

# Whispering Wilds

A Product of Global Exploring Nature Conservancy Foundation (GENCF)

Edition - 8 (October 2024)



## Conservation

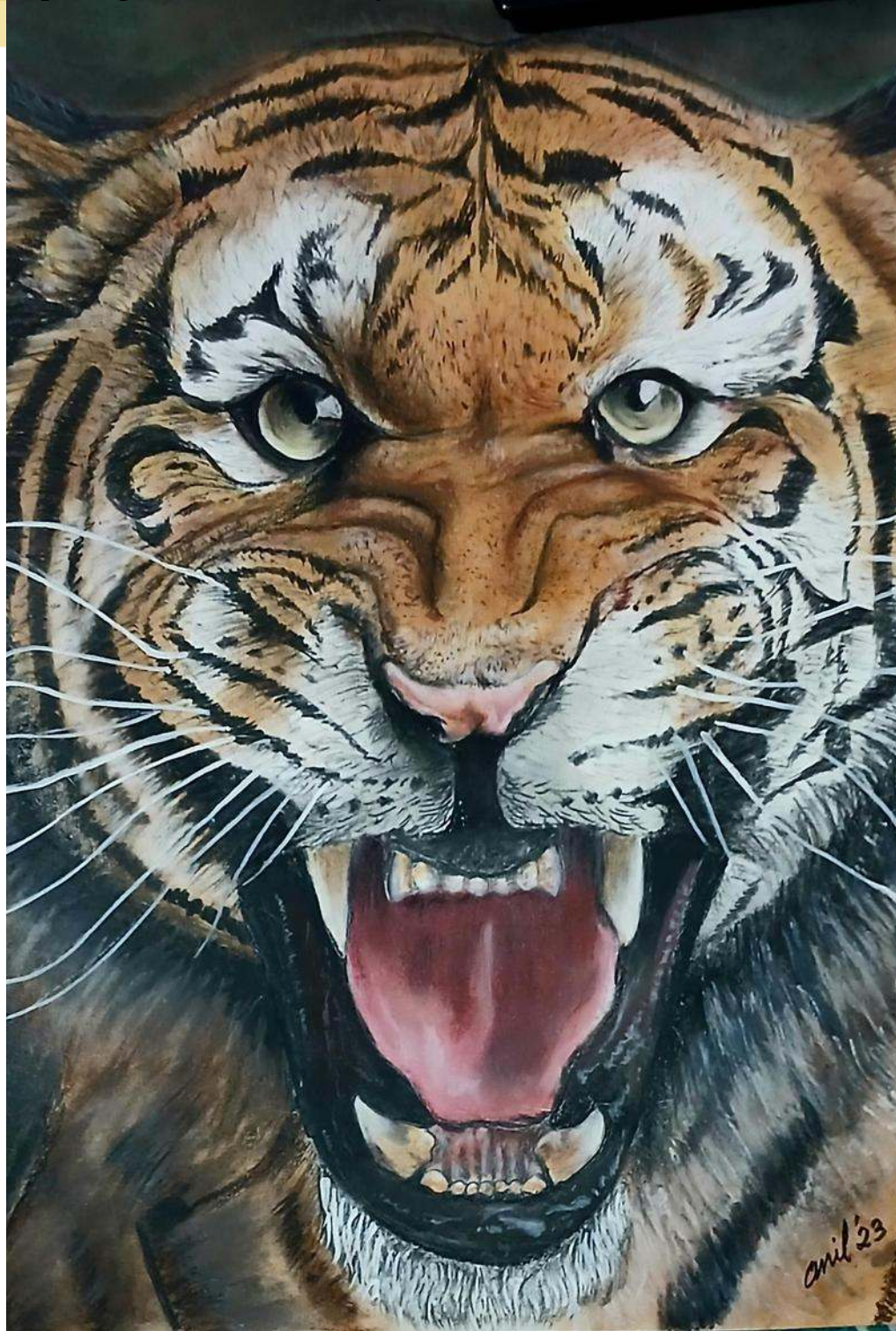
A Macaque And A Doctor  
Birds Adopting Unusual Nesting  
Sights

## Featured Stories

Sattal And Pangot – A Birder's  
Paradise  
Royals of Aravalli



Exploring Nature  
CALL OF THE WILD



## Cover Story

International Tiger Day Celebration 2024  
Through Art & Photography



# Z 8



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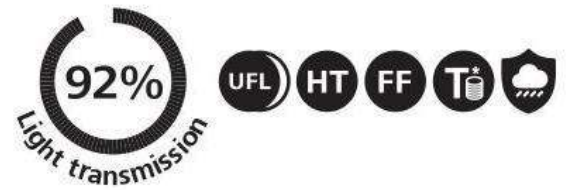
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# About GENCF

(Global Exploring Nature Conservancy Foundation)

Global Exploring Nature Conservancy Foundation (GENCF), a government-registered organization under Section 8, operates as a premier nonprofit wildlife consultancy headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

GENCF is dedicated to fostering a profound connection between people and the natural world by equipping communities with the knowledge and tools necessary to embrace sustainable conservation practices. Our mission is to protect and preserve vital ecosystems while promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife.

Through enriching experiences, expert insights, and a collective appreciation for biodiversity, GENCF envisions a future where communities actively participate in environmental stewardship, contributing to a thriving planet for generations to come. Join us in championing a sustainable, nature-inspired future and be a part of a movement devoted to fostering a balanced and resilient ecosystem.

**Our Vision** is to be a leading advocate for wildlife conservation and environmental sustainability, creating a world where humans and nature coexist harmoniously. We aspire to inspire and mobilize individuals and organizations to take proactive steps towards the same.

**Our Mission** is to inspire and educate individuals to cherish the beauty of nature and create mass awareness.

**Our Aspiration** is for a future where every decision and action is driven by conservation principles.

**Join us on this journey**

of exploration, understanding, and commitment.

Together, we will harmonize with the rhythms of nature and ensure a better, more sustainable tomorrow for all...



# About GENCF

(Global Exploring Nature Conservancy Foundation)

**Whispering Wilds**, a quarterly wildlife magazine, captures the beauty of nature through stunning photography, compelling stories, and conservation insights. Celebrating diverse habitats and dedicated efforts, each edition invites readers on a journey to understand and respect our natural world.

Whisper with Us, Let the Planet Respire!"

**Jungle Chimes** is our vibrant platform amplifying the voices of nature!

By fostering awareness about conservation, climate change, and habitat preservation, we inspire action within our communities. Through engaging talk shows with experts, we delve into the mysteries of wildlife and illuminate critical environmental issues.

Join us as a Nature's Rhythm Amplifier to inspire, motivate, and conserve!

**Exploring Nature Call of The Wild** connects you to the wonders of nature through nature and wildlife expeditions and supporting eco-tourism experiences. Each journey showcases the beauty of diverse ecosystems, inspiring a deep connection with the natural world. Dedicated to conservation and community support, we promote responsible travel while empowering local livelihoods.

"Discover The Wilderness with Us

**Nature Guardians** is a growing community of explorers, conservationists, and storytellers united by a mission to protect and celebrate the natural world. Through education, outreach, and sustainable practices, we aim to foster a deeper connection with nature and inspire positive change. Together, we work towards a future where humanity and ecosystems thrive in harmony.

Join Us to Be Nature Guardians – inspire, motivate, and conserve!

## Our Services

GENC Foundation is dedicated to promoting environmental conservation and sustainability through a variety of initiatives. We offer expert Wildlife Consultation services for effective habitat management and conservation strategies. Our Community Engagement Programs, including workshops and training for guides, raise awareness and foster community participation. We advocate for environmentally friendly policies and provide tailored Wildlife Planning for Industries to balance development with biodiversity. Through immersive Nature Trails & Photo Walks, Wildlife Photography Workshops, and our comprehensive Wildlife Masterclass, we inspire a deeper appreciation for nature. Additionally, we consult on environmental projects and manage wildlife in community-based forests and protected areas.

**Wildlife Consulting, Wildlife Management & Wildlife Planning** for Community-Based Forests, Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks & Tiger Reserves.

**Community Engagement Programs**

**Wildlife Planning for Industries**

**Consulting for Environmental Projects**

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## About Whispering Wilds

Whispering Wilds (e-magazine) is an initiative to make us aware of our planet where we share the living space with millions of other species.

“Whispering Wilds” is a wildlife magazine that helps to create awareness about nature and educate people how to interact with the natural world in a responsible and sustainable way.

The Magazine showcases stories of individuals and organizations who make a positive impact on the environment and inspire the readers to act responsibly.

Whispering Wilds, features stunning photography and artwork that showcases the beauty and diversity of the natural world. In addition to this the magazine interviews the experts and scientists who can provide insights into the latest developments in wildlife research and conservation.

“Whispering Wilds” is available on our home page  
<https://exploringnature.net>

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<https://exploringnature.net>

Share your Wildlife Stories, Nature Photos, or Conservation Insights for the magazine at [whisperingwilds1981@gmail.com](mailto:whisperingwilds1981@gmail.com).

## Whispering Wilds Team

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Mukul Mukherjee

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## A Macaque And A Doctor

A naughty lion-tailed macaque it was!

The mischievous creature first cooed as it noticed a man intently watching him with a camera. As if intrigued, the macaque leapt onto the car, staring into the front glass and performing its usual playful gestures. Undeterred by the camera-wielding observer, the macaque roamed around, flashing a series of animated facial expressions that seemed to tell a story.

The man behind the camera was Dr. S. S. Suresh, an orthopedic surgeon who had until recently been serving in Oman. On a tour through the verdant Silent Valley forests in Kerala, Dr. Suresh was captivated by the emerald expanse of these dense evergreens.

While being immersed in the beauty of nature, he found himself enchanted by the lion-tailed macaque, a creature that appeared just as curious about him.

For a brief while, they shared a moment of silent understanding, as the macaque posed gracefully for a few photos.

At times, the macaque's expressive face resembled that of a Kathakali artist, with exaggerated emotions playing across its features—one moment a picture of serenity, the next a comical display of mischievousness. Then, as suddenly as it had appeared, the macaque turned and disappeared into the depths of the forest, leaving behind the echo of its playful energy. Silent Valley, located in the Palakkad district of Kerala, is one of the last remaining strongholds for the endangered lion-tailed macaque. Known for its lush greenery and undisturbed wilderness, the valley is a sanctuary for these fascinating primates. Typically moving in groups, the macaques are primarily arboreal, seldom venturing far from the forest canopy. Though they are rare, a viable population of these macaques continues to thrive within the Silent Valley, even as other areas, like Parambikulam and Sholayar, have seen more fragmented populations.



**Silent Valley, located in the Palakkad district of Kerala, is one of the last remaining strongholds for the endangered lion-tailed macaque.**

### Shri. G. Shaheed

Chief Advisor - Whispering Wilds  
Prominent environment journalist from Kerala.

Formerly worked as Chief reporter of Mathrubhumi in New Delhi. Later served as Chief of Bureau in Cochin.

Contributed many Environment wild life articles. Retired, but still associated with Mathrubhumi Kerala's Leading newspaper.



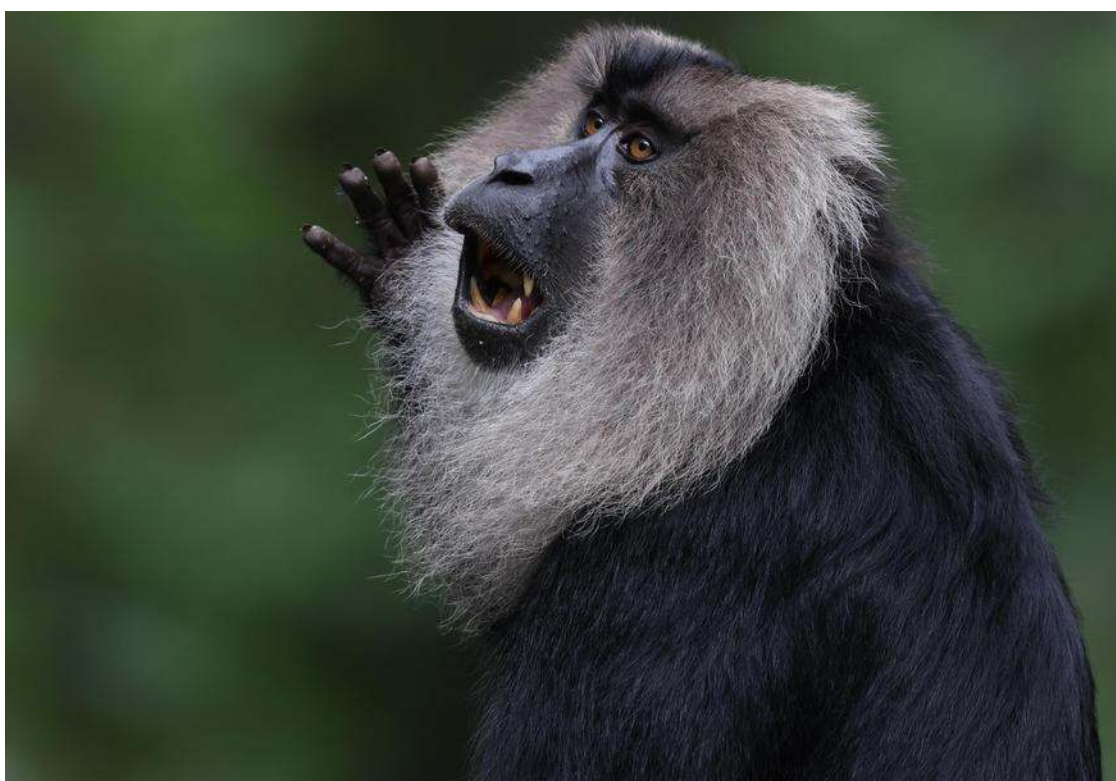


*Bold and Unbothered:  
A Lion-tailed macaque  
inspects the city life, up  
close.*



*Curious Climbers:  
The macaque's  
fascination with  
cars knows no  
bounds.*

*A Close Look:  
The majestic Lion-  
tailed macaque  
explores the  
metallic jungle.*







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*Give them  
habitat,  
not handouts.*

However, not all regions share the same harmony with these primates. In the Valparai forests of Tamil Nadu, lion-tailed macaques are often considered a nuisance. Known for their clever thievery, they frequently steal food from houses and tamper with TV cables in residential colonies, much to the dismay of local residents.

Dr. Suresh, an avid birder, has traveled far and wide, observing wildlife in countries across the globe. But his encounter with the lion-tailed macaque in the Silent Valley was an experience that stood out—a reminder of the delicate balance between human curiosity and the wild freedom of nature.

