maharashtra Forest Dept., led to seizure of 160 pieces of Black Corals and arrest of one person from Pune, on 18-08-2021.

Tamil Nadu: Joint team of WCCB & T.N Forest Dept. conducted raids and seized 36 Kg. of Ambergris and arrested 13 persons, on 19-08-2021, at Chennai.



Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra: On 24-08-2021, over 05 kg. of Tiger bones were seized and one person was arrested by joint team of WCCB and M.P State Forest & Police Dept. from Khawasa (M.P). On revelation of the accused, Deer Antlers, Bones, two guns were seized and two more persons were arrested from Maharashtra

Assam: On intelligence of WCCB, three persons were arrested with Rhinoceros horn by joint team of Morigaon Police and 2nd AFPF Seconi, on 26-08-2021.



West Bengal: 658 live Parakeets were seized and 04 persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB and CID, West Bengal from Durgapur, on 26-08-2021.

Gujarat: 780 pieces of Black Corals including 82 framed pieces, were seized by joint team of WCCB and Vadodara Forest Dept. from Vadodara, on 26-08-2021.



Jharkhand: On intelligence of WCCB, 250 Parakeets were seized and 02 persons were arrested by RPF, Barahawa, in the intervening night of 2 & 3 Sept, 2021.

Maharashtra: Joint team of WCCB and Maharashtra Forest Dept. seized a piece of Walrus tusk and arrested 03 persons at Sawantwadi, Maharashtra, on 31-08-2021.



Himachal Pradesh

**A
big seizure
of assorted
wildlife
contrabands**



A significant operation was conducted by joint team of WCCB and Himachal Pradesh Police on 25th Aug, 2021, in which a huge catch of assorted wildlife contraband was seized and 03 wildlife traffickers were arrested from Nalagarh (H.P). Seized items included 21 Live Snakes (Indian Cobra, Rat Snake, Common Krait & Wolf Snake), 02 Carcasses (Indian Cobra), 12 Hatha Jodi (Monitor Lizard Genital Organs), 24 Siyar Singhi, 06 Big Cat Claws, 11 Monitor Lizard Paws, 02 Sambar Deer Antler, 02 Alexandrine Parakeets, 05 Pangolin Claws, along-with some unidentified bones and claws. The team also seized 01 Air Gun, 04 Leg Hold Traps, 04 Snare Traps, and 02 Nets used for capturing small mammals & birds from the accused.

Enforcement Operations



Uttar Pradesh: A joint operation of WCCB and U.P State STF & Forest Dept., led to arrest of two persons while they were trying to sell Hyena bones at Varanasi, on 03-09-2021.



Uttar Pradesh: One Red Sand Boa Snake was seized and 03 persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB and U.P. State Forest & Police Dept. on 04-09-2021 from Moradabad.

Tamil Nadu: On intelligence of WCCB, five hunters were arrested and six killed Hares and hunting weapons were seized by Sivagangai Forest Division (TNFD), on 05-09-2021.



Rajasthan: A joint team of WCCB and Rajasthan Forest Dept. team, seized assorted Jewellery items made of elephant ivory and arrested 01 person from Jodhpur, on 08-09-2021

Assam: Joint operation of WCCB and Assam Forest Dept. led to seizure of a live Pangolin & arrest of 03 persons from Dhanubhanga, on 09-09-2021.

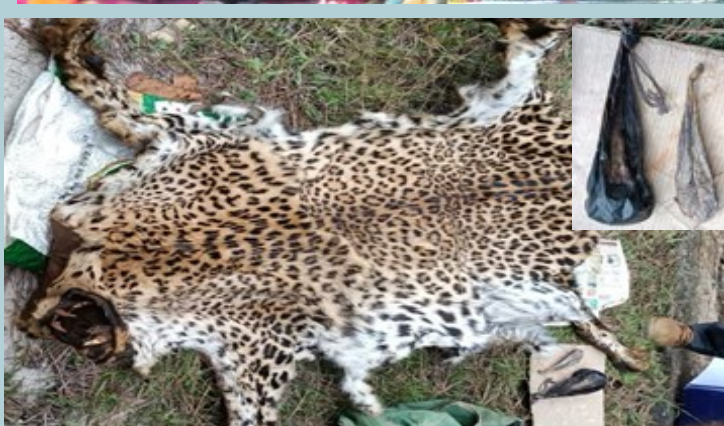


West Bengal: Joint team of WCCB and West Bengal Forest Dept. seized 21 live Parakeets and arrested one person from Kolkata, on 09-09-2021.

Uttarakhand: Joint team of WCCB & Uttarakhand Forest Dept. seized 01 Leopard Skin with 27 Teeth and 02 Bear Bile & arrested 02 persons at Pithoragarh, on 11-09-2021.

Chhattisgarh: Joint team of WCCB and Chhattisgarh Forest Dept. seized approx. 3.5 kg. of Indian Pangolin scales and arrested one person from Chhattisgarh, on 15-09-2021.

Odisha Five Monitor Lizard skins and one pair of Deer antlers were seized by joint team of WCCB and Odisha Forest Dept. from Bargarh, on 15-09-2021.



Enforcement Operations 2



Maharashtra: Three Leopard skin were seized and 08 persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB and Pune Forest Department in a 02-day long joint operation conducted on 14 & 15 Sept, 2021 at Pune.

Maharashtra: 250 pieces of Sea Fans & Black Corals, and 50 pieces of Hathajodi were seized and 02 persons were arrested by joint team of WCCB and Mumbai Forest Dept. from Mumbai, on 16-09-2021.

