



WCCB Newsletter

Quarter: Jan – March, 2021

Issue:01

Inside this Issue

Wildlife Enforcement Operations

Sensitization/ Training Programs

WCCB receives Asia Environmental Enforcement Award

World Wildlife Day 2021 Celebration

Organizational Programs

KEY MESSAGES...



I congratulate WCCB for the first issue of their Newsletter. I am hopeful that this newsletter will be a useful publication for all the wildlife officials of the country. —



Shri. Sanjay Kumar, Director General of Forest and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India



It gives me immense pleasure to congratulate WCCB team for the first issue of the Newsletter. As a Central Agency working for the cause of wildlife protection, WCCB has become a pioneer wildlife protection institution and is highly recognized amongst its global counterparts. I appreciate the effort in bringing-out this Newsletter & wish that it gets good reach and impact.—



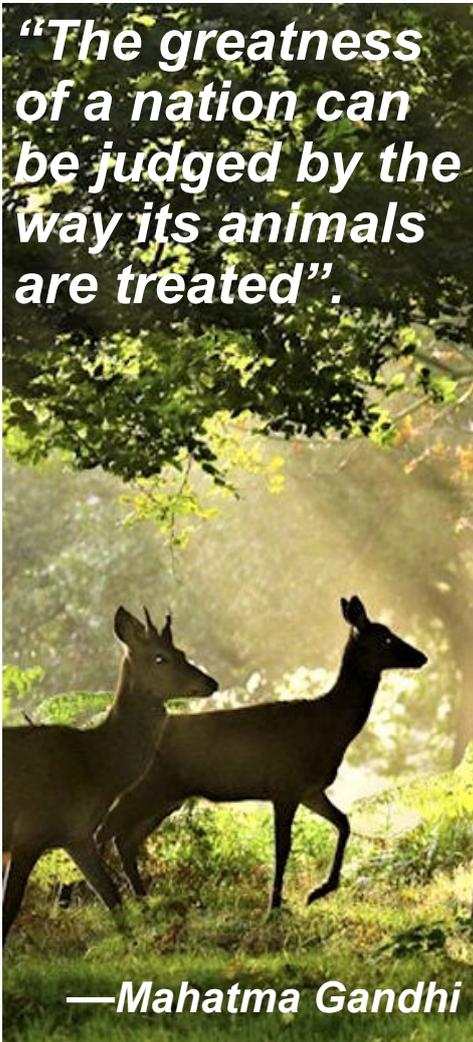
Shri. Soumitra Dasgupta, ADG (Wildlife) and Ex-Officio Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

It is a moment of great pride for me and my whole team that we are successfully launching the first issue of our own Newsletter. WCCB is committed to counter the menace of wildlife trafficking in coordination with State Forest and Police, Central Police Organizations and other stakeholders, thereby preserving the wildlife heritage of India. This newsletter, prepared by WCCB team, is an effort to reach-out to all those engaged in fighting illegal wildlife trade. May we have good success!—



Smt. Tilotama Varma, Additional Director, WCCB

“The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated”.



—Mahatma Gandhi

Picture In Focus:



Additional Director, WCCB, Ms. Tilotama Varma presenting 'Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards 2020, awarded by UNEP to WCCB on 17th Feb, 2021, to Hon'ble Minister, MoEF&CC, Shri. Prakash Javdekar, on 30.03.2021

Joint Operations- January, 2021

West Bengal

One pair of deer-antler seized & two persons arrested, in a joint operation of WCCB and 41 Bn SSB, Ranidanga, on 02-01-2021, at Sanyasi-more, under Bagdogra forest range, West Bengal.



Tamil Nadu

On 04-01-2021, 12 live Parakeets seized and one person arrested from Salem, Tamil Nadu, on the basis of intelligence developed by WCCB.



Tamil Nadu

06 Kgs. of Pangolin scales seized and 05 persons arrested from Theni District of Tamil Nadu, in a joint operation conducted by WCCB in association with Tamil Nadu State Forest and Police Dept., on 05-01-2021.



Andhra Pradesh

One live Sand-Boa snake seized & 07 persons arrested from Nellore, A.P, in a joint operation conducted by WCCB and RFO Venkatagiri, on 07-01-2021.

