

2022 NACIN



National Academy of Customs, Indirect
Taxes & Narcotics, **Zonal Campus, Kanpur**



National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics, Zonal Campus, Kanpur

SALAAM CHRONICLE

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(For Departmental Officers)



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NACIN, ZC, KANPUR



NACIN, ZC, KANPUR

Organisational Chart



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL



RAJANI KANT MISHRA
JOINT DIRECTOR



VINOD KUMAR
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Ajay Garg
Superintendent



Rajeev Singh Chandel
Superintendent



Kamesh Bajpai
Superintendent



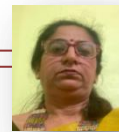
Vinay Kumar Nigam
Inspector



Sandeep Kumar
Inspector



Shusheel Kumar
Inspector



Monika Shukla
Inspector



Vivek Kumar
Tax Assistant



Aman Pal Singh
Tax Assistant



APRIL 2022
EDITION

MISSION

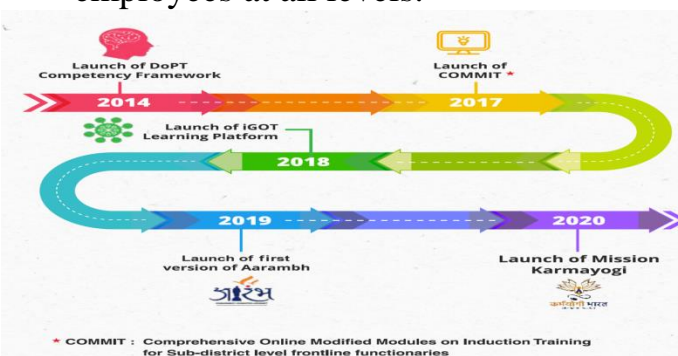
KARMYOGI
AND NACIN
KANPUR

HOW MISSION KARMAYOGI WILL BE GAMECHANGER FOR CIVIL SERVICES TRAINING PROGRAM



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mission Karmayogi or the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building is a new capacity-building scheme for civil servants aimed at upgrading the post-recruitment training mechanism of the officers and employees at all levels.



The Mission has been developed as a culmination of various training program reforms as shown :-

Mission Karmayogi is a Comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at individual, institutional and process level for efficient public service delivery. The vision for a civil servant of tomorrow entails Proactive and Polite; Energetic and Enabled; Transparent and Tech enabled; Professional and progressive; Imaginative & Innovative and finally Creative and constructive attitude.

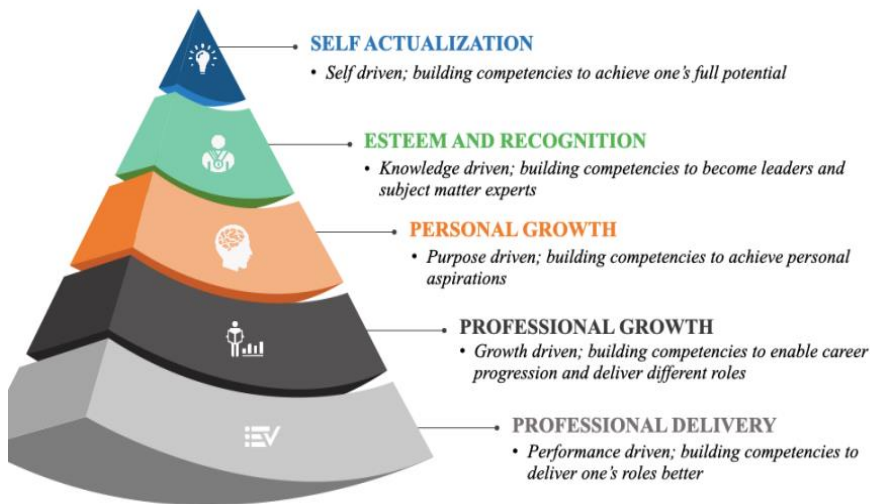
Karmayogi mission aims to solve the current bottlenecks in existing in the training program such as inconsistencies in training priorities, pedagogies & competency, lack of livelong & continuous learning environment, overcentralized system, lack of common platform & barrier to exchange knowledge.



The Karmayogi Mission aims to tackle each of these issues by its following components

- **Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies Approach:** enabling a shift from rule based to role-based HR management
- **Emphasizing on 'on-site learning' :** to complement the 'off-site' learning
- **iGOT Karmayogi :** provide curated digital e-learning material for capacity building
- **Institutional structure:** which includes
 - **PM's HR Council :** for overall monitoring of the program
 - **Capacity Building Commission:** to analyse the data from iGOT Karmayogi
 - **Cabinet Secretariat Coordination Unit:** to monitor progress & oversee plans.

Democratized Civil Service - Silo-less Performance



The financial allocation for this program is **Rs.510.86 crore** which will be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 to cover 46 Lakh Central employees. A program of this scale will ensure Silo less performance & a democratised civil service as shown:-

The ultimate aim of Mission Karmayogi is to ensure Ease of Living for common man and Ease of Doing Business along with citizen centricity which is aimed at reducing the gap between government & citizens.