Odisha: Joint team of WCCB & STF, Odisha Police seized a Leopard-Cat skin and arrested one person from Baripada, Odisha, on 20-09-2021

Madhya Pradesh: Joint team of WCCB & M.P Forest Dept. seized 04 Tiger claws, along-with 30 whiskers, bones, and GI wire and arrested 08 persons, in a 02-day long operation conducted on 20 & 21 Sept, 2021 at Mandla East and Balaghat.

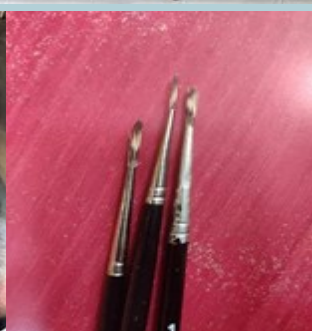
Rajasthan: Joint team of WCCB and Rajasthan Forest Dept. seized 01 Star Tortoise, 02 Ganges Softshell Turtles & 03 Indian Softshell Turtles and arrested 02 persons from Nagaur, Rajasthan, on 22-09-2021

Kerala: Joint team of WCCB and Kerala Forest Flying Squad seized 1.4 kg. of Ambergris and arrested three persons at Ernakulam, Kerala, on 22-09-2021.

Tamil Nadu: On 24-09-2021, joint team of WCCB and TNFD Vigilance seized 1511 Painting brushes made of Mongoose hairs from hardware and stationery shops at Dindigul.

Uttarakhand: Joint team of WCCB and Uttarakhand Forest Dept. seized 01 Bear Bile & some Indian & foreign Currencies and arrested two persons from Pithoragarh, on 27-08-2021.

Delhi: Joint team of WCCB and Delhi Forest Dept. seized 02 Kg. of Ambergris (Sperm Whale Vomit) and arrested 05 persons from Paharganj, on 30-09-2021.



MAJOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Hong Kong Officially Includes Illegal Wildlife Trade in Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance to Better Curb Smuggling Activities

Aug, 2021: The Legislative Council of Hong Kong passed the bill to amend the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (PESAPO), which was proposed by Hon Elizabeth Quat, to include illegal wildlife trade offenses into the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO).

With the passing of this legislation, the government can increase its investigative and enforcement power to further combat illegal wildlife trade.....

News Source: worldwildlife.org

TONS OF ILLEGAL PANGOLIN SCALES SEIZED IN CHINA ALMOST 2 YEARS AFTER WUHAN PANDEMIC BEGAN

Sept, 2021: Police in the southern Guangdong province busted a wildlife-smuggling ring sitting on eight tons of pangolin scales worth about \$62 million, among other illegal animal products, Chinese state media reported Wednesday. The wildlife trade looms large in most theories of the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak in 2019 that went on to ravage the entire planet. China's Global Times estimated the smugglers must have killed 16,000 pangolins to obtain the scales in their possession when the police moved in.....

News Source: breitbart.com

UNGA adopts resolution on illicit wildlife trafficking

July, 2021: The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution on tackling illicit trafficking of wildlife.

The resolution, adopted on Friday, recognizes the economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife, and emphasizes the importance of effective international cooperation among member states, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, reports Xinhua news agency.

It urges member states to reinforce their efforts and adopt effective measures to prevent and counter the serious problem of crimes that have an impact on the environment, conservation and biodiversity, such as illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products.

The resolution urges member states

to take decisive steps at the national level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illegal trade in wildlife, on the supply, transit and demand sides, including by strengthening their legislation and regulations.

It strongly encourages member states to cooperate at the bilateral, regional and international levels to prevent, combat and eradicate international illicit trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products.

It encourages member states to enhance cooperation for the timely and cost-efficient repatriation of live illegally traded wildlife, and to enhance information-sharing among national and international authorities on the seizure of illegally traded wildlife and wildlife products in order to facilitate follow-up investigation and prosecution.

News Source: msn.com

SINGAPORE COMPLETELY BANS DOMESTIC TRADE IN ELEPHANT IVORY AND IVORY PRODUCTS

August, 2021: Starting from Wednesday (1 September), Singapore has imposed a nationwide ban in the sale of elephant ivory and ivory products, after first announcing it in 2019. The National Parks Board (NParks) said in a Facebook post on Tuesday (31 August) that it will become illegal for anyone to sell any ivory products, including elephant ivory, in the Republic. If that's not all, the public display of elephant ivory and ivory products for the purpose of sale will also be prohibited.....

News Source: savetheelephants.org

12-YEAR-OLD MUMBAI-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST NAMED 2021 INTERNATIONAL YOUNG ECO-HERO

A 12-year-old environmental activist from Mumbai has been named as a 2021 International Young Eco-Hero in recognition of his efforts to solve tough environmental problems. Ayaan Shankta won third place in the 8-14 age category for his project Conservation and Rehabilitation of Powai Lake, according to a report by news agency PTI.

He is one of the 25 young environmental activists from across the globe honoured by the Action For Nature (AFN) as a 2021 International

Young Eco-Hero, an award that recognizes eco-conscious youth aged 8 to 16 who are taking crucial steps to solve tough environmental problems.

"My mission is for the lake to regain its past glory as a clean and vibrant body of water," said Ayaan who lives near a lake that used to be a source of drinking water for Mumbai, but has become a dumping ground for garbage and sewage. His project aims to raise awareness about pollution, clean up the lake, and protect its ecosystem.

In addition to working with NGOs to raise awareness and organize clean-ups, Ayaan authored an action report on lake conditions and is currently working on a documentary about Powai Lake.

"Not only will this help in bringing about ecological balance in the thickly populated city of Mumbai, but it will also help to conserve endangered species," he said.

