

# ANIMAL'S CITY VS PEOPLE'S FOREST



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The busy noise of the city is very different from the quiet sounds of the forest. The city is always humming with cars and people. The forest a realm governed by the rhythm of nature, has its own calm beat set by nature. For thousands of years, these two places stayed separate with clear boundaries defining their territories. But now, as cities grow quickly and people's appetite for land grows more, and with time these lines are getting blurry creating a collision course with devastating consequences for the natural world.

Our modern way of life, driven by industrial expansion, unsustainable consumption, and a thriving population, has exerted immense pressure on the environment. Vast swathes of forests, the ancient homes of countless animal species, have been cleared to make way for sprawling cities, agricultural lands, and infrastructure projects. This deforestation not only destroys habitats but also fragments them, isolating animal populations and limiting their access to food, water, and mates.

Driven by desperation, wild animals are increasingly venturing out of their shrinking and degraded habitats and into human-dominated landscapes, particularly cities. The lure of easily accessible food sources, often in the form of discarded waste, and the absence of natural predators within urban environments can make cities appear as temporary havens. However, this foray into the human world is fraught with danger for the animals, exposing them to traffic accidents, encounters with domestic animals, and the risk of being captured or culled.

Recent news from India paints a stark picture of this escalating crisis. Over the past year, there have been numerous reports of wild animals being sighted in urban areas across the country. Leopards have been spotted in residential colonies in Mumbai and Gujarat, sometimes even entering homes in search of food.

Elephants, facing habitat loss and fragmentation, have strayed into agricultural fields and even towns in states like West Bengal and Assam, leading to conflicts with local communities. Similarly, incidents of deer, wild boars, and even tigers venturing into human settlements have become increasingly common.

These incidents are not isolated occurrences; they are symptomatic of a larger problem the shrinking space for wildlife and the increasing overlap between human and animal territories. They serve as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to reconsider our relationship with the natural world.

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