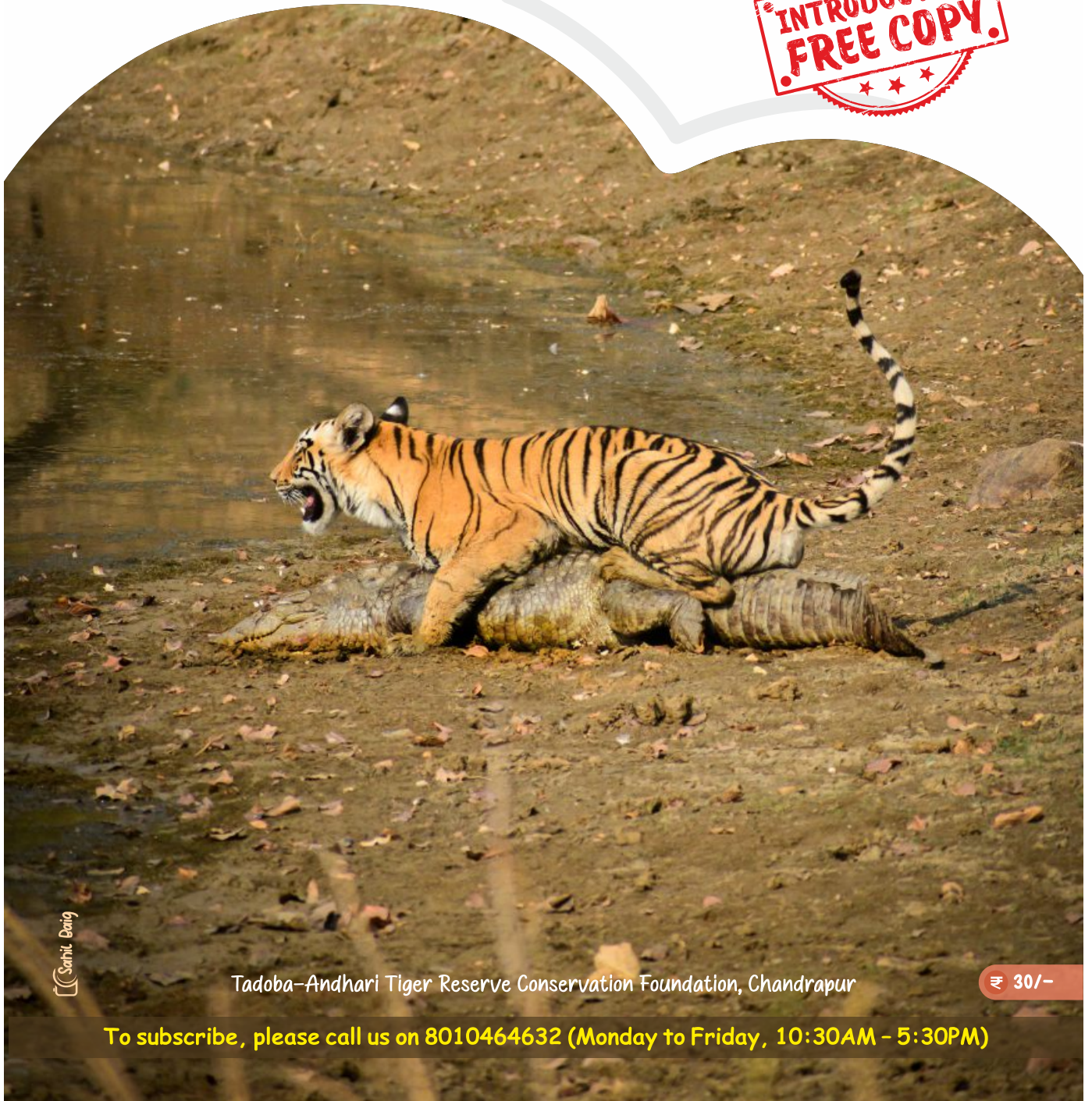


Tadoba

DIARIES

The Official Newsletter of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve





INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

Dear Reader

I am happy to present the new and improved version of Tadoba Diaries, the official newsletter of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR). We have given it a fresh look and a new perspective. Our primary focus now is on sensitising young minds because we believe that if children understand the importance of nature and wildlife from an early age, they will take care of it in the future.

