

**Bill No. LVI of 2025**

THE STRAY AND WILD ANIMAL ATTACKS (PREVENTION  
AND WELFARE) BILL, 2025

A

BILL

*to provide for the prevention of harm to human beings and loss of lives and  
property from stray and wild animal attacks, establish mechanisms  
for rapid emergency response and victim compensation, and  
to regulate the welfare, population control, vaccination,  
sheltering, and rehabilitation of such animals  
through humane and scientific practices,  
and for matters connected  
therewith or incidental  
thereto.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of  
India as follows: —

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

- 5     1. (1) This Act may be called the Stray and Wild Animal Attacks (Prevention  
and Welfare) Act, 2025.
- (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by  
notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Short title and  
commencement.

Definitions.

2. (a) “appropriate Government” means, in the case of a State, the Government of that State, and in all other cases, the Central Government;
- (b) “designated officer” means an officer appointed by the Central Government or the State Government by notification in the Official Gazette, for such local area or for such functions as may be specified in the notification; 5
- (c) “domestic or pet animal” means any animal that is tamed or bred in captivity and is ordinarily kept or intended to be kept in a household, farm, or other human environment for companionship, work, utility, or livelihood;
- (d) “Fund” means the Stray and Wild Animal Victim Compensation Fund established under section 14 of this Act; 10
- (e) “incident” means any reported case of injury, fatality, or medically verified threat to a human being caused by an attack or aggression by a stray or wild animal;
- (f) “local authority” means,— 15
- (i) a Municipality or a Panchayat, as defined in clauses (e) and (f) of article 243P of the Constitution, which is responsible for sanitation in its area of jurisdiction;
- (ii) a Cantonment Board constituted under section 10 of the Cantonments Act, 2006; and 20 41 of 2006.
- (iii) a railway authority of that sub-division, district, or any such part of India;
- (g) “prescribed” means prescribed under the rules made under this Act;
- (h) “Scheme” means the Scheme for payment of compensation to persons affected by incidents under this Act framed under section 10; 25
- (i) “shelter home” means a facility established, maintained, or recognised by the State Animal Welfare Board, or in the case of a Union Territory, by the Union Territory Administration or the Animal Welfare Board of India, for the temporary or long-term housing, medical treatment, post-operative care, quarantine, and rehabilitation of stray animals, in accordance with the standards and guidelines prescribed under this Act or the rules made thereunder; 30
- (j) “stray animal” means a dog, or any other animal species as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time, found in a public place without supervision, care, or identifiable ownership; 35
- (k) “Unit” means the Stray and Wild Animal Response Unit established by the appropriate Government in every district of the country under section 3; and
- (l) “wild animal” means any animal as defined under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which is found in human-inhabited or developed areas outside its notified or natural habitat. 40 53 of 1972.

## CHAPTER II

### STRAY AND WILD ANIMAL RESPONSE UNIT

Establishment of  
Stray and Wild  
Animal  
Response Unit.

3. (1) **The appropriate Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, establish, in every district, a Stray and Wild Animal Response Unit within six months from the date of commencement of this Act, to carry out the purposes of this Act.** 45
- (2) The Unit shall function as a nodal body for coordination between the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, the Forest Department, the Health Department, local authorities, and such other authorities and stakeholders, as may be required from time to time for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act. 50

**(3) The composition of each Unit shall be as follows—**

**(a) a veterinary practitioner registered under the relevant law for the time being in force, to be nominated by the District Administration in such manner as may be prescribed, who shall serve as the Chairperson;**

**(b) one officer not below such rank as may be prescribed, from the Forest or Wildlife Department to be nominated by the appropriate Government in such manner as may be prescribed;**

**(c) one representative from the Health Department in the appropriate Government not below the rank of Block Medical Officer or equivalent, to be nominated by the appropriate Government in such manner as may be prescribed;**

**(d) one representative from the Police Department or Civil Defence, not below such rank as may be prescribed, to be nominated by the appropriate Government in such manner as may be prescribed; and**