As Silent Valley continues to be a safe haven for these charismatic primates, it also stands as a symbol of conservation efforts to protect one of India's most unique and endangered species.



## Birds Adopting Unusual Nesting Sights

Due to human population explosion, urbanisation, infrastructure development, industrialisation, and other anthropogenic activities, the land-use pattern is changing at an accelerated rate. All these activities require more and more land, which is limited. This growing demand for land is putting great pressure on available agricultural land, forest land, grasslands, and wetlands. The concept of using wasteland for other purposes is also affecting the biodiversity of those areas.

Habitat fragmentation is another significant factor degrading biodiversity. In such situations, our feathered friends, the birds, are struggling to find their natural roosting and nesting habitats. In urban areas, some birds are exploring unusual nesting sites to raise their future generations due to the loss of natural nesting plants.

During my studies on birds in the Bokaro District of Jharkhand, I observed unusual nests of the Red-vented Bulbul and Purple Sunbird. I also observed the nest of an Oriental Magpie inside the soundbox of an auto-rickshaw that had been standing unused for a long time in Chas, Bokaro Steel City, Jharkhand.

My student, Abhijit Banerjee, captured an image of a nesting Feral Pigeon and shared it with me. I believe that all these images are enough to open the minds of policymakers and inspire them to redesign our developmental approach for the survival and continuity of birds.



### **A Message of Gratitude for Our October Issue Readers:**

Thank you for being an integral part of the Whispering Wilds family. Your continued readership, thoughtful engagement, and steadfast commitment to our conservation cause inspire us each and every day. Your support empowers our mission to protect and preserve the natural world, and together, we can make a lasting impact. As we move forward this October, let's stay united in our dedication to safeguarding our planet and its incredible biodiversity.

*Dr. Mithilesh Dutta  
Dwivedi  
Chief Zoologist - Exploring  
Nature*

Together, we can create a brighter, greener future—one where nature thrives and coexists with humanity in harmony. Every action you take, from spreading awareness to supporting conservation efforts, helps protect the fragile ecosystems that sustain all life.



Oriental Magpie inside the soundbox of an auto-rickshaw that had been standing unused for a long time in Chas, Bokaro Steel City, Jharkhand.



*Red-vented Bulbul nest on Nylon rope knot hanging in air.*





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Nest of Purple Sunbird  
on live Electric Wire



*Nest of Feral Pigeon in unused  
Washroom pan photographed  
by Abhijit Banerjee*





### Sattal And Pangot – A Birder's Paradise

It was half past eleven at night when my train rolled into Kathgodam from Kolkata.

Even on a chilly December night Negiji greeted us with a smile and invited us into the car. We traversed the pitch-dark, hilly roads for about forty kilometers to reach the Birder's Den at Sattal.

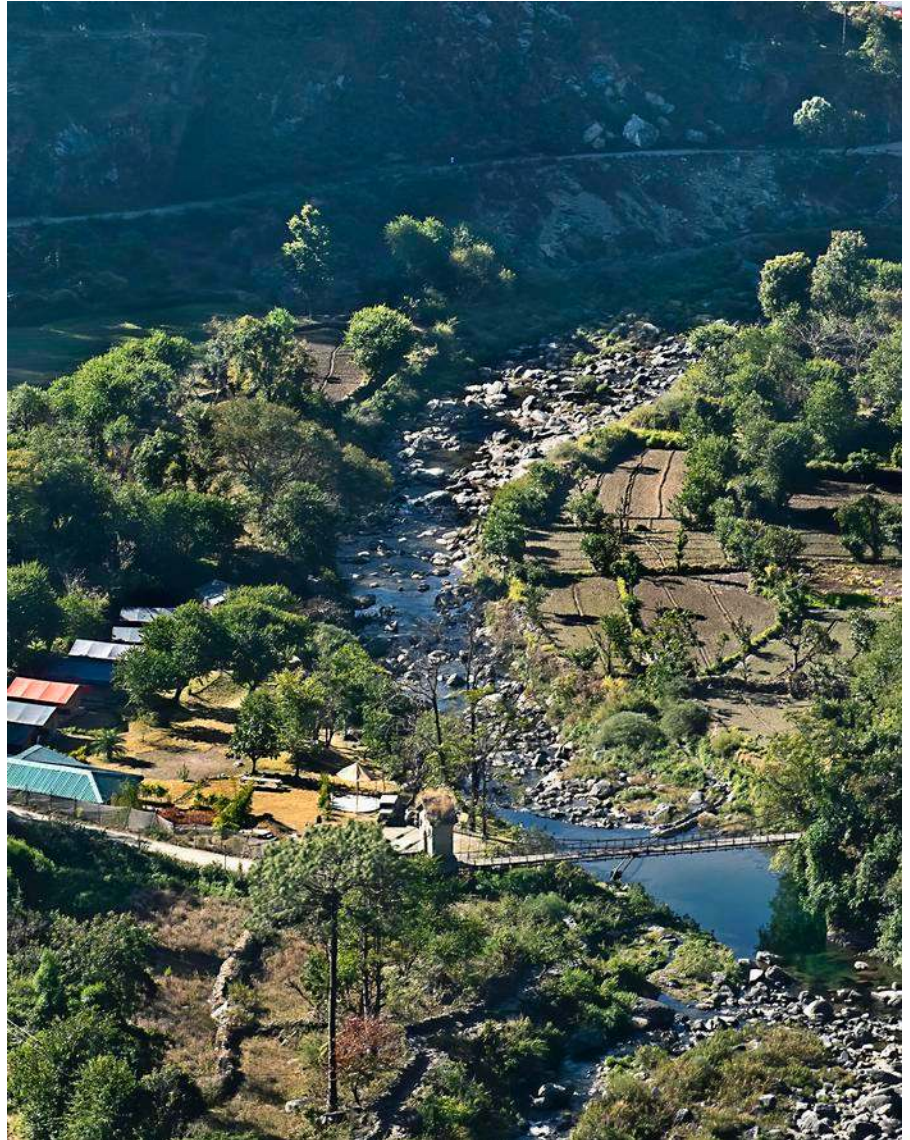
The manager, Vinod, showed us to our room and left with a gentle reminder to be ready by six the next morning. Sattal is not widely known on the tourist map of India.



Situated about an hour from Nainital in Mehergaon district in the lower Himalayas, Sattal is an idyllic and peaceful hill town. The river Chafi meanders leisurely through it, creating landscapes that soothe the weary city soul. But in the birder's world, Sattal ranks high.

Home to over three hundred bird species, twenty mammal species, and nearly five hundred butterfly species, Sattal is a treasure trove of biodiversity. The Kalij Pheasant, Black Francolin, Green Magpie Robin, Woodpeckers, and Laughingthrushes are among the main attractions that have drawn me here repeatedly.

At precisely six in the morning, the waiter served tea along with a note: "Quickly come to the hide, Sir." I dragged my tired self out of bed, grabbed my camera, and made my way to the hide. The morning light had just begun to bloom, and the December wind cut through the air like arrows. As the darkness lifted, the caretaker scattered grains on the ground. Minutes later, a male Kalij pheasant landed. His deep blue body shimmered with intricate ash-colored designs and pure white patterns above his spine.



His red eye skin and blue crest feathers crowned him as the hero of Sattal. Soon after, his companion appeared, a female Kalij pheasant with a reddish-brown hue and similar ash-colored designs.

#### Author:

Dr. Subhamay Karmakar  
Consultant ENT Surgeon  
AFIAP, EFIP,  
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Dumdum,  
Kolkata



*Female Kalij pheasant*



*Male Kalij pheasant*







*Red-Billed Leiothrix*



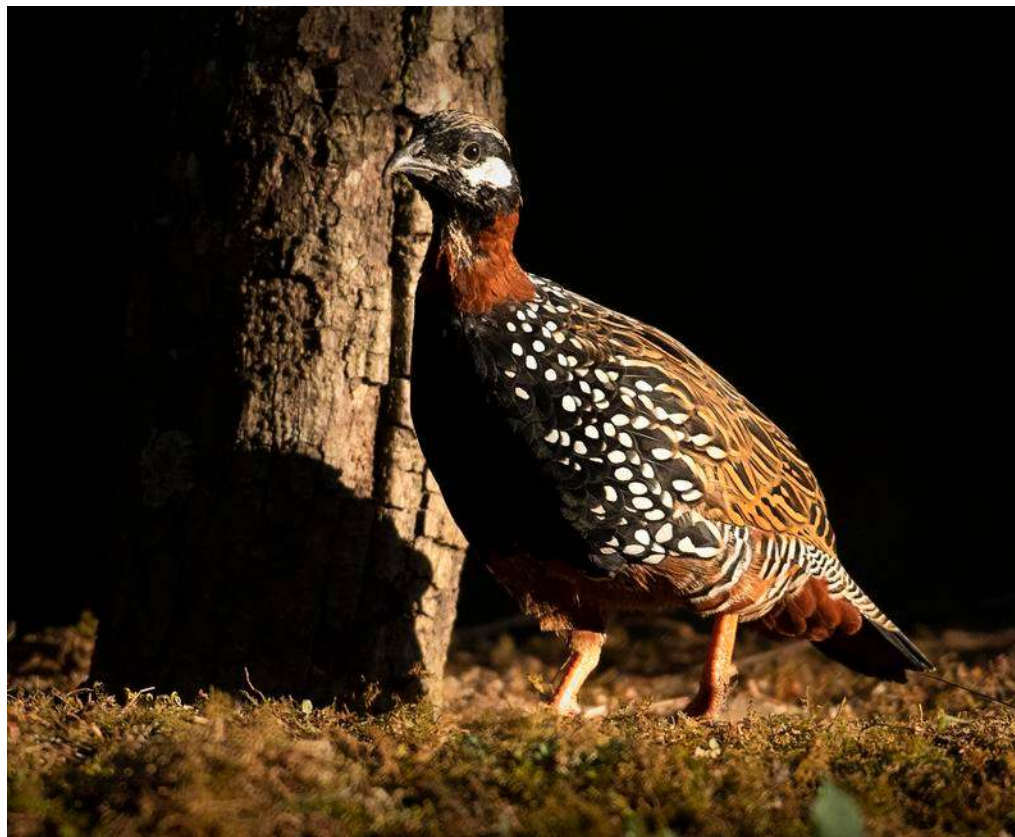
*Blue Whistling Thrush*

As we admired the Kalij pair, the lively Red-Billed Leiothrix, also known as the Japanese Nightingale, appeared out of nowhere. The locals affectionately call this bird, with its bright red beak, the “lipstick bird” of Sattal. Sadly, this beautiful bird is often caged for its appearance.

Shortly after, a male Black Francolin joined us. His deep black body was adorned with white leaf-like feathers on the breast and tail, and brown patterns on his back. His rufous collar gave him an ideal Victorian look, complemented by the female Francolin’s more subdued brown plumage.

One by one, we watched the Blue Whistling Thrush, Black-Naped Woodpecker, White-Throated Laughingthrush, and the feisty Red-Billed Blue Magpie. The morning passed in a trance of nature’s colors, and before we knew it, it was past ten.

At the breakfast table, we met Hari Lama, an experienced birder, the owner of Birder’s Den, and the mastermind behind this unique hide. Over coffee, Hariji shared Sattal’s history, birding insights, and our itinerary for the coming days.



*Male Black Francolin*





*White Capped  
Redstart*

After a quick lunch, we set out to explore the Chafi River area, guided by the knowledgeable Pushkar. We parked by the riverbank and started our walk. Just a hundred meters in, we spotted a Plumbeous Water Redstart, its lead-colored body distinctive against the rocky terrain.

Moments later, a White-Capped Redstart joined, both typical of mountain rivers. I was engrossed in capturing their movements when Pushkar alerted me, "Sirji, there on the. With the light fading, it was time to call it a day.





*Himalayan Woodpecker*



*Yellow Breasted Greenfinch*



*Common Rose finch*

The next morning, we headed early to Shyamkhet. The rhythmic tapping of a woodpecker interrupted our path, and Pushkar pointed out a Himalayan Woodpecker working above us. After taking some pictures we moved on. Taking a sharp left turn we entered a garden with a small watchtower. The morning light illuminated the treetops, creating perfect birding conditions.

One by one, we encountered the European Goldfinch, Yellow-Breasted Greenfinch, Common Rosefinch, Blue-Throated Barbet,

Slaty-Headed Parakeet, and Rufous-Bellied Niltava.

Seeing the European Goldfinch, a rare winter migrant in Sattal, was a highlight we would cherish for years.

After breakfast, Pushkar announced with enthusiasm, "Now for the raptors, Sir!" The steep ascent quickly changed the landscape; a deep canyon appeared to our left, bordered by dense pine forests.



*European Goldfinch*



*Slaty Headed Parakeet*



*Steppe Eagle*



I spotted a Steppe Eagle perched high in a tree, but Pushkar's focused binoculars soon found us a Himalayan Griffon, resting on a branch near a Steppe Eagle. Their flight was majestic, with beautiful wing patterns. After photographing their in-flight moments, we returned to the hotel.

After lunch, we went to Sattal Studio, but luck was not on our side. Following Pushkar's suggestion, we climbed a nearby mountain, where we encountered a Brown Fish Owl in its quiet habitat.

Disturbed by our presence, it gave us an unmistakable look of displeasure, so we quickly moved on. On our way back, we revisited the Chafi River, where nature finally rewarded us with the Crested Kingfisher's dive. Watching it juggle a fish before swallowing was a moment etched in our memories forever. We were also fortunate to spot the Slaty-Backed Forktail and Siberian Stonechat.

The next day, we explored Mukteshwar's pine and fir forests. There, we encountered the Striated Laughingthrush, the most photogenic bird of Sattal, and the Black-Throated Bushtit, also known as the "angry bird" of Sattal. We added the Rufous-Bellied Niltava, Himalayan Bluetail, and the master of camouflage, the Bar-Tailed Treecreeper, to our sightings. Sattal's biodiversity left us truly spellbound.



*Striated Laughingthrush*

Before leaving for our next destination, Pangot, I visited the hide once more and was lucky to see the White-Crested Laughingthrush. Its white casque gave it a stately Victorian look, though the elusive Green Magpie was left for my next visit.



*Crested kingfisher*



### About

#### Crested Kingfisher

They are large, striking bird found across Asia. Known for its spiky crest and bold black-and-white plumage, it perches near fast-flowing rivers and streams. With keen vision and a strong, dagger-like bill, it dives swiftly into the water, expertly catching fish and adding a splash of excitement to riversides.