NACIN Zonal Campus Kanpur is committed towards the vision of the Honourable Prime Minister of preparing Civil Servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive and innovative through transparency and technology.

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GST (IT) & OTHER TRAININGS

2021-2022 OVERALL PERFORMANCE

YEAR	No. of Courses	Total No. of Participants	Total Man-Days	Total Man-Hours
GST Training	26	629	1416	4832.5
Other Trainings	64	3006	7824	30167.5
TOTAL (2021-2022)	90	3635	9240	35000

UP-COMING PROGRAMMES

Next 3 Months

APRIL-2022

• Mid-Career Training Programme (MCTP) for officers likely to be promoted	04-04-2022	08-04-2022
• GST- Service Sector Specific (Construction/ Education/ Medical etc.)	11-04-2022	11-04-2022
• Customs Valuation & Baggage Clearance	12-04-2022	12-04-2022
• ADAIT - A Wonder Tool	13-04-2022	13-04-2022
• Induction Course for Newly Recruited/Promoted Tax Assistants (TA)	18-04-2022	29-04-2022

MAY-2022

• E-office (All India)	02-05-2022	02-05-2022
• Workshop on Cyber Forensic	05-05-2022	05-05-2022
• Digital Evidencing and Handling Digital Evidences	06-05-2022	06-05-2022
• Mandatory Training for Executive Assistants for promotion to the grade of Administrative Officer	09-05-2022	30-05-2022
• Vigilance Framework & Conduct Rules	31-05-2022	31-05-2022

JUNE-2022

• Creating Gender sensitive space & Combating Gender discrimination and harassment.	01-06-2022	01-06-2022
• Preventive Vigilance (for CGST & GST Audit Officers)	03-06-2022	03-06-2022
• BIFA-GST Analytics	06-06-2022	06-06-2022
• Computer Training-Basic	09-06-2022	10-06-2022
• Search, Seizure, Arrest, Investigation & Prosecution	13-06-2022	13-06-2022
• Workshop for Drug Law Enforcement Officers	15-06-2022	17-06-2022
• Health and Stress Management	21-06-2022	21-06-2022
• GST-Inspection, Search, Seizure & Arrest Investigation & SCN	23-06-2022	24-06-2022
• Administration, Establishment and Accounts	28-06-2022	30-06-2022

NEW E-BOOKS PUBLISHED



Links

Block chain - A Primer

<https://bit.ly/3uHXO4H>

Book on Digital Currency

<https://bit.ly/3DnsNa0>

स्वच्छता पखवाड़ा

S WACCHTA Initiative



SAP initiatives taken

Activities undertaken during 2021-22 under Swacchta Action plan (SAP):-

During the months of October, 2021 and November, 2021 under Special Action Plan, the obsolete items (a) Old Files-881, (b) Obsolete Equipment – 225 and (c) Obsolete Furniture -278 were weeded out for disposal/destruction, which fetched Rs.74280/- through auction.



The entire office staff took online Swacchta pledge. Distribution of masks and sanitizers to office staff as well as to general public was undertaken by this office.

Drive for awareness of single use plastic by pasting of Posters, slogans and making cartoon was undertaken.



Distribution of Cotton bags among general public to make them aware about hazards of use of plastic.



Cleaning activity at departmental Government Residential Colony.



Grass cutting and cleaning of Park in Departmental Colony by NACIN, ZC, Kanpur under Outdoor Cleanliness Drive

Renovation of toilets at CGHS Dispensary (Govt. building) at Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur, by incurring expenses of Rs.93,895/- to provide hygienic and clean.

toilets to the visiting patients including our old colleague pensioners



Renovation of girl's toilets at Nagar Nigam Balika Inter College, Sarvodaya Nagar, Kanpur



by incurring expenses of Rs.2,15,718/- for around 300 Girl students of the school who were deprived of facility of clean toilets which was affecting their hygiene and cleanliness.

Renovation of toilets at Lala Lajpat Rai Government Hospital, Kanpur, by incurring expenses of Rs.1,79,760/- to provide

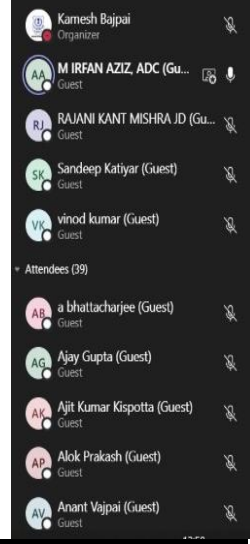
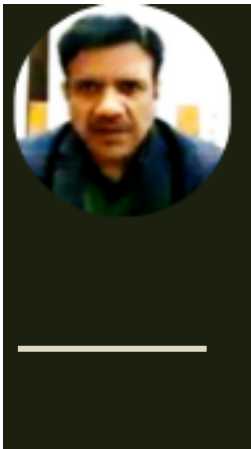
hygienic & clean toilets to almost 5000 visiting patients of OPD, daily.