In this new version of Tadoba Diaries, we invite young readers to become 'Jungle Detectives'. As you explore, you will learn about the amazing flora and fauna of Tadoba, along with fun facts about forests and animals. The newsletter will be filled with exciting activities like quizzes, crosswords, and puzzles. We also encourage you to share your own experiences from your safaris at Tadoba, whether through writing or drawings.

Tadoba Diaries is now visually more exciting, with beautiful photographs, sketches, and even camera trap images that are rarely seen by the public. We will also share the conservation efforts we make to protect our forests and wildlife. Additionally, you will enjoy reading the thrilling stories from our safari guides and the experiences of tourists who visit Tadoba.

I hope you will enjoy this new version of Tadoba Diaries and subscribe to it. Let's continue this adventure together as we discover the wonders of Tadoba- our very own land of tigers!

Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla (IFS)

Conservator of Forests & Field Director, TATR
Executive Director, TATR Conservation Foundation

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A YOUNG HUNTRESS

The Tadoba jungle was alive with the golden glow of the afternoon sun as we spotted a 10-month-old tigress cub crouched low near the water's edge. Her amber eyes were locked onto a sambar deer, half-submerged and feeding on aquatic grass. We watched in breathless silence as she moved with quiet determination, her body perfectly aligned with the contours of the land.

Minutes passed like hours. The young predator edged closer, her muscles coiled, ready to strike. But just as she was about to make her move, the sambar lifted its head, sensing danger. A single glance toward the open grass where the tigress had moved too soon was enough. The deer bolted, splashing through the water and disappearing into the safety of the forest.

Undeterred, the tigress prowled along the riverbank, her eyes scanning for another

opportunity. That's when she noticed a dark shape lying still on the shore—a crocodile basking in the sun. We watched, hearts pounding, as she crept closer, her curiosity guiding her. But something felt off.

The crocodile didn't move. The tigress nudged it gently, pawed at it, and even tried to bite, but the reptile remained lifeless. It was dead. She circled the carcass, her young mind trying to make sense of it. After a few moments, her interest faded.

With a flick of her tail, she turned away, her gaze once again falling on a distant herd of spotted deer. The day's failures hadn't dulled her instincts—her journey as a huntress had only just begun.

Sahil Baig
Naturalist



Tiny Forests Planted in London

In a place called Finchley in London, hundreds of volunteers planted 1,800 trees in just one day! They made three "tiny forests" to help nature grow and give animals a home. Scientists are testing different ways to plant them to see what works best. It's part of a big project to make cities greener.

Amazon Forest Cut for a Big Meeting

In Brazil, people are building a highway through the Amazon rainforest to get ready for a big climate meeting called COP30 next year. But cutting trees is upsetting scientists because it splits the forest and makes it hard

for animals to move around. The builders say it'll help people, but others say it hurts nature.



SpaceX Project Worries Seabirds

Elon Musk's company SpaceX and the U.S. Air Force want to test fast rockets on a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean. But this island is a safe home for lots of seabirds. Scientists say the loud rockets could scare the birds away and hurt their nests.

Costa Rica Listens to Forests

In Costa Rica, scientists are using special microphones to listen to forest sounds- like birds chirping and frogs croaking. These noises tell them if the forest is healthy and full of wildlife. It's a cool way to check on nature without bothering the animals!



Ready for a jungle challenge?
Take this quiz and see how much you know about forests and wildlife!

1. What is the primary type of vegetation found in Tadoba?
 - A) Evergreen Rainforest
 - B) Mangrove Forest
 - C) Dry Deciduous Forest
 - D) Alpine Forest
2. Which lesser-known predator plays an important role in Tadoba's ecosystem?
 - A) Dhole (Indian Wild Dog)
 - B) Snow Leopard
 - C) Asiatic Cheetah
 - D) Clouded Leopard
3. What is the primary reason sambar deer and spotted deer give alarm calls in the forest?
 - A) To signal that it is time to sleep
 - B) To warn others about a predator nearby
 - C) To attract mates
 - D) To mark their territory
4. Which of these is an important indicator of a healthy forest ecosystem?
 - A) Presence of large herbivores like deer and bison
 - B) Abundance of only one species of tree
 - C) Lack of predators
 - D) Forest fires occurring regularly
5. Which reptile found in Tadoba is an apex predator in water bodies?
 - A) Monitor Lizard
 - B) Indian Rock Python
 - C) Mugger Crocodile
 - D) King Cobra

Check page no. 14 for correct answers.

ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

It was June '24, and the adventure of a lifetime awaited me at Belara in TATR. The gate never fails to stir excitement, yet nothing could have prepared me for what unfolded. Just minutes in, the pugmarks of sub-adult cubs led us to a temporary rain-fed water body.

Suddenly, the forest came alive with the alarm call of a sambar deer, heralding the arrival of T-184, lovingly called Veera! I whispered to our guide, Ajit, to back up slightly and leave the water's edge- and then it happened. With regal poise, Veera approached the water and began sipping, her watchful eyes never leaving us.

I dubbed this moment "Sippin' and Supervisin'." That day is etched in my memory as a red-letter day- three incredible hours spent capturing her magnificent presence until my fingers ached and



my memory cards overflowed. Veera remains my unrivaled muse—the most photographed queen in my collection yet!

Mohua Chatterjee
Management Professional, Kolkata

MOST MAGICAL MOMENT

We visited Tadoba in February, eagerly hoping for a glimpse of our national animal. Seated in our gypsy, eyes scanning every corner of the jungle, we roamed tirelessly. The hours slipped away, and as our safari neared its end, we halted near a water body, disappointed and ready to leave.

Just then, my husband caught the faint rustling of leaves from the other end. Exhausted, we assumed it was just a deer. But then, the real story began—a tigress emerged, her two cubs trailing behind!

We held our breath as they approached the water. The mother drank first, while the cubs, full of mischief, played like carefree children. It was the most magical moment!



We managed to capture a few pictures, but the experience was beyond words. I know one thing for sure- I will return to Tadoba to witness this magic all over again!

Nivedita Chouhan
Teacher, Akola

[[Piyusha Jagtap (IFS)]]



Do you want to know what work the foresters do?

This series will take you to the world of forest worriers in Khaki.

Piyusha Jagtap (IFS)

Dear little seedlings,
It's time you go to the field
and establish yourself
for a long run...

WHAT IS MOBBING?

During your safari in Tadoba, have you ever seen a group of small birds chasing or shouting at a big bird or an animal? This behaviour is called mobbing!

When birds spot a predator- like an owl, eagle, cat, or even a snake- they get together and try to scare it away. One bird starts by making loud alarm calls. Soon, more birds join in! They flap their wings, dive down, and sometimes even peck at the predator. It may look risky, but it's smart!

Why do birds do this? They're protecting their nests, babies, or friends. A big predator might want to hunt them, so the birds use teamwork to confuse and chase it away.



[[Manish Kerkar]]

Different species of birds may even join forces. Birds usually mob birds like owls, cuckoos, raptors (like hawks and eagles), and sometimes animals like foxes, cats, or snakes. In some cases, they might even mob humans if they feel threatened!

So, next time you hear birds making a lot of noise, look around-you might be watching mobbing in action!

POWER OF A MOTHER



AI Generated

It was a cool winter morning in 2023. I was on a safari with my guests, driving through the beautiful forest of Tadoba. The fresh air, chirping birds, and rustling leaves made the journey peaceful, but for one whole hour, we had not seen any exciting wildlife.

Then, as we reached a small stream (nallah), I spotted a tigress resting under a bush. Her stripes made the shape of the letter 'K,' so we called her K Mark Female. She looked calm, enjoying her rest. I knew she had three little cubs, so I looked around carefully. And just as I thought—they were nearby! Within minutes, we saw three playful, four-month-old cubs tumbling and chasing each other near their mother. It was a joyful moment.

But soon, my happiness turned into worry. From the opposite direction, a male tiger was approaching. He was not the father of the cubs, which meant he was a big danger to them. The little cubs, unaware of the danger, kept playing. Worse, they unknowingly started moving

towards him!

