

## **CHAPTER - 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Explanation of problem**

The Indian Subcontinent is home to various iconic species of wild flora and fauna. India is having a monsoon climate and is near to the equator which is the main reason for the diversified distribution of species. Wildlife in India is in trade for several years for different drives and became a poaching hotspot. This has become the major cause of the drastic decline in the population of many flora and fauna. The drivers behind the trade are also diversified and distributed all across the nation and are now also contributing the trade in many countries in the world. Among those drives, mythical medicinal qualities and high market values continue the demand for trade mostly. There are many internationally traded Indian species which are quite exotic in Western countries and other South-East Asian countries. Wildlife trade in the world is the 4th largest illegal trade after Drug trafficking, Human trafficking, and counterfeiting and is valuing 26 billion dollars. This is a business run by dangerous networks of criminal syndicates employed by business typhoons. Western Europe and North America have consisted of demand for Medicinal Plants (Marshall 1998), Reptile skin. In many cases, there is a growing demand for wild flora and fauna and products made of them. These products are the source of a wide variety of goods which include medicines, pets, and cultural items. Many records and studies suggest that demand for imported wildlife is seen more in Europe, North America, China, South Korea, Thailand, and Japan. Vietnam is one of the world's largest Marine Reptile Market where almost 80 tons of marine snakes are shipped domestically and internationally. The traders will handle the snake barefooted and barehanded, there is no antivenom for sea snake venom in Vietnam people relay on local medicine i.e. garlic and Rhino horn, so the sea snake harvest in Asia is contributing the trade of rhino horn in Africa, but there is no treatise that regulates the sea snake trade in Vietnam. Apart from those, there is still a huge demand for marine animals i.e. Sharks, Whale, Sea Cucumber, Corals and Molluscan species of economic value in Central America, Australia, and East Asian countries. Wild animals and their products are assumed to have Astronomical price tags since the 1990s due to their increased rarity and other factors such as behavioural adaption to the climate and season, etc enhancing their demand (Broad et al. 2002, Hillstorm and Hillstorm 2003). Ubiquitous Chinese minority creates a market for everything that breathes from tiger, high on the food chain, to turtles and snakes (Terborgh 1999). Helmeted

Hornbills are recently fallen prey to human greed and there's been a surge in demand for the carved hornbill products in China and led to a kind of industrial-scale poaching. Asia is the most notorious ground for illegal wildlife trading, within the border areas connecting Thailand (Bottom), Laos (Right), and Myanmar (Central) bordering China lies the Golden Triangle market. It is the source and the end destination for illegal wildlife products, including endangered species. This is a black hole for wildlife, no animal comes in a piece. These animals and their products are trafficked through South-East Asia. Singapore has been identified as a major transit hub for the illegal wildlife trade due to the country's strong connectivity making it an attractive route for syndicates to move products through its shores to the markets of China, Vietnam, and Philippines. In Laos and Myanmar, one can find open markets of wildlife products for sale. Where Laos stands as the Golden Triangle special economic zone, wherein it is known for farming animals for unauthorized trade. Asia's illegal wildlife trade makes tigers as a farm to table meals (The New York Times, June 5, 2017). It is estimated that the seizures of illegal wildlife products represent just 10% of actual trade in a species (EIA (2012) briefing on snow leopard). Though there are many strong enforcement agencies deployed in the wild in many countries, the trade is still compulsive as long as the demand persists, a few enforcement agencies also pay price in the wild as the poachers are heavily armed, equipped and financially supported by business typhoons where the rangers are not well supported. In some countries like India, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Japan, Mexico, the major driving cause of the wildlife trade is bushmeat, ornamental carvings such as bracelets, rings, chains, etc and, medicinal values, to enhance social status in strengthening business relationships and for many religious believes and practices. Religious practices in India are very common and are the major cause of wildlife in trade. These rituals or religious practices are influenced by so-called themselves, the Babas (God-Man), Tantriks (Witch doctors), sorcerers, etc by luring or compelling people and promising them wealth, health and other benefits. The art of taxidermy is having a great value in the International trade because of the demand of stuffed wild animals at schools, colleges, museums. Apart from this business typhoons have them in their possession as trophies, the status of pride, reputational quotient and high business value by expanding contacts. In addition to this, they are believed to have superstitious and astronomical value in countries like India, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico for the purpose of black magic and sorcery linked with credulity, totems, and taboo.

## **CHAPTER - 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Rhinoceros have been hunted for centuries as agricultural pests, for trophies and meat, their skin has been used for shields and good luck charms, and their horn has been used in traditional medicines and as handles for ceremonial daggers. (Emslie & Brooks, 1999).

