

Advocate Ashok Agarwal does not buy the argument. According to him, there is a clear lack of interest on the part of the lawmakers. "The police and the administration have their own priorities hence they have little time to look into these sensitive issues. The situation in this case is that of accepted and agreed violation where just nobody is bothered," he says.

The one answer the experts agree on is; the government. "There is no effort to implement the laws," complains advocate Ashok Agarwal. When society does not care, the government becomes duty-bound to make them care. "There is a direct link between the youth and tobacco addiction. They are the key targets for the MNCs," says Bijon Mishra, a social activist involved with the NGO, Voice. While society and its institution ignore those mischievous puffs in school canteens, the biggest beneficiaries are the tobacco companies.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations (minimum 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate Supply a suitable Title. (5 Marks)
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3 Marks)

PASSAGE 5

A. Read the passage given below carefully for Note-making :

There's a part of India where the tiger may still have a fighting chance ; the Western Ghats. The big cat roams free here and in goodly numbers, from the southern tip right up to Maharashtra, Eight tiger reserves—in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala—have been rated 'good' to 'satisfactory' by the Centre's 2009 preliminary status report on the tiger. Experts say this is because of good governances, constant surveillance and monitoring, pro-active local tribes a zealous scientific community, habitat quality and contiguity and an excellent 'prey base', which means plentiful supplies of deer.

In Mudumalal, for instance, tiger numbers are believed nearly to have doubled in recent times. Field director Rajiv K Srivastava says anti-poaching watchers patrol the deep deciduous forests round-the-clock. "The wireless network helps rush them to vulnerable areas when they receive information about movement of suspected poachers," he adds. Each watcher, mostly from a local tribe, covers 15-20 km daily.

The tiger has also returned to Sathyamangalam sanctuary—erstwhile Veerappan country—after two decades. Some say this is because the guns have fallen silent, along with rising tiger numbers in adjoining Mudumalal and Bandipur; which serves the animals looking for more area to roam. Scientists working in the

field spotted two tigresses with five cubs at two different locations last year. Forest officers estimate that there are at least 10 tigers in the division.

The 2008 status report on tigers by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India estimates tiger numbers in the Western Ghats of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala at 402, with a lower limit of 336 and upper limit of 487. The Bandipur and Nagar-hole tiger reserves are almost full “Highquality research on tigers and their prey base has resulted in a pool of scientific data which facilitates reliable monitoring” says Ravi Chellam, country director, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), India programme, WCS staff range across 22,00 sq km of forest in Karnataka, tracking tigers to gather data from the field. Every quarter, the WCS shares data with the Karnataka forest department. “Strict protection of the forests by using science is the hallmark of tiger conservation in Karnataka,” says Chellam.

Recently, WCS scientists led by Ullas Karanth used high-tech fecal sampling to tally and assess numbers. Tiger scat is thought to provide a unique DNA signature allowing researchers to accurately identify individual animals.

Another encouraging sign are tiger sightings in non-contiguous areas. This indicates the presence of a “meta-population,” i.e., tigers who move from one reserve to another, thereby improving the gene pool. This gives conservationists reason to hope that another not waiting to happen in the south.

In the Eastern Ghats, the Nagarjunasagar-Srisilam Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh is back from the brink. The centre’s report damned the reserve as ‘poor’. The naxalite presence threatened the tiger’s core habitat for more than a decade and foresters could not enter the area. But the tiger population inched up to 53 in 2008 from just 34 in the nineties. “The Naxal presence is still there. But the forest field staff have started going inside for habitat improvement, a vast change from the time when no kind of administration existed there,” says AK Nayak, the field director.

But there are reasons to worry as well. At a recent seminar in Chennai, the chief wildlife wardens of the southern states admitted they did not have enough trained staff to take on poachers. In the rainforest habitats of Kalakad-Periyar and Anaimalai-Parambikulam, low tiger density can be reversed only if the prey base is protected. “The time has come for the foresters to go back to old-fashioned conservation, that is physical protection of forests, leaving development to other departments.”

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(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. (3 Marks)