Distribution of plants saplings among the officers & staffs for plantation.



OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



GST OUTREACH PROGRAMME
On 26-Oct-2022

GST OUTREACH PROGRAMME
On 27-Jan-2022

GST OUTREACH PROGRAMME
On 31-Jan-2022

CUSTOMS OUTREACH PROGRAMME
On 15-March-2022

COVID-19

DURING PANDEMIC NACIN KANPUR ORGANISED



Personal Health and Care Courses:

- Training Programmes on 'Covid-19: Symptoms, Precautions and Treatment',
- Training Programme on 'Best Diet option during and post COVID period'
- Training Programme on 'CGHS Support with reference to COVID'
- Training Programme on 'Stress Management and Sleep Hygiene'
- Training Programme on 'Stress Management'
- Training Programme on 'COVID-Omicron : Precautions and Treatment'

Need Based Practical Training Courses:

- 'Training Programme on Effective GST Audit'
- 'Tips for Balancing Facilitation and Enforcement'
- 'Preventive Vigilance for CGST Audit Officers'
- 'How to Prevent Wild Life Trafficking'
- 'Handling Media'
- 'Understanding Gender Needs and Social Action'
- 'Tracking Financial Trail'
- 'Digital Evidencing'
- 'Digital Forensics'

Focus on Narcotics:

- Capacity Building of officers of CBIC in Drug Law Enforcement is focus area of training for NACIN Kanpur as core competency topic
- During 2021-22, a 5 part Series on 'Practical Know How of Narcotics' was organised for officers of Customs and DRI & CBN.



रजनीकान्त मिश्रा संयुक्त निदेशक



1946 की बात है। भारत के आजादी की घोषणा हो चुकी थी। अंतरिम सरकार का गठन हो चुका था। देश नए संविधान की रचना कर रहा था। तमाम मोर्चों पर सरकार और लोग समस्याओं से जूझ रहे थे। बंटवारे की पुष्पभूमि में अंग्रेज़ किसी भी तरह से बस निकल जाने की फ़िराक में थे और देश की बागडोर अपने हाथों में थी। इस समय एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय घटना ने नए भारत के सामने वह मौका रखा जिसकी प्रतिक्रिया से देश ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों में अपने दमदार आगाज़ की उद्घोषणा कर दी।

17 अगस्त 1945 को इंडोनेशिया में एक स्वतंत्र राज्य की घोषणा हो गयी थी। दूसरे विश्वयुद्ध में जब जापान से डर कर तत्कालीन शासक डच भाग गए थे और जैसे ही जापानी कब्जे से छुटकारा मिला इंडोनेशिया में राष्ट्रपति सुकर्णो के नेतृत्व में एक सरकार अस्तित्व में आ गयी। डच इस सच्चाई को स्वीकार नहीं कर पाए। इंडोनेशिया में एक बार फिर कब्जा करने की नीयत से डच सेना ने बड़े स्तर पर फ़ौजी हमले शुरू कर दिये। सुकर्णो की सेना डच सेना के सामने बहुत कमजोर थी।

ब्रिटेन से ताज़ी ताज़ी स्वतंत्रता पाये भारत को इंडोनेशिया के लिए सहानुभूति होना स्वाभाविक था। विश्व युद्ध के बाद दुनिया में शुरू हो चुके शीत-युद्ध में हो रही बाहुबलियों की खींचतान से तीसरी दुनिया के देशों को बचाने के लिए इन देशों को संगठित करने का प्रयास शुरू कर चुके थे। जुलाई 1947 में भारत के प्रधानमन्त्री पंडित नेहरू ने दिल्ली में एक बड़ा कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया था : एशियन रिलेशन्स कॉन्फ़्रेंस। यह कॉन्फ़्रेंस गुट निरपेक्ष आंदोलन खड़ा करने की दिशा में पहला सार्वजनिक कदम था। इसमें इंडोनेशिया के नेता भी आमंत्रित थे। वे डच सैनिक करवाई के कारण नहीं आ सके।

सुकर्णो चाहते थे कि डच सेनाओं के कब्जे में आने से पहले उनके प्रधानमंत्री और अन्य लोग किसी तरह देश के बाहर निकल जाएं और बाहरी दुनिया को डच अत्याचारों की जानकारी दे कर समर्थन जुटा सकें। इंडोनेशिया की मदद करना और उसे स्वतंत्र रखना भारत के हित में था। इस काम को अंजाम देने की जिम्मेदारी बीजू पटनायक ने संभाली। बीजू पटनायक ने कुछ ही समय पहले कलकत्ता में अपनी एक विमानन कम्पनी कलिंगा एयरलाइंस नाम से स्थापित की थी। बीजू पटनायक दूसरे विश्वयुद्ध में एयर फ़ोर्स में काम कर चुके थे। वह न केवल उभरते हुए नेता ही वरन कलिंगा एयरलाइंस के चीफ पायलट भी थे। कलिंगा एयरलाइंस तब तक इंडोनेशिया के लिए दवाईयां आदि पहुंचाने का काम कर चुका था। यह आरोप भी लगा था कि इनमें हथियार भी गये थे। कुछ सप्ताह पहले ही कलिंगा एयरलाइंस का एक विमान सिंगापुर से रेड क्रॉस से मिली दवाईयों को पहुंचाने इंडोनेशिया जा रहा था। लेकिन लैन्ड करने के पहले ही डच विमानों ने उसे मार गिराया था। उसमें ऑस्ट्रेलियन पायलट समेत सभी नौ लोगों की मृत्यु हो गयी थी।