The illegal demand for rhinoceros horn and the subsequent poaching this generates continue to pose a serious threat to rhinoceros populations worldwide. (R. Amin et al., 2006)

Religious beliefs and practices have long influenced human perceptions and uses of nature. Animals in particular play a prominent role in magico-religious practices and given the historical and cultural depth of these relationships, understanding human-faunal relations is often fundamental to the cause of meaningful wildlife conservation. (Rômulo R. N. Alves et al., 2012)

Use of reptiles for medicinal and magic religious purposes in Brazil. A total of 44 species of reptiles (35 genera and 17 families) are used. These 42 species are used for medicinal purposes, two for magical religious purposes and 11 for both. The largest numbers of species used were snakes (15 species), turtles and tortoises (14), lizards (10), and crocodilians (5). Therapeutic products from 42 reptile species are used to treat 100 different illnesses and at least 13 reptile species were recorded as having magic religious uses. (Rômulo R. N. Alves et al., 2009)

Habitat destruction, in addition to poaching, was considered a major threat to wildlife by most stakeholders: 84, 88, 67.5, and 72% of scientists, policy makers, field officials and NGOs respectively. (Shekhar Kumar Niraj, 2009)

The CITES lists  $\geq 32,000$  species of animals and plants, thus, regulating international trade. However, within the CITES regime, conservation has always been a poor relation to science and management from an institutional and financial point of view (Cooney 2001, Reeve 2002)

The illegal trade in wildlife is a substantial threat to the survival of many species. In the past, efforts to address this trade have been primarily focused on law enforcement to prevent the poaching and illegal harvest of animals and plants, and trafficking of their parts, products and derivatives along trade routes. Stakeholders now have an imperative to understand and apply the most effective and efficient strategic approaches through which to change consumer

choice, and shift purchasing preference and buyer behaviour away from illegal wildlife products. (TRAFFIC 2018)

Illegal, the trade and utilization of owls is widespread and thus poses a potential conservation threat if carried out at unsustainable levels. Domestic trade in owls is highly lucrative, and owls remain a key target for several tribes connected with the bird trade, several of whom make a living from the owl trade. Amongst tribal communities, there appears to be little appreciation of current wildlife laws, whilst the laws are generally known about but flouted by owl traders. (Abrar Ahmed, 2010)

Tiger-bone medicines and tonics are an ancient tradition and people will try to obtain them, even at some risk, for years to come. If medicinal trade is able to survive underground, it will provide an incentive for commercial poaching of Tigers, increasing the risk of extinction for vulnerable wild populations. (Nowell, 2000)

Approximately 25 % of the world's carnivores are considered threatened with extinction (IUCN 2015). Most carnivores face challenges from habitat loss and fragmentation as well as hunting for food, medicinal products and trophies (Karanth and Chellam 2009)

## **CHAPTER - 3**

### **AIM & OBJECTIVES**

#### **AIM**

To Assess the Wildlife in Religious Practice in Southern States of India.

#### **Objectives**

1. Assessment of species involved in trade.
2. Method of practice involved in Religious disciplines.
3. Drivers behind the use of wildlife in religion.

## **CHAPTER - 4**

### **METHODOLOGY**

This report includes the information gathered from many literatures, Statistical reports published by National Crime Records Bureau of India and from the records published by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau south regional office and TRAFFIC India (WWF). Additional information was collected from articles published in the newspapers and online survey. Seizer data from the forest officials, media reports and TRAFFIC database is thoroughly cross examined.

## **CHAPTER - 5**

### **DISCUSSIONS**

#### **5.1. Assessment of Species involved in trade**

Indian subcontinent is home to several species and is contributing a major number of world species. Wildlife trade in India is engulfing both the wild flora and fauna left in India and becoming a reason for decline in their population. In India, illegal trade related to religious aspects are high in number. Where a few species are targeted the most in an impression that they possess magical powers and having them in our possession will bring luck.

**Here are some targeted species involved in the wildlife trade for religious practice**

1. Monitor Lizard – Hatha Jodi
2. Golden Jackal – Siyar Sindhi or SiyarSinghi
3. Owls
4. Tiger

##### **5.1.1 Monitor Lizard – Hatha Jodi**

Hemi penis of monitor lizard is sold in Indian Market with the name Hatha Jodi which is said to be a root of a divine plant and is purified and by Saadhus or Pandits, etc. (Bhattacharya and Koch 2018)

Baba, pandits, witchdoctors or those who practice black magic explained the origin of Hatha Jodi and justified themselves as, it is the root of a divine plant that grows roots upwards i.e. not into the soil. They have also described its shape that it looks like 2 hands are joined together as the name implies (Hatha means hands and Jodi means join in Hindi). It is said to be sidhed (purified) with water from Ganges and Vermilion (Sindoor) and chant a mantra (words can't be disclosed).

##### **5.1.2 Golden Jackal – SiyarSinghi or Siyar Sindhi**

This is an imaginary bone in the head of Golden Jackal. It is sold in Indian market in the name of Siyar Sindhi or SiyarSinghi or as Jackal horns directly and thought to bring luck to those who are having it under their possession.

According to pandits and witchdoctors SiyarSinghi is a jackal's horn and measures half an inch in length, and disguised in fur. Jackal horns are retractable and only to be seen with the Alpha, they shall protrude when the Alpha along with its pack howl are in chorus at the time of full moon (Amavasya).

