



The Blue Moon

.....because your critic is your best friend

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India's Hidden Wilderness

**U.S. and India
Unite for Wildlife**
pg - 13

A Journey Through Wildlife Park **Series I**

Cyprus-India
Unfolding Synergies
pg - 5



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The Paradox of 'Wildlife'

A Human Construct

The term 'wildlife' is inherently paradoxical, a human construct that differentiates life into 'wild' and 'tame'. But how can life be wild? The answer lies in our perception. We, humans, the self-proclaimed supreme beings on Earth, have categorized life into these distinct compartments.

When Google suggests 'domesticated' as a synonym for 'wild', it underscores the irony. Domesticated animals live under human regulations, while 'wild' is described as living in a state of nature, free from human control and care. This dichotomy leads us to a perplexing conclusion: animal life is either under human control or it isn't.

Interestingly, humans have cordoned off tracts of land for the survival of the 'wild', creating wildlife pockets. Take, for instance, Jim Corbett National Park, India's oldest wildlife sanctuary, established in 1936 to protect the endangered Bengal tiger. Despite its status as a sanctuary, it operates under human control and care. This blurs the line between 'wild' and 'tame'.

Bandhavgarh National Park, known for having the highest density of tigers, presents another conundrum. Can 50

tigers spread across 100 square kilometres be termed 'wild' if humans are taking care of them?

Madhya Pradesh, with the largest number of National Parks totaling 10, and Bor Tiger Reserve sanctuary, covering an area of 121.1 square kilometres near Hingani in Wardha District of Maharashtra, further illustrate this paradox. The size of a sanctuary is not as important as the whims of humans who create what suits them.

In a nutshell, wildlife parks are not truly 'wild'. They are named so by humans, perhaps because we couldn't find a suitable name for these natural areas. So, the next time you visit a wildlife area, remember, it is termed 'wildlife' because it exists in a realm that humans have yet to fully control or understand."

Amit Mittal



Harmony in the Wild

by the correspondent

In the heart of India, nestled between the dense forests and the vast plains, lies a small village, Kishanpur. This community lives in the shadow of the wild, their lives intertwined with the rhythms of the jungle.

Life in Kishanpur is not without its challenges. The proximity to the wildlife sanctuary means frequent encounters with wild animals. Elephants trample through fields, monkeys steal fruits, and the roar of the tiger is a constant reminder of the thin line between man and beast.

Yet, the villagers of Kishanpur have learned to adapt. They've built elevated huts to protect their crops from elephants. They've planted fruit trees away from their homes to distract monkeys. They've even learned to interpret the calls of birds, using them as warnings for approaching predators.

But the most inspiring aspect of Kishanpur is not just their survival, but their reverence for the wild. They understand that the animals are not intruders, but rightful inhabitants of the land. They've realized that their survival depends not on fighting the wild, but coexisting with it.

Continued on page 12

Cyprus-India: Unfolding Synergies

In an exclusive conversation with the High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Evagoras Vryonides of Cyprus to India, we delve into the dynamic and evolving relationship between Cyprus and India. This dialogue, titled 'Cyprus-India: Unfolding Synergies', explores the mutual growth and opportunities that have emerged from this bilateral relationship. As we navigate through this enlightening discussion, we uncover the shared history, cultural exchanges, economic collaborations, and future prospects that bind these two nations together.

by Amit Mittal

Q. As the eighth largest foreign direct investor in India, can you quantify Cyprus's total investment and highlight the sectors that predominantly attract this investment?

According to the Central Bank of Cyprus, the amount of outward FDI (stocks) to India during the period January to December 2021, amounted to €107.8 million, while in the same period in 2022, it amounted to €117.4 million, reflecting marginal increase. Statistics for 2023 will be available by April 2024.

Q. What is the current volume of bilateral trade between India and Cyprus, and how has it evolved over recent years?

Bilateral trade between Cyprus and India has steadily increased over the recent years. The trade value between the two countries for the period April 2020- March 2021 was around US\$ 114.09 Million, while for the period April 2021- March 2022, it amounted to US\$ 214.17 Million.

Major items of export from India include Organic Chemicals, Pharmaceutical Products, Iron & Steel,



H.E. Mr Evagoras Vryonides
High Commissioner of the Republic of
Cyprus presenting his credentials to
President Draupadi Murmu of India

Ceramic products, Electrical Machinery and Equipment, Sound Recorders and Reproducers, Television Image and parts and accessories of such articles.

Major items of export from Cyprus include Ships, Boats and Floating Structures, Aluminum and articles thereof, Pulp of Wood or of other Fibrous Cellulosic Material, recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard, Copper and articles thereof, Iron and Steel, Boilers, Machinery and Mechanical Appliances.

Q. Could you elucidate the controversy surrounding the flag of Cyprus, and clarify the

distinction between the flags of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot administration?

Firstly, I would like to put the Cyprus issue in correct perspective. In terms of international law, including the UN Charter and European Law, there is only one state in Cyprus i.e. the Republic of Cyprus. As regards the northern part of Cyprus, it must be clarified that Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974, and continues to occupy illegally almost 37% of Cyprus' territory in the north. It established a puppet regime in the said part of Cyprus in 1983, which has no legality in the eyes of the UN and international law. There are specific UN Security Council resolutions on Cyprus (541/83 and 550/84) which call on the International Community not to assist nor recognize this illegal entity, which as a result and because of Cyprus positioning, has not been, until today, recognized by any country with the sole exception of Turkey.

Q. Is it accurate to describe Cyprus as being geopolitically divided into Turkish and Greek segments, with the

former constituting one-third and the latter two-thirds of the island?

The Government of Cyprus continues to make efforts to start the negotiation process for the reunification of the island, under the UN framework. It must be reminded that Cyprus considers the Turkish Cypriot Compatriots as its citizens and within this policy the Government of Cyprus provides necessary assistance to them, including granting them passports, pensions to widows, offering job training opportunities, medical assistance, expanding trade cooperation with them and easing movements of the two communities through the 8 checkpoints along the UN-controlled buffer zone.

Q. In the context of Cyprus's division, do residents of the Turkish and Greek parts hold distinct nationalities?

The majority of our Turkish Cypriot compatriots hold and use Cypriot passports and identity cards for international travel and the Cyprus Government facilitates the issuance of the same to them. In the occupied part, there are a number of illegal immigrants, brought over by Turkey after the 1974 invasion. These people are considered to be in Cyprus illegally and therefore are not able to hold the Cyprus nationality.

Q. With a history of Indian Generals serving in the UN

peacekeeping force in Cyprus, does the country maintain its independent military forces?

Of course, like any other country, Cyprus also has its defence services, which include all three wings known as National Guard, Cyprus Navy and Cyprus Air Command. As regards the UN Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the Force has been mandated to maintain peace between the two communities in Cyprus. Needless to say, India has great contributions to the UNFICYP with three Indian generals having served as commander of the force in the past. The Government of Cyprus appreciates this contribution.

