

Fastrack courts to deal with wildlife cases



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In a good news for conservationists and nature lovers the [state](#) government has set up [10](#) fast-track courts to expedite wildlife crime cases. To expeditiously clear the colossal scale of pending cases related to wildlife crime the fast-track courts will exclusively [deal](#) with wildlife offences thereby ensuring prompt trial of poachers. "The move is expected to improve the conviction rate, which has been abysmally low, in wildlife crime cases. The courts have been set up in Golaghat, Jorhat, [Tinsukia](#), Dibrugarh, Nagaon, Sonitpur, Barpeta, Cachar, Darrang and [Udalguri](#) districts where national parks and most of the wildlife sanctuaries are located. The courts came into being recently with Gauhati High Court designating the seniormost additional sessions judge in the [10](#) districts for faster disposal of cases under the [Wildlife](#) (Protection) [Act](#), 1972, and other offences related to forests, which can be tried in a sessions court. The high court notification states that if any district does not have an additional sessions judge, the sessions court can become a fast-track court for wildlife crimes.

"It is a welcome step [as](#) wildlife cases remain pending in court for years. With the setting up of fast-track courts, the cases will get speedy disposal," said Nabajyoti Baruah a nature activist of [Udalguri](#). He expressed hope that setting up of fast-track courts will work [as](#) a deterrent to poaching thereby lowering the wildlife crime and saving the one-horned rhinoceros.

Shajid Khan

Recipient of The Annual Colosseum Awards 2014 & 2015 (by The Assam Tribune group), Shajid Khan is an Independent journalist based in Assam. He has contributed numerous political, socio-political stories for bountiful national, international as well as Assam based publications including The New York Times, Firstpost, The Telegraph. He also pens down analytic commentary on print and web based publications.

BY SHAJID KHAN

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