News Source: indiatimes.com

Indian officials burn rhino horns to stop illegal trade

Sept, 2021 — Indian officials burned about 2,500 old rhino horns on Wednesday to spread awareness of the need to protect the rare animal on World Rhino Day. Dozens of Hindu priests performed rituals and chanted prayers as the top Assam state elected official, Himanta Biswa Sarma, lit the fire on a large platform in a sports stadium near the famed Kaziranga National Park. The horns, which had been stored for years, were from rhinos that died of natural causes at Kaziranga and other smaller habitats across Assam state and those confiscated from poachers.



Kaziranga is home to nearly 2,500 one-horned rhinos and is the world's largest habitat for the rare animal. Armed forest guards protect the rhinos, but poachers still manage to kill some of them. Rhino horns are sold by poachers in South Asia, China, Vietnam and some other countries because of a belief that they contain an aphrodisiac and medicinal properties. Sale of the horns is illegal in India. "Trading in rhino horns must stop and the claim of these horns having medicinal properties is false," Sarma said. Sarma decided to

burn the horns to create more awareness about the need to protect one-horned rhinos and end poaching, said M.K. Yadava, Assam's chief wildlife warden. The park is 250 kilometers (155 miles) east of Gauhati, the Assam state capital.

News Source: thestar.com

Joint operation with Nigeria Customs Service leads to three arrests, seizure of 7.1 tonnes of pangolin scales and 870 kg of ivory

August 2021: Acting on intelligence provided by the Wildlife Justice Commission, Nigeria Customs Service officers searched a residential address in Lagos on Wednesday 28 July, arresting three suspects and seizing 196 sacks containing 7,137 kg of pangolin scales, 4.6 kg of pangolin claws and 870.44 kg of ivory. All wildlife products were destined for export. This is the ninth largest seizure of pangolin scales since 2019. The arrested individuals are suspected of involvement in a well-known transnational criminal network operating in West Africa, linked to approximately 50% of all major pangolin scale seizures over the past three years.....

News Source wildlifejustice.org

Truck stopped with almost 1000 smuggled reptiles aboard

Aug, 2021: The scale of wildlife trafficking in Cambodia was graphically illustrated again today when a Virak Buntham Company truck was stopped in Siem Reap province with 984 lizards inside. The incident happened yesterday along Street 67 at Balang commune, Prasat Bakong district, Siem Reap province. Acting on information received, Forestry Administration officials stopped the truck and found the unfortunate reptiles packed into ice containers. It appears that the reptiles have originated in Mondulkiri province and then were being transported via Siem Reap to Sihanoukville. Reptiles are used extensively in Chinese Traditional Medicine and there is speculation that these lizards were bound for the Chinese market, where they are used as a component for medicines to treat asthma, cancer, diabetes and erectile dysfunction, among other conditions.

News Source: khemtimeskh

160kg rhino horn seized at OR Tambo airport

July, 2021: Customs officers seized 32 pieces of rhino horn, weighing 160kg, at a cargo transit shed at the OR Tambo International Airport on July 17.

The officers were conducting manifest profiling with the Detector Dog Unit at the airport when one of the sniffer dogs identified a suspicious shipment destined for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The shipment was declared as "live plants" and consisted of eight pieces. During physical inspection, six boxes were found containing traditional material concealing 32 pieces of rhino horn protected with bubble wrap. Hawks was alerted about the detection. A criminal case was registered with the SAPS for further investigation.

Previous rhino horn busts at ORTIA included:

- February 2021: 18 pieces of rhino horn, weighing 63kg declared as HP Cartridges Developers bound for Malaysia.
- December 2020: 17 pieces of rhino horn weighing 72.4kg concealed in a geyser bound for Malaysia.
- September 2020: six pieces, weighing 4.9kg declared as coffee beans bound for Malaysia.
- July 2020: 41 pieces, weighing 137kg declared as fine arts bound for Malaysia via Doha.

News Source: boksburgadvertiser

MP court sentences 13 international poachers to 7 years' imprisonment

July, 2021: The chief judicial magistrate of a Sagar court convicted 13 international poachers and sentenced them to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for smuggling endangered turtles and pangolins from Madhya Pradesh to different parts of the world, said an advocate.

In the past 10 years, the gang smuggled at least 100,000 red-crowned roofed turtles and pangolins--both are listed as critically endangered on the IUCN list of threatened species-- to Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar and a few other countries, said Sudha Bhadoria, an advocate.

The court imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh on the kingpin of the gang, a resident of Chennai, Manivannan Murugesan, who is also wanted in Thailand, under Section 51(1)A of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on the accused Ajay Singh, Ram Singh and Mohammad Iqar from UP, Thamim Ansari from Chennai, Mohammad Irfan, Tulsidas and Tapas Basak from Kolkata, and a fine of ₹20,000 on Azad Singh, Sampatiya Batham, Vijay Gond, Kamal Batham and Kailashi from MP.

Bhadoriya said, "Mohammad Irfan from Kolkata used to work as an agent for Murugesan to supply wildlife animals to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand via Myanmar and Bangladesh. Ajay Singh from Agra used to hand over turtles to Thamim Ansari of Chennai to smuggle them to Sri Lanka. The other accused were supplying the turtles and pangolins from the forests and rivers,"

"The accused were lodged in Sagar jail and applied for bail in the high court and Supreme Court but they were

denied. The hearing was being monitored by the apex court since January 2020. During the trial in the case, 27 witnesses were examined by the prosecution before the court.

In the case, final arguments were presented on behalf of the prosecution for 13 days," said Saurabh Dhimha, additional district prosecution officer.

Notably, Murugesan is also wanted in Thailand in connection to a case of smuggling of 890 endangered turtles in 2012. He was arrested by Thailand police and was released on bail. He then went on the run until his arrest in MP.