Q. Could you highlight the key sectors in Cyprus that present promising investment opportunities for Indian investors, particularly in the post-pandemic economic landscape.

The focused sectors for attracting investment to Cyprus include high technology, shipping, pharmaceutical, innovation, and research and development.

To this end, Cyprus has introduced a new strategy including for attracting foreign skilled talent to Cyprus. This strategy includes a series of new incentives concerning residency, taxation, and employment, through a fast, simple, and streamlined procedure. The national investment agency of Cyprus

called Invest Cyprus provides fast and efficient services to foreign businesses, wishing to set up a presence in Cyprus or to expand their business activities.

Moreover, the tourism sector stands out as one of the most lucrative sectors for Indian businesses to invest in Cyprus in terms of opportunities in hotel chains and tourism and infrastructure and services.

Cyprus serves as a gateway to Europe, as it is strategically located in the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe. Indian businesses can benefit from the vibrant hotel and travel sector of the Cyprus economy, by investing and collaborating with the hotel chains and travel agents in Cyprus.

Q. What initiatives is Cyprus undertaking to promote renewable energy, and how can Indian businesses contribute to or benefit from these initiatives?

Cyprus has recently joined the International Solar Alliance, signalling a significant step towards fostering collaboration in the realm of solar energy. With its abundant sunlight throughout the year, Cyprus presents an ideal environment for harnessing the solar power. The membership to the International Solar Alliance opens up avenues for substantial cooperation in advancing solar energy cooperation between Cyprus and India.

Q. How is Cyprus

collaborating with India on climate action, and what joint efforts are being made to address climate change challenges?

Being a country situated at the heart of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East, Cyprus is concerned about the impact of climate change, as it itself is highly vulnerable and experiencing more climate change impact as compared to the global average.

In the framework of its initiative, Cyprus is engaged in collective and regional action such as the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative (EMME-CCI), initiated by it in 2019. Moreover, Cyprus will host in April 2024 the First Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on the Sustainable Use of the Ocean that aims to establish the principles, priorities and actions that will govern the future Commonwealth Ocean Declaration.

In terms of cooperation with India, our two countries signed an MoU in the field of Environment during the Presidential visit to Cyprus from India in 2018, which has the provision of joint efforts for addressing climate change.

Q. What strategies is Cyprus implementing to attract tourists from India, and are there any specific areas of cooperation in the tourism sector between the two

countries?

To boost two-way tourism, an Agreement on Tourism Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Republic of India has been in place since 1996.

The most important development with respect to Cyprus' strategy to promote Cyprus as an attractive tourism destination was the transformation of the Cyprus Trade Organization into a specific Deputy Ministry of Tourism. This ministry has been powered to develop a national strategy for tourism, promotion and projection of Cyprus as a tourist destination, as well as implementation of tourism legislation.

The Deputy Ministry of Tourism has undertaken and plans to promote Cyprus as a tourist destination for Indian citizens, through various activities including hosting in Cyprus selected Influencers, presentations to travel agents in India and participating in tourism exhibitions in India. The High Commission in New Delhi facilitates tourist visa applications.

Furthermore, there is a proposal under consideration for a direct flight from India to Cyprus. Once implemented, this initiative is expected to significantly enhance tourism activities between the two countries.

Q. Can you share insights into

any existing or planned cultural exchange programs that aim to strengthen the diplomatic ties between Cyprus and India?

The Cyprus Film Festival is planned to be organized in Kolkata later this year. Efforts are underway to fulfill the necessary requirements and make arrangements that will enhance the overall experience of this upcoming event.

In terms of bilateral framework for cultural cooperation, there is a cultural cooperation agreement between the two countries since 1980.

Consequently, both sides have signed numerous periodic executive programs in order to enhance educational and Cultural exchanges. The new program for the period of 2024-2027, is currently under consideration and will hopefully be signed shortly.

Q. In what ways are Cyprus and India working together to enhance bilateral trade, and what are the priority areas for future economic cooperation?

Last year, the Cyprus Trade Centre in New Delhi was inaugurated with the aim of boosting trade for Cypriot exporters. Companies interested in expanding their business in India can now apply through the Export Help Desk portal, where the Trade Centre assists in establishing their presence. The officials of the Trade Centre are actively engaged in various trade conferences and seminars,

facilitating networking opportunities for Cypriot exporters.

They proactively share pertinent information about these events with counterparts in Cyprus, enabling them to consider attendance and showcase their products in the Indian market. This collaborative effort ensures effective communication and facilitates the participation of Cypriot businesses in Indian events, providing them with opportunities to exhibit and promote their products.

Q. How do Cyprus’s policies align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and what role does India play in supporting these goals within Cyprus?

At the Governance level for the SDGs, Cyprus is implementing a project in cooperation with United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) aiming towards a whole-of- Government approach in implementing a sustainable Development Agenda and at a stronger partnership with all stakeholders.

Cyprus is also coordinating efforts to implement projects, initiatives and actions reflect its commitment towards achieving the vision of the 2030 UN Agenda. The National Recovery and Resilience Plan is a key tool towards Cyprus’ effective green and digital transition while leaving no one behind.

Q. Are there any educational partnerships or exchange programs between Cypriot and Indian universities that aim to foster mutual understanding and Collaboration?

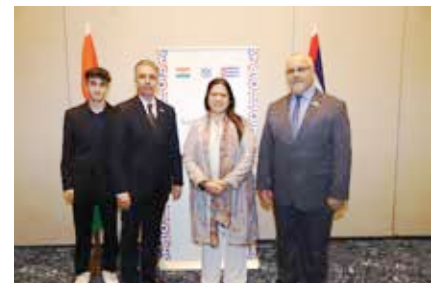
A Cultural Agreement between Cyprus and India is in place since 1980. Consequently, both sides have signed numerous periodic executive programs in order to enhance educational and Cultural exchanges. The new program for the period of 2024-2027, is currently under consideration and will hopefully be signed shortly.

In order to promote Higher Education, the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Youth in Cyprus establishes a booth every year at European Higher Education Virtual Fair. This event serves as a platform where all European countries showcased their booths, providing a unique opportunity for students to explore educational options. Attendees were able to apply directly and engage in one-to-one discussions with universities, facilitating a seamless exchange of information and fostering connections between prospective students and educational institutions.

Moreover, we have recently received a request from the University Grants Commission in India concerning the collaboration of Cypriot universities in India. We have promptly shared this information with the Ministries

of Education, Sports, and Youth in Cyprus, urging them to take note of the request and inform us about any potential collaboration opportunities.

“Celebrating the 65th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution and the 64th year of friendship between Cuba and India, we honor the spirit of resilience and unity that defines this vibrant nation. This year’s festivities also mark the farewell of the Cuban Ambassador to India, adding a poignant note to the celebrations.