# FROM **MAXIMUM FIELD OF VIEW** TO MAXIMUM **MAGNIFICATION**. **VICTORY HARPIA**

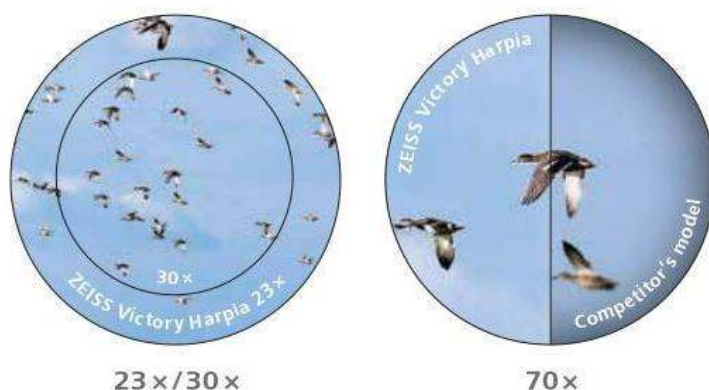
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Field of view comparison of a spotting scope at 30 × minimum magnification (small circle) with the field of view of the Harpia at 23 × minimum magnification (large circle).





*White Crested Laughingthrush*



*Rock Bunting*

We started before dawn, aiming to spot the Koklass and Cheer Pheasants, with Hari as our guide. Though we didn't encounter them, we enjoyed sightings of Coal Tits, Chestnut-Crowned Laughingthrushes, and Rock Buntings.

Arriving in Pangot at dusk, we checked into Kafal House. The valley before us was an ocean of clouds, and as the setting sun bathed it in myriad hues, it created an unforgettable sight. The chill quickly set in as night fell, urging us to retire early for another day of birding.

A group of Slaty-Headed Parakeets entertained us with a delightful "road show," and we captured glimpses of Rufous Sibias, Blue-Fronted Redstarts, Grey-Hooded Warblers, Bush Robins, Black-Headed Jays, and Brown Accentors.

As Hari Lama shared, bird populations here have declined by thirty percent over the past twenty years, with several species now extinct.

Habitat loss due to unplanned development is a growing threat, raising the question: will Sattal and Pangot remain birder's paradises?

Will future generations see Sattal in all its glory?

With hope and optimism, we returned, promising ourselves to revisit soon.

Enriched by nature's endless gifts, it was time to head home. Sattal had offered us a remarkable diversity of bird species, but a sense of concern lingered.



### Conclusion

Our journey through Sattal and Pangot was a profound encounter with nature's wonders, filled with vibrant bird species and tranquil landscapes. Yet, the serenity of these regions is under threat from habitat loss and unplanned development. The future of these havens depends on our collective commitment to preserving their beauty. As we left, memories of these paradises filled us with gratitude and a promise to return, carrying a renewed sense of responsibility to protect Sattal and Pangot for generations to come.



### Royals of Aravalli

In ecology, “cohabitation” refers to two different species living together in the same environment.

It sounds quite harmonious when viewed from a human-animal relationship perspective. This cohabitation has two distinct dimensions in the dry deciduous forests of the Aravalli range in Rajasthan.

The first dimension is the story of Jawai Bandh, a leopard conservation reserve established by the government on 23rd February 2010. Today, this place is gaining popularity due to its growing wildlife; it is not just a habitat for leopards but also home to several species of migratory birds, crocodiles, sloth bears, chinkara, and wolves. In July 2016, one of my photography partners visited the forests of Jawai. He was a guest of Thakur Devi Singh Ji Ranawat, known as Thakur Sahib of Bera, and stayed at



The Leopard Lair Resort, which is managed by Devi Singh. The resort caters to wildlife photographers, and leopard photography is the main attraction.

During his interaction with Thakur Sahib, he revealed how leopards were killed by his ancestors and even by him in his teenage years in this region, until the Wildlife Protection Act was enforced in 1972. Even after that, the practice of tying goats to attract leopards (baiting, which is also illegal under the Act) for foreign tourists continued. There are around 70 wild leopards in the area surrounding Jawai Bandh. The most amazing fact, according to Thakur Sahib, is that no news of severe human-leopard conflict has been reported here for decades. There aren't many kills for leopards in this area. Leopards mainly prey on livestock from nearby villages, but villagers never complain. I would like to quote an excerpt of this human leopard cohabitation story as narrated by my photography partner in his tour report, written right after his Jawai exploration and was published in e-magazine Holocene published by the NGO named Exploring Nature, which was ran by both of us for few years.

“The male leopard visited nearby Pola village last night and attempted to kill cattle, which went in vain. It then killed a stray dog on the street of the village and came towards this direction carrying the carcass.

‘You must feel petrified living with wild leopards around and suffer unrecoverable losses of your livestock,’ I tried to console the villagers, presuming their anger. But there were more elements of surprise waiting for me.

‘They live on our livestock and stray dogs, and they have every right to live. We all are children of nature,’ one of them replied.

‘Yes, sometimes we suffer losses of livestock, but if we report the loss to the local Forest Authority, we get enough compensation upon proof,’ he explained, and the others nodded in agreement. They were not complaining about the animal that has been responsible for the most human killings across the country for centuries. I went to Sundarbans, where I saw people worshipping tigers as “Dakshinray.”

Nevertheless, that was due to the fear of its man-eating nature. But here, the story was totally different; I found a respect for the most elusive cat in the world.

There was no fear factor but an eagerness for cohabitation.”

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*The Male  
leopard of  
Jawai*

The villagers of Jawai believe that “leopards have every right to live.” The hunter-turned-conservationist, Thakur Devi Singh, has devoted his life to teaching local villagers how to coexist with the most elusive cat in the world. He converted his ancestral mansion into an ecotourism resort for urban wildlife photographers.

Now, whether the story of Jawai represents cohabitation influenced by deep ecology or if it is a case of deep ecology turning into a tourism opportunity, I will leave for the readers to decide.

The other dimension of this human-leopard cohabitation is centered on Jhalana—the urban forest and home to the urban leopard. Let us pay a little attention to the history of this “urban forest,” as described in a large glass frame in the museum near the entry gate of the reserve.

“The historical city of Jaipur is nestled on three sides by the beautiful Aravalli ranges. A stone’s throw from the heart of the city lies the stunning forest of Jhalana Doongri, home to the majestic and somewhat elusive cat belonging to the family of *Panthera pardus*—the leopard.



*Jhalana forest  
in the backdrop of  
Jaipur city*



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elusive cat belonging to the family of *Panthera pardus*—the leopard. This sumptuous sanctuary, with its dry deciduous forests towering over the Aravallis and its beautiful valleys, has for centuries served as the preserve and hunting grounds for the erstwhile royal families of Jaipur.

**T**he growing pressure of urbanization in Jaipur has taken its toll on the forests of Jhalana, which have now shrunk to their current shape and size. The fact that leopards are not only surviving but also thriving in the forests of Jhalana is nothing short of a miracle.

Today, Jaipur holds a unique place in the world with a 23 sq km wildlife reserve within the heart of the city, boasting not only the highest density of leopard population in the world but, more importantly, showcasing the peaceful coexistence of man and animal.”

Now, the question arises: is this a case of natural cohabitation or an inevitable impact on nature due to urbanization?

In both dimensions of human-leopard cohabitation, whether in the village forest of Jawai or the urban forest of Jhalana, it is the

leopards who are left with no choice but to coexist with the “so-called superior species of the planet.” This is why the animal, a master of adaptation, is thriving in both situations. Humans have found commercial interest in this, turning these places into some of the most sought-after leopard safari destinations in the country.

One of these locations was explored by me during the Good Friday weekend of 2021, between 1st and 3rd April.

As a natural history commentator, I have always considered myself lucky in terms of sighting leopards in the wild. However, I have a jinx with this animal as a wildlife photographer. I had seen leopards in tiger territory on about four to five different occasions before my visit to Jhalana.

### **Pioneering India's First Leopard Conservation Effort**

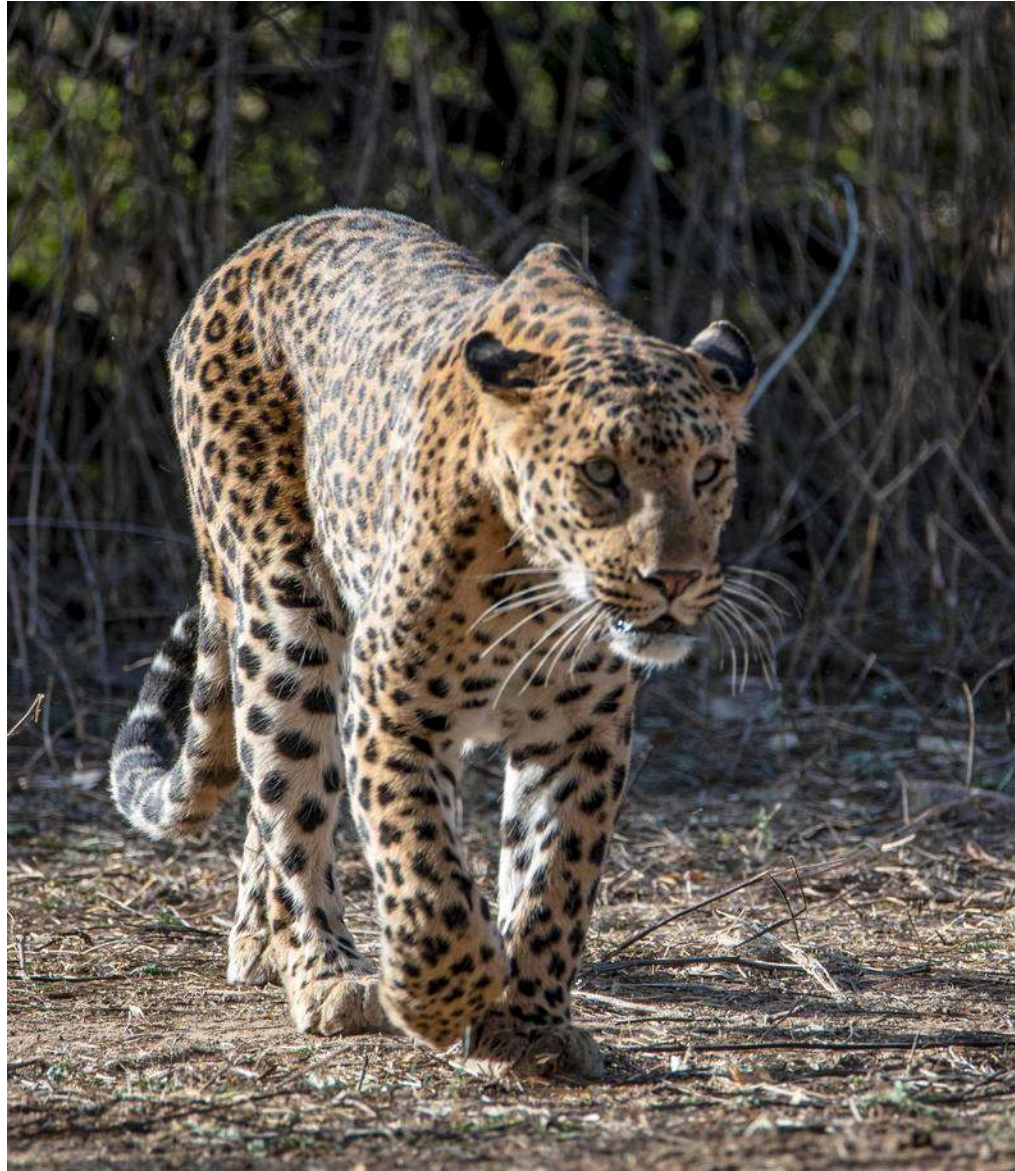
In 2017, Rajasthan became the first state in India to announce Project Leopard, allocating a sum of Rs. 70 million (Rs. 7 crores) to conserve leopards. The project eventually kicked off in 2018 with the launch of a leopard reserve in the Jhalana Forest Reserve.



*Flora, a female leopard of Jhalana*

*"In Jhalana, that jinx was finally broken when, on 1st April during our evening safari, I was alerted by the alarm call of a squirrel. I spotted a female leopard, locally known as Flora, slowly approaching."*

In Bandipur, I observed a pair of leopards in courtship within a thicket, which was on my side of the gypsy. Unfortunately, at that time, I was a beginner in photography and failed to set my camera according to the light conditions. Later that same evening in Bandipur, I repeated the mistake of incorrect camera settings when I saw a leopard on a



tree during the last hour of our safari. As a result, I missed the opportunity to capture any decent shots on both occasions.

In Satpura, I saw three cubs, but again, the light conditions and the position of our safari gypsy were not favourable enough to get satisfactory shots. In Kabini, a leopard appeared before me like an orange flash of lightning and disappeared quickly. In Dandeli, I caught a glimpse of a mother and cub in the early morning darkness, aided by the gypsy's headlights.

