



18 Langurs Shot Dead in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Recently, about 18 Langurs were shot dead in **Belgaon village of Chhattisgarh** for crop damage, leading the forest department to launch an investigation.

Key Points

- **Cultural Context:** The incident was unusual because villagers typically avoid killing monkeys, **fearing it could bring drought**, highlighting the **cultural and traditional significance of wildlife**.
- **Legal Action:** A case has been filed against unidentified persons under the [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#).
 - **Schedule I:** Protects endangered species with strict penalties; prohibits hunting except in extreme cases (e.g., Black Buck, Snow Leopard).
 - **Schedule II:** High protection and trade prohibition for certain species (e.g., Assamese Macaque, Indian Cobra).
 - **Schedules III & IV:** Protects non-endangered species with lesser penalties for violations (e.g., Chital, Flamingo).
 - **Schedule V:** Lists vermin species that can be hunted (e.g., Common Crows, Rats).
 - **Schedule VI:** Regulates cultivation and trade of specified plants, requiring prior permission (e.g., Blue Vanda, Kuth).

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

- The Wild Life (Protection) Act, of 1972 **provides a legal framework for the protection of various species of wild animals and plants**, management of their habitats, regulation, and control of trade in wild animals, plants, and products made from them
- The act also lists schedules of plants and animals that are afforded varying degrees of protection and monitoring by the government.