(centre) : H.E. Mr Wilfredo Gonzalez Vidal, Hon'ble Dpty Minister of State for Communications, Govt. of Cuba along with the Chief Guest Hon. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, India and (on her left side) H. E.Mr Alejandro Simancas Marin, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to India and his Son (Extreme Corner)



Group photo of Ambassadors from different countries

Envoys from Four Nations presented their Credentials to President Draupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 5 January 2024, marking a new chapter in the Diplomatic Relations between their respective Nations and India

H.E. Mr Elchin Nariman Oglu Huseynli
Ambassador of the Republic
of Azerbaijan to India



Azerbaijan’s new Ambassador to India, recently presented his credentials to President Droupadi Murmu, marking a key diplomatic milestone. The ceremony fostered bilateral ties, with discussions on economic, trade, and energy cooperation, and tourism growth. President Murmu expressed confidence in Huseynli’s ability to strengthen Azerbaijan-India relations. Huseynli, appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in October 2023, brings over two decades of diplomatic experience and has held key positions within Azerbaijan’s administration. His overseas assignments and academic credentials position him as a significant contributor to enduring Azerbaijan-India relations.

H.E. Mrs Aliko Koutsomitopoulou
Ambassador
of Greece to India



Born in Athens in 1967, studied Mathematics and Political Science. She joined the Hellenic Foreign Service in 1998, serving in Athens, Madrid, and Cairo. She worked for the Department for Schengen, Justice and Home Affairs at the MFA, and later became Chief of Staff of the Secretary General. She served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Greece in New Delhi from 2013 to 2018. She then became Head of Unit at the Permanent representation of Greece to the EU. In 2021, she returned to Athens to head the Department for Schengen, Justice and Home Affairs at the MFA. In 2023, she was appointed Head of Diplomatic Cabinet of the Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs.

H.E. Mrs Kshenuka Dhireni Senewiratne
High Commissioner of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to India



H.E. Mrs Lebohang Valentine Mochaba
High Commissioner of the Kingdom
of Lesotho to India



Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) An Unexplored Tool to Dynamize and Diversify Trade and Investment Between India and Peru

by Amb. (retd.) Jorge Castaneda
Ex Ambassador of Peru to India

India and Peru are getting ready to resume the VI round of negotiations for a groundbreaking Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a move set to invigorate trade and investment ties between the two countries. Negotiations first started in 2017, and since then, six rounds of talks have taken place as of October 2023. The negotiations are expected to conclude in the second half of 2024.

This comprehensive FTA aims to embrace multifaceted components, ranging from market access for goods and trade in services to the movement of professionals and investment facilitation. Notably, Peru stands as India's third-largest export destination in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, enhancing the strategic significance of the pact. Anticipated subjects of negotiation encompass trade remedies, rules of origin for goods, technical barriers, dispute resolution, and customs procedures, among others.

Trade between India and Peru is growing. The total trade between two countries in the Financial Year 2022-23 was US\$3,291.64 million, of which India's exports were worth US \$1,160.64 million and imports from Peru were US\$ 2,131.00

million.

India's main exports to Peru include automobiles, motorcycles and three-wheelers, polyester and cotton yarns, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel products, plastic products, rubber, pipes for oil and gas industry, tires, pipes etc. Main imports from Peru are gold, copper, synthetic filaments, phosphates of calcium, fresh grapes, fish flour, etc.

Several trade missions/business delegations from India have visited Peru representing sectors such as pharmaceuticals, leather, chemicals, engineering, apparel, cotton yarn, synthetic & rayon, handicrafts, plastic, food processing, and automotive parts. Virtual business meetings were also held to explore business opportunities for Indian companies with a focus on sectors like medical devices, pharmaceuticals, critical health

technologies, agricultural machinery, customized vehicles, leather and footwear, electronic products, technological services, textile machinery, fisheries, metal industry, services, education, healthcare and entertainment industry; as well as trade and investment opportunities.

Five Indian companies have currently invested in the mining sector in Peru. It is estimated that their present investment is to the tune of US \$30 million. Tata Consultancy Services have a sizeable operation in Lima and is increasing its presence in Peru. Tech Mahindra and Infosys also have a significant presence in Peru. All major Indian pharmaceutical companies have their representative offices or local subsidiaries here. Indian automobile firms Bajaj Auto, TVS, Hero Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have





materialized through the signing of a cooperation agreement between EXIM BANK INDIA and a commercial bank in Peru, similar to the one signed between EXIMBANK CHINA and Banco de Crédito del Peru, on October 12, 2010.

Source : Embassy of India in Peru ,Eximbank india

local dealerships.

AJE Peru has opened a subsidiary in Maharashtra, AJE India Pvt. Ltd. manufacturing soft beverages. The operations started in December 2010. They have invested US \$15 million so far and plan to increase this in the future. A major Peruvian company, Resemen S.A.C., which specializes in mining machinery, has opened a subsidiary in New Delhi by the name of Reliant Drilling Ltd., following a major contract it has won from Hindustan Zinc Ltd. Several other mining services companies from Peru have set up operations in India such as Opermin and AAC Mining Executors Ltd. Lubricants major Vistony has set up a plant near Rewari (Haryana) and another plant in Delhi.

It is expected that the above figures in trade and investment will substantially increase once the FTA negotiations conclude and enter in force by diversifying the list of goods and services and bilateral

investment between the two countries. In this sense, given that the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has a strong presence in the international market, with established partnerships and collaborations with other international development banks and financial institutions to support trade and investment flows between India and other countries, it could be a powerful tool to dynamize, diversify and increase bilateral trade and investments between India and Peru by fulfilling the long list of services it provides.

The primary function of EXIMBANK INDIA is to finance, facilitate and promote India's international trade and provide a wide range of financial services, which include advisory and support services to Indian businesses looking to expand their international operations such as export credit, pre-shipment credit, post-shipment credit, and overseas investment finance. This can be

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India's Trade Tapestry

Weaving Economic Ties with the US, Europe, Russia, and the UAE

by Jjuliaa Gangwani

In January 2024, India's strategic engagement in global trade was underscored by the arrival of several high-profile international delegations from the United States, Europe, Russia, and the UAE. These engagements emphasized India's role as a key player in international trade and economic diplomacy.

India and the United States Forge Ahead with Trade Policy Forum

The 14th Ministerial-level meeting of the India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) marked a significant milestone in bilateral trade relations. The forum's focus on critical minerals, trade facilitation, and supply chains underscores a shared commitment to diversifying trade and securing essential raw material sources for technology and defense industries. This focus, particularly in the post-pandemic era, reflects a mutual interest in fostering resilience and efficiency in global supply chains.

India Engages with the European Free Trade Association

India's 21st round of Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) negotiations with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members signals its intent to tap into

new markets and strengthen economic ties with Europe. The comprehensive nature of the proposed agreement suggests a broad scope of collaboration, potentially encompassing trade in goods and services, investments, intellectual property rights, and sustainable development.