Suddenly, they saw the big male tiger. Scared, they ran back toward their mother, calling out in panic. K Mark woke up at once. She heard their cries and understood the danger. In an instant, she signaled her cubs to run away. They listened and disappeared into the bushes.

Now, K Mark stood face to face with the intruder. He was young and strong, bigger than her. But she was a mother protecting her babies. With a deep, fierce growl, she charged at him! The male tiger stepped back. K Mark took another step forward, growling louder. Again, the male tiger backed off. Step by step, she forced him to retreat until he finally gave up and left her territory.

It was an incredible sight! K Mark showed us the true power of a mother's love and courage. I will never forget that day in the jungle.

Parshuram Mulmethe
Guide, Zari Peth Gate, TATR

HAVE A STORY TO TELL? A SKETCH TO SHARE?

We'd love to hear from you!

Send us your articles, illustrations, or drawings that capture your experience at Tadoba.

The best entries will be published in Tadoba Diaries with due credit.

And that's not all - you'll also receive a special souvenir from us! So don't wait!

 Share your work at: tadobadiaries2021@gmail.com



JUNGLE DETECTIVE

Do you want to be a Jungle Detective?
Solve the following puzzles and tally your answers in the next month's issue.

GUESS WHO?

THE LEAPING CROONER

In ponds and streams, I leap and play,
Singing songs throughout the day.
My skin is green, sometimes brown,
In monsoon time, I wear the crown.

I dine on insects, worms, and flies,
My sticky tongue's a big surprise.
At night, you'll hear my croaky tune,
Guess who I am beneath the moon?

TRACK THE TRAIL

THE LEAPING CROONER

We stumbled upon these pugmarks on the muddy track in Tadoba- what a discovery! They're big and round, with a chunky pad at the bottom that looks like a squishy pancake. Up top, there are five toe pads fanned out like a starry hand and sharp claw marks scratching ahead like tiny arrows. This mystery animal must be a quiet stalker who loves tree adventures and secret naps in caves. Which creature do you think sneaked by here?



WATCH-UP

Can you help these parents find their babies?

Animals/Birds

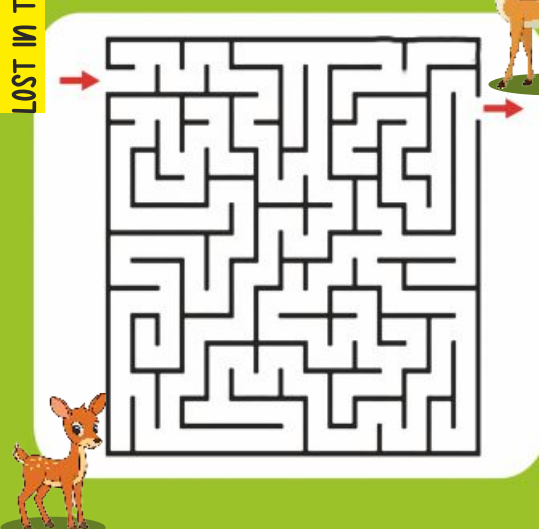
1. Tiger 
2. Elephant 
3. Crocodile 
4. Peacock 
5. Monkey 

