



Call for Amendment in WPA, 1972

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Why in News?

Kerala has requested the Union Government for an **amendment** to the [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#) to allow **controlled killing of wild animals** that **threaten human life or agriculture**.

- **Human-wildlife conflict** has intensified, with Kerala observing several casualties between 2016 and 2025.

What are the Challenges with the WPA, 1972?

- **Restrictions under the Act:** The **Wildlife Protection Act of 1972** offers **high protection to species listed under Schedule I**, making it difficult to take swift action against dangerous animals.
 - Before **lethal measures can be considered**, approval must be obtained after confirming that capturing or relocating the animal is not feasible.
- **Lack of Immediate Action:** Although the **district collector can declare a public nuisance**, court orders **limit their ability to act promptly in wildlife conflicts**.
 - For **Schedule I animals**, such as **bonnet macaques**, the law prevents **wildlife wardens from taking proactive action**, thus delaying necessary intervention.

What is the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972?

- **About:** It provides a **comprehensive legal framework** for the **protection of wild animals, birds, and plants**, the management of their habitats, and the regulation of trade in wildlife and related products.
 - The act **lists schedules of plants and animals** that are afforded varying degrees of protection and monitoring by the government.
- **Schedules:** Initially, the WPA consisted of **six schedules** that classified flora and fauna based on levels of protection. This was streamlined to **four schedules** through the **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022**, to enhance clarity and align with international commitments. New Classification (Post-2022 Amendment):
 - **Schedule I - Species granted the highest level of protection.**
 - **Schedule II - Species under a lower degree of protection.**
 - **Schedule III - Protected plant species.**
 - **Schedule IV - [CITES](#) listed specimens, regulating international trade.**
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Section 9:** No person shall hunt any wild animal listed in **Schedules I, II, III, and IV**, except as permitted under Sections 11 and 12.
 - **Section 11:** [Chief Wildlife Warden](#) may permit killing if the animal threatens human life

- or is incurably diseased, and cannot be captured or relocated.
- **Section 62:** The Central Government may, through a notification, declare any **wild animal (excluding those in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II)** as vermin for a specific area and period. While the notification is in force, the animal will be deemed to be **included in Schedule V**.
- **Section 50:** Forest officers/police can **seize items used in illegal hunting**, no emergency powers for local authorities.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following protected areas:

1. Bandipur
2. Manas
3. Bhitarkanika
4. Sunderbans

Which of the above are declared Tiger Reserves?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (b)