



Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council (KCBC)

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Don't trivialise people's concerns over increasing wildlife attacks: KCBC

Kochi : In Kerala, there have been 55839 wild animal attacks in the last eight years alone, according to the forest department. 910 human lives were lost during this time, according to the same records. Over time, Kerala has seen an increase in both the quantity and intensity of wildlife attacks.

Over the past year, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of wildlife attacks in Wayanad and the neighbouring districts. In the last two weeks alone, three people have lost their lives in Wayanad due to wild animal attacks. "Wild animals such as bears, tigers, elephants, and wild boars often encroach upon populated areas, posing a threat to human life and property. This occurs not only in residential areas near forests but also several miles away from forested regions. It is noteworthy that within a year or so, tigers and other wild animals began to appear in many of these areas. The current situation of the local people is pathetic, as wildlife violence is increasing day by day and they have completely lost their sense of security.

State and Central government systems should be prepared to take practical and immediate interventions with the utmost seriousness at this stage. The officials should refrain from trying to find an easy solution to the problem by suppressing the concerns and fears of the people. Prompt measures should be taken to devise policies allowing for the shooting of wildlife animals that pose a significant threat to the lives and property of citizens. It is necessary to take action to control the population of wild animals, which is growing to the point where the forest's natural equilibrium is being lost.

Do not neglect to promptly compensate individuals who have experienced injuries, lost wages, property damage, or loss of life as a result of wildlife attacks. Immediate steps should be taken to prevent more animals from leaving the forest and entering the inhabited areas. It is imperative to take all necessary measures to avert future wildlife attacks that pose a threat to human lives, domestic animals, and private property, as well as to deploy necessary forces in affected areas. For a long-term fix to the issue, comprehensive legislation needs to be passed.

The Catholic Church of Kerala expresses its condolences to all the families who have lost their loved ones in the wild animal attacks and expresses its complete solidarity with the people who are fighting for survival.

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