### 5.1.3 Owls

Owls are one of the most highly traded birds species for religious practises. Owls are said to have many astrological and superstitious values by pandits and witchdoctors. It is said that they possess significant amount of magical powers on Diwali season and no moon days, such that it can be enchanted and used in many black magic practise and sorcery.

Anything that comes out of owl, has a role in sorcery, like even the stool of the owl is used in black magic practises i.e. to destroy someone's peace and family.

### 5.1.4 Tiger

There is a huge trade when it comes to tigers. Everything that breaths from tiger is having a significant value in Chinese market and in Indian market it is limited to a few. The tiger skin is in huge trade for religious practises. It is believed that conducting any sorcery or religious practise by sitting on it will make the practise fruitful and shall be granted with huge benefit of the ritual.

### Cases that are recorded past decade in Southern states of India

These records are been collected from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of India in Southern region.

Table 5.1: Cases recorded in Southern States of India

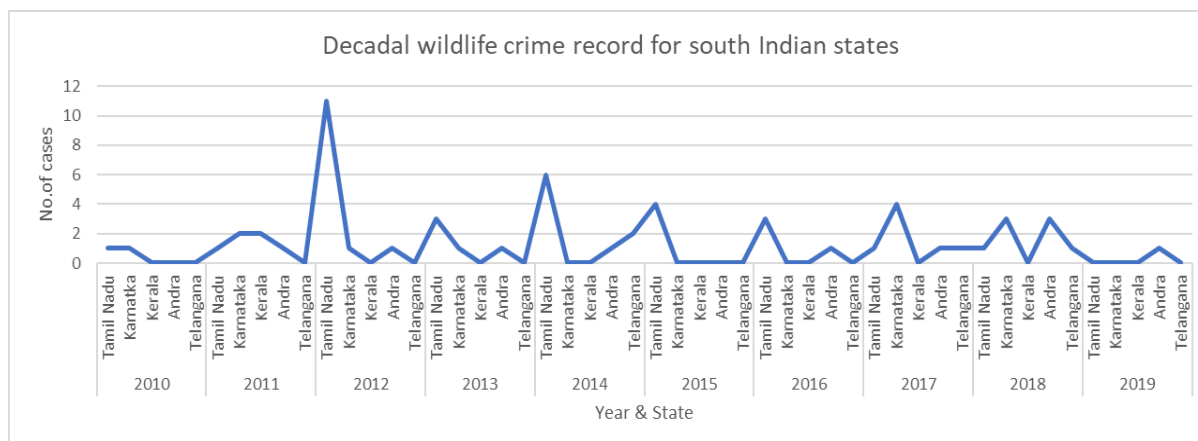
| Date       | District      | Division                                 | State          | Species | Items and quantity           |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------------------|
| 22-03-2010 | East Godavari | Chintur                                  | Andhra Pradesh | Tiger   | Skin                         |
| 26-04-2010 | Mysore        | Bandipur Tiger Reserve                   | Karnataka      | Tiger   | Skull, Paw, Teeth, Rib Bones |
| 25-12-2010 | Erode         | Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve             | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger   | Skin                         |
| 08-04-2011 | Bangalore     |                                          | Karnataka      | Tiger   | Skin, Skull, Bones           |
| 15-08-2011 | Chamrajnagar  | Biligiri Rangnathan Temple Tiger Reserve | Karnataka      | Tiger   | Skin                         |