Young Ones

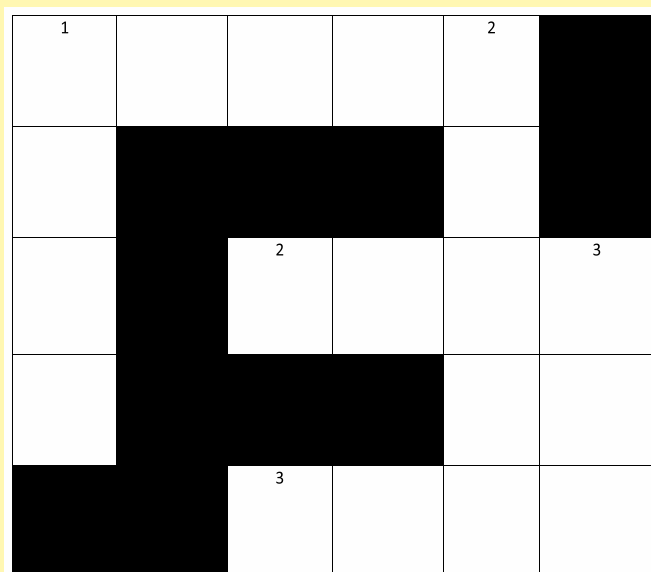
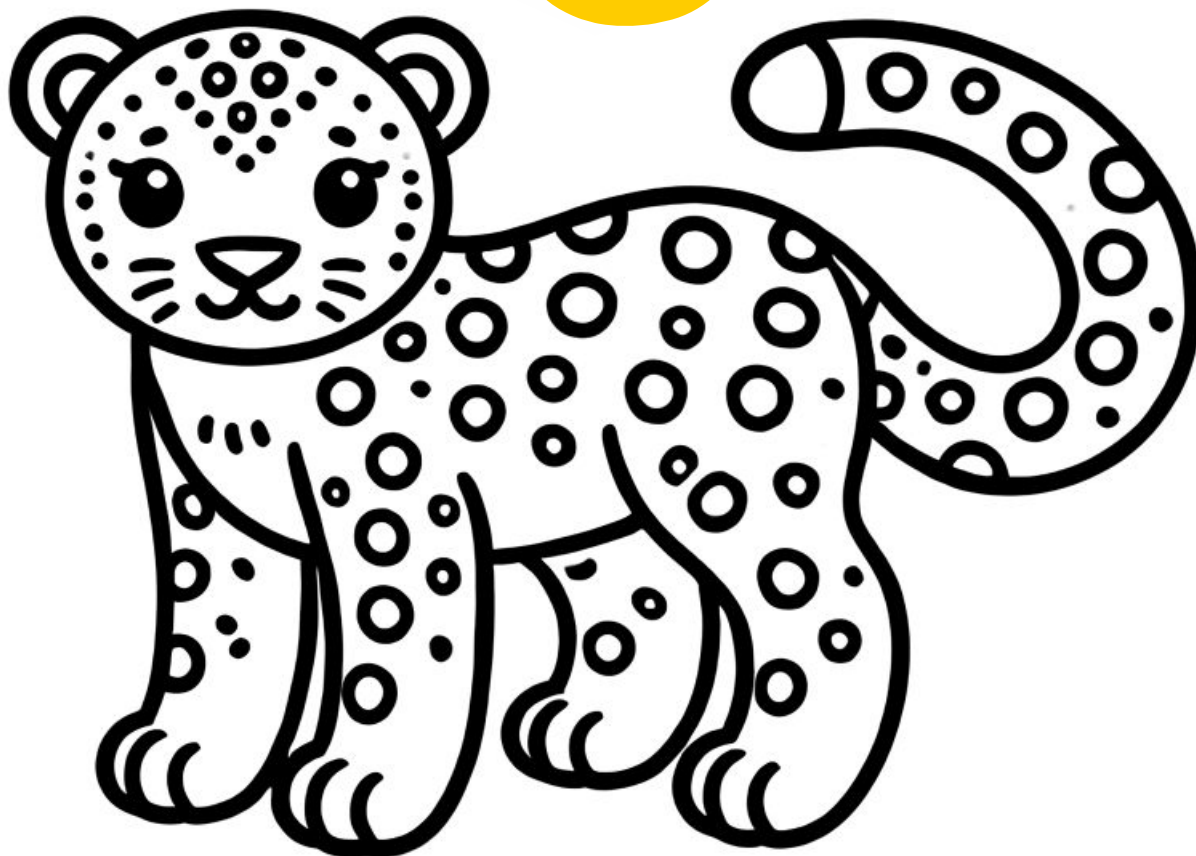
- A. Calf
- B. Cub
- C. Chick
- D. Infant
- E. Hatchling

LOST IN THE WILD

A spotted deer fawn is lost in the forest.
Help it find its mother.



Bring this leopard
to life with your
favourite colours!
Let your imagination
run wild!