West Bengal

On intelligence of WCCB, Durgapur Forest Range team seized 64 live Red-vented Bulbul from a car from Burdwan, West Bengal, on 09-01-2021, 03 persons arrested.



Joint Operations- January, 2021



Uttar Pradesh

07 live Indian Tent Turtles seized and 01 person arrested from a pet shop at Fatehgarh, in an operation jointly carried out by WCCB and Farrukhabad Forest Division team at Uttar Pradesh, on 10-01-2021.

Assam

A live Chinese Pangolin seized and two persons arrested from Khanapara region of Guwahati, in a joint operation by WCCB and Guwahati Territorial Forest Division, on 11-01-2021.



Assam

On an Intelligence of WCCB, 15th Bn SSB conducted an operation at Kanjalgaon, Assam, and seized a live Pangolin on 12-01-2021.

Uttarakhand

Two persons apprehended with two live Sand-Boa Snakes, in a joint operation conducted by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and SOG (Forest), Uttarakhand on 22-01-2021, at Ramnagar, Uttarakhand.

The vehicle, in which wildlife contrabands were being transported, was also seized.



Joint Operations- January, 2021



Andhra Pradesh

On 24-01-2021, joint team of WCCB and Andhra Pradesh Forest Department seized one Leopard-skin and arrested 03 persons from Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve area of Andhra Pradesh.

West Bengal

One live Pangolin seized and three persons arrested in a joint operation conducted by WCCB along with Barasat Forest Range Office and Newtown Police Station, on 25-01-2021 from Newtown bus stand, Kolkata.



Madhya Pradesh

A joint operation of WCCB and M.P Forest Dept. resulted in a seizure of a live Pangolin and arrest of 04 persons from Barhi area of Katni, Madhya Pradesh on 29-01-2021.

Gujarat

A joint operation of WCCB and Anand Forest Division resulted in a seizure of 11 Parakeets and arrest of 03 persons from Anand, Gujarat, on 29-01-2021.



Joint Operations- January, 2021



Gujarat

On 30-01-2021, joint team of WCCB and Vadodara Forest Division seized 09 Parakeets and arrested one person from Vadodara, Gujarat. One monkey was also rescued from the possession of the accused.



Gujarat

A joint operation of WCCB and Ahmedabad Forest Division, conducted at Ahmedabad, on 31-01-2021, led to seizure of 70 Parakeets and arrest of 02 persons.

Special Operation



Jammu & Kashmir

On an intelligence input of WCCB, a joint and well-coordinated operation, was conducted by WCCB, Wildlife Division of J&K Forest Dept. and J&K Police Dept., which resulted in huge seizure of wildlife contrabands and arrest of two kingpins in Manwal and Anantnag, J&K, on 30-01-2021. Total of 13 leopard skins, 07 leopard nails, 08 canines, 02 molars, 02 leopard skulls, leopard bones (04 Jaw bones, 140 bones pieces), 38 bear biles, 04 musk deer pods and 01 musk deer teeth were seized in the operation. Out of this massive seizure, 05 leopard skins, 07 nails, 08 canines, 02 molars, 02 leopard skulls, leopard bones were seized from Manwal, Udhampur, J&K and 08 leopard skins, 38 bear biles, 04 musk deer pods were seized from Anantnag, Srinagar.

Joint Operations- February, 2021



Tamil Nadu

On 01-02-2021, joint team of WCCB and RFO Pollachi (Tamil Nadu Forest Department), seized 11 Alexandrine Parakeets (06 Chicks & 05 Adults) from two persons at Pollachi, Coimbatore.

Assam

On 03-02-2021, a joint operation was carried out by joint team of WCCB and Assam Forest Department at Padampur village, District Chirang, Assam, in which 06 elephant-tusks (weighing over 10.3 kgs.) were seized and one person was arrested.



Uttar Pradesh

Based on intelligence inputs developed by WCCB, a joint operation was conducted by WCCB and Moradabad Forest Division, under 'Operation FreeFly' on 05-02-2021, in which 28 live Parakeets were seized and one person was arrested from Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Karnataka

On 05-02-2021, joint team of WCCB and RFO, Bellary, Karnataka, Seized one live star-tortoise from two persons, at Gulberga Railway station.