A lookout notice was issued against him and a metropolitan court also issued a warrant against him.

News Source: hindustantimes

Eight men convicted in French court for trafficking rhino horn and ivory

Sept, 2021: A French court has convicted eight men including members of an Irish crime gang for trafficking rhino horn and ivory between Europe and east Asia.

Four men – three Irish and one English – said to be members of the Rathkeale Rovers gang were given prison terms, though two were spared jail as the sentences were suspended.

The court also imposed a total of €316,000 (£270,000) in fines. Three of the men were not present at the special court in Rennes in west France and are the subject of international arrest warrants.

Charlotte Nithart, president of the Robin des Bois (Robin Hood) environmental group, wel-

comed the judgment she said was "educational and dissuasive ... for all those who engage in wildlife trafficking and speculate on species threatened with extinction". "Before trafficking, there is poaching which causes scial and environmental devastation," she said after Wednesday's verdict.

French prosecutors began investigating after police stopped a BMW car in a random motorway traffic inspection in September 2015 and found four uncertified elephant tusks and €32,800 in cash.

The occupants of the car, some of whom claimed they were antique dealers, were later found to be part of an international network of rhino horn and ivory traffickers including several

of Chinese and Vietnamese origin. Police said the Irish and English suspects were members of the Rathkeale Rovers, a criminal clan named after a town outside Limerick in southern Ireland.

Rooted in the Travelling community, gang members have been linked to a bewildering range of scams across Europe, the Americas, Africa and Australia.

Detectives discovered the smugglers had two workshops in France to transform ivory and rhino horn into powder or flakes and other objects that were then exported to Vietnam and China to be used in traditional medicine.

News Source: theguardian

Rhino Poachers Sentenced to 105 Years in Prison

Sept, 2021: The three poachers were arrested in 2017 after killing three rhinos in Marula (southern) section of the Kruger National Park. SANParks said in a statement today that one of the convicted poachers, Walter Hendrik Mangane (58), is South African; whilst the other two –

Shangani Mathebula (29) and Emmanuel Mdhului (32) – are from Mozambique. In delivering the sentences, the magistrate explained in detail how the poachers had killed the three rhinos execution style, and how they had been caught red-handed while "plundering" the animals.....

News Source: sapeoplenews

Exit-Point Detection by WCCB



Shahtoosh shawls, containing Tibetan Antelope Guard Hair, attempted to be exported from IGI Air Cargo, Delhi, were detected, on 02-07-2021.



Sandlewood chips, concealed in aluminum cane and misdeclared as rose oil; two red sanders consignments misdeclared as furniture parts and roasted bread, were detected at IGI courier terminal, Delhi, on 14-07-2021



40 Ltrs. of herbal oil containing *Saussurea costus* (kuth) [listed under CITES Appendix I and Schedule VI of WPA, 1972] as an ingredient, were detected at IGI Air Cargo, Delhi, on 23-07-2021.



An export consignment destined to Ethiopia was found to contain 1000 pcs of *Dypsis Decipiens* (Manabe Palm) a CITES Appendix -I species, at NSCBI Airport, on 24-07-2021.



28 kg. of *Prunus Africana* extract listed in Appendix II of CITES, destined for Netherlands, were detected at IGI Air Cargo, Delhi, on 06-08-2021

Exit-Point Detection by WCCB



03 Strombus Sigas Shells (listed in Appendix II of CITES), concealed in other household and ritualistic items, were detected at IGI Air Cargo destined for USA, on 18-08-2021.



99 pieces of Delbergia sissoo handicrafts misdeclared as mango wood carved blocks destined for USA at IGI Air Cargo Complex, New Delhi, were detected, on 10-09-2021.

Operation WILDNET-IV by WCCB

Sept, 2021: To encounter the menace of Cyber Wildlife Trafficking, WCCB launched “Operation WILDNET-IV” under its ‘WILDNET’ Operation Series. The operation started from 1st of July 2021 and continued till 30th Sept, 2021 throughout the country. During the operation period, WCCB and other Wildlife Enforcement Agencies worked towards detecting cases of cyber wildlife trafficking through cyber patrolling and taking appropriate action against the cyber wildlife traffickers in a focused manner.

The operation code named as “Operation WILDNET” was first envisaged by WCCB in May 2017, taking into consideration increasing threat of online wildlife trade across the country. The operation was aimed at dragging the attention of the enforcement agencies within the country to work towards countering the menace of the ever increasing illegal wildlife trade over digital landscape.

WCCB has also convened three coordination meetings with digital platforms such as Quikr, Google, Snapdeal, Indiamart, Amazon, and OLX to discuss issues related to cyber wildlife trafficking and reach a consensus on sharing of information that would help in curbing this menace.

Operation ‘WILDNET-I’ was undertaken by WCCB from 1st May to 30th June 2017 throughout the country. Total 48 cases of online sale of wildlife contrabands were detected. 08 persons were arrested and 05 cases were registered during the operation period. ‘WILDNET-II’ was conducted from 01st to 30th November, 2019 and resulted in the arrest of a dozen offenders and the initiation of 09 criminal cases. 25 cases of online sale were detected during this period. ‘WILDNET-III’ was initiated from 01 July to 30 Sep 2020, in which 27 species were seized and 26 cases were registered leading to arrest of 46 persons in total.

An array of wildlife species and contrabands were seized in all these operations, including Falcons, Pangolins, Rhino Horn, Coral, Antlers, Civet Cats, Parakeets, Elephant Teeth, Monitor Lizard, Sea Fan, Musk Pod, Starlet Corals, Trochus, Turtle, Lion Teeth, Shark, Elephant-hair bracelet, Red Sand Boa, Indian Soft-shelled Turtle, Indian Tent Turtle, Meat of Deer, Meat of Wild Boar, Parakeet, Muniya, Elephant ivory idol, and Snake, etc..