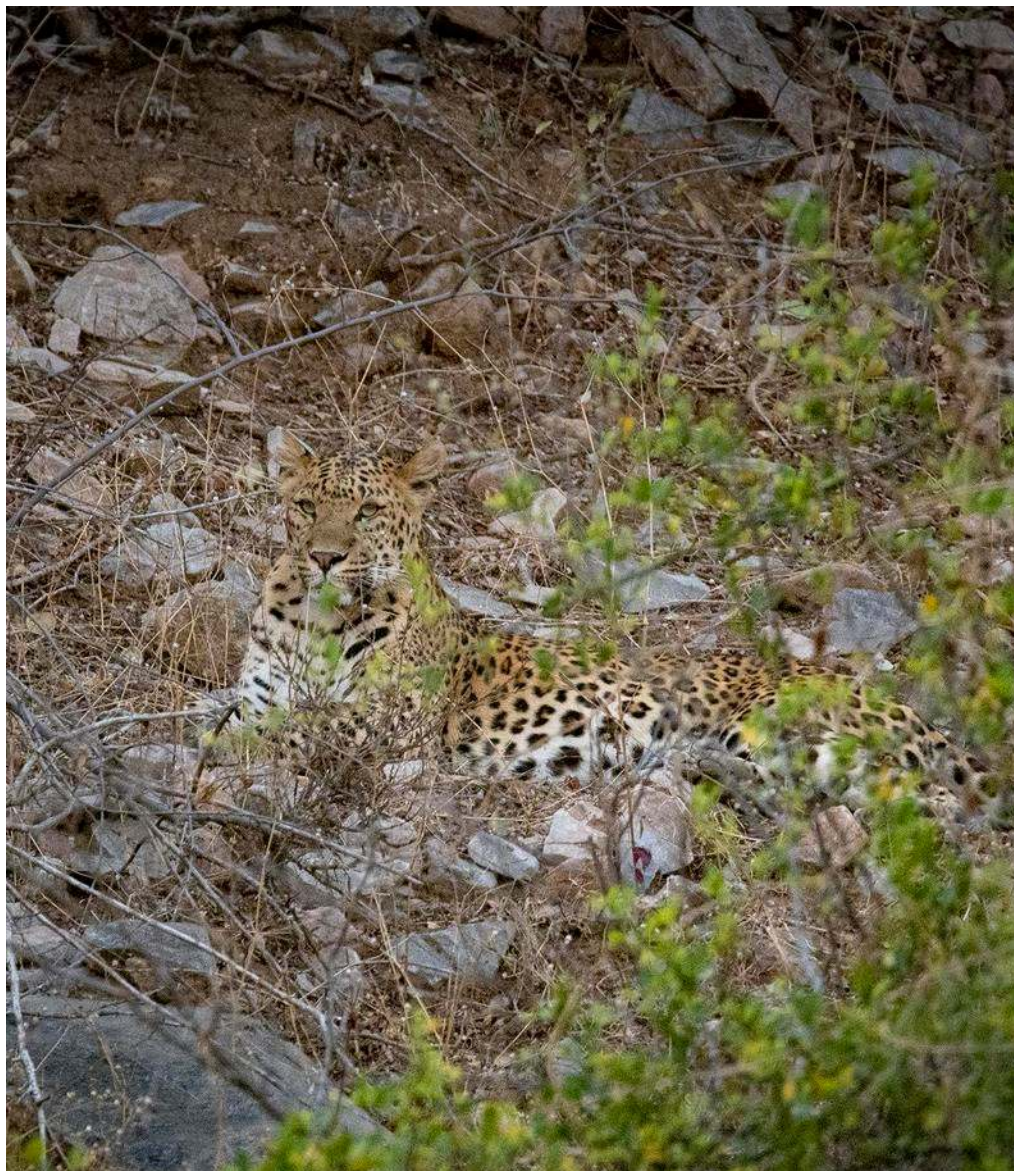
In Sariska, I spotted a leopard quietly stalking a herd of sambar, but after hearing the first click of the shutter, it rushed back into the forest, giving me little opportunity for a photograph.

All of these incidents were fabulous memories of leopard sightings and observing their characteristic behaviour; the only thing missing was a decent image of a leopard.

In Jhalana, that jinx was finally broken when, on 1st April during our evening safari, I was alerted by the alarm call of a squirrel. I spotted a female leopard, locally known as Flora, slowly approaching. She was stalking her prey, apparently a squirrel on a tree. Yes, the "urban leopard" of the "urban forest of Jhalana," in the heart of the pink city of Jaipur, feeds on squirrels, francolins, monitor lizards, peafowl, and more.



*Male leopard  
in his habitat  
in Jhalana*



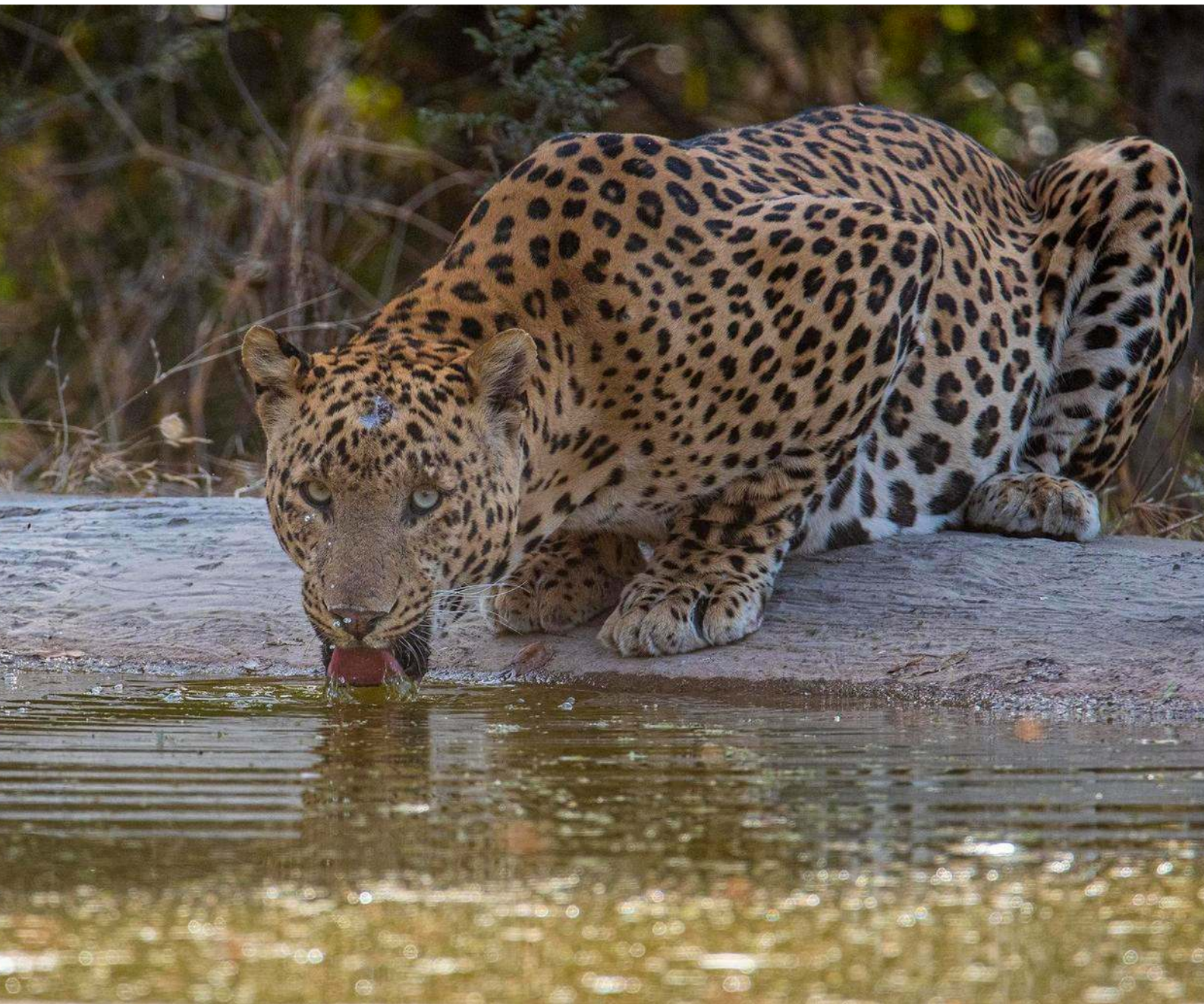
Allen Jacob of Nature Wanderers (a wildlife photography tour organizer), our guide for this exploration, informed us that urban leopards of Jhalana are shorter and skinnier than other leopards we see in tiger reserves or other wildlife sanctuaries. This size difference is primarily due to their food habits, as they do not have access to larger

herbivores like sambar, wild boar, or spotted deer. Consequently, they rely on smaller prey. The vegetation of Jhalana, as well as its proximity to the city, is not suitable for large herbivores. However, the forest department of Jaipur has undertaken the task of creating grasslands for herbivores to increase their population, which, in turn, would form the bulk of the prey for leopards and other carnivores.

In Jhalana, I was particularly astonished by the position of this leopard reserve. The reserve lies in the southeastern part of the capital city of Jaipur, with the Aravalli ranges running from top to bottom through the forest. The northern part is divided by National Highway (NH 11) and human settlements, while the western and southern boundaries touch the heavily populated areas of Jawahar Nagar, Malviya Nagar, and Jagatpura. The eastern boundary features villages and new settlements that are gradually developing.

Notably, the Malviya Nagar area is an industrial zone and part of the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO), comprising multiple chemical and automobile industries located right at the entry gate of the reserve. In fact, the industries end where the reserve begins. The declaration of this area as a Project Leopard site has indeed saved this parcel of forest from the greedy hands of “development.”





*Male leopard of jhalana drinking at waterhole.*

Essentially, the leopards of Jhalana are surrounded on all sides by human beings. How could they not cohabit with them?

Although the forest has a good population of nilgai—known to thrive in the forests of Rajasthan and Central India—leopards hardly make any attempts to hunt such large animals.

On 2nd April, during our morning safari, we witnessed the interaction between an urban leopard of Jhalana and a male nilgai, the largest antelope in India. We saw a male leopard,

locally known as Rana, stalking and approaching a huge male nilgai. He crouched low, observing the nilgai, and then sat on the ground just 10 meters away from it. For some time, both animals sat peacefully. After a while, the leopard slowly and stealthily disappeared into the forest. Later, Allen informed us that although we saw the leopard approaching the nilgai, his crouching posture was more indicative of a defensive stance than an offensive one.

The reason the male leopard did not attempt to kill the adult male nilgai was that such attempts could sometimes result in fatal mistakes.



Both the morning and afternoon safaris that day, in this one and only Project Leopard site in India,

gave me a feeling of déjà vu, reminding me simultaneously of Tadoba and Corbett Park.

Throughout the day, we were busy chasing, tracking, and photographing the star sub-adult male of Jhalana, Rana. There was a similar excitement and emotion, with competition among gypsy drivers to secure the best position for capturing his images. Abusive exchanges erupted over failures to do so, leading to commotion, collisions, chaos, and blocking the path of the animal, ultimately disturbing it. These experiences were typical of tiger reserves in India upon sighting a “showstopper” like Maya or Sharmili, except here it was a leopard instead of a tiger.



It was rightly mentioned in the inscription on the glass frame displayed in the museum of the Jhalana reserve that the leopard in Jhalana is a “majestic but not so elusive cat,” whereas, ecologically, it is always considered an elusive animal in the wild.

That was the 2nd day of April, and on that very day in 1973, the then Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had launched Project Tiger. On that day in 2021, we were busy replicating the “flagship species-centric ecotourism behavior” for another member of the big cat family. This behavior was probably learned from the national parks of India, where “tiger-centric” ecotourism is promoted and practiced. The display of “ecotourism behavior” by wildlife photographers and ecotourists alike, even in a leopard reserve, was very much in the shadow of the Bengal Tiger!

In the forest of Jhalana, during my four safaris between 1st and 3rd April, we saw three female and two male leopards. Although the leopard is the apex predator of this forest, they were constantly compared to the tigers of other national parks in India—in terms of their sighting frequency, behavior in front of tourists, and the photo opportunities they provided. This sentiment was echoed in our local guide Kunal’s statement. During our last safari, while searching for another dominant male leopard known as Simba, he remarked, “Simba is doosra sher (the Hindi word for ‘the

second tiger’) of Jhalana, after Rana. He never shies away from giving enough photo opportunities to the visitors.”

In the context of my “leopard safari” in India’s first Project Leopard site, there is an interesting comment made by another eminent wildlife photographer and ex-official of the Indian government, Vinod Goel, in an article titled Leopards in a Spot in Rajasthan, written by Sneha Mahale in the 8th April 2020 edition of the online journal Mongabay. Goel, who has been photographing leopards in the state since 2013, stated, “Big cat safaris in India are all about the tiger. It is only in recent years that the leopard has started getting the attention it deserves. Still, it is a shy and elusive animal. Sightings during the daytime are almost impossible. But there are a few places such as Bera (Jawai) in the Pali district of Rajasthan where there is almost a 98 to 99 percent chance of a sighting during a safari.”

So, wildlife photographers believe that being a big cat, the leopard also deserves their attention as a photography subject, not just the tigers. Fair enough.



*Shepherd of Pali*



Now, my first question is: Do leopards receive the same attention in forests where the tiger is the apex predator?

In the above two leopard-dominated ecosystems (Jhalana and Jawai), we observed a significant outpouring of attention on this deserving creature. My second question is: Do they receive the same level of attention everywhere, especially where no other predators dominate them?

The answers to these two questions lie in the “real status” of leopards in anthropocentric ecology. We define animals by their relationships to us. Through this lens, non-human species are categorized into two forms: domestic—dependent on humans for survival and adapted to live as companion species—and wild—independent and capable of

**A**s sustaining life without anthropogenic support. These relationships are broadly based on the level of human intervention required for an animal to survive.

In ecology, there is another condition called synanthropy. Synanthropes are species that exist between domestic and wild, benefiting from living in close proximity to humans while remaining beyond their control.

### **Leopards in Cities: Is This Ecotourism?**

Roaming through the slums of Mumbai or the under-construction metro railway project in Bangalore to capture images of leopards does not qualify as “ecotourism.” It’s akin to photographing a Brahminy kite from the balcony of my Bangalore apartment. When city dwellers are the customers of ecotourism, how can it be developed within their own habitat?

Now, this otherwise wild species, the leopard, is on the verge of becoming a synanthrope in several parts of India. Examples include Navi Mumbai, Bangalore, Chandrapur, and Alipurduar. News of leopard sightings, or reports of leopards picking up stray dogs or even human babies, or taking shelter in city schools, are not uncommon in these urban settlements. Based on a newspaper report from 2018, a survey conducted by

forest departments found around 41 leopards in Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivli, on the outskirts of Mumbai. Similarly, a leopard that intruded into a school in the heart of Bangalore was believed to be a resident of Bannerghatta National Park, also located on the city’s outskirts. The leopards sighted in Chandrapur and Alipurduar are believed to be from Tadoba and Buxa tiger reserves, respectively.

According to biologist, teacher, and photographer Nayan Khanolkar from Mumbai, who has spent months documenting life with leopards, “The primary reason that leopards have left the national parks and forests adjacent to cities is to access easy food. It’s a pattern replicated not just in Mumbai, but all over India and Asia.” Nayan, who won an award for his image “The Alley Cat” in the urban category of the 2017 Wildlife Photographer of the Year



competition, was quoted in that article: “It is our mistake. Humanity has created a food chain for them.

People throw food outside, which attracts pigs and dogs, and leopards can hunt these much more easily than running after a deer in the park.”

This behavior could be classified as synanthropic behavior of leopards. However, what we witnessed in Jawai and Jhalana was different; it was termed “cohabitation.” In these instances, leopards do not migrate from nearby national parks or reserve forests to human settlements in search of food. Instead, they reside in their natural habitat and feed on their natural prey, while human settlements have developed adjacent to their territory.

Interestingly, despite the dedicated “leopard safari” offerings in Jawai and Jhalana, no one has considered introducing leopard safaris in the heart of Mumbai, Bangalore, Chandrapur, or Alipurduar.