|            |                 |                              |                |                      |                            |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 20-08-2011 | Kadapa          | Kadapa                       | Andhra Pradesh | Monitor Lizard       | 7 Monitor Lizards          |
| 05-10-2011 | Mallapuram      | Nilambur South               | Kerala         | Monitor Lizard       | 7 Monitor Lizards          |
| 30-10-2011 | Mallapuram      | Nilambur South               | Kerala         | Monitor Lizard       | 1 Monitor Lizard           |
| 29-11-2011 | Erode           | Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger                | Hair, Claws(7)             |
| 09-01-2012 | Erode           | Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger                | Claws(1)                   |
| 16-02-2012 | Chickmagalur    | Bandipur Tiger Reserve       | Karnataka      | Tiger                | Claws + Teeth (23)         |
| 26-03-2012 | Coimbatore      | Anamalai Tiger Reserve       | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger                | Skin (1)                   |
| 26-03-2012 | Erode           | Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger                | Skin (1)                   |
| 07-04-2012 | Erode           | Erode Forest Division        | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger                | Skin (1) and Bones (2.6kg) |
| 08-04-2012 | Chamrajnagar    | Nagarhole Tiger Reserve      | Karnataka      | Tiger                | Skin (156cm), Skull, Bones |
| 15-04-2012 | Erode           | Erode Forest Division        | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger                | Skin (1)                   |
| 13-07-2012 | Nilgiris        | Mudumalai Tiger Reserve      | Tamil Nadu     | Monitor Lizard       |                            |
| 16-08-2012 | Kadapa          | Kadapa                       | Andhra Pradesh | Tiger                | Claws (2)                  |
| 12-10-2012 | Dindigul        | Dindigul Forest Division     | Tamil Nadu     | Monitor Lizard       | 3 Monitor Lizards          |
| 04-11-2012 | Villupuram      | Villupuram Division          | Tamil Nadu     | Water Monitor Lizard | 1 Monitor Lizard, 1.6kg    |
| 07-12-2012 | Villupuram      | Villupuram Division          | Tamil Nadu     | Water Monitor Lizard | 1 Monitor Lizard, 4.5kg    |
| 22-12-2012 | Dindigul        | Dindigul Forest Division     | Tamil Nadu     | Monitor Lizard       | 1 Monitor Lizard           |
| 16-05-2013 | Bangalore Rural |                              | Karnataka      | Tiger                | Skin (215 x 125)cm2        |
| 21-07-2013 | Ramanathapuram  |                              | Tamil Nadu     | Sea Lizard           | 1 Monitor Lizard, 11.5kg   |
| 18-08-2013 | East Godavari   | Kakinada                     | Andhra Pradesh | Monitor Lizard       | 7 Monitor Lizards          |
| 21-11-2013 | Nilgiris        | Mudumalai Tiger Reserve      | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger                | Claws(1)                   |
| 07-12-2013 | Tirunelveli     | Ambasamudram Division        | Tamil Nadu     | Monitor Lizard       | 1 Monitor Lizard           |
| 23-01-2014 | Mahboobnagar    | Amrabad Tiger Reserve        | Telangana      | Tiger                | 1 Tiger                    |
| 25-01-2014 | Mahboobnagar    | Amrabad Tiger Reserve        | Telangana      | Tiger                | Claws (2)                  |
| 01-05-2014 | Coimbatore      | Coimbatore Division          | Tamil          | Tiger                | Skin                       |

|            |                 |                              |                |                |                              |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
|            |                 |                              | Nadu           |                |                              |
| 03-05-2014 | Dindigul        | Anamalai Tiger Reserve       | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger          | Skin                         |
| 22-05-2014 | Dindigul        | Kodaikanal Forest Division   | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger          | Bones(20kg)                  |
| 01-08-2014 | Erode           | Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger          | 1 Tiger                      |
| 23-08-2014 | Prakasam        | Srisailem Tiger Reserve      | Andhra Pradesh | Tiger          | Skin (3)                     |
| 11-10-2014 | Tirunelveli     | Kalakad Division             | Tamil Nadu     | Monitor Lizard | 1 Monitor Lizard             |
| 28-10-2014 | Tirunelveli     | Ambasamudram Division        | Tamil Nadu     | Monitor Lizard | Meat 2kg                     |
| 01-05-2015 | Erode           | Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger          | Claws(1)                     |
| 25-09-2015 | Tirunelveli     | Kalakad Division             | Tamil Nadu     | Monitor Lizard | 1 Monitor Lizard             |
| 18-10-2015 | Erode           | Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger          | Bones, Claws                 |
| 12-12-2015 | Coimbatore      | Anamalai Tiger Reserve       | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger          | Skin                         |
| 23-06-2016 | Tirunelveli     | Kalakad Division             | Tamil Nadu     | Monitor Lizard | Meat                         |
| 26-07-2016 | Chittoor        | WLM Tirupati                 | Andhra Pradesh | Monitor Lizard | Meat (4kg)                   |
| 23-09-2016 | Idukki          | Periyar Tiger Reserve        | Kerala         | Tiger          | 1 Tiger                      |
| 07-10-2016 | Idukki          | Periyar Tiger Reserve        | Kerala         | Jackal         | Skin (14)                    |
| 03-05-2017 | Erode           | Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger          | Head, Claws                  |
| 21-06-2017 | Mandya          |                              | Karnataka      | Owl            | 1 Owl                        |
| 07-07-2017 | Chittoor        | WLM Tirupati                 | Andhra Pradesh | Monitor Lizard | 1 Monitor Lizard             |
| 31-07-2017 | Bangalore Urban |                              | Karnataka      | Owl            | 1 Owl                        |
| 20-08-2017 | Karwar          | Dandeli-Aanshi Tiger Reserve | Karnataka      | Monitor Lizard | Skin, Teeth and other organs |
| 23-08-2017 | Ranga Reddy     | Amangal                      | Telangana      | Monitor Lizard | 1 Monitor Lizard             |
| 16-10-2017 | Bangalore Urban |                              | Karnataka      | Lizard         | 3 Lizards                    |
| 25-01-2018 | Erode           | Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve | Tamil Nadu     | Tiger          | 1 Tiger                      |
| 02-02-2018 | Karwar          | Dandeli-Aanshi Tiger Reserve | Karnataka      | Tiger          | Claws                        |
| 11-04-2018 | Chamrajnagar    |                              | Karnataka      | Owl            | 1 Owl                        |
| 15-04-2018 | Karwar          | Dandeli-Aanshi Tiger Reserve | Karnataka      | Monitor Lizard | Skin                         |
| 21-06-2018 | Mahboobnagar    | Amrabad Tiger Reserve        | Telangana      | Monitor Lizard | 1 Monitor Lizard             |
| 01-09-2018 | Kurnool         | WLM Nandyal                  | Andhra Pradesh | Tiger          | 1 Tiger                      |
| 10-11-2018 | East Godavari   | Kakinada                     | Andhra Pradesh | Monitor Lizard | 5 Monitor Lizards            |