‘Operation WILDNET’ has also brought several accolades to WCCB. In Feb, 2021, WCCB received the prestigious ‘Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020’ from United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in ‘Innovation Category’ for running operation ‘WILDNET-II’. This was the second time it bagged this award as the agency has earlier received Asia Environmental Enforcement Award in 2018 also in the same category.

‘Operation WILDNET’ has been a big success so far and WCCB is committed to carry it further to eradicate ever-growing illegal wildlife trade on the digital platform. Data of recently held operation ‘WILDNET-IV’ is being compiled and would be made public soon.

“WILDNET-I”

1st May 2017 – 30th Jun 2017

Total Cases = 5
Accused Arrested = 8
Types of Species Seized = 6

“WILDNET-II”

1st Nov 2019 – 30th Nov 2019

Total Cases = 9
Accused Arrested = 12
Type of Species Seized = 7

“WILDNET-III”

1st July 2020 – 30th Sep 2020

Total Cases = 26
Accused Arrested = 46
Type of Species Seized = 27

Field Sensitization/Training Programs

WCCB on a regular basis conducts sensitization/ training programmes for the personnel of enforcement agencies dealing in wildlife crime cases including the personnel of Police, Paramilitary Forces, Railway, Customs, Airports, Sea Ports, Enforcement Directorate, Postal, Forest Departments and other law enforcing agencies.

Several such sensitization and training programmes were undertaken during this quarter. Below are some glimpses-



On 08-07-2021, SSB officials attended a hands-on practical session on identification of wildlife articles' organized by WCCB, at ITS, SSB, Kolkata.

ITBP officials were sensitized by WCCB officials on 'Prevention of Wildlife Crime & Smuggling', on 13-07-2021.



SSB officials posted at Indo-Bhutan Border attended a sensitization program on 'Prevention of Wildlife Crime & Intelligence Collection', organized by CCB in association with NGO Aaranyak, on 19-07-2021.



On 23-07-2021, WCCB organized a sensitization program for SSB officials on "Prevention of Wildlife Crime, Intelligence Collection & Implementation".

WCCB Gorakhpur Border Unit conducted a sensitization program for police constables recruits undergoing Basic Course at Training Centre, Gorakhpur on 27 & 28 July, 2021.



Field Sensitization/Training Programs



260 Police Constables recruits of Police Training Centre, Gorakhpur attended a training program on "general species in wildlife trade" organized by WCCB Border Unit, on 09-08-2021.

WCCB conducted a one-day sensitization program for SSB Trainee Official on 'Prevention of Wildlife Crime and Smuggling' in collaboration with SSB Academy, Bhopal, on 17-08-2021.

45 officials participated in the program.



On 03-09-2021, a hands on practical training session on Identification of wildlife articles for SSB personnel was organized by WCCB at ITS, SSB, Kolkata.



On 06-09-2021, WCCB organized a sensitization program for CISF personnel posted at Hyderabad Airport. Issues related to 'Wildlife Crime Scenario, Role of WCCB and CISF in Prevention of Illegal Wildlife Trade, and Identification of Wildlife Articles in Trade' were discussed followed by a hands-on practical session on identification of wildlife contrabands.

120 CISF personnel attended the program.



30 frontline personnel of ITBP from 33 Battalion Unit, Sonapur, attended a sensitization program organized by WCCB in association with NGO Aaranyak, on 08-09-2021. The program was followed by a workshop on the identification of wildlife articles.

Field Sensitization/Training Programs



WCCB official organized a practical training session for SSB officials during the '10th three-day Sector Level Intelligence Workshop' conducted by Sector HQ, SSB, Rangia, on 07-09-2021.

76 Officials attended the session.

A training program for field officers of Maharajganj Forest Division on "Intelligence Collection and Interrogation" was conducted by WCCB, on 09-09-2021, attended by 18 officers.



On 15-09-2021, WCCB Guwahati team organized a training session for SSB officials during a workshop on "Forest Act/Details of Prohibited items/Forest Goods/Wildlife Crime/illegal wildlife trade" organized by 64 Bn, SSB, at Daranga BOP Training Centre.



WCCB Gorakhpur Unit organized a two-day training program for SSB Intelligence Branch officials at Campirganj, on 22 & 23 Sept, 2021. 50 officials attended the program.



A sensitization program for security and airlines staff of LGBI Airport, Guwahati, was organized by WCCB Guwahati team in collaboration with Aaranyak NGO, on 24-09-2021. Participants were sensitized on species in wildlife trade in North-Eastern states and how to detect and respond to wildlife trafficking cases.

35 Officials including CISF and Airlines staff participated in the program.

Field Sensitization/Training Programs



WCCB official gave lecture to SSB personnel on 'Modus operandi of wildlife crime, Trade route in North Bengal', in a workshop organized by SHQ, SSB Ranidanga, Siliguri, West Bengal, on 24-09-2021.

50 SSB personnel attended the program.

WCCB and Assam Forest Department organized a 02-day capacity building training program for Assam forest Dept. Officials, at CIT, Kokrajhar, Assam, on 27 & 28 Sept, 2021.



A sensitization program for Kerala Costal Police Official was organized by WCCB, on 25-09-2021, attended by 35 Officials.

WCCB & SSB Bongaigaon, Assam, jointly organized a sensitization program for SSB officials on "Prevention of Wildlife Crime and Intelligence collection", on 29-09-2021.



On 30-09-2021, a sensitization programme for SSB officials on "Prevention of Wildlife Crime and Intelligence collection", was conducted by WCCB at Sector Head Quarters SSB Rangia, BTAD, Assam.