**(e) one representative of a Animal Welfare Organisation registered under any law for the time being in force and having such experience in stray or wild animal management, to be appointed by the appropriate Government, in such manner as may be prescribed.**

**(4) The Unit shall work in coordination with the Animal Welfare Board of the State, in the case of a State, or the Animal Welfare Board of India, in the case of a Union Territory, and any other relevant local body, as may be prescribed.**

**(5) The term of office of, the salary and allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and Members of the Unit shall be such as may be prescribed.**

**(6) The Unit shall function in such manner and the procedure with regard to transaction of its business shall be regulated in such manner as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government.**

**4. (1) The appropriate Government may appoint such number of officers and staff to the Unit, as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions under this Act.**

Officers and staff of the Unit.

**(2) The method of recruitment, the salaries and allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of, the officers and staff, so appointed for the purpose of the Unit shall be such as may be prescribed.**

### CHAPTER III

#### PREVENTION AND SAFETY MEASURES

**5. (1) No person who owns or is in charge of a domestic or pet animal shall abandon such animal in any public place, private property, or any other location, whether temporarily or permanently, in a manner that renders the animal stray or without care.**

Prohibition of abandonment and mandatory registration of owned animals.

**(2) Every person who owns or has acquired any domestic or pet animal shall, within a period of one month from the date of such acquisition or ownership, make an application for its registration to the respective local authority having jurisdiction:**

**Provided that every person who, before the commencement of this Act, owns or is in charge of a domestic or pet animal shall, within such period from the date of commencement of this Act, as may be prescribed, apply for registration as provided under this Act.**

**(3) The procedure for registration, including application forms, required documents, fees, and maintenance of a digital or physical register of such registration under sub-section (2), shall be such as may be prescribed.**

	(4) The local authority shall maintain a register of all animals registered under sub-section (2), including the name and contact details of the owner, species and breed of the animal, and such other particulars as specified in such form and manner as may be prescribed.	
	(5) Any person who, in contravention of this section —	5
	(a) fails to register their domestic or pet animal within the stipulated time; or	
	(b) abandons an animal;	
	shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both.	10
Risk zoning and surveillance.	6. (1) Local authorities shall, in consultation with the concerned Unit, identify and notify high-risk zones based on the frequency, severity, recurrence of incidents and such other factors in such form and manner as may be prescribed.	
	(2) In such notified zones, the local authority shall implement appropriate surveillance and deterrent measures, which may include CCTV installation, animal tagging, and installation of physical barriers, subject to technical feasibility and ecological compliance.	15
	(3) The Central Government may issue model guidelines for standardising the risk assessment criteria and minimum safety infrastructure required in high-risk zones.	20
Prevention protocols.	7. (1) The local authority shall implement mandatory sterilization and anti-rabies vaccination drives in areas notified as high-risk zones under section 6, at such regular intervals as may be prescribed.	
	(2) The local authority and the Forest Department shall install physical barriers and warning signage in identified human-animal conflict zones in such form and manner as may be prescribed.	25
	(3) Public advisories and safety protocols shall be disseminated through signage, community channels, digital platforms and such other forms of communication as may be prescribed.	30
<b>CHAPTER IV</b>		
<b>INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND HUMAN SAFETY</b>		
Emergency reporting and response.	8. (1) <b>The Central Government shall establish and maintain a 24x7 national toll-free helpline for reporting incidents.</b>	
	(2) Each local authority shall maintain at least one operational animal ambulance and a designated first-response team to respond to stray and wild animal attacks as expeditiously as possible.	35
	(3) All emergency calls involving a threat to human life shall be responded to within two hours in urban areas and six hours in rural areas, to the extent administratively possible.	40
	(4) The national helpline and district response data shall be centrally recorded and reported quarterly to the State Government and the Central Government, in such form and manner as may be prescribed.	
Handling of aggressive dangerous animals.	9. (1) Where any stray or wild animal is reported to pose an imminent danger to human life, the Unit shall ensure the capture of such animal and conduct a medical and behavioural evaluation of such animal within twenty-four hours of such capture by a registered veterinary practitioner in such manner as may be prescribed.	45
	(2) No animal shall be euthanised unless—	
	(a) in the case of a stray animal, a certification by a registered veterinary practitioner is obtained that the animal is terminally ill or	50

suffering from an incurable condition causing prolonged suffering or where a designated officer, after risk assessment in accordance with the rules made under this Act, certifies that the such animal constitutes a continuing and imminent threat to public safety; and