Joint Operations- February, 2021



Odisha

One leopard-skin and two elephant tusks seized and three persons arrested in an intelligence-led and well-coordinated operation conducted by WCCB in association with STF, Odisha Police, at Keonjhar, Odisha, on 07-02-2021.



West Bengal

One deer-antler seized from the possession of a person near Atal market, West Bengal, in a joint operation conducted by 8th Bn, SSB and WCCB team, on 09-02-2021,

Special Operation



Madhya Pradesh

From 10 to 14 Feb, 2021, five joint operations were undertaken by the joint team of WCCB, STF (MP Police) and STSF (MP Forest Dept.) in four districts of Madhya Pradesh viz. Jabalpur, Dindori, Umaria and Katni, in which huge cache of wildlife articles including four Leopard-skins, 16 Kgs. of Pangolin-scales were seized and total of 16 persons were arrested. The series of multi-agency operations, covering four districts is considered as one of the most significant crackdown on wildlife trade in recent times.

Joint Operations- February, 2021



Assam

A joint operation, conducted by WCCB along-with local police and forest Department of Assam, led to seizure of 07 dry-skins of Pangolin & 01 live Pangolin from the possession of 02 person from Tinsukia, Assam, on 18-02-2021.



Himachal Pradesh

A successful operation, carried-out by WCCB & Himachal Pradesh Police on 17-02-2021 at Kangra district, led to arrest of six persons and seizure of four leopard-skins, two rifles, leg-hold traps and live ammunitions.



Madhya Pradesh

On 22-02-2021, a successful joint operation was undertaken by WCCB in association with STF (M.P Police) and M.P Forest Department, in which three accused were arrested with one live Pangolin from Umaria district, M.P. Based on the revelation made by the arrested accused, the joint team raided another place at Badwara area of Katni district late-night and recovered another live Pangolin and arrested two more accused, leading the toll of the seized Pangolin to 02 and total arrest to 05.

Joint Operations- March, 2021



Madhya Pradesh

A live Indian Pangolin seized and two persons arrested from Jabalpur, M.P, in a joint operation conducted by WCCB, STF, (MP Police) and MP Forest Department, on 02-03-2021.



Tamil Nadu

On 02-03-2021, Two elephant-tusks seized & 03 persons arrested from Valapaddy area of Tamil Nadu, in a joint operation conducted by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and Tamil Nadu Forest Department.



Uttarakhand

A joint operation of WCCB and State Forest & Police Dept. of Uttarakhand, led to seizure of an elephant-tusk (approx. 08 kg.) and arrest of four persons from Rudrapur, on 17-03-2021



West Bengal

On 14-03-2021, a joint operation was conducted by WCCB & West Bengal Forest Dept. at Thakurnagar Fish Market in West Bengal, in which huge quantity of wildlife articles including 21 Indian softshell turtles, 08 Ganges softshell turtles, 01 Indian tent turtle, 06 dead Indian softshell turtles & 02 turtle-shell were seized and three persons were arrested.

Joint Operations- March, 2021



Assam

A joint operation of WCCB and Assam Forest Dept., on 18-03-2021 near Gondhmow, Assam, led to seizure of 01 Live Chinese Pangolin & arrest of 04 persons.



West Bengal

A joint operation of WCCB and West Bengal Forest Directorate, led to seizure of 458 parakeets along with the arrest of 07 persons, on 21-03-2021.



Odisha

On 22-03-2021, joint team of WCCB & Odisha Police, seized one leopard-skin & other body parts, including paws, maxillary and mandibular jaw-bones & canines, and arrested two persons from Barkote, Deoghar.



West Bengal

A joint operation of WCCB and Kolkata Police at Narkeldanga Crossing area of Kolkata, led to seizure of 155 live Parakeets and arrest of one person, on 25-03-2021.



