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## **Press Release**

## TAMIL NADU WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL BUREAU -PREVENTS MASS HUNTING

Tamil Nadu Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (TNFWCCB) intelligence team has prevented illegal mass hunting of Black-napped hare in perundurai Taluk of Erode District. On 16.07.2023 based on secret information on organised hunting of Black napped hare a team lead by Thiru. Ramasubramaniyan, IFS., Field Director, Anamalai Tiger Reserve and Thiru K.Rajkumar, IFS., Conservator of Forests& Field Director, Sathyamangalam the Tiger Reserve undertook operation. Thiru N. Vengatesh Prabhu, IFS., District Forest Officer, Erode, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Forest protection Squad, STR, TNFWCCB Coimbatore and Forest Range Officers from Erode, TNFWCCB Coimbatore, Vilamundi Range, T.N. Palayam as well as Foresters, Forest Guards and Forest Watchers organised the operation. Based on the intelligence the team placed an informer within the gang of hunters and came to know that more than 200 people will gather near Perundurai to hunt Black napped hares. The gang has been organising such local hunting through various social media platforms. Based on the information the Forest Department team swiftly reached the spot and prevented a massive hunting operation.

More than 100 people were arrested and 63 two wheelers have been Seized. A case has been booked under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The offenders were released after imposition of compounding fees. This action of the Forest Department has created massive awareness in nearby villages which will help in wildlife conservation.

> Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change & Forest Dept

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