53 of 1972. (b) in the case of wild animals, the Chief Wildlife Warden or such other officer authorised under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, permits such action in accordance with the section 11 of that Act:

10 Provided that if euthanasia is being resorted to, then it shall be done in as humane a manner as possible.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), every effort shall be made, wherever feasible to relocate, rehabilitate, or quarantine such animal, as an alternative to euthanasia.

59 of 1960. 53 of 1972. (4) All actions under this section shall comply with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 and any other law in this regard for the time being in force.

*Explanation.* — For the purposes of this section, —

20 (a) “euthanasia” means the humane termination of life of an animal by or under the supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner, by such method as may be prescribed.

25 (b) “imminent threat” means a situation where an animal is likely to cause immediate and serious harm to human life or health, as may be assessed in such manner based on such parameters, as may be prescribed.

## CHAPTER V

### COMPENSATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT

30 10. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, frame a Scheme for payment of compensation to persons affected by incidents under this Act.

Compensation Scheme.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (1), the Scheme shall provide for—

(i) payment of compensation of not less than rupees four lakh to the next of kin in the event of death of an individual;

45 of 2023. 35 (ii) payment of compensation ranging from rupees one lakh to rupees two lakh in cases of grievous hurt as defined under section 116 of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 or any other serious injury resulting in permanent disability, disfigurement, or prolonged hospitalization as may be certified by a registered medical practitioner;

40 (iii) an insurance scheme for individuals residing in high-risk zones; and

(iv) compensation for damage or loss to property or livestock.

45 (3) The Scheme referred to in sub-section (1) shall be administered by such authority, not lower in rank than the District Collector, as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(4) The Central Government shall make rules for the implementation of the Scheme and the determination, procedure, and manner of disbursement of compensation.

Central database and reporting.

11. **(1) The Central Government shall establish and maintain a dedicated digital portal for the collection and tracking of incidents, nationwide.**
- (2) Every local authority, Unit, shelter home, and veterinary institution or any other entity as may be notified, shall mandatorily record and upload data relating to such incidents to the portal, in such form, manner, and at such intervals as may be prescribed. 5
- (3) The Central Government shall publish an annual report based on such data referred to in sub-section (2) and upload the same on the dedicated digital portal for public access.

## CHAPTER VI 10

### COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Public awareness and education programmes.

12. **(1) The appropriate Governments shall organise regular public awareness campaigns on safe coexistence and human-animal conflict prevention.**
- (2) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and other relevant institutions shall develop age-appropriate modules on human-animal conflict prevention for inclusion in the curricula and training programmes of all educational institutions. 15

Capacity building programmes.

13. **(1) The appropriate Government shall organise and conduct regular training programmes for officers and organisations engaged in the implementation of this Act.** 20
- (2) The Central Government shall prescribe model guidelines and training modules for such programmes.

## CHAPTER VII

### FUNDING AND PENALTIES 25

Establishment of the Stray and Wild Animal Victim Compensation Fund.

14. **(1) The appropriate Government shall, by notification in the official Gazette, establish a fund to be called the "Stray and Wild Animal Victim Compensation Fund" for the purpose of providing compensation to victims of attacks by stray and wild animals, including in cases of injury, disability, or death, as provided under section 10.** 30

(2) The Fund shall be financed through equal contributions made by the following, namely—

(a) grants or allocations by the Central Government, from time to time, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf; 35

(b) grants or allocations by the State Government, from time to time, after due appropriation made by the State Legislature by law in this behalf; and

(c) the local authority having jurisdiction over the area where the incident occurred. 40

(3) There shall also be credited to the Fund the following, namely: —

(a) the amount of fines collected by way of imposition of penalties under sections 15 and 16; and

(b) moneys received by way of voluntary donations from persons or companies or corporate entities as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility obligations under section 35 of the Companies Act, 2013. 45

(4) The Fund shall be utilized for providing financial assistance or compensation in the event of—

18 of 2013.