Roaming through the slums of Mumbai or the under-construction metro railway project in Bangalore to capture images of leopards does not qualify as “ecotourism.” It’s akin to photographing a Brahminy kite from the balcony of my Bangalore apartment. When city dwellers are the customers of ecotourism, how can it be developed within their own habitat?

Why is there this disparity? Wildlife photographers seem eager to capture images of leopards in cohabitation, but not in synanthropy. However, it's important to note that there are photographers like Nayan Khanolkar, who have won awards for documenting the synanthropic behavior of leopards.

In contrast, Jawai and Jhalana serve as dedicated ecotourism destinations, allowing visitors to witness human-leopard cohabitation. Clearly, not every leopard attracts the same level of attention from wildlife photographers unless someone like Nayan Khanolkar is available to capture their unique stories.

area—leopards have successfully adapted to various environments, showcasing their remarkable versatility.

According to the “Status of Leopard in India, 2018,” published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra are the top three leopard-populated states, similar to Bengal Tigers. However, aside from Kabini in Karnataka—renowned for black leopard sightings—these three states primarily serve as premier tiger tourism destinations. In contrast, Rajasthan, with just 476 leopards, has emerged as a hotspot for leopard tourism, excluding the well-known Ranthambore and Sariska tiger reserves.

In the tiger-range forests of this subcontinent, having dedicated ecotourism destinations for leopards is a significant achievement. Although technically, dry grasslands and hot deserts are not the traditional habitats for Bengal Tigers in this region—where they primarily inhabit wet grasslands (like Terai and Northeast India), shola forests of the Western Ghats, and tropical short grasslands of Central India and the Deccan

The unwritten norm in ecotourism is that if a forest is home to Bengal Tigers, the unique selling proposition (USP) of that destination cannot be leopards or any other species. As Vinod Goel aptly states, “Big cat safaris in India are all about the tiger.”





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## **Save Our Pollinators: A Call to Protect Our Helpless Winged Friends!**

### **Summary:**

Bees worldwide are showing a significant decline due to a number of natural and anthropogenic causes. Bees are important natural (biological) pollinators and essential for the survival of three global industries, namely agriculture, apiculture and forestry industries are dependent on the survival of the bees. Unfortunately, the global bee decline has resulted in severe depletion of bee populations and many particularly the native (wild) bees have been used towards extinction. It is therefore important to educate the public about the causes and factors impacting global bee population declines and means of successful bee conservation. Science communication is an important tool for building the education, awareness and sensitivity of the public to help in bee conservation; as without public efforts and initiative no successful steps could be generated to protect the dwindling population of global bee species including India.

### **What is pollination and why is this so important?**

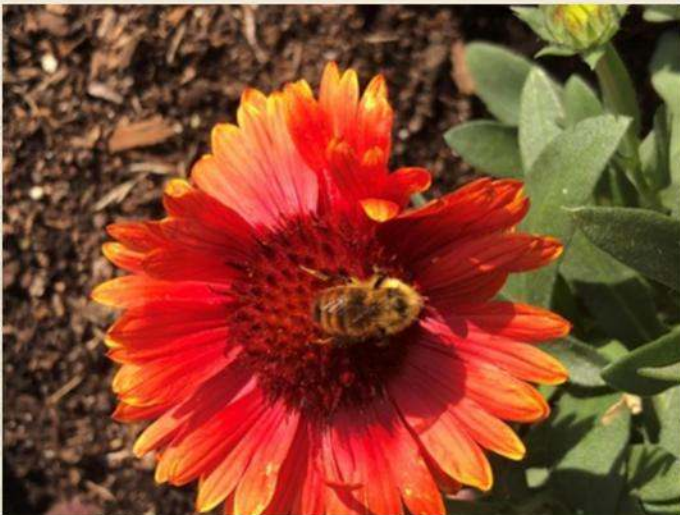
Pollination is an important ecological service necessary for the plants to propagate their next generation and survive in the nature (Basu 2019; Potts et al., 2010). It is the biological process by which pollen from the male parts of a flower (anther) is transferred to the female part (stigma); thereby facilitating the fertilization of the ovules and the production of seeds (Basu, 2019; Potts et al., 2010). This can occur through various agents like air, wind, water, insects, birds, bats to mention only a handful (Rhodes, 2018; Potts et al., 2010).

### **Who are the pollinators?**

Natural pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, beetles, and other insects; some species of snails and slugs, birds like hummingbirds and mammals like the bats that play a crucial role in transferring pollen between flowers, facilitating the reproduction of many plant species (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2017, 2018a,b; Potts et al., 2010). Bees are by far the most important and successful pollinators (Vasiliev and Greenwood, 2021). Around 85% of flowering plants across our planet Earth is pollinated by different species of bees (Basu, 2019; Potts et al., 2010). Unfortunately, bees around the world are showing rapid decline in their population (Basu, 2019; Coh-Martinez et al., 2019)



# Research Paper



## What are bees?

Bees are flying insects known for pollinating flowers and producing honey (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2017; Potts et al., 2010). They play a crucial role in ecosystems by aiding in plant reproduction through pollination. There are various species of bees, and they contribute significantly to agriculture and biodiversity (Basu, 2019; Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007). Honeybees are commercially cultivated for commercial honey productions. But there are several species of native or wild bees that are not propagated commercially and are extremely vulnerable (Potts et al., 2010).

Bees are very important to nature. There are about 20,000 species of bees in the world. Bees or honeybees or honeybees and honey-gathering insects closely related to ants. Famous for honey and wax production and flower pollination (Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007; Robinson et al., 2017). There are about twenty thousand bee species in the world under 9 recognized genera, although most are undescribed and the actual number may be much higher. Wherever there are insect-pollinated flowering plants, there are bees on every continent on Earth except Antarctica (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2017; Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007; Robinson et al., 2017; Potts et al., 2010).



## Research Paper

Four types of bees are commonly seen in the country. Rocky Mountain Bee, Little Bee, Indian Bee and European Bee. Apart from these, another species known as stingless bee is found in Kerala. They are not stingless at all, in fact their stingers are not fully developed. But they are very good pollinators. They produce 300-400 grams of honey annually (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2017).



Wherever there are flowering plants, there will be bees. They are very efficient and intelligent. Because bees and other insects cause flowers and fruits to grow on trees. If there were no insects like bees, there would be no flowers and no fruits on the trees (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2018a,b). Bees live in colonies in groups. Bees live in a large family or society in each hive. There are three types of bees in a colony. Queen bee, worker bee and male bee. The queen bee is the leader of the group and is large in size. Bees are best known for their honey. But this honey is not made for us by the bees (Robinson et al., 2017; Potts et al., 2010).

Rather, they collect honey for themselves in winter. They produce 2-3 times more honey than required; and understanding the opportunity, we take that extra honey. Researchers believe that not only honey production, but also the venom collected from bee stings can cure diseases. In recent times, it is heard that bees can play an important role in protecting the borders of the army. For which beekeeping is being done on the border (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2017; Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007)



# Research Paper

Table showing state wise production of honey in India (in '000MT). Source: Horticulture Statistics Division, Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Government of India.

State /Union Territories	2019-20	2020-21
Andhra Pradesh	1.85	1.89
Arunachal Pradesh	0.12	0.13
Assam	1.25	1.35
Bihar	15.50	16.00
Chhattisgarh	0.90	0.95
Gujarat	0.75	0.75
Haryana	4.60	4.80
Himachal Pradesh	5.80	5.85
Jammu & Kashmir	2.25	2.30
Jharkhand	1.60	1.65
Karnataka	2.25	2.30
Kerala	2.00	2.00
Madhya Pradesh	2.50	2.60
Maharashtra	1.80	1.85
Manipur	0.40	0.40
Meghalaya	0.25	0.25
Mizoram	0.25	0.25
Nagaland	0.65	0.65
Odisha	1.60	1.65
Punjab	16.20	17.00
Rajasthan	10.00	11.20
Sikkim	0.45	0.45
Tamil Nadu	2.10	2.20
Telangana	0.80	0.85
Tripura	0.20	0.20
Uttar Pradesh	21.50	22.50
Uttarakhand	2.65	2.70
West Bengal	19.50	20.00
Others	0.28	0.29
Total	120.00	125.01



# Research Paper

## Why bees are called social insects?

Bees are called social insects because they live together in large colonies where each member has a specific role and contributes to the survival of the group (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2017; Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007; Robinson et al., 2017; Potts et al., 2010). They exhibit complex social behaviours such as communication, division of labour, and cooperative care of offspring (Potts et al., 2010). The three distinct members of the bee colonies and their specific functions are provided below:

1. Queen Bee: Reproduction, mostly laying of millions of eggs during her lifetime
2. Drones: Male bees responsible for fertilizing the queen bee
3. Worker bees: Sterile related female bees that takes part in foraging, hive building, producing honey and wax, caring for the eggs and larvae, maintenance and guarding the hive against any intruders etc



## What is World Bee Day?

World Bee Day is an observance aimed at raising awareness about the importance of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem and human survival (Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007; Potts et al., 2010). It was established by the United Nations to coincide with the birthday of Anton Janša, a pioneer in beekeeping. Celebrated annually on May 20th, World Bee Day highlights the crucial role bees play in pollinating plants and maintaining biodiversity (Vasiliev and Greenwood, 2021).

## Why are bees so important to humans?

Bees play a crucial role in pollination, helping plants reproduce. This contributes to the production of fruits, vegetables, and nuts, supporting global food crops. Additionally, honey produced by bees has various health benefits and is used as a sweetener (Vasiliev and Greenwood, 2021). Furthermore, bees wax produced by bees is used in making cosmetics, candles and art objects. Survival without bees would be challenging as they play a crucial role in pollination, essential for many crops (Basu and Cetzal Ix, 2018a; Potts et al., 2010). The decline of bees could impact food production, biodiversity, and ecosystem health, posing challenges for human survival (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2018a; Rhodes 2018, Robinson et al., 2017). The commercial cultivation of bees is called beekeeping or apiculture.



# Research Paper



## **How honey gets it's unique taste?**

The unique taste of honey comes from various factors including the type of flowers the bees visit; the region where the honey is produced; even the climate and soil conditions (Table 1). Each type of flower produces nectar with its own distinct flavour profile, which is then transformed by the bees into honey. This diversity of floral sources contributes to the wide range of flavours found in different varieties of honey.

## **What is Mangrove honey or Mangal honey?**

Mangrove honey, also known as Mangal honey or Golden honey is the honey produced by native bees that forage exclusively in the mangrove forests like the Sunderbans. Mangroves are coastal trees and shrubs that grow in tropical and subtropical regions, often in brackish water or saline environments (Basu, 2019; Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2017, Potts et al. 2010). Mangrove honey has a unique flavour profile influenced by the nectar sources found in mangrove flowers and the surrounding coastal environment honey (Basu, 2019; Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2017, 2018a,b; Robinson et al., 2017). It's often prized for its distinct taste and potential health benefits. West Bengal state in India and neighbouring Bangladesh are the major global suppliers of Mangrove honey (Basu, 2019; Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2017, 2018a,b; Robinson et al., 2017).

## **Why are bees showing declining across the planet?**

The decline in bee populations is attributed to various factors, including pesticide exposure, habitat loss, disease, and climate change. Pesticides like neonicotinoids can harm bees, and loss of diverse habitats reduces their foraging options (Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007). Diseases, particularly those affecting honeybees, also contribute to the decline. Additionally, climate change affects flowering patterns, disrupting the availability of food for bees. Combined, these factors pose a serious threat to bee populations and, consequently, ecosystem health (Robinson et al., 2017).



# Research Paper



## How are natural habitats destroyed?

Habitat destruction occurs when natural habitats are no longer able to support the species present, resulting in the displacement or destruction of its biodiversity (Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007). Examples include harvesting fossil fuels, deforestation, dredging rivers, bottom trawling, urbanization, filling in wetlands and mowing fields (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2018a,b; Coh-Martinez et al., 2019)



## What will happen if we lose bees?

If bees become extinct, it would have severe consequences for ecosystems and agriculture. Bees play a crucial role in pollinating many plants, including numerous crops that humans rely on for food. The loss of bees could lead to a decline in food production, affecting both wildlife and human populations. Additionally, it could disrupt the balance of various ecosystems, impacting biodiversity (Potts et al., 2010). Furthermore, it will impact our economy as bees are directly related to Apiculture (commercial honey production), Agriculture (global crop production) and Silviculture (forest generation for commercial uses).





## **What can we do to save the bees?**

To help save bees (Basu and Cetxal-Ix, 2017, 2018a,b; Basu, 2019; Coh-Martinez et al., 2019 ; Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007; Potts et al., 2010) we can support bee conservation by using the following strategies and policies:

**Plant bee-friendly plants:** Create a bee-friendly environment by planting flowers, herbs, and shrubs that attract bees.

**Establish bee-sanctuaries:** This will help in the protection as well multiplication of endangered bee species by providing them safe habitats to forage, nest, make their hives and I'm producing numerous baby bees to serve their colonies.

**Avoid pesticides:** Opt for natural pest control methods to protect your garden without harming bees.

**Support local beekeepers:** Buy honey and other bee-related products from local beekeepers to support their efforts.

**Educate others:** Raise awareness about the importance of bees and the threats they face.

**Provide water:** Place shallow containers with water in your garden to provide bees with a water source.

**Be cautious with mowing:** Leave some areas of your lawn or garden unmowed to provide habitat for ground-nesting bees.

**Support conservation organizations:** Contribute to or volunteer with organizations dedicated to bee conservation.

Small actions collectively make a significant impact on bee populations. Bees and humans can coexist successfully. It requires sustainable practices, habitat preservation, and responsible pesticide use to ensure a healthy environment for both species.



# Research Paper



## **Why is successful and efficient conservation of bees across the planet so important?**

### **Bee conservation is crucial for several reasons:**

**Pollination:** Bees are among the most important pollinators in the world. They pollinate about 75% of the leading global food crops, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and seeds. Without bees, many of these crops would fail, leading to a significant reduction in food diversity and availability.

**Biodiversity:** Bees contribute to the pollination of wild plants, helping to maintain biodiversity. These plants form the basis of many ecosystems, providing food and habitat for a wide range of other species. The decline of bee populations can lead to the collapse of these ecosystems.

**Economic impact:** The agricultural industry heavily relies on bees for pollination, contributing billions of dollars annually to the global economy. The loss of bees would lead to higher costs for farmers and consumers, as alternative pollination methods would need to be implemented.

**Environmental health:** Bees are indicators of environmental health. Their decline often signals broader issues within ecosystems, such as pesticide overuse, habitat loss, and climate change. Protecting bees means addressing these larger environmental concerns.

