

# Environmental Resilience

Adapting to a Changing World

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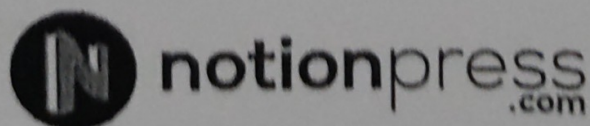
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# Contents

*Foreward*

*Preface*

1. Colonial Modernity and Its Impact on the Indian Environment 1-5  
*Dr. Kaustav Chakrabarti*
2. Sustainability Considerations of Green Buildings with Reference to Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste: A Theoretical Framework 6-21  
*Dr. Hardik Dhull*
3. An Overview of the Major Threats to Biodiversity and its Implications 22-34  
*Dr. Sujoy Kumar Sen*
4. Fading Forests: A Global Trend Analysis of Forest Cover Loss with Special Reference to India 35-50  
*Sagartirtha Chakraborty<sup>1</sup> & Ankita Chakraborty<sup>2</sup>*
5. The Depletion of Global Ozone: Its Causes, Consequences, and Preventive measures 51-69  
*Papiya Dey*
6. The Impact of Globalisation on Agricultural Systems, Food Security and Rural Livelihoods in India 70-85  
*Sri Pijus Kanti Mondal*
7. Living with Flood: A study on Miri Tribe of Dhemaji District, Assam 86-103  
*Dhruba Jyoti Mudoi<sup>1</sup>, Sinchan Banerjee<sup>2</sup> & Supratim Karmakar<sup>3</sup>*

17. Green Governance in Sustainable Development: International and National Initiatives and A Critical Appraisal 221-233  
*Subhasis Ghosh*
18. Biodiversity in the Villages Of Telangana State: Eutropis Carinata 234-246  
*N. Sai Prashanthi*
19. The Role of Folkculture in Environmental Sustainability 247-253  
*Dr. Jyotirmay Roy*
20. The Evolution of Environmental Policy in India 254-266  
*Joy Kumar Das*
21. Environment And Nature in Indian English Poetry: Developing Ecological Consciousness and Founding A Sustainable Relationship Between Nature And Human 267-276  
*Tapashi Singha*
22. Diseases and Medicines of the Meches of North Bengal 277-283  
*Mahuya Mukherjee*
23. A Critical analysis of Uttar Banga Sambad news on Man vs. Wildlife Conflict at Birpara Madarihat Block 284-295  
*Sk. Kamruzzaman*
24. Role of External and Internal Factors in Language Stimulation in Children 296-301  
*Abhishek BP*
25. The Devastating Impact of Human Activities on Biodiversity with Special Reference of North East India 302-309  
*Bandita Kalita*

## A Critical analysis of Uttar Banga Sambad news on Man vs. Wildlife Conflict at Birpara Madarihat Block

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### Abstract

"Every action has equal reaction", this physics law is completely true for the environment. Environment give us shelter, food and security. But if we destroy and degrade its quality, it can caused serious harms for civilization. To explain the above quote, I select the topic Man vs. wildlife conflict at Madarihat-Birpara Block and try to show the conflict nature between them. Because of Human civilization and lust, forest area of Madarihat-Birpara region has degraded and the vegetation lands of wildlife has compromised. Due to lack of shelter, foods and security they come out from the forest, robbed crops land, attack people and demolish people house daily. So, my objectives of this article is to highlights the trends of conflict and try to explain the reason behinds the facts.

**Keywords:** Birpara, Conflict, Dalgaon, Elephant, Khairbari, Leopard, Madarihat, wildlife.

### Introduction

In the early days of human civilization, humans and wildlife have lived in forest with a life of conflict. Later, for the sake of safe and comfortable life, people adopted a different way of life from them. After coming out of the forest, they started a new life to live, built cities and at the same time they gave up their full dependence on forest and started a crops dependent life. However, their fascination with the forest sometimes they enter the forest for the old hunting addiction, sometimes wild animals sometimes for circus and zoo and

sometimes to collect wood, fruits, flowers, honey and agricultural land from the forest. Due to this possessive nature of humans, they have interfered with the life of wild life for ages. They have repeatedly encroached on wildlife in the name of cattle rearing, agricultural land and household furniture. Confronted with wild animals, clashed with them or hunted them. In other words, their house is broken. Therefore, according to the rules of nature, wild animals are constantly attacking people's homes in the hope of food and safety.

Covering an area of 216.51 km<sup>2</sup>, Jaldapara National Park is spread over large areas of Kalchini, Falakatta and Birpara-Madarihat blocks along with some parts of Cooch Behar district but most of it belongs to Birpara-Madarihat block. There is an assemblage of various types of ferns and forest plants along with a variety of wild animals. But this national park is not confined to a specific region at once. Although its main forest belongs in on both sides of the river Torsha, it is fragmented into several bits, where seven bits of it belong to Birpara-Madarihat block. This main national park is divided into several branches namely Dhumchi Forest, Dalmore Forest, Bandapani Forest, Kalapahari Forest, Lankapara Forest, Ballalguri Forest, Khairbari Forest or Andharikora Forest, Jaldapara Core area etc. Common wild animals except rhinoceros are scattered in these forests and they use the localities and tea gardens as corridors to travel between these forests. Elephants, bison and leopards in particular cross vast areas daily for food and security reasons. As a result, their clashes with humans have become a daily occurrence in the region.

As per 2011 census, the total population of Birpara-Madarihat block is 202026, out of which, 13,761 people live in census towns. Significantly, most of this population resides in the nearby village and towns of Jaldapara National Park. Madarihat and Birpara towns are located next to this national park and its branches. As most of the land in this block is barren, which is mixed with gravel, stone and sand, there is not much agricultural activity here. Agriculture is not much done in mainly fallow lands, although people grow some mono- or bi-crops like maize, rice and some other crops. Cattle grazing is the main livelihood of people in Totopara, Ballalguri, Lankapara, Makrapara, Kalapahari etc. regions. Fertile land for agriculture is only available in the southern and western fringe villages of the present Madarihat and Birpara towns. As a result, these villages near the forest are constantly in conflict with wildlife. Most of the villages in East, West, North and South Kherbari Gram Panchayats, especially in Deogaon and Shalkumar areas of Falakata block, are mostly developed in forest or nearby forest areas. For the development of settlements, deforestation and agricultural land, highest number of human-wildlife conflicts has led to these areas. Especially elephants and bison raid some villages in this region every day to meet their food needs. Besides, the people of these areas constantly encroach on the forests

## About the Book

"Environmental Resilience: Adapting to a Changing World" is a comprehensive exploration of the strategies and principles necessary to navigate the increasing environmental challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, and other ecological disruptions. The book delves into the concept of resilience, emphasizing the ability of natural and human systems to adapt, recover, and thrive amidst changing conditions. The Key themes include the importance of sustainable practices, the role of technological innovation, and the necessity of community involvement and policy frameworks in building resilient environments. The authors, experts in environmental science and policy, provide case studies and real-world examples to illustrate successful resilience strategies across different ecosystems and societies. This book serves as an essential resource for policymakers, environmentalists, and anyone interested in understanding and enhancing the resilience of our planet in the face of ongoing and future environmental challenges.

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