|            |          |                   |                |                |                  |
|------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 30-11-2018 | Chittoor | WLM Chittoor East | Andhra Pradesh | Monitor Lizard | 1 Monitor Lizard |
| 20-03-2019 | Kadapa   | WLM Rajampet      | Andhra Pradesh | Monitor Lizard | 1 Monitor Lizard |



\*Source: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, India

Graph5.1. Wildlife crime record of five south Indian states from 2010-2019

## 5.2 Method of Worship:

### 5.2.1 Hatha Jodi

1. The primary step is to **Sidh** (purify or cleanse it with divine methods ).
2. For which, one should have a Hatha Jodi in their possession. On an auspicious day at an auspicious time looking at the calendar of pandits Hatha Jodi is taken out and cleaned with holy water or water collected from holy rivers, it is then dried and is dipped in oil and kept aside for few days.
3. Later, Hatha Jodi is covered with a red cloth worshiped with vermilion, flowers, rice and indrajala. A mantra(words not disclosed) must be enchanted over and over counting the beads of divine mala.
4. Subsequently, Hatha Jodi is kept in a silver box along with the red cloth, some vermilion, rice and clove. Therefore, Hatha Jodi is Sidh now.
5. As the Hatha Jodi is Sidh, viewing it daily and treating it with Dhoop (incense) and chanting the mantra with total faith and purity will sustain sidh.

### **Method to do Vashikharan using Hatha Jodi**

1. Vashikharan is an act of compelling or controlling or hypnotizing someone with or without their knowledge, hypnotism is performed by hypnotists or psychologist or psychiatrist, which is scientific and need to have keen knowledge on various aspects of psychology and a lot of practice as it is work of such level of expertise.
2. According to sorcerers or black magic practitioners, vashikharan can be performed anywhere i.e. one can compel or hypnotize anyone from anywhere provided the ingredients needed for the ritual.
3. The ingredients needed for the ritual are photo of the person who is supposed to be compelled, Hatha Jodi, lemon, vermilion, red cloth, rice, black sesame, horoscope of the person and an idol made of dough.
4. The date and time are fixed to do the ritual based on studying the horoscope.
5. A red cloth is placed on the floor, and a star is drawn on the cloth with black sesame seeds and rice is placed at the corners of the star along with lemon.
6. The lemons must have vermilion pre-applied to them, and the entire process is performed by enchanting the mantra. After which, the photo of the person is placed at the centre of star, the idol made of dough is held in hands along with Hatha Jodi and respective person's horoscope and mantra is enchanted. Completion of which, renders the person hypnotized or compelled.

### **5.2.2 SiyarSinghi or Siyar Sindhi**

1. There are many methods to Sindh. Yet, performing Sindh on any Diwali or Holi time or on any auspicious day according to pandits calendar (Vidhi) is believed to acquire more magical powers.
2. The method of Sindh is linked with goddess Maha kali or goddess Chamundi, and her mantra is enchanted.
3. The process is started before 11 days before Diwali and pooja is conducted every day until Diwali.
4. This method requires to 2 siyarsinghi and placed in a red cloth, and light lantern (Dheep) with mustard oil.
5. Now sprinkle or pour holy water or water collected from holy rivers (Ganga, Godavari, etc) and cover with rice, 5 cloves, and 5 small cardamom.
6. Enchant the mantra for 2100, then after that with 21 fragmented camphor's give aarth.

7. Continue this from 11 days till Diwali.
8. Take the SiyarSinghi and place it in a dedicated silver box and draw pushy nakshatra (name of a star according to Indian astrology) on the box, to obtain prompt and better results. Beside SiyarSinghi, Hatha Jodi (Sindhed) is also placed to get more benefits.

### **5.2.3 Owls**

#### **1. Method of Vashikaran using owl body parts**

- a. For vashikaran owl's blood or ear tufts or heart is been used, where each of them is having different methods of practice for vashikaran.

#### **2. With ear-tufts**

- a. The owl's ear-tufts are taken and mixed with castor seeds and milk. Subsequently, they are dried, powdered and served to the targeted person.

#### **3. With heart**

- a. The heart is dried, crushed, and mixed with gorochan (a product from cow's bile duct) and made into a paste.
- b. Take the paste on your hand and enchant it with mantra (words not disclosed). Following which, the paste will acquire the ability to vashikaran.
- c. Apply it as an eyeliner and target the person whom you want to hypnotize, he or she will be hypnotized.