WCCB organized a Capacity Building Training Program for the Forest and Police Dept. Officials in collaboration with Kolhapur Territorial Circle, Maharashtra Forest Department, at Kolhapur, on 30-09-2021.



Online Sensitization/Training Programs

On 06-07-2021, WCCB organized a webinar for Customs Officials of Mundra Port, Gujarat on “wildlife crime, related issues, and role of Customs”. 20 officials in the ranks of Superintendents & Inspectors attended the session.

WCCB organized a webinar on “Wildlife Crime and Wet-markets in North-East India”, on 07-07-2021. Around 100 students & faculty members of Arya Bidyapith College and Handique Girls College, Assam, attended the Webinar.

A virtual training program for the forest officials on “An overview of PMLA and Investigation of ‘Cases booked under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972’ under PMLA as Predicate Offences”, was organized by WCCB, on 09-07-2021.

Over 100 Officials of Maharashtra State Forest and Police Department, participated in a virtual Sensitization Program, organized by WCCB in collaboration with Alibag Forest Division, Maharashtra, on 19-07-2021.

On 26-07-2021, WCCB organized a virtual panel discussion on “Role of DRI, CBI and ED in Combating the Menace of Wildlife Trafficking” for State Forest Officials.

WCCB organized a virtual panel discussion for State Forest Officials on “Role of DRI, CBI & ED in Combating the Menace of Wildlife Trafficking”, on 26-07-2021, attended by 38 senior forest officials from across the States.

On 27 & 28 July, 2021, WCCB & NACIN, Jaipur, jointly organized a two-day “WCCB Module” for the officers of Customs & CGST Zone, Jaipur,

RDD/ER, WCCB, lectured on 'Wildlife Conservation In India: Recent Trends & Crime Issues', in a webinar on World Nature Conservation Day celebrations organized by Sarojini Naidu Women's College, West Bengal, on 28-07-2021.

On 28-07-2021, WCCB official gave lecture on “Recent Trends of Wildlife Crime” in a webinar on ‘World Nature Conservation Day’, organized by Jai Narain Vyas University, on . 60 university students attended the programme.

Marking the celebration of ‘International Tiger Day 2021’ on 28-07-2021, WCCB and Forensic Science Education Society, Raipur, jointly organized a webinar on issues related to tiger killing and hunting. 75 people, including WCCB officials; Veterinary Specialist; Forensic Expert, Biologist, Environmentalist; Academician, participated in the program.

RDD/ER, WCCB spoke on 'Wildlife Crime in India' in a webinar organized by Amity Institute of Forestry & Wildlife to mark International Tiger Day on 29-07-2021. Students and faculty members of AIFW attended the session.

RDD/SR, WCCB spoke on 'An Overview of Wildlife Crimes' in a webinar organized by Tiger Protection Society to mark ‘International Tiger Day’, on 29-07-2021.

RDD/ER, WCCB, lectured on "Wildlife Conservation in India: Current Scenario", in a webinar organized by NGO Bonyo & RERFGI, Kolkata, on 30-07-2021. 60 students & faculty members of the Institute attended the session.

Additional Director, WCCB, gave presentation on ‘Special Enforcement Operations of WCCB’ in a virtual meeting of

SAWEN Member countries organized by the SAWEN Secretariat, Nepal, on 04-08-2021.

Additional Director, WCCB, spoke on “An Overview of Wildlife Crime” during an e-course on “Investigation of Wildlife Crime Cases”, steered by CDTI & WCCB jointly, on 09-08-2021.

Celebrating ‘World Elephant Day’ event on 12-08-2021, WCCB organized a webinar on Elephant conservation issues in Odisha, in participation with NGOs, PRI, Gram Panchayat members and other stakeholders of Odisha.

WCCB organized a webinar on “Challenges for Wildlife Conservation in J&K”, on the eve of 75th Independence Day on 14-08-2021. 41 persons participated in the webinar.

RDD/ER, WCCB gave a lecture on "Reporting from Forest & Wildlife Conflict Scenes: Dos and Don'ts" during a 02-day virtual workshop organized by CASFOS for Media persons on the theme "Sensitization on Natural Resource Conservation", on 17-08-2021.

35 States’ Forest and Police Officials attended a virtual training program on “Wildlife Trafficking on the Digital Landscape and Legal Measures to Counter it”, organized by WCCB, on 23-08-2021.

On 26-08-2021. 30 SSB Personnel deployed along Indo-Nepal Border in Maharajganj (U.P) participated in a virtual sensitization program, organized by WCCB & WTI, jointly, were sensitized on ‘Wildlife in Illegal Trade, Identification of Wildlife Contrabands and Anti Snare Programme’.

On 15-09-2021, RDD/ER, WCCB gave inaugural lecture on "Youth and Wildlife Conservation" during the inception of online course on ‘Youth & Climate Change’ organized by Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, University of Delhi and Lakshya NGO jointly, attended by 70 members.

On 21-09-2021, WCCB organized a virtual sensitization program for ED officials on “Wildlife Trafficking & Money Laundering”.

RDD/ER, WCCB lectured on ‘Bharatbarshe Bonyoprani Samrakshan’ meaning ‘Wildlife Conservation in India’ in a webinar series organized by Dept. of Hr. Education, West Bengal & Vigyan Prasar, DST, on 22-09-2021, to promote science education in vernacular languages, attended by 50 people.

60 BSF officials undergoing training at the Subsidiary Training Centre, Latur, attended a virtual sensitization program organized by WCCB, on 24-09-2021,

On 30-09-2021, WCCB official gave lectures to Customs Officers undergoing online training on “Strengthening of Wildlife Law Enforcement” at the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics, Mumbai. 25 Officials in the rank of Superintendent and Preventive Officers attended the session.