सुकर्णो की मदद के इस भारत सरकार द्वारा समर्थित मिशन में पटनायक ने अपनी टीम छोटी रखने का निर्णय लिया और साथ जाने के लिए दो लोगों का चयन किया। पहली थीं पत्नी ज्ञानवती पटनायक। मूलतः पंजाब की श्रीमती पटनायक स्वयं एक प्रशिक्षित पायलट भी थीं। सुकर्णो अपनी नन्ही बेटी को देश से सुरक्षित बाहर निकालना चाहते थे। पटनायक ने अपने को-पायलट के रूप में चुना युवा कैप्टन उदयभान सिंह को। उदयभान सिंह कमर्शियल पायलट बनने वाले देश के पहले आदिवासी युवक थे। छत्तीसगढ़ के मालखरौदा (वर्तमान चांपा-जांजगीर ज़िला) के राजपरिवार में सन् 1915 में जन्मे उदय भान सिंह की पढ़ाई लिखाई रायपुर के राजकुमार कॉलेज में हुई थी। विश्वविद्यालय में पढ़ाई के दौरान युवा उदयभान ने फ़्लाइंग क्लब में विमान उड़ाना सीखा और 1947 में बीजू पटनायक ने कलिंगा एयरलाइंस की शुरुआत की तो वे की कम्पनी आ गये थे।

तीनों ने अपनी जान की परवाह किये बिना कलकत्ता से अमरीकी डगलस C-47B-20 विमान में यात्रा शुरू की। इस विमान को आम बोलचाल की भाषा में डकोटा या DC-3 कहा जाता था। 22 जुलाई 1947 को अपने मिशन पर रवाना हुआ यह विमान मोहनबाड़ी सिंगापुर में फ़्यूल के लिये रुकने के बाद जावा द्वीप की ओर आगे बढ़ा। दोनों पायलटों ने डकोटा को बहुत नीचे - "ट्री-टॉप हाईट" पर रखा और आगे बढ़ने में सफल रहे। डच सेना की रेडियो चेतावनियों की परवाह किये बिना जब विमान इंडोनेशिया की एयर स्पेस में घुसता ही चला गया तो डच सेनाओं ने भारी गोलाबारी शुरू कर दी। इनसे बचते हुए चालक दल विमान को जकार्ता के पास मगूवो नामक एक कच्ची सी विमान पट्टी पर उतारने में सफल रहा। इंडोनेशिया के प्रधानमंत्री सुल्तान जाहरीर तथा उपराष्ट्रपति मोहम्मद हत्ता के साथ इंतज़ार में खड़े दल को तत्काल प्लेन में बिठाया गया और 24 जुलाई को ये लोग सकुशल दिल्ली पहुंचा दिये गये।

इस मानवीय मिशन ने थर्ड वर्ल्ड देशों में भारत की धाक जमा दी और आने वाले दशकों में भारत हीरो बन कर उभरा। जब नेहरू ने गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन का पहला विश्व सम्मेलन आयोजित किया, इंडोनेशिया भी भारत के साथ सह-आयोजक बना। इंडोनेशिया ने इसे जकार्ता के पास बांडुंग में आयोजित भी किया। पटनायक दम्पति की सलाह पर सुकर्णो ने पुत्री का नामकरण किया - मेघावती। आगे चल कर मेघावती सुकर्णोपुत्री के नाम से इंडोनेशिया की राष्ट्रपति बनीं। बीजू पटनायक को इंडोनेशिया ने अपने देश का सबसे बड़ा नागरिक सम्मान "भूमि-पुत्र" तथा मानद नागरिकता दे कर सम्मानित किया।

“
विश्व
फलक पर
नए सूर्य
का उदय
”

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



VAIBHAV KUMAR SINGH
DD DRI LUCKNOW

ARTICLE

FICN SMUGGLING :THE IMPACTS

The pen picture of impact of FICN circulation, its smuggling trend, the issues of porous border, external state involvement and terror funding By Vaibhav Kumar Singh, Deputy Director, DRI

As per NCRB data approximately 92 Cr worth of Fake Indian Currency Notes(FICN) was seized in India in year 2020, which apparently puts forth the disturbing picture of the commodities smuggling into the country and it's circulation. This is not only disturbing but alarming too in view of the external state actors putting forth all possible tricks and techniques to "bleed India with thousand cuts". It is apparent from the recent seizures by DRI, Police & other agencies that non state actors are firing all the cylinders to materialise this nefarious activity.