Tamil Nadu

On 19 & 20 March, 2021, a two-day long enforcement operation was undertaken by joint team of WCCB and Tamil Nadu Forest Department, at Thirunelveli District and Kodaikanal Hills area of Tamil Nadu, in which 02 Elephant-tusks, 04 Tiger-teeth and 04 Tiger nails were seized and total of 04 persons were arrested



WCCB, Odisha STF nab three poachers with leopard skin, elephant tusks

■ Staff Reporter

TIGHTENING noose around poachers, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) Central Zone and Special Task Force (STF), Odisha, team nabbed three poachers and seized a leopard skin and two big elephant tusks from them.

Continuing a special campaign under the direction of WCCB Central Zone, Jabalpur's, Deputy Director and DIG, STF Odisha and WCCB Jabalpur received information about some suspects who were sighted with wildlife and trying to sell it.

Taking prompt action on the information, a combined team of WCCB Jabalpur and STF Odisha started a secret search for the suspects in Kyonjhar district. Continuing a rigorous search for the suspects, team found three suspects near RTO office in Kyonjhar. The personnel tried to stop the miscreants but they tried

(Contd on page 2)



WCCB Jabalpur personnel along with three arrested and seized wildlife.

WCCB, Odisha STF nab three poachers...

to escape from the spot. Chasing the suspects, forest personnel managed to catch them. Initially, the miscreants tried to overlook the queries of forest personnel but in a rigorous questioning the accused broke out and confessed the trading of wildlife. Team seized a leopard skin and two elephant tusks of around 2-feet from the accused. Odisha Forest Department registered a case against the accused under relevant sections of Wildlife Protection Act 1972, while further investigations are underway to disclose more wildlife trade cases from the accused.



WCCB receives Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards 2020

International Award

WCCB RECEIVES ASIA ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AWARD

New Delhi: On 18th Feb, 2021, WCCB received the prestigious 'Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020' from United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in 'Innovation Category' for its remarkable achievements in combating illegal wildlife crime in the country. This is the second time WCCB has bagged the Asia Environmental Award; earlier it had received this award in 2018 in the same category.

The United Nations Environment Program announced the award in a virtual ceremony held at Bangkok. The award was conferred upon Ms. Tilotama Varma, Additional Director, WCCB for her notable contributions in fighting illegal wildlife-trade and for undertaking multispecies enforcement operation code-named as 'Operation WILDNET-II'.

Operation 'WILDNET-II' was undertaken by WCCB from 01st to 30th November, 2019 throughout the country, to eradicate ever-growing illegal wildlife trade on the internet through social media platforms.

The agency created several awareness programmes with stakeholders and other agencies and worked through



Ms. Tilotama Varma attending the UNEP Award ceremony— pic.

social media and online trade portals such as Indiamart, Amazon, and OLX, to share information on illegal wildlife trade activity. The operation resulted in the arrest of a dozen offenders and the initiation of 09 criminal cases. An array of wildlife species and contrabands were also seized, including falcons, pangolins, rhino horn, coral, sea fans, antlers, civet cats, parakeets, and turtles.

Sensitization/ Training Programs



On 04-02-2021, Capacity building program on identification of wildlife contrabands organized for SSB officials posted at ITS, Kolkata.; On 18-01-2021, Sensitization program organized for officials of SSB & U.P Forest Dept., at Gorakhpur. U.P.; On 10 & 11 Feb, 2021, two-day capacity building program for officials of West Bengal Forest Dept. organized at Barasat.; A three-day long Sensitization programs on 09, 10 & 11 Feb, 2021, was organized for the Field Personnel of RPF, Central Railway.; On 18-02-2021, WCCB and State Forest Training Centre, Karwar, organized a sensitization program for in-service officers of Karnataka State Forest Department.

Sensitization/ Training Programs




**SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME
FOR THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS**
 JNPT, Nhava Sheva. Date: 26-02-2021.
WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL BUREAU
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
 Government of India
 4th Floor, Kendriya Sadan
 Sector- 10, CBD Belapur
 Navi Mumbai - 400614.
 Telefax: 022-27561888.
 Email: rddwr@wccb.gov.in



Online training course for field level Forest Officers of M.P was conducted by WCCB and MP Forest Department jointly, on 19-02-2021.; An online sensitization program was organized on 26-02-2021 for the Customs officials posted at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Raigad.; On 26-02-2021, a one-day sensitization program for SSB officials posted at 15 Bn SSB Chirang, Assam, was conducted by WCCB & Aaranayak NGO.; On 24 to 25, Feb 2021, two-days training session for the officials of Manipur Forest Department was organized by WCCB, WCS-India and Manipur Forest department, jointly, at Forest HQ, Imphal, Manipur.