#### **4. To find Hidden Wealth**

- a. Capture an owl and take it on your hands, comb it and recite a mantra for 108 times on an auspicious day according to the Hindu calendar at midnight.
- b. Pluck 3 feathers from right and 2 from left and release the bird.
- c. On Ekadashi go to a cemetery with the feathers and sit on a deerskin next to a tomb, place feathers in the front and enchant the mantra for 108 times. Do this for the next 4 Ekadashi.
- d. The last day keep the feathers under your pillow or beneath your head. A person will appear in your dream and will guide the path to Hidden wealth.

#### **5. To know your fortune**

- a. Owls in this case, are starved and beaten seriously until they start talking.

#### **6. To gain power over supernatural elements**

- a. This is a practise of Black magic practitioners
- b. On the midnight of Amavasya sacrifice an owl in the cemetery or at bank of river.

- c. The ritual must be kept in secret to attain the power.

#### **5.2.4 Tiger**

Tigers are in religious trade for its body parts. Of which, the right front paw of tiger is used for such practices to attain blessings with unimaginable wealth. But the methods are still not clear

### **5.3 Drivers behind the use of Wildlife in Religion**

The drives behind the use of wildlife in religious practice have no scientific proof and lacks logic and common sense. There are many cases recorded in India where the logic behind such superstitions are very irrelevant and are practically not possible in any means. The animals in which are used for the practice will go through torture both physically and mentally where death alone can set them free at such a moment. People on the name of religion are committing such repugnant actions that most of the animals are forced to live in the depths of forest away from the human civilization in hiding.

In the course of study the behavioural changes of the animals to climate change and behavioural character of animals are miss interpreted. The holy books of different religions are portraying animals as beings of holiness and portraying as beings of evil and malice. Due to these reasons, the animals attained the religious value or superstitious value or astronomical value.

There are also people calling themselves as babas (Godmen), tantriks (Witchdoctors), sorcerers, etc spreading false believes, blind beliefs and few themselves making new beliefs promising the people to give incredible amount of wealth or for good fortune, etc.

#### **5.3.1 Monitor Lizard in Religious practice**

Male Monitor Lizard's is in heavy trade for its genital organ by the name of Hatha Jodi. It is miss conceived as a root of a divine plant and having it in once possession will bring huge luck. Hatha Jodi is believed to bring incredible luck, great business profits, wealth that never goes. It is also said that having it in possession with it we can win gambling, we can win in elections. Hatha Jodi will keep all the evil eyes away and will protect the family. Those who are having it in their possession it is believed that it will make them persuasive and able to attract people. It is also used in Black magic to make someone fall in love, to hypnotize anyone, to destroy someone's life. Such kinds of beliefs are drastically declining

population of monitor lizard, as the males are highly targeted species, there won't be any sustainability of the species as the females alone can't reproduce.

### **5.3.2 Golden Jackal in Religious practice**

The Jackals move in a pack, it is believed that the Alpha of the pack at the time of howling in the full day will develop horns on its head. In fact there are no horns developed on the skull of jackal. It is believed that possession of Jackal horns will grant the person the ability to see in the dark and can seduce women. In some countries, it is used as an amulet to win gambling. Hence, It is also believed that placing them in safes will increase wealth. Jackal is said to be an intelligent being, having the horns in once possession will make the person intelligent, Hearing jackal howl is considered to be a good luck sign.

In Bible it is written that jackal is the mother of devil, so keeping the horn of the mother (jackal) will keep the devil away. Muslims believe that Allah has put a special power inside it so having it their possession will make them master and can cause extreme pain and also death to their enemies, It is also believed that jackal horns help winning the law cases, it will enhance the marriage relationship, cures ill health, helps in acquiring property. Jackal Horns can also help women to keep their husband under their control and can increase the chances of becoming a mother and also causing a free delivery and acquiring beautiful and healthy baby. Jackals are small dog-like animals, these are now very heavily under trade for those imaginary horns which never existed, causing a huge effect on their population.

### **5.3.3 Owls in Religious practice**

Owls are in the trade for many years and the rate of trade has drastically increased in course of time as the demand increased not only in India but also in many parts of the world. Countless owls are captured and traded all across the country for religious practice. Owls are considered to be the vaahan (vehicle) of goddess Lakshmi (goddess of wealth), whenever any owls comes to anyone's house it means goddess Lakshmi came to our house. Sacrificing the owl will make goddess Lakshmi remains at their house or goddess Lakshmi is forced to stay in their house.

In terms of Religious practice anything that comes out of owls is in use of some practice, even the stool of the bird is thought to be used for the religious practice. The use of live owl and their body parts – skull, feathers, ear – tufts, claws, heart, liver, kidney, blood, eyes, beak, tears, fat, eggs, eggshells, meat, and bones even their droppings.

There are 2 most terrifying reasons for the torture and killing of owls, they are to know their fortune and to get what their heart desires.

With the help of owls heart, ear – tufts one can hypnotize others. Each part of the owl is used for different occult gains such as

To become invisible – Owl's tears tongue, heart, liver, lung, naval parts.

