



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री  
Prime Minister

**MESSAGE**

Our nation has been blessed with Nature's bounty aplenty – from the mighty Himalayas in the north to the deep oceans in the south, the deserts in the west to the dense rain forests in the east. The beautiful landscape is home to an array of diverse wildlife, as well as rich flora and fauna.

Peaceful co-existence with nature, wildlife conservation and compassion for all forms of life are deeply ingrained in our socio-cultural ethos. Protection of animals and nature is reflected through the laws and regulations and also enshrined in our Constitution.

Our Government has taken several steps to further environment conservation and wildlife protection. During the last seven years, we have extended our Protected Area network, increasing the Protected Areas in our country from 745 to 981, covering an area of 1, 71, 921 sq km. Our conservation efforts have contributed towards increasing the population of wild animals including tigers, lions and elephants.

Wildlife conservation faces challenges such as poaching, illegal trade of wildlife and man-animal conflict. Such issues can be resolved only through collective and coordinated efforts by local communities, as well as Central and State Governments, including various stakeholders.

The actions that we take today will help preserve our natural resources for posterity and secure a greener, cleaner future for generations to come.

The Wildlife Week being observed from October 02-08, 2021 coincides with the birth anniversary of Pujya Bapu. Let us draw inspiration from the occasion to renew the commitment to protect our wildlife and its habitat with a new zeal and fresh energy.

Greetings and best wishes for all success of the Wildlife Week celebration.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi  
आश्विन 12, शक संवत् 1943  
04<sup>th</sup> October, 2021