The importance of FICN smuggling for external state can be understood in the backdrop that they can not venture into the waters of full-fledged war with India due to its apparent detrimental effect on their economy thus they are trying to put in circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes to degrade the trust of International stake holders over the Indian economy.

If we go far to understand the economics of this we will get to know that once the trust over the currency of any country degrades, the trust of international forum also takes a tailspin thus the propensity of doing business with Indian government is also dented badly along with ratings by independent agencies. It is also a noticeable fact that India is a fastest growing economy in the Asian region which has attracted the ire of not so friendly neighbours and has given them a reason for troubling India with various tools in which FICN is the most critical and soft weapon in their hand for axing on the growth path of Indian economy.

The other angle of it's circulation is funding the organised crime syndicate and terror funding which obviously is not possible in direct terms so these external state actors push fake currency notes, and use it as a barter to fund the criminal activities and the terror activities in valley and other susceptible parts of India.

It is also a shock and awe situation for the government to know that the perpetrating agencies outside India have established a full fledged printing setup having mirroring capacity (*High Quality notes in law parlance*) of actual currency notes, which is not only hard but almost impossible to detect by the common citizenry of the country. Th agencies empowered viz. Customs, DRI, police and NIA while investigating the case take the samples for forensic testing to know that how many security features have been mirrored which happens to be a critical evidence for the prosecutors against the culprits.

The seriousness of the crime can be understood from the fact that the crime itself is punishable under three statutes viz. *Sec 135 Of Customs Act, Sec 489A to 489E of IPC and Sec 15 of UAPA* which attracts punishment up to life imprisonment for the circulation of High Quality FICN into Indian territory and is categorised as terrorist activity. The government has notified a dedicated rule "*The investigation of high quality counterfeit Indian currency offences rules 2013*" which prescribes the procedures to be followed by the various agencies empowered to investigate the case.

It is also pertinent in the context to note that there are certain pockets in Indian territory which has off late emerged as a hub of FICN smuggling across Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh border obviously taking the benefit of porosity across these borders, similar ethnicity and not the least no other opportunity for gainful employment evidently attracting local habitants into this nefarious trade.

Kaliachak of Malda & Dhalkola of West Bengal, East Champaran, West Champaran and Purnia of Bihar are some of the prominent regions actively pursuing the trade of counterfeit currency circulation & smuggling across the borders.

Though the policy intervention and statutory mandate has been made stringent for the offenders yet it is a different kind of war by not so friendly neighbours in general and some agencies in particular which needs to be countered on war footing and with different level of alacrity by the local government and the border habitants. There is a need to educate these people as it has been done in case of narco-smuggling activities with some kind of incentives by the government to detach them from the attractions of this criminal activity.





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How Myths and Superstitions are Fueling Illegal Wildlife Trade and Driving Wildlife to Extinction

Illegal Wildlife Trade (including illegal logging and illegal fishing) is the fourth largest transnational organized crime after drugs trafficking, arms trafficking and counterfeit products trafficking and is worth USD 73-216 billion annually as per World Bank's report titled "Illegal Logging, Fishing and Wildlife Trade: The Cost and How to Combat IT" released in October, 2019.

Gravity of the problem:

In the following paras, I am going to discuss how popular myths and superstitions associated with some wildlife species is fueling their illegal trade and even driving them on the verge of extinction.:



Ahead of the festival of lights "Deepawali" in India, the poaching of owls increases many fold. According to Hindu mythology, the owl is the vehicle of Goddess Lakshmi and in some occult practices this bird is sacrificed to appease the Goddess to bring good luck and prosperity. This bird is also poached for black magic and for medicine without any scientific basis for that. As per Ornithologist Mr. Satish Pandey, every year more than 17000 owls are poached in India. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have put several owl species under threatened or endangered list. In India owl is protected under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Similar story is that of Silver Owls. These birds are in high demand abroad because these are an indispensable factor in witchcraft. Sorcerers use their wings, feathers, flesh, and blood for witchcraft. There are many beliefs about the silver owl in India and abroad. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Owl House existed in Europe. They are illegally kept by businessmen, gamblers and speculators for financial gain. There are many people who swindle money by saying that they can provide silver owls.