Sensitization/ Training Programs



From 24th to 26th Feb, 2021, a 03-day capacity building program for the officials of Uttarakhand Forest Dept. posted at Gangotri-Govind snow-leopard landscape, was conducted, under the Secure Himalaya project; On 26-02-2021, sensitization programs was conducted for RPF and CISF Field Personnel, posted at RPF Training Center, Trichy & Trichy International Airport, respectively.; On 05-03-2021, a one-day sensitization program for SSB officials, was conducted at 23 Bn. SSB Lalpool Udalguri, Assam by WCCB & NGO Aaranayak, jointly, ; On 28-02-2021, an awareness program for the natives of 'Narikuravar' community, was organized at Shikari Madu, Krishnagiri (Tamil Nadu).; On 10th to 12th March, 2021, 03-days capacity building programme was organized for the officials of Ladakh Forest Dept., at Leh, Ladakh.

Sensitization/ Training Programs



On 13-03-2021, a sensitization program was conducted for Ladakh Police officials on 'organized wildlife crime'; On 15-03-2021, in collaboration with NGO Aaranayak, a one-day sensitization program was organized for the SSB officials posted at 30th Bn. SSB Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.; On 11-03-2021, a sensitization program for the CISF officials, posted at Chennai International Airport, was organized.; On 18th & 19th March, 2021, a two-days training program for the officers and staff of Arunachal Pradesh Forest & Police Department, was organized by WCCB, WCS-India and Dept. of Environment & Forest, Arunachal Pradesh, jointly, at Itanagar.; On 25-03-2021, a one-day sensitization program for SSB officials, was conducted by WCCB and NGO Aaranayak, jointly, at RPF Head-Quarter, Guwahati.; On 16 -03-2021, a sensitization program was conducted for officials of Foreign Post Office and Customs, at New Delhi.

