

Summary and Conclusion

Summary:

The research paper, titled "Uncovering Wildlife Trafficking, Poaching Methods, and Law Enforcement Strategies in Vidarbha Region of Central India: A Comprehensive Analysis," examines the increasing threats of wildlife trafficking and poaching in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, India. Over the study period (July 2021 - July 2023), 33 cases of wildlife trafficking were investigated, leading to the arrest of 163 accused individuals.

The study identifies key poaching methods, including electrocution, poisoning, snaring, trapping, shooting, and starvation. Seized wildlife articles included live pangolins, red sand boas, star tortoises, parakeets, and Munia birds, along with body parts such as tiger and leopard skins, claws, teeth, bones, and whiskers. The trafficking of endangered species like tigers, leopards, and pangolins poses significant concerns, indicating an urgent need for stronger enforcement measures.

Illegal wildlife trade in Vidarbha operates through well-organized networks due to its proximity to protected areas and interstate borders. The black-market demand, fueled by traditional medicine, pet trade, cultural beliefs, and financial gain, contributes to the high incidence of poaching. Statistical analysis revealed a strong correlation between the number of wildlife crime cases and accused arrested, emphasizing the growing trend of wildlife-related offenses in the region.

Conclusion:

The study highlights the alarming rise in wildlife crimes in Vidarbha, necessitating immediate intervention. The trafficking of endangered species not only threatens biodiversity but also disrupts ecological balance. Key preventive strategies recommended include strengthening law enforcement, increasing awareness, utilizing technology such as surveillance drones and camera traps, enhancing border controls, and fostering community engagement.

Additionally, collaboration between governmental agencies, NGOs, and international bodies is essential to curb illegal wildlife trade effectively. The implementation of stricter penalties under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Amended 2022) and support for alternative livelihoods can help reduce incentives for poaching. The findings emphasize the need for a multi-pronged approach to conservation and law enforcement to safeguard Vidarbha's rich biodiversity for future generations.