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Wildlife Protection Laws: An act to save mother nature

“Living creatures being so enthusiastic about one another and also the survival of mankind also being smitten by them has caused great concern ill the international community right from the start of the 20th century”.

Nature has been the core of human existence. Over a quick time, we, humans have in numerous ways within the so-called follow the event and making inventions and discoveries exploited and ravaged rock bottom of our very existence.

An environment consists of the physical surroundings and conditions including the quality of air, water, greenery, vegetation, and each one kind of living creatures forming a habitat. most people in some parts of our lives have experienced the "Web of life" which shows us that every kind of life depends on the other for its survival, right from the algae and fungi right down to humans. The extinction of any species of creatures only goes bent break the chain of the cycle of normality of a balanced ecology.

India has blessed immense quite natural resources in its rich animal and plant heritage. Wildlife is one of our basic and natural resources that satisfies the wants or wants of civilization. Therefore, this resource must be conserved, preserved, and guarded for the existence of mankind.

Now allow us to work out the chronological development of wildlife protection in India in several periods than the constitutional provisions provided.

In ancient India, thanks to the ethical sense of duty, the obliteration of culture, and vibrancy of the ecosystem, and thus the biodiversity was considered as harm and affront to Gods. And now the wildlife protection could even be a requirement and environmental protection was an ethical duty that's imposed on people by religious scriptures, seers, and other agencies. The scriptures of the Hindu religion emphasize the protection of the environment and thus the living creatures. kind of animal was considered thanks to the vehicles of gods. Kautilya, one of the great political philosophers and thus the author of The Arthasasthra, prohibited and prescribed penalties for the killing of animals, cutting of trees, and thus the excessive exploitation of natural resources. the great Maurya king Ashoka banned the killing of untamed animals and later prohibited the killing of certain species of animals.

Animals and plants are the kin and kith of citizenry. - St. Thukharam

These are some specimens to means the way the normal Indians took care of the protection of wildlife. Though it had been an ethical duty within the start later the kings began to impose it as a requirement. In ancient India, because of the ethical duty, the devastation of culture and vibrancy of the ecosystem and thus the biodiversity was deemed as an injury and affront to Gods. And now the wildlife protection could also be a requirement.

In the pre-constitutional period, there are some legislations which are enacted to shield the wildlife from exploitation. The CTA, 1871; The EPA, 1879; some sections of the Indian code, 1860; WAP Act, 1912; The IFA, 1927 are some pre-constitutional enactments on wildlife protection.

The Elephants Preservation Act prohibits killing, injuring, capturing, or any attempt at the matching, unless it's for self-defense, permitted by a license, or when the elephant is found harming house or cultivation, or direct area of the last word public road, railway or canal.

The Indian code, 1860, though it's no specific provision regarding wildlife, it defines the term animal in Section 47 and declares maiming, killing of animals as an offense and punishable under Sections 428 and 429.

The Indian Forest Act, 1927 also included certain provisions for restricting hunting in reserved and guarded forests and other authorized establishments or Sanctuaries. Under this Act, hunting, shooting, fishing, etc. is an offense. These are a selection of wildlife protection legislation enacted within-country the quantity.

The Post-independence era witnessed many changes within the policies and attitudes of the Governments concerning environmental protection. Though there are many implied provisions on wildlife protection within the constitution there are only 2 main articles namely Art.48-A and Art. 51-A(g).

The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 is that the most active by the constitution that's specifically enacted for the protection of wildlife in India. Besides this, there are many more legislations enacted for the protection and preservation of wildlife. they're The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; The Wildlife Rules, 1973; The Wildlife Rules, 1995; Forest Conservation Act, 1980; then on.

Wildlife, which can be a neighborhood and parcel of the environment, constitutes the wealth of the state. it included wild animals, birds, plants, etc. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, provides for shade to varieties of plant life and wildlife and helps in creating a network of ecologically vital protected areas. The Act consists of 60 Sections and VI Schedule-divided into Eight Chapters. The Act forbids the hunting of mammals except with the approval of a licensed administrator when an animal has become hazardous to human life or estate or as disabled or diseased on be beyond recovery.

Its objectives are to ban the hunting of untamed animals, birds, etc, and punish for violating the same. To provide security to mammals that are not at risk of becoming extinct, demarcate animals that can be hunted like bows and stags. to help cultivation and flowers and provides teeth to fixing more protected animal parks. to supply sweeping powers to enforcement authorities to punish anybody guilty under the Act.

Now let's put some light on the constitutional provisions for the same topic.