Inter-Agency Coordination Meet



An Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting was organized by WCCB for the State of Jharkhand, virtually on 25-08-2021.

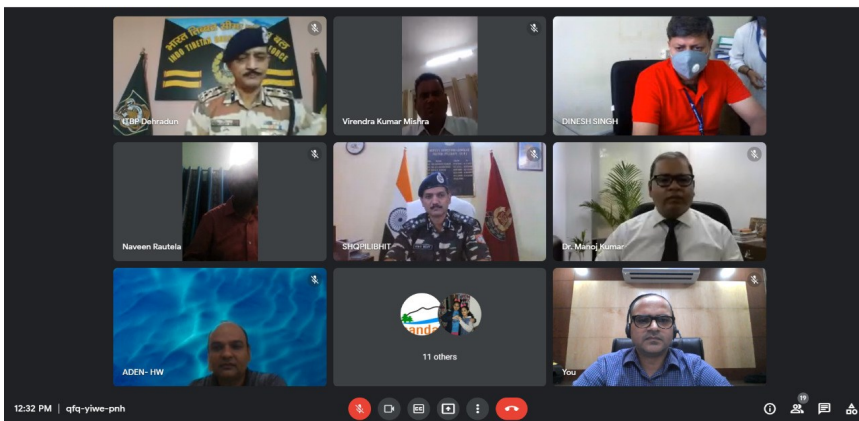
The meet was held under the Chairmanship of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW, Jharkhand and was coordinated by Additional Director, WCCB.

Issues related to effective inter-agency co-ordination and collaboration in the field of intelligence sharing, exchange of information and capacity building were discussed in the meeting. The meeting was attended by Forest, Police, CBI, DRI, ED, Rly. Police, Railway, AAI, CISF, CRPF, RPF, SSB, Transport Dept. and WCCB Officers.

On 26-08-2021, WCCB organized a virtual Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting for the Enforcement Agencies of the Konkan Region in Western India and discussed issues related to wildlife crime in the region.

The meet was held under the Chairmanship of the PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW, Maharashtra and was coordinated by Additional Director, WCCB.

Senior Officials of Enforcement Agencies, civic bodies and scientific institutions viz. Maharashtra Forest Dept., Maharashtra Police Department, Customs, DRI, Tribal Development Authority, Konkan Railways, ZSI, BSI, CMFRI, WII, etc. participated in the Meeting.



Senior officials of WCCB participated in a virtual Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting organized by Uttarakhand Forest Department, on 01-09-2021,

PRI/Awareness Programs

A Mass Awareness Drive



To generate awareness against wild-meat trade in wet-markets, WCCB & Aranyak NGO jointly organized an awareness program at Bamunimaidan wet-market, Guwahati, on 09-07-2021.

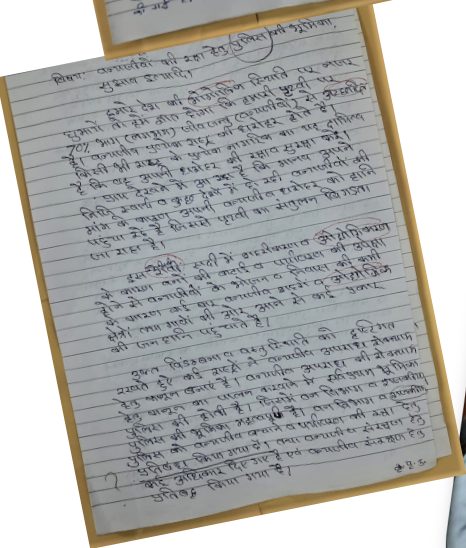
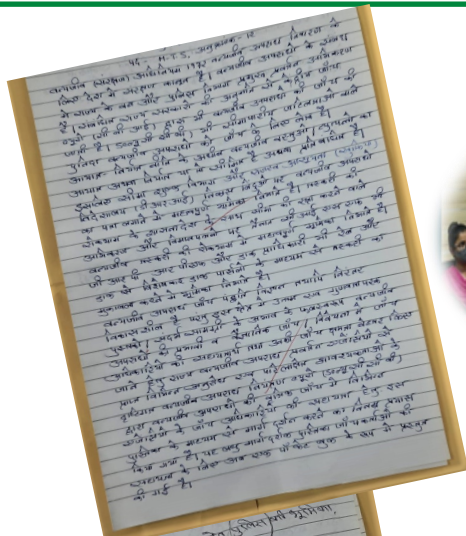
A Session for Panchayat/ Village Members



A one-day PRI session for Panchayat members, was conducted by WCCB in association with Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, at Sukha Sewania, Bhopal, on 24-09-2021.

Celebration of Hindi Pakhwada

WCCB marked celebration of "Hindi Pakhwada" from 14 to 28 Sept. 2021 and organized several programmes like essay-writing, multiple choice/ written quiz, dictation, bilingual translation and speech competition, etc. at its Bureau Headquarter in Delhi, in which all the staff members participated. Certificates and cash-rewards to winning candidates were distributed by Additional Director, Mrs. Tilottama Varma. Take a glimpse...



A W A R D S



New bureau to boost evidence gathering in wildlife probes

Intelligence network to be shored up, facilities like cyber cells, dog squad in the pipeline... TAMIL Nadu has an elongated three per cent completion rate in cases registered under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972...



File picture

Pangolin, tiger poachers held from Deolapar, Paoni

Nagpur: In a major crackdown against two gangs of wildlife criminals, the Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh forest departments, along with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), nabbed pangolin, tiger and herbivore poachers from Paoni and Deolapar.