**Food security:** A significant portion of the world's diet relies on bee-pollinated plants. The decline of bee populations could lead to a decrease in food production, potentially causing food shortages and higher prices, impacting global food security.

Protecting bees is not just about saving a single species but about preserving the delicate balance of our ecosystems, supporting agriculture, and ensuring a sustainable future for all.



# Research Paper



## What are the most common diseases of bees?

Some of the most common bee diseases include:

**Varroosis:** Caused by the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*.

**Nosema:** A fungal disease caused by the microsporidian parasites *Nosema apis* and *Nosema ceranae*.

**American Foulbrood:** Caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae*.

**European Foulbrood:** Caused by the bacterium *Melissococcus plutonius*.

**Chalkbrood:** Caused by the fungus *Ascosphaera apis*.



## What is Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) observed in bees?

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a phenomenon that affects honeybee colonies, where the majority of worker bees disappear, leaving behind a queen, plenty of food, and a few nurse bees to care for the remaining immature bees and the queen (Basu, 2019; Kluser and Peduzzi, 2007). The exact cause of CCD is still not fully understood, but factors such as pesticides, parasites, pathogens, habitat loss, and stress from commercial beekeeping practices are believed to contribute to it (Basu and Cetzal-Ix, 2018a; Vasiliev and Greenwood, 2021). CCD is a significant concern because honeybees play a crucial role in pollinating many crops, contributing to global food production (Basu 2019, Basu and Cetzal Ix, 2017; Basu and Cetzal Ix, 2018a,b; Rodes, 2018; Vasiliev and Greenwood, 2021).



# Research Paper

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# Research Paper

## "Sustainable Beekeeping: Organized hives promoting pollination and biodiversity."



### About The Author:

Saikat Kumar Basu did his two Masters in Botany (Specialization: Microbiology) from the University of Calcutta (India) and Agricultural Studies from the University of Lethbridge (Canada). His doctoral studies is in areas of Biomolecular Sciences. Currently serving as the Executive Research Director, PFS, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. His research area covers commercial production of medicinal plants, forage crop quality production, pollinator conservation and ecosystem regeneration. He has several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters published in reputed national and international journals. He has written, edited/co-edited over 40 books. He has participated in a number of national and international seminars and conferences presenting papers and posters and is an active member of a number of organizations in Canada and India. He is associated as an editor and contributor to the Encyclopedia of Earth specializing in areas of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Traditionally trained in botany (plant sciences) and specializing in microbiology, works actively in various areas of plant sciences and environmental conservation. The author works extensively on forage crops like forage legumes & grasses, medicinal herb and spice crops like fenugreek. Currently he is also working in areas of pollinator insect conservation, integrated habitat development and on establishing Pollinator Sanctuaries in various agro-climate regions. Saikat received the Graduate Citizenship Award (2009), Alberta Graduate Student Award (2009), CSA Best Article Award (2010), SAEA Volunteer Award (2011), AFC Celebrate Agriculture in Alberta Photo Award (2012), ASPB Peggy Thompson Publication Award (2014), Gopalchandra Bhattacharya Award (SAB), Annual Award 2020 (GBMC) and Prof JB Mathew Award (CMRA).



## "The Micro Marvels:2024" Celebrating the Beauty of Nature through Macro Photography

In August 2024, GENCF proudly launched the "The Micro Marvels - 2024", A macro photography competition to celebrate the enchanting monsoon season and promote awareness of the intricate beauty of the natural world.



Honorable Judge  
Shri. Ripan Biswas

All PC:  
Ripan Biswas

**T**his initiative encouraged photography enthusiasts to showcase their talents, drawing attention to the small wonders that often go unnoticed. Each day during the competition, one exceptional photograph was featured on the cover page of our Facebook community group, Facebook page, and Instagram, shining a spotlight on the creativity of our participants.

We were honored to have Ripan Biswas as our esteemed judge for "The Micro Marvels - 2024," a renowned wildlife photographer hailing from a quaint village in

Coochbehar, West Bengal, India. Holding a master's degree in Environmental Science, Ripan's fascination with nature blossomed in childhood, inspired by the vivid life forms surrounding him. His journey into nature photography began in 2008, providing him a platform to express his profound connection with the natural world. Ripan has garnered significant recognition as the only Indian to be a three-time winner of the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, organized by the Natural History Museum in London. His expertise and unique perspective made him an ideal judge for "The Micro Marvels - 2024."

We were truly grateful to have Urnil Jhaveri as a guiding force

*Ant-mimicking  
spider.*

*Won the  
prestigious  
Wildlife  
Photographer  
of the Year  
Award in the  
"Invertebrates"  
category.*





throughout the “Micro Marvels - 2024” competition. As a Senior Mentor and Admin, Urmil brought added prestige to the event. An acclaimed wildlife photographer and filmmaker with over 12 years of experience, he has a keen eye for detail and a profound connection to nature, enabling him to capture some of the

most elusive moments in the wild. His passion for wildlife photography, inspired by his grandfather, has shaped a career that beautifully intertwines artistry, conservation, and storytelling.

Urmil also judged the Mentor’s Choice Awards, further showcasing his commitment to fostering talent and promoting wildlife conservation.

Entries were evaluated by a panel based on artistic merit, originality, subject matter, and style. The judges’ decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding their choices.

It was not just a competition; it was a celebration of the artistry inherent in nature photography. It provided a platform for photographers to share their passion while raising awareness about the importance of protecting our environment. As we continue our journey in exploring the wonders of the natural world, we look forward to more initiatives that inspire, educate, and promote a deeper connection with nature.

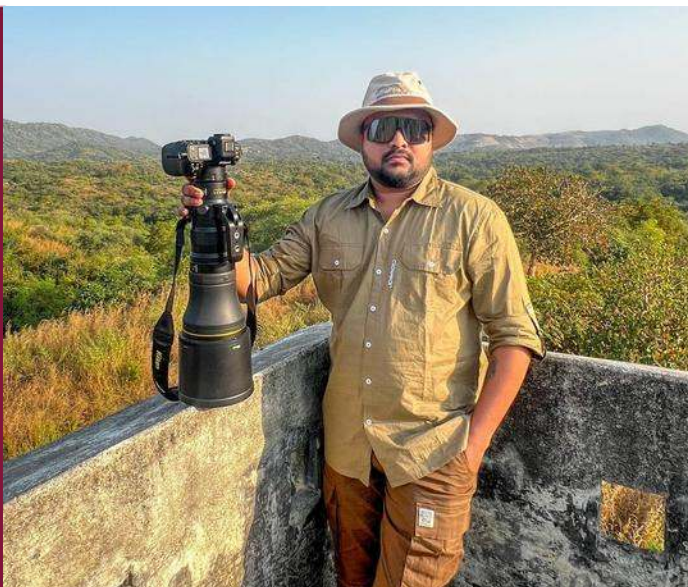


*A Celebration of Talent and Nature:*

The “Micro Marvels - 2024” competition aimed to inspire photographers to connect with the environment and express their creativity through macro photography. By showcasing the winning images on various platforms, the competition celebrated the talent of individual photographers and fostered a collective commitment to wildlife conservation. As we reflect on the success of this competition, we celebrate the incredible works submitted by participants.



*Urmil Jhaveri  
Nikon Creator,  
Sr. Wildlife  
Photography  
Mentor  
GENCF*



### Awards and Recognitions

As part of the competition,

we are excited to announce that six awards will be given to celebrate outstanding contributions: Winner  
1st Runner-Up  
2nd Runner-Up  
Best Habitat  
Best Behavior  
Best Portrait  
& 4 Mentor’s Choice Awards



**GENCF Awards**  
**The Micro Marvels - 2024**



**Winner**

R Pradeep Kumar





# GENCF Awards

## The Micro Marvels - 2024



**1st Runner Up**

Santanu Dutta



**2nd Runner Up**

U. Sajith





# GENCF Awards

## The Micro Marvels - 2024



**Best Potrait**  
Santanu Dutta



**Best Behaviour**  
R Pradeep Kumar





# GENCF Awards

## The Micro Marvels - 2024



**Best Habitat**  
R Pradeep Kumar



**Certificate of Merit**  
Santanu Dutta





# GENCF Awards

## The Micro Marvels - 2024

© raj pise



**Certificate of Merit**  
Raj Pise



**Certificate of Merit**  
R Pradeep Kumar





**GENCF Awards**  
**The Micro Marvels - 2024**



**Certificate of Merit**  
Navonil Dutta





## HR Expert Turned Artist and Conservation!

I am Deepali Verma, a qualified MBA with 15 years of experience as an HR Recruiter. My expertise lies in identifying the best-fit candidates for various roles, building and maintaining strong relationships with stakeholders, and providing timely, effective recruitment solutions. My passion for people and process drives my

Over time, with patience and practice, I honed my skills, creating artwork that resonates with my sense of creativity and joy.

optimal talent acquisition strategies across diverse industries.

My fascination with colors led me to explore painting as a hobby during the COVID-19 lockdown, despite having no formal training. Over time, with patience and practice, I honed my skills, creating artwork that resonates with my sense of creativity and joy.

My fascination with colors led me to explore painting as a hobby during the COVID-19 lockdown, despite having no formal

Tigers face numerous threats, including habitat loss, poaching, and human-tiger conflicts. With only 3,900 tigers remaining in the wild, it's crucial we act now to safeguard their future. As a global community, we must: 1. Protect and restore natural habitats. 2. Support anti-poaching efforts. 3. Promote coexistence with tigers. My painting, "Majestic Tiger," captures the raw power and beauty of these endangered animals. Through vibrant colors and bold brushstrokes, I aim to convey the urgency of protecting our planet's precious wildlife.



Artist:  
Deepali Verma,  
HR expertise turned  
into an Artist.  
Bokaro Steel City,  
Jharkhand.

Through her  
vibrant  
Art  
showcasing  
her painting,  
Majestic Tiger,  
this  
International  
Tiger Day







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## The Roar on My Canvas: A Journey of Art, Tigers, and Palamu Tiger Reserve

I was born and raised in Baresanr, a small village in the Latehar district of Jharkhand, nestled in the heart of Palamu Tiger Reserve. My life has always revolved around the forest. I grew up playing in its dense greenery, surrounded by the calls of birds and the whispers of the wind through the trees.

M

y childhood was spent in a village untouched by modernity, where lanterns lit our homes and the mysteries of the jungle were a part of everyday life.

My connection with the forest began early, but it was through painting that I found a way to express the deep admiration I had for this wild beauty. My first recognition came on October 2, 2007, during a painting competition organized by the Palamu Tiger Reserve on Gandhi Jayanti. I secured second place, while my elder brother took first. That moment lit a fire within me

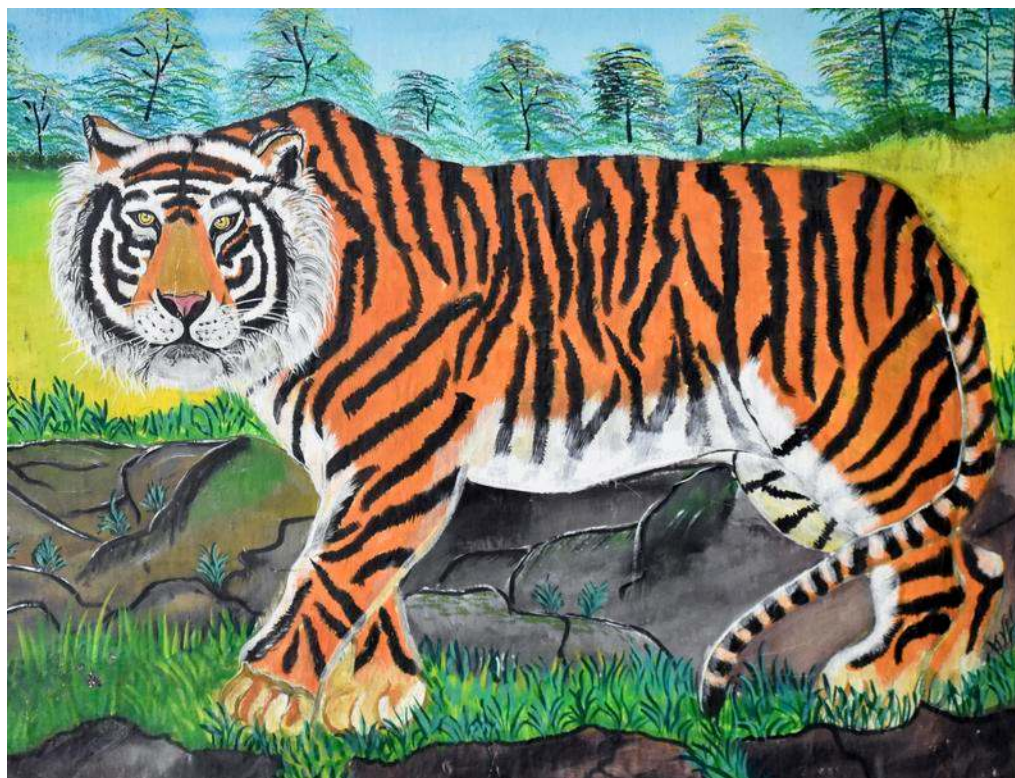
a growing curiosity for art, especially the art of the wilderness around me.

My fascination has always been with the creatures of the jungle, particularly the tiger. I am most inspired by the forest's majestic predators, and this inspiration finds its way onto the walls of my house. I've painted two tigers on these walls, with every stroke embodying the spirit of the jungle. These tigers are more than just images—they are a tribute to the unseen guardians of our land. The tiger roams in the depths of Palamu, hidden from sight because our reserve is not yet open to the kind of tourism that other sanctuaries experience. But even if I can't always see them, I can feel their presence in the forest, and that feeling guides my art.