Legislative Response: In recent times, the wildlife in India is in peril because of poaching and trade animal articles. To protect the flora and fauna of the country the legislature of India passed the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 on the request made by eleven states. The Act was necessitated as some wild animals and birds had already become extinct while some others were on the verge of the state of extinction. Further, the then-existing state legislations were felt very much inadequate to protect the wildlife part of the country. The Act provides for the establishment of Wildlife Advisory boards and thus the appointment of wildlife wardens and other staff to implement the Act. In several states, the office of the Chief Wildlife Warden and thus the Chief Conservator of Forests is united during one post. This Act prohibits hunting of animals listed in Schedule I, II, III, and IV. Under this Act, the government may declare any area of adequate ecological, fauna, flora, natural, or zoological importance as a sanctuary park. In both national parks and sanctuaries, public entry is restricted and thus the destruction of any wildlife or habitat is prohibited.

However, the working of the 1972 Act wasn't satisfactory and hence, in 1986 this Act was suitably amended. Under the 1972 Act, the trade and commerce of wild animals, their articles, and trophies were allowed within the country. But many of the traders smuggled the animal skins, animal articles, and trophies to foreign countries for getting a huge amount of profit. Hence, it became the utmost necessity to ban the trade of certain specified wild animals. Accordingly, by the 1986 Amendment Act, it had been if nobody is getting to be allowed to carry on trade wild animals laid call at Schedules I and II of the Act. Further, the licenses which were existing for the internal trade of animals and animal articles were revoked. an additional total ban was imposed on the trade of Indian ivory.

In 1991 the Wildlife Act was further amended. This amendment was made supported by recommendations of the Indian Wildlife Board and Ministry of Environment and Forest. it had been felt that because of continuous poaching and illegal trade of animal articles, the wildlife population in India has rapidly declined. Hence, within the 1991 Amendment Act, hunting of all wild animals except vermin was prohibited. But in certain exceptional circumstances like education, research, scientific management, and captive breeding, hunting of untamed animals were permitted. Further to manage the death rate of animals on account of communicable diseases, compulsory immunization was provided in national parks and sanctuaries. The provisions of the park and sanctuary were extended to the body of water without seriously affecting the interests of local fishermen. Further, it had been if without settling the rights of tribal people, no area is often declared as a park or a sanctuary.

1991 Amendment Act acknowledged the significance of zoos within the safety of wild animals inside the country and consequently, it had been as long since the board of zoos is getting to be examined by the CZA (Central Zoo Authority) established under the Amendment Act. Further support the Convention on International trade species of untamed Fauna and Flora (CITES), the gathering of species of animals and plants has been prohibited. But it'll not affect the gathering of traditionally used plants for the real personal use of tribal.

The Constitution of India is that the supreme law of India which lays down the basic political code, the rights, and duties of the citizens, the directive principles of the state policy, the procedures, its structures, and powers of governmental institutions. It's widely regarded as a “living document”- which is dynamic and constantly evolving with changing times. It’s the longest written constitution in any country on earth and is split into 395 articles (demarcated into 22 parts) and 12 schedules. The document establishes constitutional supremacy, i.e., the Indian Parliament cannot override the essential structure of the Constitution.

The Indian Constitution recognizes the sacredness of animal life and lays down the safety and care of animals with the same dignity as that of the fundamental duty of its citizens. The Constitutional Framework of animal protection in India is encompassed within the subsequent parts: Fundamental Rights (Part III), Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV), Fundamental Duties (Part IV-A), Allocation of powers between the Union and thus the States (the 7th Schedule), Judicial Authority of Courts (Articles 141 and 144). Now, let's discuss these topics intimately.

The Basic Constitutional Rights of India are enshrined partly III (Articles 12 to 35) of the Constitution. They lay down widespread, constitutionally guaranteed rights essential for the existence and advancement of all individuals just like the proper to Equality, Right to Freedom, Right against Mistreatment, etc. Any breach of Fundamental Rights is taken under consideration severe and thus the Supreme Court of India is often approached directly under Article 32 for constitutional remedies.

Relevant to animal welfare is that the elemental Right to Life under Article 21.

**Article 21:** Article 21 brings down the right to Life, stating that: ***nobody shall be deprived of his life or individual liberty except agreeing to the procedure established by law.***

The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) are 15 principles enshrined partially IV (Article 36-51) of the Constitution forming the thought on which States frame laws and policies. Unlike the basic Rights, the DPSP aren’t enforceable in any court. However, States must apply them in making laws for the constitution of a just society. Three directive principles form the inspiration of state policies on animal welfare in India, enshrined within the subsequent articles:

**Article 48:** Article 48 lays down that: ***The State shall work to reorganize farming and farming on modern and technical lines and will, particularly, take steps for maintaining and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and a young bullock and other milch and drink cattle.***

**Article 48A:** Article 48A lays down the directive principle for canopy and improvement of the environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife. It reads as: ***The State shall endeavor to safeguard and enhance the ecosystem and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the nation.***

The Fundamental Duties of the citizens of India are protected in Article 51A (Part IV-A) of the Constitution. The article was created using the 42nd Amendment of 1976 to bring the Indian Constitution under Article 29(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Moreover, several species of wildlife are of Incomparable Values. The Wildlife Protection laws, with timely amendments, help within the protection of wildlife in India. With these observations, I conclude my topic on Wildlife Protection laws.

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