The non-venomous Red Sand Boa popularly known as a two-headed snake has several superstitions associated with it. There is a popular myth that the Sand Boa snake secretes an anti-aging agent in its gland. Therefore, there is a huge demand of it for its perceived medicinal properties. There is no scientific proof for such belief of it having medicinal properties. It is also believed that it brings good luck and prosperity to its owner. These myths have resulted in rampant smuggling of red sand boa snake. As per well-known conservationist Vaibhav Chaturvedi, red sand boa has developed a big market up to Malaysia and Japan also. Due to high number of poaching of this species, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have put it under threatened list. In India this species is protected under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Monitor lizard is also poached in huge number because of superstitions attached with it. Self-styled godman sell monitor lizard genitals to women who struggle to conceive and advise them to worship the lizard genitals following a ritual to get conceived. According to Louies, who heads the crimes unit with the conservation organization Wildlife Trust of India, the traffickers and godmen preying on the superstitious nature of their customers, sell them not as reptile parts but as magical plant roots that come from rare plants found in sacred spots such as Nepal's Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, or in the hills in central India's Amarkantak. Poachers kill male lizards, make incisions to protract their two-inch hemepenes (which remain hidden in a pouch except when mating), and slice them off with a sharp blade. The genitals are then sun-dried and sold as plant roots in India and abroad as something sacred which brings happiness and good luck to their owners. Neil D'Cruze, global wildlife advisor for the U.K.-based World Animal Protection says, "It's a domestic trade that's now spreading its tentacles out beyond, most likely targeting expat communities in Europe, the U.S., Canada." According to IUCN Red List of threatened species, most of the monitor lizards species fall in the categories of least concern, but the population is decreasing globally. In India monitor lizard is protected under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

The spiny tail lizard, called 'Sanda' in local language, is in high demand in India and abroad for its oil (extracted from its tail). Due to extensive poaching this species is on the verge of extinction. Myth and legend are the real killers of spiny tailed lizards that are poached from forests for their oil, because of the superstition that it contains magical powers to heal bone diseases and increase sexual stamina. In India spiny tail lizard is protected under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. According to IUCN Red List of threatened species, spiny tail lizards species fall in the "near threatened" category.

Tokay Gecko is another wildlife species which is victim of a myth of it having medicinal properties.

Tokay Gecko is another wildlife species which is victim of a myth of it having medicinal properties. Its range extends from north-eastern India, across Nepal, Bhutan and then down through southeast Asian countries like Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and on to New Guinea. Tokay Gecko is poached mainly for its use in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) to treat cancer, asthma, diabetes and erectile dysfunction. There is also a myth that medicine made of this species also cure AIDS. These much touted treatments have no scientific evidence. This species is protected under India's Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Specie (CITES) has listed it in Appendix II as a threatened species.

India's national animal and iconic fauna tiger and other big cat leopard has also borne the brunt of several popular myths and superstitions. Apart from trophy hunting & being hunted for their bones and other body parts for their use in traditional Chinese medicines and wines (with no scientific evidence of them being effective), tigers and leopards are hunted for tantric (black magic) rituals also. Well-known conservationist Vaibhav Chaturvedi says, "There are certain tribes which still have primitive ways of life and are traditionally associated with black magic. Baigas, spread across eastern MP and Chhattisgarh in India, are one of them. The hides and paws of tigers and leopards are used by tantriks (godmen) for black magic rituals. These rituals are performed to bring in prosperity and remove problems from the lives of gullible villagers and city dwellers. Due to extensive poaching of tigers for their body parts to be used in TCM (traditional Chinese medicines) and black magic rituals the global population of wild tiger has been reduced to below 4000 of which 70% are found in India only thanks to the several conservation measures and wildlife law enforcement agencies' relentless drive against the poachers. In Tibet, there has been a tradition of wearing decorative costumes made of skin of tigers, leopards, snow leopards for ceremonial events. With the decreasing number of tigers, jaguars found in Central and South America are being poached and their body parts are being trafficked to China as substitute of tiger body parts to be used in TCM (traditional Chinese medicines). African lions are also being poached and their body parts trafficked to China as substitute of tiger body parts. In India tigers, Asiatic lions, leopards have been given highest level of protection under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Under CITES these iconic species are listed under Appendix I and Appendix II to ensure that their international trade does not threaten their survival.

As per a study titled "Animals for the Gods: Magical and Religious Faunal Use and Trade in Brazil", a total of 129 species of animals (or animal derived products) were found to be used and/or sold for magico-religious purposes; of these, 34.8% (n = 45) are included in some list of threatened species. Most animals reported were mammals (n = 29), followed by molluscs (20), fishes (19), birds (18) and reptiles (16); the majority (78%) of reported species were wild-caught from terrestrial habitats (62%), followed by marine and estuarine (24%), and freshwater (14%). This study investigates the domestic and wild harvested species used for spiritual and religious purposes by adherents of the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé. Introduced by enslaved Africans, this belief system combines animal and plant traditions derived from Africa with many others assimilated from Amerindians.

Greater one-horned Indian Rhinoceros, Sumatran Rhino, Javan Rhino, African Black Rhino, African White Rhino have been poached in huge numbers for their horns due to several reasons such as: According to the US International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), "Ivory and rhino horn are gaining popularity as a source of income for some of Africa's most notorious armed groups, including Somalia's al-Shabab, the Lord's Resistance Army (L.R.A.), and Darfur's Janjaweed".

