



Registration of Exotic Animals

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Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** (MoEFCC) asked people, organisations, and zoos to register any **exotic animals** they have that are listed under **Schedule IV** of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Amendment Act, 2022)**.

- The registration must be done electronically through the **PARIVESH 2.0 portal** and submitted to the **Chief Wildlife Warden** of the respective State.

What are the Key Facts About the Exotic Species?

- **About Exotic Animals:**
 - **Exotic species** are animal or plant species **moved** from their **original range (location)** to a new one. These species are introduced to a **new location** most often by **people**.
- **Examples of Exotic Animals:**
 - **Ball python** (western Africa), **Iguana** (Central and South America), **Cockatiel** (Australia), **Red-eared slider turtle** (USA and Mexico), **African grey parrot** (Central Africa), **Amazonian parrot** (South and Central America) etc are examples of exotic animals in India.
- **Legal Requirement:**
 - As per the **Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024**, any person possessing a species listed in **Schedule IV** of the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, must report and register the species.
 - **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022** introduced **Section 49 M**, requiring the registration of possession, transfer, birth, and death of species listed in the **CITES Appendices** and **Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- **Concerns with Exotic Species:**
 - **Non-Regulation:** Exotic species are imported to India and bred in captivity **without proper registration** which may pose a threat of **zoonotic diseases**.
 - **Impending Pandemic:** The **Covid-19 pandemic**, a zoonotic disease, brought attention to the **dangers** of unregulated trade and ownership of **exotic animals**.
 - **Smuggling of Exotic Animals:** Activists have raised concerns about the increased **smuggling of endangered exotic animals** into India from Southeast Asia and other regions.
 - There has been a notable increase in the **seizure** of exotic animals, particularly in **Assam and Mizoram**, where species like **Kangaroos** (Australia), **Koalas** (Australia), and **Lemurs** (Madagascar) have been confiscated and temporarily housed in zoos.

What are the Key Facts About the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (WPA)?

- **About WPA, 1972:** It aims to protect **wild animals, birds, and plants**, and address related

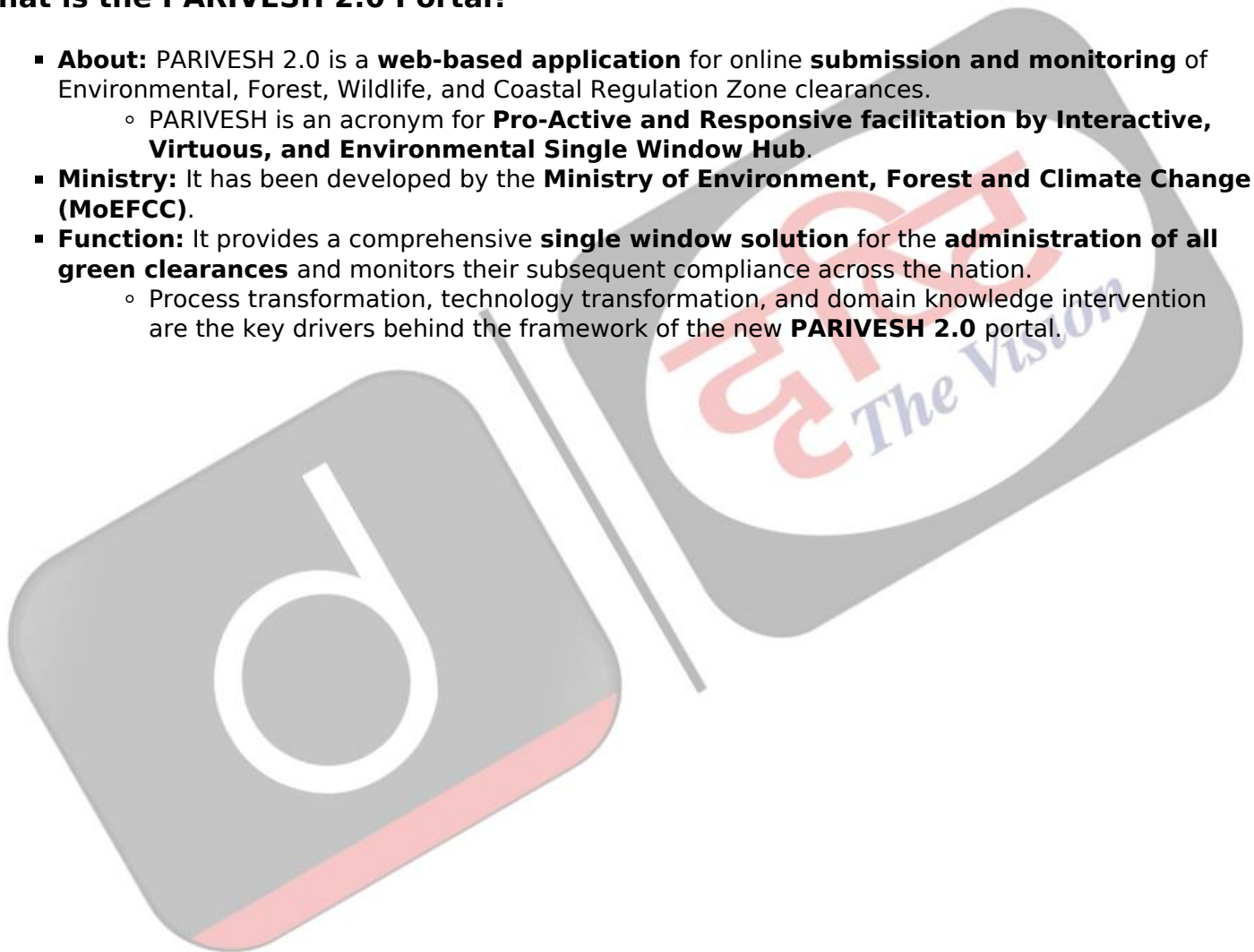
issues to ensure the ecological and **environmental sustainability** of the country.