Trade Delegations from Russia and the UAE to India The trade delegations from Russia and the UAE to India in January 2024 have significant economic outcomes and strategic implications for all parties involved.

The bilateral trade between India and Russia has shown significant growth, and discussions on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) have resumed.

The UAE has become a key partner in India's economic growth, with bilateral trade increasing by 15% since the entry into force of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The commitment to boost bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2027 reflects the UAE's importance in India's global trade strategy.

These developments indicate a robust engagement by India with both Russia and the UAE, focusing on creating resilient

supply chains, diversifying trade partnerships, and enhancing economic cooperation. The strategic dialogues and agreements forged during these delegations are likely to have long-term benefits for India's economy and its geopolitical stance in the region.

In conclusion, these recent developments in India's international trade relations demonstrate its strategic autonomy and willingness to engage with key global players despite external pressures. This proactive approach to international trade is likely to yield significant benefits for India's economy and geopolitical standing in the future.

Continued from page 4

This understanding led to the formation of the Kishanpur Wildlife Watch Group. Comprising villagers, this group patrols the forest, douses forest fires, and assists in animal rescue operations. Their efforts have significantly reduced human-animal conflicts and have helped in the conservation of wildlife. The story of Kishanpur is a testament to human resilience and adaptability. It's a story of how a community, instead of

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Navigating Global Shipping An Indian Import-Export Perspective

by the correspondent

The Global Liner Performance (GLP) report by Sea-Intelligence, a leading provider of research and analysis in the global logistics industry, is a crucial resource for Indian importers and exporters. The report provides valuable insights into schedule reliability across 34 trade lanes and over 60 carriers, which can significantly impact the operations of businesses involved in international trade.

The report reveals that the Red Sea crisis in December 2023 led to a substantial 5.0% month-over-month drop in overall schedule reliability. This decline, the most significant since February 2021, brought the schedule reliability down to 56.8%. Such a decrease in reliability can pose significant challenges for Indian businesses that rely on timely shipments for their operations.

Furthermore, the average delay for late vessel arrivals increased by 0.30 days month-on-month to 5.35 days, primarily due to departures on the Africa route. These delays can disrupt the supply chains of Indian businesses, leading to increased costs and potential losses.

In terms of carrier performance, Taiwanese container liner Evergreen emerged as the most reliable among the top 13 carriers, with a schedule reliability of 63.6%. France's

CMA CGM followed closely, being the only other carrier to exceed the 60% threshold. These carriers' performance can significantly impact the operations of Indian businesses that rely on their services for importing and exporting goods.

However, the remaining carriers had schedule reliability ranging from 40% to 60%, indicating a high level of variability in the performance of different carriers. This variability underscores the importance for Indian businesses to diversify their logistics partners and not rely on a single carrier.

In conclusion, the findings of the GLP report highlight the ongoing challenges in the global shipping industry. Indian importers and exporters need to stay agile and adaptive in their logistics strategies to navigate these challenges effectively.

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fearing the wild, embraced it, learned from it, and thrived with it. It's a story that reminds us that we are not separate from nature, but a part of it. In the end, Kishanpur is not just a village living near a wildlife area. It's a beacon of hope, a model of coexistence, and a symbol of harmony between man and nature. And that's the most inspiring story of all.

U.S. and India Unite for Wildlife A Groundbreaking Partnership in Conservation



(left) : H.E. Mr Eric Garcetti
U.S. Ambassador to India
along with the Creator of Poacher (right)

In a significant move to highlight the urgency of wildlife conservation, the U.S. Embassy recently hosted a preview screening of the first episode of the Amazon Original series 'Poacher'. This investigative crime series, based on a real investigation led by Indian forest officials and the Wildlife Trust of India, unravels the largest ivory poaching ring in Indian history.

U.S. Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, introduced the event, emphasizing the joint efforts of the United States and India in combating illegal wildlife trafficking. He highlighted the training programs for wildlife crime scene investigations, wildlife seizure, and wildlife cybercrime investigations, stating, "This joint effort has led to a lot of successes helping the

Continued on page 20

Bridging Borders with Culture

India's Diplomatic Triumph in January 2024

by the correspondent

India's cultural diplomacy in January 2024 was marked by a series of initiatives and events that showcased the country's commitment to fostering international cultural relations. Here's a brief report on these activities:

ICCR's Cultural Delegations:

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) played a pivotal role in promoting India's rich cultural heritage globally. By organizing outgoing cultural delegations to various countries, ICCR not only showcased the diversity of Indian culture but also worked towards strengthening bilateral ties with nations around the world. These delegations served as cultural ambassadors, engaging in dialogues and performances that highlighted India's artistic and philosophical contributions to the world.

Knowledge India Visitors

Programme: ICCR's 'Knowledge India Visitors Programme' was a unique initiative that invited foreign academicians to India. The program provided an immersive experience into India's diverse knowledge systems, ranging from traditional arts and sciences to contemporary achievements. This initiative aimed at fostering academic exchanges and collaborations, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and respect for

India's intellectual legacy.

International Conferences: In

collaboration with the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, ICCR organized an international conference on 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World is One Family) at the UN headquarters in New York. This conference brought together thinkers, diplomats, and cultural leaders from across the globe to discuss the principles of global harmony and coexistence, which are deeply rooted in Indian philosophy.

Promotion of Indian Culture through Foreign Students:

Recognizing the soft power potential of cultural diplomacy, ICCR planned to expand India's cultural footprint globally by leveraging the experiences of foreign students studying in India. These students, having experienced Indian culture firsthand, could act as informal ambassadors, sharing their positive experiences and insights with their home countries. These initiatives reflect India's strategic use of cultural diplomacy to enhance its international relations. Through cultural exchanges, India aims to build bridges of understanding, foster global cooperation, and position itself as a culturally rich and diverse nation on the world stage.