Even in India there are reports which suggest that cadres of the Zomi Revolutionary Army, an insurgent group with a presence in the Manipur state in the North East India and its border with Myanmar, are a crucial cog in a transnational rhino horn smuggling racket that extends to South East Asia and China via Myanmar



One of the reasons is a myth around rhino horn having medicinal properties. Rhino horns (nothing but keratin like our hair or nail) are used as medicine in TCM which is assumed to treat various ailments including hangovers, fever, gout and potentially terminal illnesses, like cancer or stroke (without any scientific proof) in Vietnam, China and several other countries. Having a Rhino Horn is also a status symbol for rich section of society in Vietnam. In Vietnam, rich people share it within social and professional networks to demonstrate their wealth and strengthen business relationships. Gifting whole rhino horns is also used as a way to get favours from those in power. Rhino has been accorded highest level of protection under India's Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Black, greater one-horned, Javan, and Sumatran rhinos are afforded protection under CITES Appendix I. Trade in these species and their products is strictly prohibited for commercial purposes. White rhinos (listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List) are protected under Appendix II.

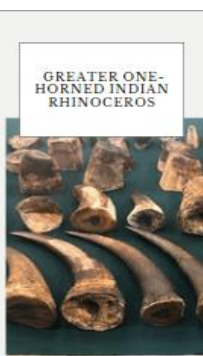
An Iranian documentary called "Houbara" shows how a widespread myth about the meat of the largest bird species i.e. Houbara living in the deserts of Iran having aphrodisiac qualities has almost caused the extinction of these birds. These birds and their eggs are widely smuggled into the Arab countries and are killed so that rich men in Arab countries can improve their sex lives. This folk belief is not supported by any valid scientific research. Iranian park rangers are working hard to stop poaching and smuggling of these birds.

Pangolin is the most trafficked mammal in the world. There are eight species of pangolins. Four are found in Asia—Chinese, Sunda, Indian, and Philippine pangolins—and they're listed by the IUCN as critically endangered.



The four African species—the ground pangolin, giant pangolin, white-bellied, and black-bellied—are listed as vulnerable. All species are facing declining population because of illegal trade. In 2016, the 186 countries party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the treaty that regulates the international wildlife trade, voted to ban the commercial trade in pangolins by putting all species of Pangolin in Appendix I. Tens of thousands of pangolins are poached every year, killed for their scales for use in traditional Chinese medicine and for their meat, a delicacy among some ultra-wealthy in China and Vietnam.

Pangolin scales having medicinal properties is nothing but a myth only as Pangolin scales are made of keratin, the same material that makes up fingernails, hair, and horn. Pangolin scales, like rhino horn, have no proven medicinal value, yet they are used in traditional Chinese medicine to help with ailments ranging from lactation difficulties to arthritis. The scales typically dried and ground up into powder, which may be turned into a pill. For many years, the Asian species were the primary target of poachers and traffickers. But now that their numbers have been depleted,



SMUGGLERS ARE INCREASINGLY TURNING TO AFRICAN PANGOLINS

Smugglers are increasingly turning to African pangolins. In two record-breaking seizures in the space of a week in April 2019, Singapore seized a 14.2-ton shipment and a 14-ton shipment of pangolin scales—from an estimated 72,000 pangolins—coming from Nigeria. It is suspected that pangolin is the intermediary host of SARS-COV2.

It is believed that from horseshoe bats it came to pangolin and from pangolin it spilled over to humans. By many conservationist COVID-19 is being termed as "Revenge of Pangolin" from humans.

Bear bile has been used in traditional chinese medicine (TCM) for thousands of years,

Bear bile has been used in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) for thousands of years, with the first reference appearing in an eighth century medical text prescribing bear bile for maladies like epilepsy, hemorrhoids, and heart pain. In the early 1900s, scientists discovered that bear bile, a fluid that's secreted by the liver and stored in the gallbladder, contains a significant amount of ursodeoxycholic acid—more than other animals like pigs or cows.

This acid is medically proven to help dissolve gallstones and treat liver disease. *Bear bile, however, is also marketed as a cure for cancer, colds, hangovers, and more, though there is no scientific evidence supporting its effectiveness for these ailments and it's only myth. It's also sometimes used as an ingredient in household products like toothpaste, acne treatment, tea, and shampoo as a way to expand the market for bear bile beyond traditional medicine, according to Animals Asia.* Asiatic black bears, also known as moon bears, sun bears, and brown bears are some of the most common species farmed for bile. They have a life expectancy of 20 to 30 years in the wild, but they can survive up to 35 years in captivity, meaning they can spend decades at a farm. Bear-bile farming has been widely condemned for being inhumane. The bears are often kept in cages so small they cannot turn around or stand up. Neglect and disease are common. Asian countries, including China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam, primarily drive demand, but bear

bile products can also be found in Australia, Singapore, Canada, and the United States. While bear bile farming is illegal in South Korea and Vietnam, it remains legal in China. The international commercial trade in bear bile is prohibited by the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), the treaty that regulates cross-border wildlife trade.