- (a) physical injury resulting from an attack by a stray or wild animal;
- (b) permanent disability or disfigurement caused by such an attack;
- 5 (c) death caused due to such an attack, in which case compensation shall be payable to the legal heirs or dependents of the deceased; and
- (d) such other losses as may be notified by the appropriate Government through rules.
- 10 (5) The Fund shall be administered and managed by the appropriate Government and disbursed through such authority as referred to in sub-section (3) of section 10, in coordination with the concerned local authorities.
- 15 (6) The appropriate Government shall frame detailed guidelines, including eligibility conditions, assessment procedures, timelines for disbursement, grievance redressal mechanisms, and auditing provisions, for the effective and transparent administration of the Fund.
- (7) The local authority shall be responsible for—
- 20 (a) initial verification and documentation of claims within its jurisdiction;
- (b) submission of verified claims and reports to the appropriate Government for final sanction; and
- (c) maintaining local records of all such incidents and compensations disbursed.
- 25 (8) The appropriate Government shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts of the Fund in such form and manner and at such time of each financial year as may be prescribed.
- 30 (9) The accounts of the Fund shall be audited and certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India or by any other person appointed by him in this behalf at such intervals and shall be laid annually, as the case may be, before each House of Parliament or before the State Legislature, where it consists of one House and before each House of the State Legislature, where it consists of two Houses.
- 35 (10) The Central Government may issue model guidelines for the uniform implementation of this provision across States and Union territories, without prejudice to the autonomy of appropriate Government in the administration of the Fund.
- 40 **15.** (1) Where any local authority or any official authorised by it fails to take reasonable preventive measures to regulate, control, or manage stray or wild animals within its jurisdiction, resulting in an increase in animal attacks causing injury, harm, or threat to public safety, such local authority or the authorised official, as the case may be, shall be liable to penalty in accordance with sub-section (2).
- 45 (2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (1), the designated officer or person-in-charge of animal control in the local authority shall, upon the first offence, be liable to:
- (a) a fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but may extend to two lakh rupees; and

Penalty and liability for negligence in prevention of animal attacks.

		(b) mandatory suspension from duty for a minimum period of thirty days or until completion of the inquiry, whichever is longer.	
		(3) In the case of a second or subsequent offence, such officer shall be liable to,—	
		(a) imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months; or	5
		(b) fine not less than two lakh rupees; and	
		(c) disqualification from holding any public office or administrative post related to urban governance or animal control for a period of five years.	
		(4) The liability under this section shall be without prejudice to any civil or criminal liability under any other law for the time being in force.	10
		(5) The Central Government may prescribe, by rules, the manner of determination of responsibility, inquiry procedures, and additional safeguards for enforcement under this section.	
Penalties and enforcement.	16.	(1) Any person who obstructs any officer or person authorised under this Act in the lawful discharge of their duties shall be punishable with,—	15
		(a) fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees; or	
		(b) imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month; or	
		(c) both.	
		(2) In the event of a subsequent conviction, the offender shall be punishable with fine of not less than fifteen thousand rupees or with imprisonment which may extend to three months, or with both.	20
Application of other laws.	17.	(1) The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.	
		(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), in the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of this Act and any other law, including the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the provisions of this Act related to the establishment of Units emergency reporting and response mechanisms, victim compensation, and data management shall prevail.	25
			53 of 1972. 59 of 1960.
			30
Power to make rules.	18.	(1) The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.	
		(2) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.	35
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		(3) Every rule made by the State Government or the Union territory Government with Legislature, as the case may be, under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of the State Legislature or the Union territory Legislature, where it consists of two Houses, or where such legislature consists of one House, before that House.	45



- 19.** (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty:

Power to  
remove  
difficulties.