Cuba and India Forge Digital Diplomacy

Landmark MoU and Business Forum Propel IT and Telecommunications Collaboration

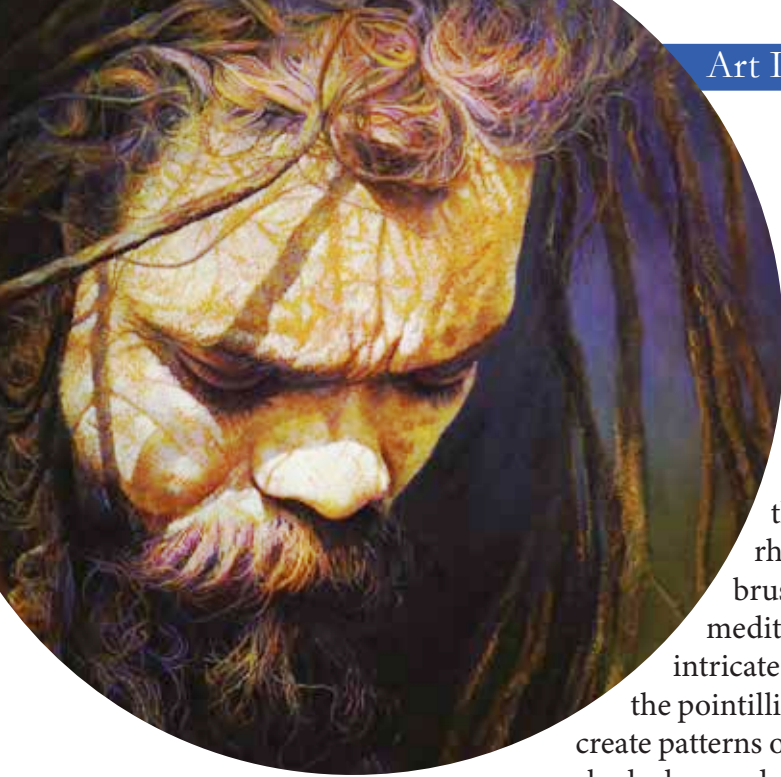
by the correspondent



In a significant move towards digital collaboration, Wilfredo González, the First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Communications of Cuba, and the Secretary of India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), have inked a memorandum of understanding. This landmark agreement paves the way for enhanced cooperation in the realm of Digital Public Infrastructure, marking a new chapter in the digital diplomacy between the two nations.



"Wilfredo Gonzalez Vidal, the First Deputy Minister of Communications of Cuba, took the helm at a pivotal business forum in New Delhi. The event, focused on the information technology and telecommunications sector, was orchestrated by the esteemed Chamber of Commerce and Industry PHDCCI. This gathering marks a significant stride in fostering international collaboration in the digital landscape."



The Seekers

by Lina Vincent Sunish, Art Historian

otherworldly truths in the midst of a populace hurrying about at a frenzied pace, attempting to achieve the unattainable.

The exploration of spirituality and its manifestation in animate and inanimate entities, spaces and places has been a recurring preoccupation with Sharma. The sadhus are anonymous and yet recognisable; they have individual features and yet represent their entire community. Their faces, creased and coated with sacred powders, crowned with straggling matted hair, reflect wisdom, experience and controlled sentiment. Indian religious tradition reveres these ascetics who seek to transcend the physical world and meditate on the well-being and balance of the universe. Followers of different sects pursue varied processes and rituals aimed towards a mystic release. Many are wanderers, and live lives of isolation, journeying on an eternal pilgrimage and drawn always to ancient centres of sacred energy.

In their mute silence, the sadhus appear to observe the world, distanced from the noise by the thin layer of *canvas*, separated from reality through the working of the artists mind. They are defined by their appearance, at once tangible beings and mythological creations crossing the fine line between earthly and saintly states.

The artist studies the obscure expressions and complexity of feeling through the rhythm of his brush, using a meditative and intricate repetition of the pointillist technique to create patterns of light and shade, hue and colour for the eyes to behold. The tones themselves are blended to evoke consciousness of certain psycho-logically representative colours - saffron and green, vermilion, white and calm blue. They are visual suggestions towards a concentrated core of understanding, where introspection brings about the experience of silence, and vice versa.

The skins, once youthful and unwrinkled, now carry ritualistic marks of the ascetic - ash and sandalwood, with lime and bright red powders illuminating the third eye on the forehead. These can be seen as masks of otherness, distinguishing "them" from "us". These sadhus are symbols of silent reflection in a world of conflict and tension. Their presence sustains the belief that sacred spaces and prayer can offer something beyond the mechanical grind of everyday life. They watch the world go by and are challenged to remain unaffected; they seek

The central subjects of Viveek Sharma's exhibition "Silence, Please!" are ascetics or sadhus, those who choose the path of austerity and sacrifice of life's luxuries, in search of ultimate release from the cyclic binding of earthly life. Depicted as profound portraits as well as beings in acts of devotion, the protagonists are both familiar and alien - they symbolise a world separated from the mundane bustle of everyday urban existence, and yet seen through the lens of cultural consciousness, they are distinctive forms that make themselves apparent in the spirituality of the subcontinent.

The portraits capture a variety of emotional essences and subtle energies - the gaze in each case is different, some averted, and others engaging the viewer directly. Is it a gaze of surrender, one of humility or of compassion? Is it a knowing gaze of experience and wisdom, lost in sacred ecstasy, or one of innocence and acceptance?

The Battle for Balance

Wildlife Conservation in a Rapidly Growing World

by the correspondent

In the face of an ever-expanding human population, wildlife conservation has emerged as a beacon of hope, striving to safeguard the myriad species sharing our planet. The mission is clear: protect and preserve.

Wildlife conservation, a practice that breathes life into the mantra of protection and preservation, aims to secure the future of plant and animal species by defending their habitats. As integral components of global ecosystems, wildlife serves as the fulcrum maintaining nature's balance.

However, the rapid growth of the human population, which has skyrocketed over the past two centuries to over seven billion, poses a formidable challenge. The escalating consumption of natural resources, coupled with relentless development, threatens the survival of wildlife worldwide. Displacement due to land development, exploitation for food, and other human activities have put numerous species at risk. The threats are compounded by climate change,

pollution, hunting, fishing, poaching, and the introduction of invasive species.

In response, organizations like the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the United Nations have stepped up, championing global conservation efforts. These entities collaborate with governments to protect public lands, including national parks and wildlife refuges. They also contribute to legislation, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 in the United States, aimed at protecting various species. Their work extends to law enforcement, helping to prosecute wildlife crimes like trafficking and illegal hunting (poaching). Furthermore, they advocate for

biodiversity, promoting a balance between supporting the growing human population and preserving existing species and habitats.

On the frontlines, National Geographic Explorers, including conservation biologists Camille Coudrat and Titus Adhola, are working tirelessly to slow the extinction of global species and protect biodiversity and habitats.

Environmental filmmakers and photographers, like Thomas P. Peschak, play a crucial role in these

conservation efforts, documenting and highlighting endangered wildlife worldwide. Their work serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for conservation in our rapidly changing world.



India Losing Tigers, Leopards at Alarming Pace

by Amit mittal

India had proudly announced that it has about 3680 tigers in the wild only last year and now it must also admit losing 204 tigers in the current year if statistics by the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) is to be believed.

According to WPSI the maximum deaths were reported from Maharashtra, 50 percent deaths from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts. Madhya Pradesh the State with the largest number of tigers, logged 47 deaths, the second largest number of fatalities.

Even the Centre controlled National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has shown an upward trend in deaths. NTCA has put the figure at 168, the highest in a decade. There is an upward trend in NTCA figures from 96 in 2019, 106 in 2020, 127 in 2021, 121 in 2022. However, NTCA figures have not been updated this year after November and, therefore, has not recorded the five deaths.

In Maharashtra the number of killed includes tigers killed by gang of Bawaria poachers from Punjab and Haryana.