Not only terrestrial wildlife illegal trade is fuelled by myths associated with them but aquatic and marine wildlife are also not untouched by such myths. Seahorses are listed in Appendix II to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) but the myth about it having medicinal properties is fuelling trafficking of this marine creature. Seahorses are often used in Chinese medicine. Dried seahorses are ground into powder to treat certain ailments and one of the common applications is for men with erectile dysfunction without any scientific evidence of that. The study by Hong Kong-based non-profit environmental group Oceans Asia has identified a 13-times rise in sea cucumber seizures over five years from Lakshadweep, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and the Indian Ocean waters. Over the last five years, illegal trade involving sea cucumbers in India has witnessed a sharp spike. Over 27,166.5kg of dry, wet, and live sea cucumbers worth around ₹29.4 crore (US\$3.9 million) have been seized so far. Sea cucumbers are worm-like sea creatures that are single branched marine organisms (invertebrates) high in demand across Southeast Asia, mainly China, for food and traditional Chinese medicine. It is believed to have healing properties and used to treat ailments like arthritis, cancer, frequent urination, and impotence, though there is no scientific evidence to prove that. From India these are smuggled into China and other South-east Asian countries through India's north-east border and through Sri Lanka. It is Protected under Schedule I of India's Wild Life (Protection) Act (WPA), 1972.

Similarly huge quantity of Box turtles are smuggled from America as they are in big demand in China where some are sold for as much as \$1,000 on the black market, as per the Los Angeles Times report. Rich people buy these turtles because there is a myth that the red and gold markings on their shells are signs of good luck and good fortune.

Even traditional Chinese medicine also believes that turtles can be eaten to enhance libido and cure other ailments without any scientific evidence to prove that.

These are just few examples to show how myths and superstitions associated with wildlife are fuelling their illicit trafficking and driving them on the verge of extinction.

When a problem has its root in cultural beliefs, customs, popular myths and superstitions as discussed in above paras, that problem can't be solved merely by law enforcement actions. Along with law enforcement actions, public education, awareness, inculcating scientific temperament in the community will go a long way in bringing in "behavioural change" in the community which will result in demand reduction of wildlife, their parts and derivatives with ultimate result of end of wildlife crimes which are fuelled by such cultural beliefs, customs, popular myths and superstitions.

Article 48A

Article 48A of Indian Constitution lays down the directive principle of State Policy for protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife. It reads as:

"The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country" This Article was added by the 42nd Amendment, 1976 and places an obligation on the State to protect the environment and wildlife. Similarly, Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution states the following: *"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures."*

Thus, it is the mandate of the Indian Constitution for the State as well as the citizens to protect and improve the wildlife. There is one duty of the citizens that is unique to India under Article 51A (h) that encourages the citizen to "develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform".

Developing this scientific temperament would definitely help in developing a logical and rational thinking leading to community giving up the black magic (occult practices) rituals, and stop believing in myths and superstitions leading to illegal wildlife trade.

Through school/college curriculum and other mass awareness programmes by NGOs, government agencies, conservationists, wildlife volunteers, this goal can be achieved.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)'s anti-poaching campaign has played an important role in creating mass awareness. For example, it features a print ad that shows a majestic elephant in profile, its trunk curled into an ampersand above its tusks. "I am not a trinket," says the headline.

It continues, "Tens of thousands of elephants are killed every year for their ivory tusks, which are made into everything from knickknacks to souvenirs," the ad continues. "Find out what you can do to stop wildlife crime." Another print ad features a photo of a healthy rhinoceros over the headline, "I am not medicine." It continues, "At least one rhino is killed every day due to the mistaken belief that rhino horn can cure cancer and hangovers." An ad featuring a tiger declares, "I am not a rug." Another, with a marine turtle: "I am not a souvenir." The tagline on all of the ads reads, "Stop wildlife crime — it's dead serious."



alternative medicines with scientific evidence of being effective in curing those ailments which traditional medicines containing wildlife parts & derivatives claim to cure without any scientific evidence. This will be win-win situation for both: for community as they will get scientific cure and for wildlife as their poaching & trafficking will stop.

Covid-19 Pandemic must serve as a final call upon humanity to take all out measures to stop illegal wildlife poaching and trade if we want to avoid the repeat of catastrophic impact of COVID-19 on human lives and livelihoods.

Inculcating scientific temperament and shifting from non-scientifically proven traditional medicines to scientifically proven alternative medicines will definitely go a long way in tackling the menace of illegal wildlife trade caused by myths and superstitions associated with wildlife.



Religious leaders can also play an important role in persuading their community in giving up those traditional, religious customary practices which are devastating for wildlife. Dalai Lama released a statement calling upon Tibetan people not to engage in the trade or use of tiger and leopard skins as Buddhist teachings prohibits taking of life. His appeal has a strong impact upon the Tibetan Buddhist community who used to wear tiger and leopard skins as decorative costumes for religious ceremonies. After his appeal Tibetan people stopped wearing tiger and leopard skins which resulted in drastic demand reduction and reduction in poaching of these iconic species.

Many wildlife species are trafficked because of the myth about those species having medicinal properties without any scientific evidence to prove that. State machinery in collaboration with wildlife NGOs and conservationists must start an awareness campaign among the masses and persuade them to use alternative



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