To destroy someone's house and family – Owl's skull

To destroy enemy – Owl's head

To see in dark – Owl's eyes, kidneys

To attain hidden wealth – Owl's feathers

To attain command over supernatural elements one should sacrifice an entire owl.

There are many more practices which involves the use of different organs of owls.

#### **5.3.4 Tigers in Religious practice**

Tigers are one of the most traded animals all around the world, which caused a drastic decline in the tiger population from 100000 to 3900. But the tigers kept in captivity across the world is unknown. 3900 is the current count of tigers which was raised due to the efforts taken by government organizations of many countries, strict national and international laws regulating the trade. Despite the effort taken, there is still trade happening in many countries for many reasons wherein countries like India, Nepal, Vietnam etc the main drivers are religious practice by using the tiger body parts.

Tiger canines and claws are believed to bring good luck and is having divine powers to protect those wearing them from evil and also from human or any kind of threats. Wearing tiger claws especially can increase the life span of an individual who wearing it and will protect from evil curses.

Tiger right front paw is used in religious practice in many places in India, it is believed that doing pooja with the right front paw of tiger will cause dhana Varsha (cash rain). The tiger right front paw is considered to be the strongest and is capable of pulling any prey bigger than itself, in the same way the tiger right front paw can pull unimaginable wealth.



Tiger skin is considered to be a divine mat or sheet, performing any ritual or practice sitting on it will give huge benefits of the ritual, it is said that ritual which is performed with tiger skin will give more benefits than the ritual performed without it.

#### **5.4 Laws regulating the trade**

##### **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**

The Wildlife Protection Bill having been passed by both the Houses of Parliament received the assent of the President on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1972. It came on the statute book as “THE WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT 1972” (53 of 1972). It is an Act to provide the protection of wild animals, birds, and plants and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto with a view to ensuring the ecological and environmental security of the country. This Act is constituted with 12 Chapter and 6 Schedules.

The Schedules will have varying degrees of protection. Schedule I and Schedule II have absolute protection, any offense against them will be prescribed as the highest penalty. Species listed in Schedule III and Schedule IV are also protected and listed with less penalty in comparison with schedules I and II. Schedule V includes Vermin. Schedule VI is listed with endemic species of plants that are prohibited from cultivation and planting.

#### **Sections that are placed to regulate the Wildlife trade**

##### **Chapter III: Hunting of Wild Animals**

###### **Section 9: Prohibition of Hunting**

(1) No person shall “hunt” any wild animal specified in Schedule I, II, III, and IV except as provided under section 11 and section 12

(2) The Business of breeding of birds in captivity by procuring them by trapping is prohibited.

According to Section 9 of Wildlife Protection Act no person shall hunt any wild animal of any schedule or does the business of breeding of animals of any schedule in captivity.

## **Chapter IVA: Central Zoo Authority and Recognition of Zoos**

### **Section 38I: Acquisition of animals by a zoo**

According to Section 38I of Wildlife Protection Act no zoo is authorized to acquire, sell or transfer any wild animal or captive animal specified in the schedules I and II.

**Section 38J:** No person shall tease, molest, injure or feed any animal or cause disturbance to the animals by noise or litter the grounds in a zoo.

## **Chapter V: Trade or Commerce in Wild Animals, Animal Articles and Trophies**

### **Section 39: Wild animals, etc., to be Government property**

According to Section 39 of Wildlife Protection Act any wild animal which is hunted for education or research, or in self-defense or in any good intention of savings one's life is Government property. If the animal is kept captive shall also be the government property.

- Any animal article, trophy, or uncured trophy or meat derived from any wild animal shall be government property.
- Ivory imported and any articles made of ivory is an offense against this act and shall be the property of government.
- Vehicle, Vessel, Weapon, trap or any tool that is used to commit a crime shall be government property
- No person shall acquire or keep or transfer to any person whether as a gift or sale or destroy or damage is offense against this act and the article or animal shall be government property.
- If any such actions committed in the grounds of Sanctuaries, National Parks shall be the property of Central Government, where rest will be of State Government.

### **Section 42: Certificate of ownership**

According to Section 42 of Wildlife Protection Act Chief Wildlife Warden is bound to issue certificate of ownership to any person who is in lawful possession of any wild animal or any animal article, trophy, uncured trophy.

**Section 43:** Regulation of transfer of animal, etc

According to Section 43 of Wildlife Protection Act no person who is having the ownership of any wild animal or any animal article, trophy, the uncured trophy shall offer it for sale or sell it or transfer it others by any other mode of consideration of commercial nature.

**Section 44:** Dealings in trophy and animal articles without licence prohibited

According to Section 44 of Wildlife Protection Act, no person without license shall do any business with a trophy or uncured trophy or with captive animals or with its meat or cooking or serving the meat or manufacturing of any animal article.

**Section 48:** Purchase of animal, etc., by license

According to Section 48 of Wildlife Protection Act no license shall control or possess any animal or animal article, trophy or uncured trophy which is acquired unlawfully other than those which are already in his possess which is having the certificate of ownership.