As per sources, the seized parts may belong to 2-3 tigers and at least five pangolins

"The forest team seized 6.5kg pangolin scales from Chachere while 14.5kg scales were confiscated from the house of Milatram Bhalavi of Ramzanghoti. Bhalavi is absconding and the hunt for him is on," he said.

पैंगोलिन खाल को फॉरेंसिक जांच के लिए भेजेगे हैदराबाद लैब खाल तस्कर एसआई न्यायिक हिरासत में भेजा गया जेल

पैंगोलिन खाल तस्करों के आरोप में वन विभाग तथा वाइल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन केंद्र ने नैशनल विल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट के तहत दो गोरे पंजाबी नागरिकों को गिरफ्तार किया है...

जेल भेजे जाने के बाद इन दोनों को नैशनल विल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट के तहत दो गोरे पंजाबी नागरिकों को गिरफ्तार किया है...

अब तक 10 विचारणा... अब तक 10 विचारणा... अब तक 10 विचारणा...

The Sentinel of this land, for its people

Workshop on prevention of wildlife crime held



The whole workshop was conducted by Agni Mitra, Regional Deputy Director, WCCB, as a resource person. In his speech, Mitra said that the workshop would definitely enhance their skill, understanding in dealing and taking preventing measures to control wildlife-related crimes...

नवभारत शिकारियों से हरियार जब्त

वन्य प्राणियों के अवयव नी बरामद... देवलापार संवाददाता. महाराष्ट्र और मध्य प्रदेश वन विभाग में खलबली मचाने वाले बाघ हत्या प्रकरण में और 2 आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है...

TheHitavada THURSDAY, September 16, 2021

9 arrested with fake army recruitment documents CISF SI held with 3.5 kg pangolin scales in Raipur

In a major breakthrough, combined team of Military Intelligence, Military Police and Goa PWD nabbed nine men with fake documents for army recruitment at Chandanoli, Goa...

3.5kg more tiger bones seized, point to larger poaching racket

12 kg tiger bones, two rifles used to kill wild animals, deer horns and body parts of other animals, seized till now. 5 arrested in the case...

जबलपुर, सुक्रमा 26 अगस्त 2021

टाइगर सहित अन्य जंगली जानवरों को देखते ही गोली मारने वाले 3 गिरफ्तार



पैंगोलिन की खाल तस्करों के आरोप में वन विभाग तथा वाइल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन केंद्र ने नैशनल विल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट के तहत दो गोरे पंजाबी नागरिकों को गिरफ्तार किया है...

हरिभूमि रायपुर - सुक्रमा 16 Sep 2021

सीआईएसएफ का एसआई पैंगोलिन खाल के साथ पकड़ा गया



वन विभाग तथा वाइल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन केंद्र ने नैशनल विल्ड लाइफ प्रोटेक्शन एक्ट के तहत दो गोरे पंजाबी नागरिकों को गिरफ्तार किया है...

TheHitavada Jabalpur City Line | 2021-08-26 | Page-1

3 poachers of inter-State gang nabbed in joint action between MP, Mah teas



IN A major breakthrough, combined team of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Jabalpur, and Forest Department nabbed an inter-state gang of poachers and herbivore poachers in Madhya Pradesh...

दवाइयों में इस्तेमाल... जकार्बा में एक बड़े डॉक्टरों के समूह का एक डॉक्टर ने कहा है कि जकार्बा में एक बड़े डॉक्टरों के समूह का एक डॉक्टर ने कहा है...

Turtles

(Scientific Name: Testudines)

Key Facts

Turtles are reptiles of the order Testudines, characterized by a special bony or cartilaginous shell developed from their ribs and acting as a shield.

Tortoises are distinguished from other turtles by being land-dwelling, while many (though not all) other turtle species are partly aquatic. It can reside inside freshwater or saltwater.

Turtles are cold-blooded species & have higher range of body temperature and move between environments to make themselves warmer or cooler.

They have very slow metabolism and can survive without food and water for a long time. Turtles live all over the world in almost every type of climate.

"Turtle," "tortoise" and "terrapin" are often used interchangeably as synonyms, but there are distinct differences between the types of chelonians.

The shell of a turtle is unique among vertebrates and serves to protect the animal and provide shelter from the elements. It is primarily made of bone.

There are five Marine Turtle species in Indian waters i.e. Olive Ridley, Green turtle, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Leatherback, and several fresh water turtle species including Indian Flapshell Turtle, Indian Roofed Turtle, Indian Softshell Turtle, Red Crowned Roofed Turtle, Indian Tent Turtle, Black Pond Turtle, besides tortoise species of Indian Star Tortoise



Significance:

They are among the oldest and most primitive groups of reptiles, having evolved millions of years ago and play an important role in ocean ecosystems by maintaining healthy seagrass beds and coral reefs, providing key habitat for other marine life. It also helps to balance marine food webs and facilitate nutrient cycling from water to land. Thus, conservation of turtles will help to conserve biodiversity and to maintain natural balance.

Turtle Conservation in India

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) most of the species of turtles & tortoises are vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered.

The Olive Ridley, Leatherback and Loggerhead are listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, while the Hawksbill turtle is listed as 'Critically Endangered' and Green Turtle as 'Endangered'.

Turtles are protected under Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

World Turtle Day is observed on 23 May to increase attention on conservation of Turtles and Tortoises.

Threat: Out of 300 species of turtles in the entire world, out of which 129 species are endangered. This is because of constant human interruptions in their natural habitat. They are also poached by humans and are pushed into illegal pet trade. The most common reason why they are endangered is because they are slaughtered for their meat, skin, shells and other properties. Rare species are seen as status symbols and collectors' items and are sold at high value.

Contact us:

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