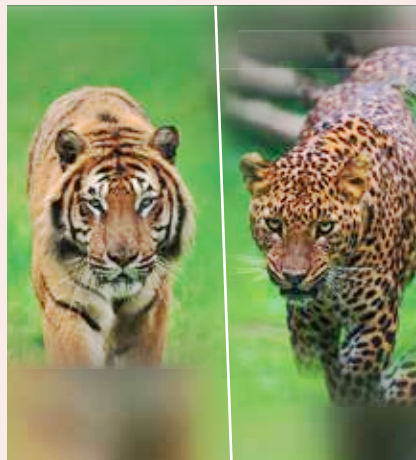
WPSI has reported increase in leopard deaths too. Between January 1 and 24 December 544 leopards have died. This includes 152 by poaching. In 2022 the leopard toll was 518 which included 162 by poaching.

The reports are alarming, more so of leopards where 152 have been killed by poachers during the year.

Both the animals must be declared endangered species and be protected otherwise, it will not be long before these two species will disappear from the earth. The main reason for their death can be attributed to lack of space and prey.

There have been several instances of leopards wandering into habited areas as they fell short of space. The recent case of a tigress wandering in habited area near forest in Pilibhit speaks volumes of tiger reserves and the animal's safety in these reserves.

In a similar fashion the Cheetahs imported from Africa and relocated in Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh have been wandering out of the park into adjacent human habitation causing danger to both – human and animal life.



50 years of Project Tiger

by the correspondent

As per the latest Tiger Census report released in August 2023 India is home to more than 75 per cent tiger population of the world. Tiger Estimation (2022) shows an increase from 2226 in 2014 to 3,682 in 2023 with 12 tiger reserves with Outstanding category.

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was launched by the Prime Minister on 9th April 2023 for conserving global big cats including tiger.

Eight cheetahs from Namibia and 12 cheetahs from South Africa were translocated to Kuno National Park in Sept'22 and Feb, 2023 respectively. Cheetah had become extinct in the country in the late 1940/early 1950s. Increase in forest and tree cover

As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the total forest and tree cover in India is 80.9 million hectares, which is 24.62% of the geographical area of the country.

Out of this, the increase in the forest cover has been observed as 1,540 sq km and that in tree cover is 721 sq km as compared to 2019.

589.70 Cr seedlings were planted and a total of 8.77 million Hectares of area was covered under tree plantation till October 2023 as compared to 2020.

India's Green Bastions

A Deep Dive into the Country's Wildlife Sanctuaries

by the correspondent

Wildlife sanctuaries, the unsung heroes of conservation, serve as safe havens for flora, fauna, and geological features of significance. These protected areas, established under the aegis of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, are pivotal to India's conservation efforts.

As of January 2023, India is home to 567 wildlife sanctuaries, spanning an impressive 122,564.86 km² (47,322.56 sq mi). These sanctuaries, classified as IUCN

Category IV protected areas, play a crucial role in preserving the country's diverse ecosystems.

Among these sanctuaries, 53 are governed by Project Tiger, a testament to India's commitment to the conservation of the Bengal tiger. The Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, near Chennai in Tamil Nadu, holds the distinction of being the oldest bird sanctuary in the country, having been established in 1796.

Fast forward to November 2023, and the number of wildlife

sanctuaries in India has risen to 573, covering an area of 123,762.56 km². This constitutes 3.76% of the country's geographical area, according to the National Wildlife Database Centre. In addition, another 218 sanctuaries are proposed in the Protected Area Network Report, which will cover an area of 16,829 km².

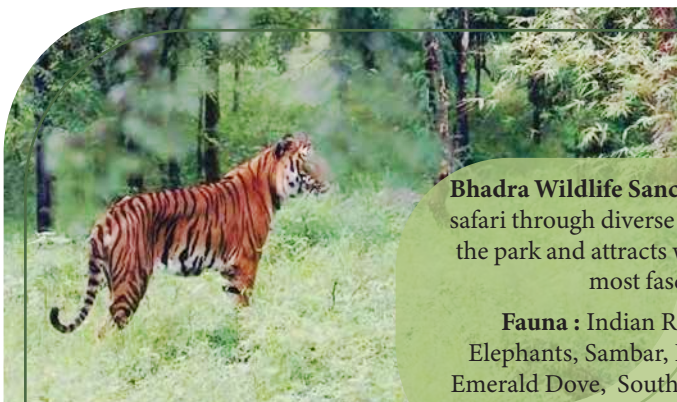
These sanctuaries, both existing and proposed, underscore India's unwavering dedication to wildlife conservation, offering a beacon of hope for the future of the country's rich biodiversity.

25 Amazing Wildlife Sanctuaries In India For 2024 Adventurous Safaris And Encounters With The Wild!

India has a lot of different kinds of plants and animals, and many of them can be found in its protected wildlife areas. These places are very popular with people who love nature and animals, and they come from all

over to see the many different creatures that live there. You can find all kinds of animals in these areas, from Tibetan antelopes in the north to giant squirrels in the south, and even red pandas in the east and Asiatic lions in

the west. We've made a list of these places and the animals that you can see there, so you can choose which one you want to visit on your next adventure.



Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary Karnataka

Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary is a vast park surrounded by deciduous forests. It offers a safari through diverse habitats for plants and animals. The Bhadra River flows within the park and attracts wildlife for their daily water needs. This sanctuary is one of the most fascinating additions to wildlife sanctuaries in India.

Fauna : Indian Rock Pythons, King Cobra, Bison, Gaur, Leopards, Tigers, Elephants, Sambar, Boars, Chital, Deer, Porcupines, Muntjac. Birds here include Emerald Dove, Southern Green Imperial Pigeon, Great Black Woodpecker, Malabar Parakeet, Hill Myna

Best Time to Visit : March to May

Continued on page 22

Human-Leopard Conflict

Big Cats Losing Battle for survival

by Amit Mittal

An estimated 60 leopards are killed in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh each year

The Indian leopard is reclusive by nature. But of late it is increasingly venturing into the human habitation because of dwindling prey base, habitat loss and poaching. There it preys on dogs, sheep, goats and young ones of cattle.

under Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and also listed as “Near Threatened” in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, usually ends up losing its life in this conflict.

Besides, there is a huge demand for its pelt and bones in the international market and even as a substitute to tiger’s bones. Poaching, in fact, is emerging as a key threat to its existence. On an

conflict in recent years have been witnessed in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Last year, with the permission of Himachal Pradesh wildlife department, two male leopards, supposedly man-eaters, were gunned down by a hired shooter from south India in Bharari-Thunag-Bunalidhar forest belt of Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh in violation of the guidelines issued by the Union environment ministry and standard operating procedure (SOP) laid down by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

The operating procedure specifies that only a special committee can decide whether a leopard or tiger is a man-eater. Wherever tigers and leopards are reported to have killed humans, a committee comprising a member from NTCA, state chief wildlife warden, concerned divisional forest officer, a veterinarian, representatives of NGOs working on wildlife conservation in the area and panchayat has to be constituted. The committee has to identify the man-eater by studying pug marks, images from installed camera traps and analysing the DNA of hair.