Sensitization/ Training Programs



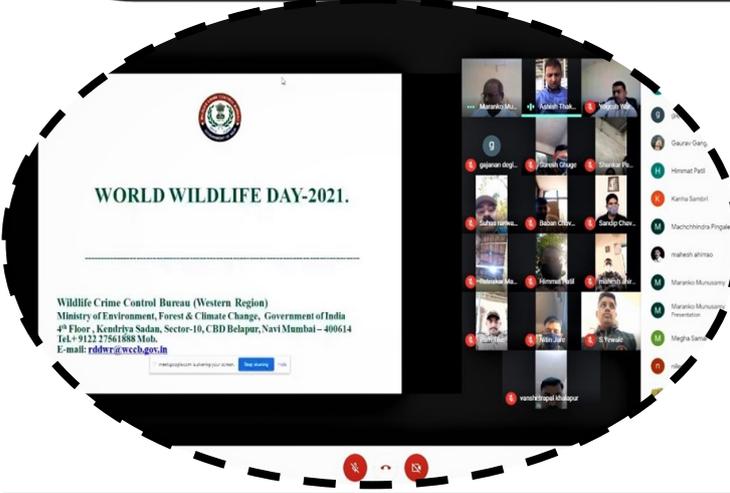
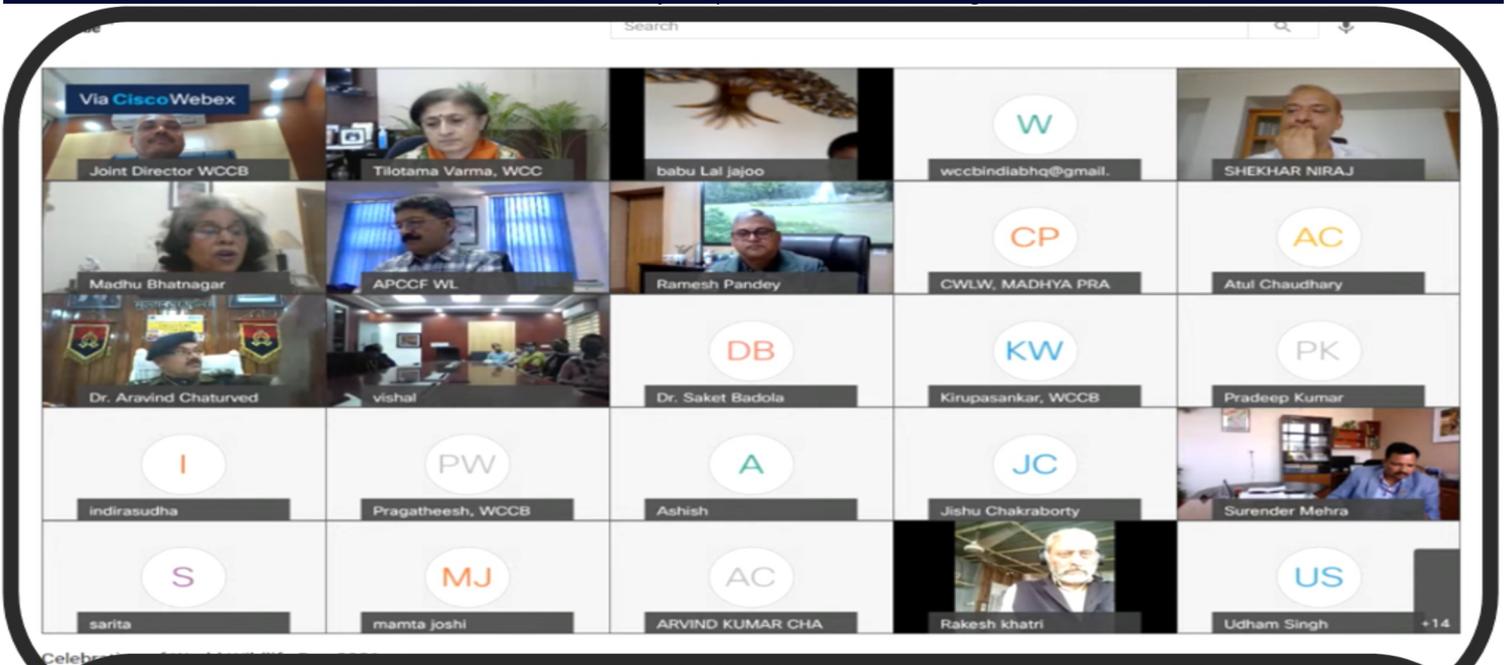
A two-days Capacity-building programme for officials of Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR), was conducted by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), on 24th & 25th March, 2021.

Participation in Mahananda Bird Festival



Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) team participated in the first-ever 'Mahananda Bird Festival', organized at the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary in West Bengal.

World Wildlife Day Celebration



Marking World Wildlife Day 2021 celebration on 03-03-2021, WCCB Headquarter organized several programs including a webinar on this year's theme 'Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People & Planet', involving eminent people, including senior Wildlife Officials. The Central Regional Unit organized program for school students of Forest fringe areas at Mandla, near Kanha National Park. Western Region Unit organized a virtual sensitization program for the field personnel of Alibag Forest Division, and the Eastern Region Unit organized an awareness session for Fishermen of the Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam.

Organizational Programs



A Workshop on Hindi language for Officials and staff members of WCCB, was organized on 18-03-2021, at the Bureau Headquarter in New Delhi, wherein Officials were trained and motivated towards using Hindi language in routine official work. The session was addressed by Sh. Satya Prakash, Director (Official Language), MoEF&CC.



An interactive workshop on 'Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace', was held at WCCB Headquarter, on 19th March, 2021. The session was addressed by Smt. Mayuri Raghuvanshi, Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India and was attended by officials and staff members of the Bureau.