5                      Provided that no such orders shall be made after the expiry of the period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

- (2) Every order under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India faces a growing challenge at the intersection of public safety and animal welfare. Official data highlights the scale of this issue, with over 3.04 million dog bite cases reported in 2023 leading to at least 286 deaths. In 2024, approximately 2.2 million dog bite cases and 48 rabies fatalities were recorded, alongside over 500,000 incidents involving other animals. These attacks are frequent in populated areas, leading to avoidable injuries, deaths, and public fear. Independent surveys suggest that the true burden is much higher, with estimates of 9.1 million animal bite incidents annually. India accounts for nearly 36 per cent. of the world's rabies fatalities.

Currently, India lacks a dedicated legal framework to holistically manage animal attacks on humans. Existing laws like the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, are vital for animal rights but do not provide for coordinated emergency response, victim compensation, or scientific population management, leading to administrative confusion.

This Bill seeks to address this critical gap by balancing the constitutional right to life guaranteed to the citizens of the country under Article 21 of the Constitution with compassion for living beings. It proposes a humane and evidence-based framework by:

- Establishing district-level Stray and Wild Animal Response Units for coordinated action.
- Mandating a 24x7 national emergency helpline, time-bound response protocols, and a victim compensation scheme.
- Strengthening preventive measures through systematic animal birth control, vaccination, and a central digital database.
- Introducing structured public awareness campaigns, educational modules, and capacity-building programmes.
- Creating a dedicated Stray and Wild Animal Victim Compensation Fund supported by governmental allocations, contributions by local authorities, amount of fines imposed by way of penalties provided under the Bill, CSR, and public donations.

This legislation offers a forward-looking solution, recognising that protecting human lives and ensuring animal welfare are shared societal obligations. It also aligns with global public health goals, such as the WHO's target to eliminate dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

Hence, the Bill.

ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL.

## FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the establishment of Stray and Wild Animal Response Units in every district of the country, which shall function as nodal bodies for the prevention and coordinated response to animal attack incidents, and shall consist of veterinary professionals, officials from Forest, Health, Police Departments, and representatives from Animal Welfare Organisations, the composition of the Units and the salaries and allowances and other service conditions of the Chairperson and Members thereof. Clause 4 provides for the appointment of the officers and staff of the Unit and their salaries and allowances and other service conditions. Clause 8 mandates the establishment of a 24x7 national toll-free emergency helpline for reporting incidents of stray and wild animal attacks. Clause 10 provides that the Central Government shall frame a Scheme for payment of compensation to persons affected by stray and wild animal attacks, including provisions for compensation in cases of death, permanent disability, serious injury, or property loss. Clause 11 empowers the Central Government to establish a dedicated digital portal for real-time reporting and national-level data aggregation of incidents. Clause 12 provides that the appropriate Government shall organise regular public awareness campaigns on safe coexistence and conflict prevention, whereas, sub-clause (1) of Clause 13 provides for the organization and conduct of regular training programmes for officers and organisations engaged in the implementation of this Act. Clause 14 provides for the establishment of a “Stray and Wild Animal Victim Compensation Fund” with contributions from the Central Government, State Governments, local authorities, CSR and public donations etc. to be used exclusively for compensation and welfare measures under this Act.

The Bill, if enacted, will involve expenditure, both of recurring and non-recurring nature, from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of approximately one hundred crore rupees per annum will be involved. A non-recurring expenditure of approximately fifty crore rupees is also likely to be involved.

#### MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 18 of the Bill empowers the appropriate Government to make rules to carry out the provisions of the Act. Clause 19 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make such provisions through an order for removing any difficulty that might arise in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill.

As the rules or orders will relate to matters of administrative and procedural detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.



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to provide for the prevention of harm to human beings and loss of lives and property from stray and wild animal attacks, establish mechanisms for rapid emergency response and victim compensation, and to regulate the welfare, population control, vaccination, sheltering, and rehabilitation of such animals through humane and scientific practices and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

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*(Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, M.P.)*