After ascertaining from the circumstantial evidence that the attack on humans was a



Occasionally, it attacks humans, particularly children and women.

Conflicts arising from leopards straying into human habitation are mounting in the states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, tea gardens of Assam, Western Ghats and in the suburbs of Bengaluru, Mumbai and Guwahati.

The cat, *Panthera pardus fusca*, declared an endangered species

average, at least four leopards are being poached every week in India for the past one decade.

Though no survey of leopard population in India has been conducted, unofficial estimates put their number at about 10,000. About 200 leopards are killed by poachers every year, according to figures compiled by wildlife experts, activists and different government agencies.

In India, the maximum incidents arising from human-leopard

deliberate act of the big cat, tranquilising and/or trapping should be the first option.

If these efforts fail to yield results, then a man-eater tiger or leopard can be shot dead as a last resort with written permission of the chief wildlife warden who has to give specific reasons for declaring a leopard or tiger as a man-eater.

SOP also specifies who can shoot a declared man-eater—a wildlife or forest personnel with the requisite competence must be authorised with a firearm having least bore size of .375 magnum.

In case, the state forest and wildlife department do not have a competent person, a shooter can be brought in from another state. Private shooters are barred from taking up the job, the SOP specifies. These processes were not followed in the case of killing of the two leopards in Himachal Pradesh in July and August last year.

What's more, the autopsies conducted on the two leopards failed to establish they were "man-eaters"; only dog body parts were recovered from their intestines. A third leopard, just a cub, was also killed in proximity to the area where the two leopards were killed, by iratelocals.

Trained people needed to mitigate conflict

More often than not, absence of competent and trained staff to deal with instances of leopards

straying into human habitats results in the wild animal's death. Investigations are usually weak, and wildlife officials under pressure declare them man-eaters, and order their elimination.

In Uttarakhand, around 200 cases of leopard attacks on humans are reported annually. More than 60 people have lost their lives in such attacks since 2005, mostly in Pauri Garhwal, Almora and Chamoli districts.

In 2008-09 alone, about 188 cases of leopard attacks on humans have been recorded in Himachal Pradesh with more than 26 people getting killed in such attacks since 2005, according to information obtained from state government records.

The entire state of Himachal Pradesh, with the exception of tribal areas of Lahaul & Spiti, Pangi, is witnessing a rise in the number of leopard attacks—the incidents are more in the districts of Kangra, Mandi, Hamirpur and Bilaspur.

In retaliation, a large number of leopards have been killed by bullets, poisoning and using snares. According to estimates, to which senior forest officials have admitted off record, more than 60 leopards are killed in these two hill states each year.

To avert such conflicts, state wildlife departments must launch awareness drives among local residents about the possible causes of such attacks and the preventive measures to

be taken so that losses in terms of livestock, humans as well as leopards can be minimised. Residents should be paid ex-gratia in case of attacks/deaths of humans and loss of livestock at the earliest.

Continued from page 13

United States and India move forward, together, for the planet.”

Ambassador Garcetti also shed light on the conservation-focused partnerships between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Indian counterparts like the Wildlife Institute of India and the Bombay Natural History Society. These collaborations aim to advance research, management, education, and training in wildlife conservation.

The event also featured a panel discussion with key figures from the series and the wildlife conservation sector, including Richie Mehta, the creator of 'Poacher', and representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate, and the Wildlife Trust of India.

Through 'Poacher', the aim is to spark a conversation around the consequences of poaching and the potential risks posed to endangered species. The series serves as a stark reminder of the devastating impact of human actions driven by personal gain and greed on our planet's wildlife.

India's Climate Commitment at COP28

Implications for Domestic & International Stakeholders

by the correspondent

The 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) was a significant event that saw global leaders, including India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, come together in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This article sheds light on India's contributions and perspectives during this crucial climate conference, with a particular focus on its implications for Indian and foreign missions in India, government channels, and wildlife hotels.

As the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, India has always been at the forefront of climate change discussions. At COP28, India reiterated its unyielding commitment to addressing climate change and its impacts, showcasing its efforts towards a sustainable future.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the COP28 Presidency's Session on "Transforming Climate Finance" on December 1, 2023, where he underscored India's commitment to transforming climate finance, a critical aspect of global climate action. The session focused on mobilizing funds and resources to combat climate change, a challenge that requires collective global action.

India also co-launched the Phase II of the Leadership

Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT 2.0) for the period



2024-26, at COP28 in Dubai. This initiative aims to drive transformation in hard-to-abate sectors towards a net-zero emissions future. It reflects India's commitment to leading the industry transition towards more sustainable practices.

Furthermore, India co-hosted the High-level event on 'Green Credits Programme' at COP28, designed to incentivize countries to increase their green cover, a crucial step towards carbon neutrality. This initiative aligns with India's national efforts to increase its forest cover, contributing to global carbon sequestration.

India voiced its concerns over the lack of adequate climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building support

from developed countries. These are critical elements of the Paris Agreement that need to be fulfilled to achieve the global climate goals.

In conclusion, India's active participation and initiatives at COP28 demonstrate its unwavering commitment to climate action. However, the road to a sustainable future requires global cooperation, adequate support from developed nations, and collective action. As we move forward, India's role in global climate action will continue to be pivotal.

For foreign missions in India and government channels, these developments signal India's readiness to collaborate on climate action and sustainable development. For wildlife hotels, India's commitment to increasing its green cover and biodiversity conservation presents opportunities for eco-tourism and sustainable practices.

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Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve Maharashtra



Tadoba Andhari Tiger Project is a large tiger reserve in Maharashtra, India. Home to various animals, it is an evergreen park and a popular destination for nature lovers.

Visitors can spot many species of animals, including Tibetan antelopes, giant squirrels, red pandas, and Asiatic lions.

Best Time to Visit : October to March



Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary Kerala

Located in the Western Ghats and bordering Tamil Nadu, this expansive sanctuary boasts a diverse ecosystem with medicinal flora and cultural heritage. It's a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and trekkers, especially with the scenic Thoovanam Waterfalls.

Fauna : Panthers, Spotted Deer, Indian Elephants, Tigers, Nilgiri Tahr, Muger Crocodiles, Grizzled Giant Squirrels, Star Tortoise, Tufted Grey Langurs, Gaur, Slender Loris, Leopards

Best Time to Visit : November to February

Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary Karnataka



Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary is 2nd largest in Karnataka. It's great for wildlife enthusiasts with rare plants, animals, and birds. Visitors can enjoy river rafting and trekking

Fauna : Crocodiles, Tigers, Black Panthers It has a diverse range of rare plants and animals, including predators, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. It is also a paradise for birdwatchers and photographers with a wide variety of bird species. Visitors can enjoy river rafting and trekking in the sanctuary., Spotted Deer, Slender Toris, Jungle Cats, Malayan Giant Squirrels, Pythons, Cobra

Best Time to Visit : November to March

Interview Island Wildlife Sanctuary Andaman



Established in 1985, Interview Island Wildlife Sanctuary in the Andamans is unique for elephant protection. It's renowned for its natural beauty, diverse flora and fauna, and attracts birdwatchers globally to its semi-evergreen and mangrove forests.