Artist:  
Shera Kumar  
Gupta,  
Naturalist,  
Exploring Nature,  
Baresanr,  
Latehar, Jharkhand

Through his  
vibrant Art  
showcasing his  
painting,  
Majestic Tiger,  
this International  
Tiger Day











## **Flipside Backpack 400 AW III LP37352-PWW**

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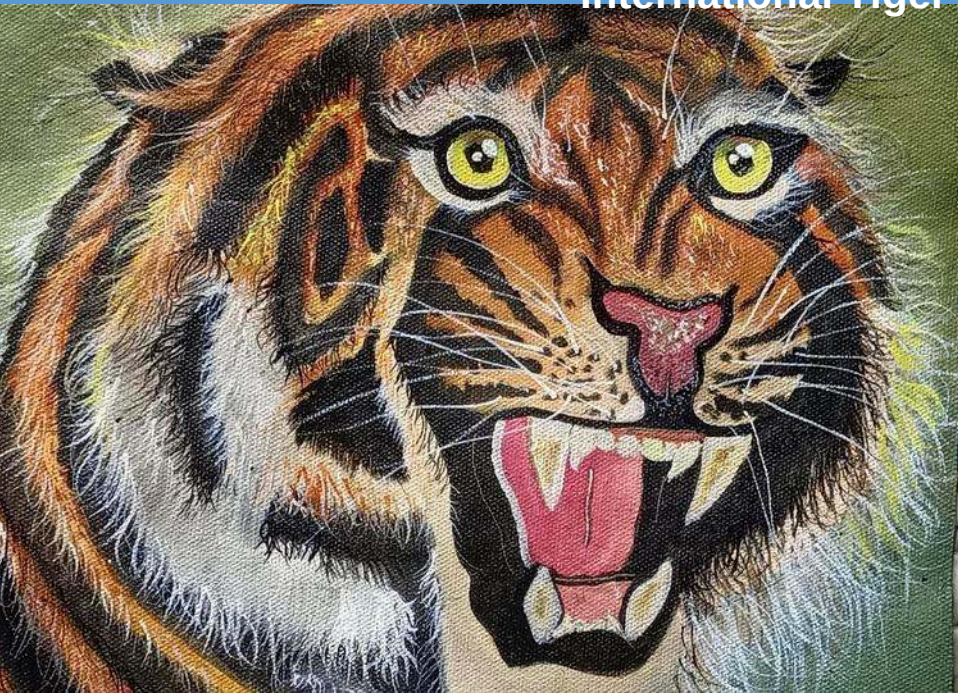
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It wasn't long before my love for painting expanded into photography. I borrowed a camera and began capturing the birds, animals, and the fleeting moments of life in the forest. Through the lens, I saw the jungle in a new way, and it wasn't long before fate stepped in to guide me further. One day, I met Mukul Sir, he organized a guide training program in the Palamu Tiger Reserve from August 22nd to August 26th, which I was

fortunate enough to attend. Those few days were transformative. I learned so much about the delicate balance of our ecosystem, the habits of the creatures I had always admired, and the importance of preserving this fragile beauty.

After the training, my interest in photography deepened.

My passion for tigers and the Palamu Reserve has grown stronger with time. As I paint tigers on my walls, I am reminded of their roar—the one my grandfather used to speak of, the one that once made the entire forest tremble. Although the tigers have retreated deeper into the forest, away from human eyes, their presence is felt in every corner of Palamu. My art, whether on canvas or through the lens, is my way of ensuring they are never forgotten.



### Voice of The Forest Through My Art

I will continue to paint, to photograph, and to tell the stories of these magnificent creatures. Because in every tiger's gaze, there is a message: the forest is alive, and it needs us to be its voice.



### "The Roar of Life: Celebrating the Majestic Tiger Through Art and Conservation"

Celebrating the most magnificent creature that roams our pristine, life-preserving forests: tigers. Just the mention of this overpowering word evokes a range of emotions across people. While some are enamored, others feel a chill run down their spine. Whatever the emotion, it radiates energy, vitality, and royalty.

To celebrate and express my gratitude and love for this majestic creation of God, I, Anil Kumar Sharma, have been creating sketches in both charcoal and pastels over the years.

However, I have never felt that I've created enough, and I know there will be many more to come.

Through art, I hope to inspire awareness. Save the tigers to save our existence. Each life saved, each effort made, brings us closer to a harmonious coexistence with nature.

**T**his creature is a symbol of nature's splendor and power. Yet the numbers are dwindling, with only a small increase in the last census bringing a glimmer of hope to conservationists. Once ranging freely across vast territories, tigers now face habitat loss, human encroachment, and poaching. We know that our existence depends on this magnificent beast and the delicate ecosystems it helps to sustain. Protecting the tiger means preserving biodiversity, our forests, and ultimately our planet's health.



Artist:  
Anil Sharma,  
Jamshedpur

*Majestic gaze:  
A charcoal  
portrayal of the  
tiger's raw  
power.*









# ZOOM INTO EXTENSIVE DETAIL



Image Courtesy - Latika Nath



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## International Tiger Day Celebration - The Roars - 2024

A jewel in the crown of our celebrations was the captivating “The Roars - 2024” competition, which graced our popular Facebook Forum with its raw beauty and power. Each day, a mesmerizing photograph of a tiger—majestic and wild—took center stage on the cover page of our group, bestowing a sense of honour and prestige

upon the artist whose work captured the essence of this incredible creature.

These masterpieces, brimming with life and spirit, not only earned their place of pride but were also shared across the vast realms of Facebook and Instagram. With every post, the vibrant colors and striking details stirred conversations, sparked imaginations, and brought to life the untold stories of the tigers we strive to protect. Through this visual symphony, mass awareness spread like wildfire, as people far and wide united in

their admiration and commitment to tiger conservation.

The event’s judge was Rajarshi Banerji, one of India’s most distinguished wildlife photographers and Nikon India’s Brand Creator in Wildlife Photography. Rajarshi, an ardent conservationist, has spent over 30 years photographing wildlife across India and various parts of the world, earning numerous international awards for his work. His images have been featured in major publications, including the covers of National Geographic Traveller and Sanctuary Asia. Despite his successful career as an industrialist, his passion for wildlife photography drives him to make several trips to the field each year.



*Honorable Judge  
Shri. Rajarshi  
Banerjee  
Eminent Wildlife  
Photographer &  
Nikon Creator*

*All PC:  
Shri. Rajarshi  
Banerjee*

*International  
Tiger Day  
Celebrated on  
Jungle Chimes*



**Jungle Chimes!!!**  
On Google Meet @ 7:30 PM  
Monday  
29th July, 2024

**“The Roars - 2024”  
Award Ceremony**  
On the Special Occasion of  
**International Tiger Day**  
And  
A Tribute to John Singh  
by Shri. G. Shaheed

**ZEISS** **We Naturalists**



**Judge**  
Shri. Rajarshi Banerjee  
Eminent Wildlife Photographer  
&  
Nikon Creator



**Host**  
Mr. Satyendra K Singh  
Business Mentor  
Exploring Nature



**Co-Host**  
Dr. Mithilesh Dutta Dwivedi  
Chief Zoologist  
Exploring Nature



**A Tribute to**  
Shri. A.J.T. Johnsingh  
Celebrating a Legacy of Conservation



**“A Nature’s Rhythm Amplifier”**  
Shri. G. Shaheed  
Eminent Environmental Journalist from Kerala  
with over 4 decades of Experience.



**About Our Nature’s Rhythm Amplifier:**

- Served Mathrubhumi, a leading newspaper, for 42 years. Pioneered environmental protection in Kerala, spearheading the Save Silent Valley campaign.
- Held positions as Chief Reporter in New Delhi Bureau and Bureau Chief in Cochin.
- Former member of the Cochin University Senate and Member of the Kerala Wildlife Board.
- Reporting on wildlife for Yathra magazine for the past 15 years.
- Contributed wildlife articles to Frontline magazine.
- Widely traveled and well-connected with environmentalists worldwide.





















*P  
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## International Tiger Day



*Water Cooler Tiger*



*Brothers sharing a drink*



*Tiger in Canyon*

Rajarshi is also a recognized Climate Change Researcher affiliated with Jadavpur University, Kolkata, and has presented acclaimed research on wildlife and climate change in countries like the USA, South Africa, and China. He has authored a unique coffee table book on Kaziranga National Park, published by the Government of Assam, and his work has even been placed in the Library of Congress by the US Government.

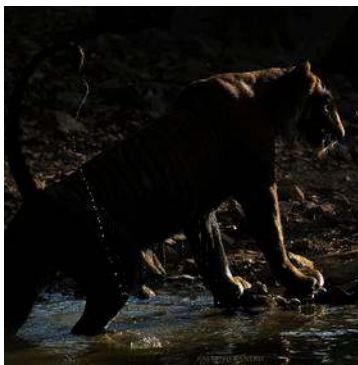
We at Whispering Wilds are deeply honoured to have had Rajarshi Banerji as the judge of this event.

His expertise and passion have made "The Roars - 2024" competition a true celebration of the beauty and importance of tiger conservation.

Through these efforts, we hope to inspire continued awareness and action to protect these magnificent creatures and the ecosystems they sustain.



We are also thrilled to share some of his extraordinary tiger photography in our magazine, inspiring further



awareness and action to protect these

magnificent creatures and the ecosystems they inhabit.



# GITZO

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Adventure

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Ball Head

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*Tiger in Canyon*



*CAT on his forehead*

Mr. Dwivedi, the Chief Zoologist of Exploring Nature and Chief Editor of Whispering Wilds, was the esteemed speaker at the International Tiger Day Celebration.

As a passionate conservationist, he shared invaluable insights into tiger conservation, covering their geographical distribution, population trends, and the complexities of human-wildlife coexistence.

He also addressed the escalating conflicts between tigers and humans, emphasizing the need for conservation efforts and highlighting various government initiatives aimed at safeguarding these majestic creatures.

Mr. Dwivedi's dedication to wildlife preservation extends beyond tigers. He holds a postgraduate degree in Zoology and a Doctorate in the Study of Birds from Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribag, with a specialization in the avian diversity of Bokaro District.

Hosting this insightful discussion is Satyendra K Singh, a renowned career strategist, business mentor, and motivational speaker with over 25 years of experience. As an empanelled mentor with the Government of India's MAARG program, Singh has mentored over 100 startups, helping them navigate the complexities of the business world. A published author and corporate trainer, he has composed poetry in Hindi and English and writes crime thrillers for movies.



### **GENCF Awards: The Roars - 2024**

The competition included several categories, with winners honored as follows:

- Winner
- 1st Runner-Up
- 2nd Runner-Up
- Best Habitat
- Best Behavior
- Best Portrait
- Certificates of Merit



# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



**Winner**

Sumanta Banerjee





# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



**1st Runner Up**  
Nemophilist Kapil



**2nd Runner Up**  
Vishruth Chandrashekar C





# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



## BEST POTRAIT

Chowdhury Tamal



## BEAT BEHAVIOUR

Sumanta Banerjee





# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



**BEST HABITAT**

Kalyan Nath



**Certificate of Merit**

Nemophilist Kapil



*Nemophilist*  *Kapil*  
photography



# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



**Certificate of Merit**

Sumanta Banerjee



**Certificate of Merit**

Mittal Patel



Mittal Patel  
topography



# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



## Certificate of Merit

Vishal Goswami



## Certificate of Merit

Vishruth Chandrashekar C





# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



**Certificate of Merit**  
Arpita Bhattacharya



**Certificate of Merit**  
Chowdhury Tamal





# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



## Certificate of Merit

Subir Ghosh



## Certificate of Merit

Arpita Bhattacharya





# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



**Certificate of Merit**

Navolin Dutta



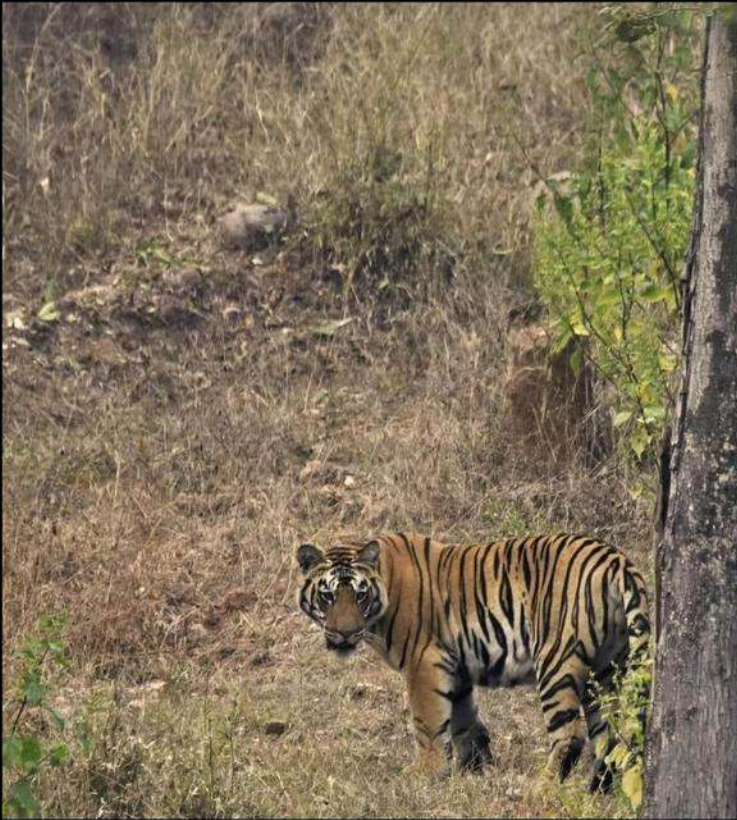
**Certificate of Merit**

Mittal Patel





# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



**Certificate of Merit**  
Kaleen Kureshi Kanha



**Certificate of Merit**  
Sumanta Banerjee





# GENCF Awards The Roars - 2024



**Certificate of Merit**  
Subrata S Mukherjee



**Certificate of Merit**  
Subhamay Karmakar





# **GENCF Awards**

## **The Roars - 2024**



**Certificate of Merit**  
Vishruth Chandrashekar C





# Message from The Founder

## Embracing Autumn's Warmth as We Gently Transition into Winter

October brings the crisp embrace of autumn, a season that fills the landscape with vibrant hues and ushers in the first whispers of winter. As we savor this beautiful transition, we reflect on a season brimming with remarkable events that celebrated nature's wonders.

The past season has been marked by extraordinary events that celebrated nature in all its diversity and splendor. Among the highlights, International Tiger Day in July was a true milestone.



**Mukul Mukherjee**  
Founder

To honor this powerful symbol of biodiversity, we launched The Roars - 2024 competition on our popular Facebook forum. Each day, a stunning tiger photograph took center stage as our cover image, capturing the regal essence of this endangered species and igniting a conversation about their conservation. Rajarshi Banerji, a distinguished wildlife photographer and committed conservationist, graciously served as our judge. Rajarshi's expertise, shaped over three decades of documenting wildlife and his passion for climate research, added prestige to the event. His discerning eye and profound knowledge reminded us of the tiger's critical role in maintaining ecosystem balance, making The Roars - 2024 a powerful platform for raising awareness and uniting our community in the fight to protect this iconic animal.