**Section 48A:** Restriction on transportation of wildlife

According to Section 48A of Wildlife Protection Act no person shall accept any wild animal, or any animal article, or any specified plant or part or derivative for transport.

**Section 49:** Purchase of captive animal, etc., by a person other than a licensee

According to Section 49 of Wildlife Protection Act, no person shall purchase, receive or acquire any captive animal, wild animal, other than vermin, or any animal article, trophy or uncured trophy or meat derived from them, from a dealer or from an authorised person to sell or otherwise transfer the same under this act.

**Chapter VA: Prohibition of trade or commerce in trophies, animal articles, etc. Derived from certain animals**

**Section 49B:** Prohibition of dealings in trophies, animal articles, etc., derived from schedule animals

According to Section 49B of Wildlife Protection Act, no person shall carry the business on trophies, animal articles or manufacture deal with schedule animal articles.

## **Chapter VI: Prevention and Detection of offenses**

### **Section 51: Penalties**

Person who acts violate any conditions of any license or permit granted under this act, shall be guilty of offense against this , will be convicted of punishment with imprisonment or fine or both

### **Section 58: Offense by companies**

If an offense committed by the company, every person in charge who are present at the time of offense committed and found responsible, the company conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company shall be deemed to be guilty under this act and punished accordingly.

## **Chapter VIA : Forfeiture of property derived from illegal hunting and trade**

### **Section 58C: Prohibition of holding illegally acquired property**

According to Section 58C of Wildlife Protection Act, it is not lawful for any person to hold any illegally acquired property by himself or on behalf of someone else.

## **5.5 Enforcement agencies against wildlife crimes**

There are many enforcement agencies involved to stop these crimes against the wildlife. The enforcement agencies in India are powered by Wildlife Protection Act. They are:

1. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)
2. Forest Department
3. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
4. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
5. Customs Department
6. Armed forces
7. Police Department

International Enforcement agencies.

1. Convention on International trade in Endangered Wild Flora and Fauna(CITES)
2. TRAFFIC

**5.5.1 Wildlife Crime Control Bureau** is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the government of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to combat the wildlife crimes in the country. WCCB collects the intelligence related to organized wildlife crimes activities and circulate the information to other enforcement agencies to set them in immediate action to apprehend the criminals.

**5.5.2 The Forest department** in India are primarily involved in conserving the wildlife and protecting them from trade. Their duties and powers are constituted in the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. Though enforcement agencies are strong they have encountered countless unknown threats from both wild animals and poachers. Wild animals are sometimes unpredictable and poachers are equipped with high powered firearms, bullet proof jackets, Night Vision gadgets, etc by business typhoons and many crime syndicates. Some business typhoons who are hungered of tasting rare meat or to have any wild articles they are hiring Hitmen (Assassins) to do the job.

**5.5.3 Customs department** is playing a major role from stopping the trade of wild animals and plants from crossing the borders. Customs department follows both Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and also CITES. Customs department shall also prevent the trade of exotic species from different geographical origin in the country.

**5.5.4 The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)**, under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, is the apex intelligence and investigative agency for matters relating to violation of the Customs Act. DRI enforces the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 and over fifty other allied Acts including the Arms Act, NDPS Act, COFEPOSA, Wildlife Act, Antiquities Act etc. DRI undertakes collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of intelligence relating to smuggling, carries out investigations, adjudication of cases and prosecution of the arrested persons.

The armed forces at the borders i.e. Border security forces also help in controlling the trade into our nation and from going out of the nation.

**5.5.5 TRAFFIC** is a non-government organisation that is aim to protect the wild animals and plants from being traded in global market. This also assist the Indian government in prevent the hunting and trade of wild animals.(TRAFFIC Bulletin VOL. 31 NO. 1 October 2019)

**5.5.6 CITES** is a multi-national treaty signed by 178 countries which made it one of the world largest convention treaty. CITES work in all those countries along the laws of the country as they don't have any direct powers in those countries for regulating the trade. This Aims to regulate the trade on wild flora and fauna to ensure that does not threaten their survival. This gives protection for almost 37,000 species of wild animals and plants. In those roughly 5,800 species of animals and 30,000 species of plants are protected by CITES against over-exploitation through international trade. The species are listed in 3 appendices according to the effect of trade and endangerment (rarity). They have included some whole groups, such as primates, cetaceans, etc. (CITES Annual report 2018)

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **CONCLUSION**

Illegal Wildlife Trade is a major threat to the Biodiversity and Ecosystems as they are relatively Non-Renewable resources. In a culturally diverse country like India which is home to Ethnic Groups it is hard to follow a common strategy for Conservation of Wildlife. There is also cultural superstitious beliefs among people which influences people to constantly go back to wild animals to acquire Health and Wealth. The Indigenous Communities of the country have always depended on the Forest Resources for their existence so it is not possible to bring the change in a short period of time. The agencies involved in Wildlife Protection should concentrate on sensitising local communities about the importance of Wildlife Resources and how it can be economically benefit to the people in different ways.

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