Fauna : Elephants, Spotted Deer, Wild Pigs, Three-striped Palm Squirrels, Monitor Lizards

Best Time to Visit : November to April



Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary Gujarat

Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, near Bhuj, is a unique 7505.22 sq. km saline wetland, home to a large population of flamingos in its shallow waters, offering a stark contrast to the typical forested wildlife reserve.

Fauna : Flamingos, Greater Flamingos, Indian Porcupines, Spiny Tailed Lizards, Black-necked Storks, Wild Ass, Indian Cormorant

Best Time to Visit : November to March

Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary Jammu And Kashmir



The Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the easternmost side of Leh district in Jammu and Kashmir, is a prized possession of India. It is home to the rare Tibetan Antelope or Chiru and boasts of magnificent mountain views. The sanctuary has sparse vegetation, but still has a variety of medicinal plants such as Arnebia Euchroma, Bergenia Stracheyi, Ephedra Gerardiana, and Hyoscyamus Niger, as discovered by Prof. Chandra Prakash Kala during his extensive survey.

Fauna : Tibetan Antelopes (Chiru), Tibetan Gazelle, Himalayan Ibex, Shapo, Bharal, Wild Yaks, Snow Leopards, Lynx, Wolves, Red Fox, Himalayan Mouse Hare, Himalayan Marmots, Common Otters, Wooly Hare

Best Time to Visit : May and October

Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary Gujarat



Established in 1973, the Wild Ass Sanctuary in Gujarat protects its endangered wild ass population over an area of around 5000 sq. km in Little Rann and parts of several districts. The village is also home to Bharwad and Rabari tribes. You can spot the friendly Indian Wild Ass, commonly known as ghudkhar, in large numbers here, and even click a few photos.

Fauna : Chinkara, Indian Desert Fox, White-footed Desert Fox, Jackals, Caracals, Nilgais, Indian Wolves, Blackbucks, Striped Hyenas. Bird species include Sandgrouses, Desert Wheatears, White-Browed Bulbul, Indian Coursers, Stoneplovers, Shrikes, Ducks, Geese, Ibis, Spoonbills, Godwits, Stints, Sandpipers, Shanks, Moorhens, Saras Cranes, Indian Flamingoes, Pelicans

Best Time to Visit : October to March



Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary Arunachal Pradesh

Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh is a popular tourist destination and one of the best wildlife sanctuaries in India. It's home to a wide range of flora and fauna, including snow leopards, and offers stunning views of mountains, streams, gorges, and jungles. A must-visit spot for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts.

Fauna : Mishmi Takin, Red Gorals, Musk Deer, Red Pandas, Asiatic Black Bear, Tigers, Gongshan Muntjac, Sclater's Monals, Blyth's Tragopan, Snow Leopards, Clouded Leopards

Best Time to Visit : November to February

Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary Andhra Pradesh



Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool spans over 614 sq km, offering a rare chance to explore the unexplored realms of nature. It boasts a diverse range of flora and fauna, including the Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican. Despite not being as popular as other wildlife reserves in India, it is still a great place to experience nature and wildlife.

Best Time to Visit : November to February

Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary Tamil Nadu



Srivilliputhur Sanctuary is a vast wildlife reserve in Tamil Nadu, home to the unique Grizzled Flying Squirrel. The lush green forest also boasts a variety of wild animals and birds, making it a popular spot for photographers. Andipatti Hill adds to its scenic beauty. You can take a guided jungle safari to experience the natural splendor of the park.

Fauna : Grizzled Flying Squirrels, Bonnet Macaque, Nilgiri Tahr, Porcupine, Lion-tailed Macaques, Slender Loris, Common Langur, Barking Deer, Sloth Bear, Wild Cats, Sambar, Palm Civets, Mouse Deer, Leopards, Elephants, Tree Shrews. Birds include Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, White-backed Vulture, Red-faced Malkoha, White-bellied Shortwing, Great Pied Hornbill, Nilgiri Flycatcher, Green Imperial Pigeon, Nilgiri Pipit

Best Time to Visit : Year-round



Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary Arunachal Pradesh

Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary is a top birdwatching hotspot in India, home to over 700 bird species including the rare and colorful Bugun Liocichla. It owes its name to the Red Eagle division of the Indian Army stationed there in the 1950s.

Fauna : Gaur, Elephants, Barking Deer, Wild Dogs, Himalayan Serow, Red Pandas, Golden Cats, Leopards, Himalayan Bear, Bhutan Giant Flying Squirrels, Arrow-tailed Flying Squirrels, Slow Loris, Arunachal Macaques. Birds include Bugun Liocichla, Ward's Trogon, Beautiful Nuthatch, Wedge-Billed Babbler

Best Time to Visit : November to April



to be continued in

Series II

Wildlife Wonders

your conservation guide

by the correspondent

Here are some practical tips that individuals can implement at home or in their communities to contribute to wildlife conservation:

1. Create a Wildlife-Friendly

Backyard: Plant native trees and shrubs that provide food and shelter for local wildlife. Install bird feeders and bird baths. If you have space, consider creating a small pond for amphibians.

2. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:

Minimize waste production by following the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This helps decrease pollution and save natural resources that wildlife depend on.

3. Compost: Composting your kitchen waste reduces the amount of garbage that ends up in landfills and provides nutrient-rich soil for your garden.

4. Avoid Using Harmful

Pesticides: Pesticides can have

detrimental effects on wildlife, especially on beneficial insects and birds. Use organic and wildlife-friendly alternatives instead.

5. Educate

Others:

Share your knowledge about wildlife and conservation with your friends, family, and community. Organize educational programs in schools, community centers, or local clubs.

6. Volunteer: Join local wildlife conservation organizations and participate in their activities. This

could include clean-up drives, tree planting events, or animal rescue operations.

7. Support Conservation

Organizations: Donate to or fundraise for organizations that are working to protect wildlife. Every little bit helps!

8. Be a Responsible

Pet Owner: Ensure your pets do not pose a threat to wildlife. Keep cats indoors as they are known to kill large numbers of birds and small mammals.

9. Respect Wildlife and Their Habitats:

When visiting natural areas, follow the principles of Leave No Trace. Do not disturb animals or destroy their habitats.

10. Advocate for Wildlife: Use your voice to support policies and legislation that protect wildlife and their habitats. every small action counts when it comes to conservation. Start with these steps and inspire others in your community to do the same.





Upcoming Edition



Releasing on
15 Feb 2024



Upcoming Edition



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