- **Schedules of WPA, 1972:** The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has **four schedules** after the **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022**.
 - **Schedule I:** For species that receive the **highest level of protection**. E.g., **Tiger, Elephants, Rhino** etc.
 - **Schedule II:** For species that receive a **lesser degree of protection**. E.g., **Kites, Eagle, Falcons, Prunias** etc.
 - **Schedule III:** For **plant species**
 - **Schedule IV:** For species **protected** under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**). E.g., **Bear**.
 - CITES is an **international agreement** that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants **does not threaten the survival** of the species.

What is the PARIVESH 2.0 Portal?

- **About:** PARIVESH 2.0 is a **web-based application** for online **submission and monitoring** of Environmental, Forest, Wildlife, and Coastal Regulation Zone clearances.
 - PARIVESH is an acronym for **Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous, and Environmental Single Window Hub**.
- **Ministry:** It has been developed by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.
- **Function:** It provides a comprehensive **single window solution** for the **administration of all green clearances** and monitors their subsequent compliance across the nation.
 - Process transformation, technology transformation, and domain knowledge intervention are the key drivers behind the framework of the new **PARIVESH 2.0** portal.

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Constitutional Provisions for Wildlife

42nd Amendment

Act, 1976: Forests & Protection of Wild Animals and Birds (moved from State to Concurrent List)

Article

48 A: State shall endeavor to protect & improve environment and safeguard forests and wildlife of country

Article

51 A (g): Fundamental duty to protect & improve natural environment including forests and Wildlife

Legal Frameworks

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Major Conservation Initiatives

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH):

- ↳ Financial assistance provided to State/UT Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife
- ↳ A Centrally Sponsored Scheme

National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031)

Guidelines for Eco-tourism in Protected Areas

Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau: To combat wildlife-related crimes

Wildlife Division (MoEFCC):

- ↳ Policy and law for conservation of biodiversity and Protected Area network
- ↳ Technical and financial support to the State/ UTs under IDHW, Central Zoo Authority and Wildlife Institute of India

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB):

Collection, collation of intelligence & its dissemination, establishment of centralized Wild Life crime databank, coordination etc.

Wildlife Crime Control:

- ↳ Operation Save Kurma
- ↳ Operation Thunderbird

Species-Specific Initiatives

- ↳ Protection and conservation of Greater Adjutant in Gangetic riverine tract
- ↳ Dolphin Conservation in Non-Protected Area Segment of Ganga River
- ↳ Conservation Breeding Centre for Wild water buffalo (2020)
- ↳ Recovery programme for Snow leopard (2009)
- ↳ Recovery programme for Vultures (2006)
- ↳ Project Elephant (1992)
- ↳ Project Tiger/National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (1973)

India's Collaboration with Global Wildlife Conservation Efforts

- ↳ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- ↳ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- ↳ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ↳ World Heritage Convention
- ↳ Ramsar Convention
- ↳ The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC)
- ↳ United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
- ↳ International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- ↳ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- ↳ Global Tiger Forum (GTF)



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UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. If a particular plant species is placed under Schedule VI of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, what is the implication? (2020)

- (a) A licence is required to cultivate that plant.
- (b) Such a plant cannot be cultivated under any circumstances.
- (c) It is a Genetically Modified crop plant.
- (d) Such a plant is invasive and harmful to the ecosystem.

Ans: (a)

Q. In India, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply? (2017)

- (a) It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger.
- (b) It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and now it is impossible to prevent its extinction.
- (c) It is endemic to a particular region of India.
- (d) Both (b) and (c) stated above are correct in this context.

Ans: (a)

Q. A sandy and saline area is the natural habitat of an Indian animal species. The animal has no predators in that area but its existence is threatened due to the destruction of its habitat. Which one of the following could be that animal? (2011)

- (a) Indian wild buffalo
- (b) Indian wild ass
- (c) Indian wild boar
- (d) Indian gazelle

Ans: (b)