Inter-Agency Coordination Meetings



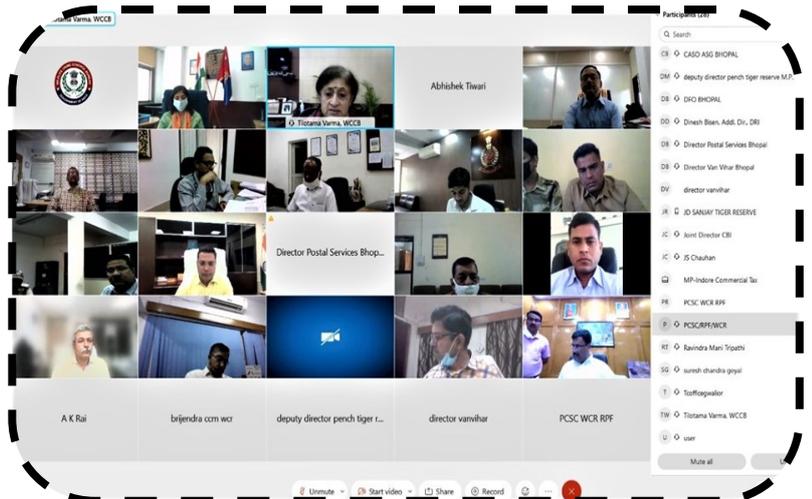
Senior officials of Ladakh Forest Department, Ladakh Police, ITBP, Indian Army, CISF, 14 Corps, ED, IB, Indian Post and Airport Authority, participated in the Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting, organized by WCCB, on 12-03-2021, at Leh, Ladakh. Issues related to combating wildlife crime were discussed in the meet.

On 22-03-2021, WCCB conducted an Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting with enforcement agencies of J&K. Senior Officials of WCCB, AAI, RPF, J&K Police, ED, IB, Customs, CBI, Postal Dept, Forest and Wildlife Dept., participated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by CWLW, J&K. The Additional Director, WCCB and RDD NR were also present at the meet.



On 18-03-2021, WCCB organized a virtual Inter-Agency Co-ordination Meeting with various Enforcement Agencies of Gujarat. Senior Officials from various Enforcement Agencies viz. Gujarat Forest Department, Gujarat Police Department, Customs, CISF, BSF, RPF, Postal Department, DRI, participated in the meet and discussed issues related to Wildlife crime pertaining to the Western Region.

Additional Director, Ms. Tilotama Varma hosted an online Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting of Enforcement Agencies of the Central Region, on 25-03-2021. The meeting was chaired by PCCF (Wildlife) Madhya Pradesh and attended by senior officials of various Enforcement Agencies across Madhya Pradesh region.



Appreciations

You Retweeted

Prakash Javadekar @PrakashJavdekar · Jan 30
Kudos to the team of @WCCBHQ, J&K police and the Forest department for their successful operation and arresting 2 main kingpins involved in illegal wildlife trafficking in the J&K region.

Keep up the continued commitment towards ending wildlife crime.

MoEF&CC @moefcc · Jan 30
Acting on the basis of intelligence developed by @WCCBHQ, a joint and well-coordinated operation was conducted by WCCB, J&K #Forest Dept. & J&K Police Dept. which resulted in the huge seizure of wildlife articles and arrest of two kingpins in Manwal and Anantnag, J&K today. (1/3)

Show this thread



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Prakash Javadekar @PrakashJavdekar · 10m
Happy to note that India's @WCCBHQ has received the prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award 2020, given by @UNEP.

WCCB getting this award twice in three years is a testimony of India's commitment towards ending wildlife crime.



MoEF&CC and 4 others

5 33 105

Hon'ble Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar congratulated WCCB team for undertaking a successful joint operation in J&K in which huge cache of wildlife contrabands were seized along with the arrest of 02 Kingpins, on 30-01-2021.

WCCB was once again appreciated by Hon'ble Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar after the agency received prestigious Asia Environmental Enforcement Award from UNEP, on 18-02-2021.

Species of the Quarter

Four species of bears are found in India: Asiatic Black Bear, Sloth Bear, Sun Bear and Himalayan Brown Bear

All Indian Bear species are listed under Appendix I in CITES and Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.



Threat: Poaching for Biles, Paws and Nails are the main threats faced by bears in India. Bears are poached for their Biles (gall bladders) for medicinal purposes, Paws for black-magic and Nails for making jewelry items. WCCB is committed to tackle the menace of poaching of Bears & trafficking of its body parts, in cooperation and coordination with other enforcement

Contact us:

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