To celebrate the life-giving monsoon, we introduced The Micro Marvels - 2024, a macro photography competition showcasing nature's delicate beauty and hidden wonders. The monsoon season, with its nourishing rains, brings life to rivers, forests, and farmlands, and is essential to India's biodiversity and agricultural vitality. Judged by renowned wildlife photographer Ripan Biswas and led by our mentor Urmil Jhaveri, Micro Marvels encouraged our community to look closer, focusing on the intricate details that too often go unnoticed—the dewdrops on leaves, tiny insects at work, and vibrant fungi that thrive in damp soil. Each photograph celebrated the monsoon's essential role in sustaining life and offered a glimpse into the small yet significant marvels that emerge with the rain.

As we stand in autumn's embrace, the warmth of these memories carries us forward into winter, reminding us of our profound connection to nature. The monsoon, autumn, and winter each bring their own magic, highlighting the cycles of growth, renewal, and rest that sustain our world. Let us embrace the coming season with the same commitment to conservation, cherishing the lessons of the past months. Together, we journey forward with the purpose of preserving and celebrating the natural beauty that enriches our lives year-round. With each passing season, may we continue to strengthen our bond with the environment, celebrating its splendor while deepening our resolve to protect and sustain it for generations to come.



**Scan To Participate**





## GENCF Awards Our Team



**Santanu Majumder**  
President



**Sandeep Dutta**  
Vice President



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Joint - Secretary



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**Mr. Bappa Debnath**  
Sr. Admin



**Shera Kumar Gupta**  
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**Mr. Satyendra K Singh**  
Business Head  
GENC Foundation



**Scan To Participate**





Baaz Jungle Resort is an eco friendly boutique Resort which offers you a Perfect environment to recharge yourself. being enveloped by bountiful beauty of Birds, Beasts and Biological extravaganza offering a rare opportunity of shooting around with your lens from dawn to dusk-located in Pench National Park & Set amidst enviable lush Green Forest,  
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**Baaz Jungle Resort; Village Kohka, Tahsil Kurai, Madhya Pradesh  
India -480881**





# GENCF Awards Top Contributors

## September



Kavitha Lakshmi



Neeraj Monani



Prakash Joshi

## August



R. Pradeep Kumar



Aparajita Hazra



U. Sajith

## July



Mittal Patel



Prabir Mukherjee



Subrata S. Mukherjee



**GENCF Awards**  
**September**



**Winner**

Raj Pise





# GENCF Awards

## September



**1st Runner Up**  
Asif Mondal



**2nd Runner Up**  
Arka Chanda Roy





# GENCF Awards

## August



**Winner**

Arun Tyagi





# GENCF Awards

## August



**1st Runner Up**

Drabhijit Bagui



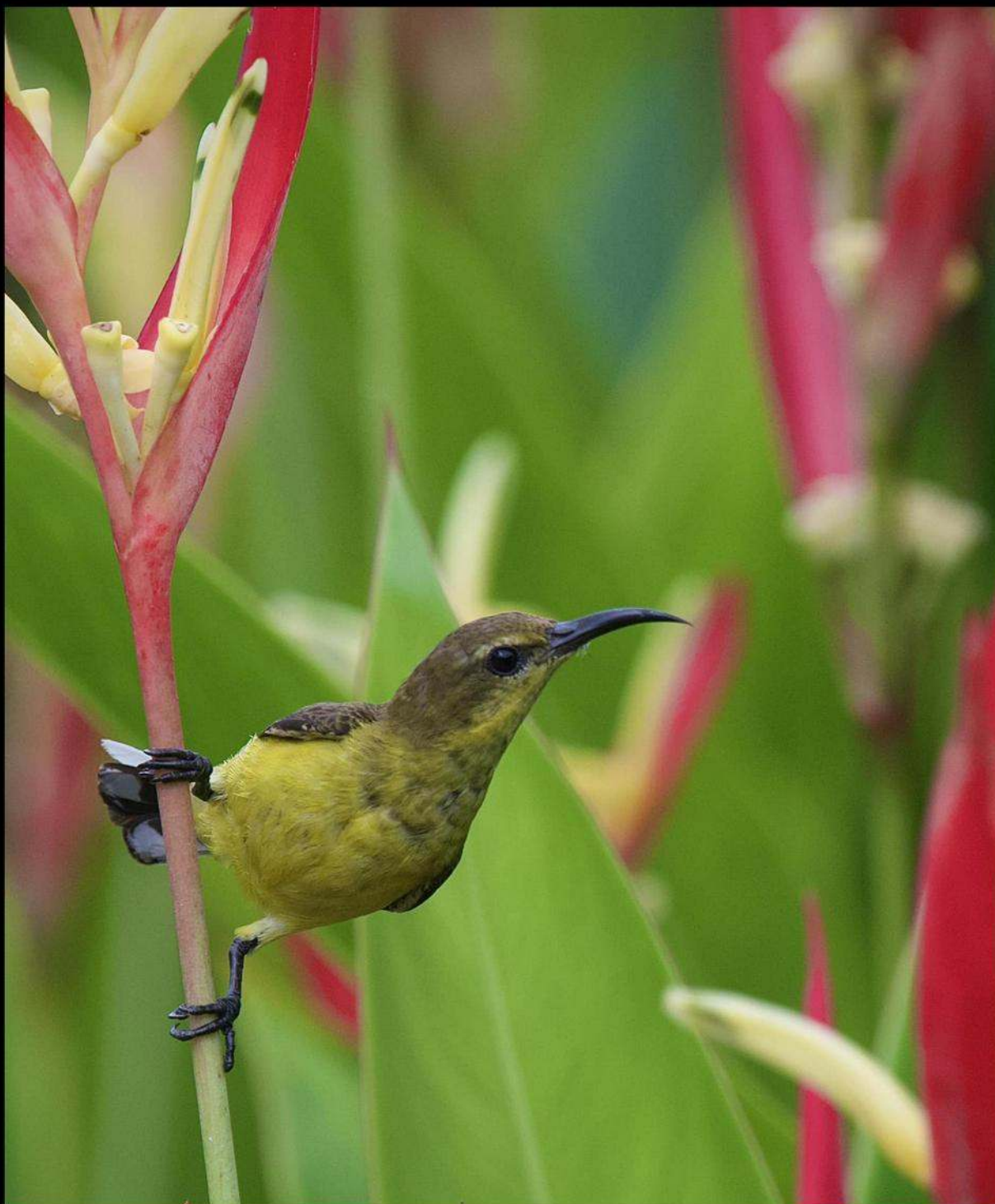
**2nd Runner Up**

Samar Jana





# GENCF Awards July



**Winner**

Utsav Shaw





# GENCF Awards

## July



### 1st Runner Up

Dakshesh Bharatkumar Ashra



### 2nd Runner Up

Subir Ghosh





# Exploring Nature Call of The Wild

(Nature & Wildlife Expedition Company)

**Exploring Nature Call of The Wild** connects you to the wonders of nature through nature and wildlife expeditions. Each journey showcases the beauty of diverse ecosystems, inspiring a deep connection with the natural world. Dedicated to conservation and community support, we promote responsible travel while empowering local livelihoods.

"Discover The Wilderness with Us."

Exploring Nature Call of The Wild was established in 2021 as a proprietorship company with the vision of becoming a leading platform for Nature and Wildlife Expeditions to create Awareness for conservation purposes. Initially registered as the mother company of Exploring Nature initiatives, it has now evolved into a dedicated Expedition Company.

Its primary focus lies in offering expert-led nature and wildlife photography expeditions that immerse participants in nature's beauty while fostering a deeper understanding of ecological conservation. With a mission to inspire people to connect with and protect the natural world, the company organizes thoughtfully curated Nature & Wildlife tours and Photography Expeditions, and Sustainability Workshops.

Exploring Nature Call of The Wild bridges the gap between adventure and education, empowering participants to become advocates for conservation. Through collaborations with experts (our Mentors) and local communities, the company strives to create a harmonious balance between eco-tourism and environmental stewardship, leaving a lasting impact on nature and society.

Exploring Nature Call of The Wild is an eco-tourism initiative focused on creating sustainable livelihoods for local communities. By working closely with local people, our expeditions provide economic opportunities through roles like guides, artisans, and service providers. Each journey contributes to the local economy while promoting conservation and cultural preservation. We empower communities by integrating them into the eco-tourism experience, fostering a deeper respect for nature and its resources. Through responsible tourism, we create a positive impact, ensuring that conservation efforts benefit both the environment and the people who rely on it for their livelihood.

Our expeditions offer something unique for every adventurer and are extremely knowledge based. Whether you seek the thrill of capturing breathtaking landscapes under starlit skies, the joy of witnessing wildlife in its natural habitat, or the depth of understanding cultures through photography, we provide unforgettable experiences tailored to your passions.

At Exploring Nature Call of The Wild, we believe in sustainable adventures that blend discovery with responsibility. From eco-tourism to cultural engagement, each expedition is designed to create a positive impact on the environment and local communities.

Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a photography lover, or an adventurer at heart, our journeys promise to inspire, educate, and rejuvenate. Join us in celebrating the wild, one expedition at a time.



# Jungle Chimes

Now, we proudly declare Jungle Chimes as our main YouTube channel!

This platform is dedicated to delivering meaningful content that explores the wonders of nature while addressing the pressing need for conservation. The journey of our YouTube channel began during the pandemic in 2020, marking a pivotal step toward raising awareness about the importance of preserving our natural world. In 2022, Jungle Chimes evolved as a knowledge-based talk show, amplifying our mission to inspire and educate audiences about conservation and sustainability.

We hope to inspire our audience to take action and make a difference in their own communities. We also strive to educate people on the various threats facing our natural world, including habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and overexploitation of natural resources.

We envision a global community that takes proactive steps to address environmental challenges, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. Jungle Chimes aims to be at the forefront of this movement, uniting individuals from all walks of life—scientists, activists, photographers, travelers, and nature lovers—around the shared goal of preserving our planet's rich biodiversity.

**YouTube: @junglechimes**

We invite you to join us on this journey of discovery and learning. Be our **Nature's Rhythm Amplifier** and tune in to **Jungle Chimes** and let's work together to create a brighter future for our planet.

**If you want to share your experience with our audience you can reach us at** junglechimes1981@gmail.com. Please specify about what you want to talk - "Your Topic" and also attach your updated profile for our understanding. If we find your topic and your journey is interesting we shall arrange a talk show for you on our channel.

## **A knowledge-based talk show on Nature**

A knowledge-based talk show on nature could cover a variety of topics related to the natural world, including ecology, biology, conservation, climate change, environmentalism, and more. The show could feature interviews with scientists, environmentalists, conservationists, activists, and other experts in these fields.

## **A knowledge-based talk show on Nature through Photography**

A knowledge-based talk show on nature through photography could be a fascinating and visually stunning program that focuses on exploring the natural world through the lens of a camera. The show could feature interviews with photographers, conservationists, and environmentalists who use photography as a tool for education, advocacy, and inspiration.

## **A knowledge-based talk show on Nature through Travel**

A knowledge-based talk show on nature through travel could be an exciting and informative program that focuses on exploring the natural world through travel and adventure. The show could feature interviews with travel experts, naturalists, scientists, and conservationists who have dedicated their lives to exploring and understanding the natural world.



# About Whispering Wilds

Whispering Wilds (e-magazine) is an initiative to make us aware of our planet where we coexist with millions of other species. This wildlife magazine helps to create awareness about nature and educate people to interact with the natural world in a responsible and sustainable way.

The Magazine showcases stories of individuals and organizations who have made a positive impact on the environment and inspire the readers to act responsibly. Whispering Wilds, features stunning photography and artwork that showcases the beauty and diversity of nature. The magazine features interviews with experts and scientists who offer valuable insights on wildlife research and conservation.

## Get Your Wilderness Stories Published

- **Subject Line:** In the subject line of your email, use the exact heading of the article you're submitting. This helps us quickly identify and process your submission.
- **Grammar Check:** Prior to submission, review your article for any grammatical errors. While we appreciate your efforts, please be aware that our editorial team will also conduct a thorough language and grammar check.
- **Content Arrangement:** Organize your photographs and write-up sequentially in a Word document. Ensure that the content flows smoothly from start to finish.
- **Photo Attachments:** Send your photographs as separate attachments in .jpg format. Make sure the dimensions of the images are 1024 pixels at the longest edge and that they have a resolution of 300dpi. Also include species name as the file name. Include all the images in the same email.
- **Personal Information:** In the body of the email, include your full name, designation, company (if applicable), and your location. Provide your contact number for easy communication.
- **Send to Email:** Email your article to us at [whisperingwilds1981@gmail.com](mailto:whisperingwilds1981@gmail.com).

By following these instructions, you'll ensure that your article submission is well-organized and can be efficiently reviewed by our team. We look forward to receiving your contribution.

**Launching in January, 2025**

## Introducing Video Based Advertisements! Step into the Future with Whispering Wilds Video-Based Advertisements!

**Experience the enchantment of "Whispering Wilds" E-Magazine like never before!**

Experience captivating stories, stunning visuals, and VIDEO-based ads!

Engage with short, visually enticing videos that blend seamlessly with our eco-friendly content.

From sustainable fashion to wildlife conservation, let the whispers of the wild inspire you!

- Introducing video-based advertisements is a powerful way to promote your products, services, or brand using engaging and visually compelling content. Video ads have become increasingly popular in the digital marketing landscape due to their ability to captivate audiences, convey messages effectively, and drive higher engagement rates compared to other advertising formats.

Video advertisements are promotional videos created to showcase products, services, or brands through visual storytelling. Video ads have the advantage of being highly engaging, memorable, and effective in conveying messages to a wide audience.





## Whispering Wilds Team



**Shri. G. Shaheed**  
Chief Advisor & Patron  
Whispering Wilds



**Dr. Mithilesh Dutta Dwivedi**  
Chief Editor & Chief Zoologist



**Arnab Basu**  
Hony. Environmental Advisor  
GENC Foundation



**Rhea Khanna**  
Editor - Whispering Wilds



**Mrs. Abhita Nandy Chatterjee**  
Asst. Editor - Whispering Wilds



**Abhishek Kausik**  
Designer



**Mr. Upayan Chatterjee**  
Co-ordinator - Whispering Wilds



Scan To Participate



Use Hashtag #WhisperingWilds

Tag us when you post animal images on social media



Exploring Nature  
CALL OF THE WILD

## OUR BRAND PARTNERS



Whispering Wilds (e-magazine) is your portal to our planet's incredible biodiversity. Share your love for animals and nature. Tag us when you post animal images on social media. Who knows, your image could win a place in our magazine! Let's raise awareness and celebrate our coexistence with millions of species!



## TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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 <https://exploringnature.net>