**CROSS:**

1. The King of Tadoba
2. What is Andhari in TATR?
3. Kenyan lion Scarface lost his ___ in a fight.

DOWN:

1. Tall plants with trunks
2. House of honey bees
3. A small animal with long ears

**PLAY TIME!**

Two playful tiger cubs of T-7 (popularly known as Choti Tara) splash in the water, engaged in a spirited duel in their natural habitat.

Successful Rescue & Reunion of Abandoned Tiger Cub!



On 30th March 2025, at 9 AM, the field staff and Rapid Rescue Team, TATR rescued an abandoned female cub from an agricultural farmland in Vihirgaon-2, Palasgaon Range. After a thorough examination by Dr. Ravikant S. Khobragade, Veterinary Officer & Head, RRT, and under the guidance of Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla, Field Director & CF, TATR, along with Lt. Kushagra Pathak, DD (Buffer), the cub was successfully reunited with her mother, T184, in the wild at 1 PM in Palasgaon Range. A remarkable effort in tiger conservation!

Duo Arrested In Civet Poaching



In a major wildlife crime crackdown, a husband-wife duo was arrested for poaching two Schedule-1 Asian palm civet cats in Palasgaon range. Strong evidence led to their remand to judicial custody till 28/03/2025. Forest officials continue the investigation under the leadership of Deputy Director (Buffer) Lt. Kushagra Pathak and ACF S S Dube along with RFO Yogita Atram, RO Vinod Kilnake, RO Amol Kawase, FG Vikrant Dudhe, Devanand Kharde, C.B Gedam, Thakre, Tarte.

Water for Wildlife!



As summer scorches, water becomes scarce. The forest department steps in by creating small artificial ponds, ensuring wild animals stay hydrated. Watch this incredible effort in action at Moharli buffer range of TATR!

Joint Patrolling for Protecting Wilderness!



A patrolling team covered a 7-KM stretch along the Andhari River and Girghat in Kolsa Range, Botezari Round (CN—303, 304, 305, 306) to monitor wildlife and safeguard the forest. Led by Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla (FD, TATR), Shri. Anand Reddy (DD Core), and Shri. Sachin Shinde (DFO), the team included Core ACFs, Kolsa RFO, RO, and dedicated forest guards and watchers. During the patrol, the team spotted a honey buzzard feeding on larvae, sighted tiger dragonflies, and saw indirect signs of crocodiles. They found remains of a hunted chital, along with old scats of tiger and mugger. The team also explored a grove filled with Jamun trees and flocks of butterflies, and passed through a forest abundant in Ain and Moha trees before reaching Panghat Protection Hut. No illegal activities were detected, reaffirming the team's commitment to conservation.

 Vivek Sharma


CHECKERED KEELBACK

Have you ever walked by a pond or field and spotted a snake with a pattern of checks on its body? Don't be scared- it might be the Checkered Keelback, one of the most commonly seen snakes in Tadoba!

Colourful Body: They can be green, brown, or black with pink or red check-like marks.

Rough Scales & Big Head: Their scales feel rough (called keeled) and their head is wider than the neck.

Round Eyes: Look closely, they have round pupils!

Where Do They Live?

Near ponds, rivers, and wells. In fields and even near houses. These snakes are swimmers and can stay underwater for a long time!

What Do They Eat?

Fish, Frogs, Toads, Tadpoles, Frog eggs

Mama Snake's Surprise!

The female lays about 50 eggs between December and March. And guess what? She stays with her eggs till the baby snakes hatch!

What Happens If You Disturb It?

The Checkered Keelback gets alert, flattens its neck, and may bite- but don't worry, it's non-venomous. Its bite might hurt a little, but it's not dangerous.

Chinmay Deshpande
Naturalist, Nagpur

 OneCorain


PHETRA

One day, our expert guide Ajay Kodape was on safari with a foreign guest. Ajay spotted a strange round fruit, called Phetra, and showed it to the guest. But-uh oh!- the tourist thought it was a snack and almost took a bite!

Ajay quickly tried to stop him, but the tourist didn't understand Marathi or Hindi. So Ajay got clever! He picked another fruit and threw it away. The tourist copied him and tossed the fruit too. Disaster avoided!

What's Phetra?

Phetra fruits:

Can be eaten when green (unripe)

But when ripe, they're poisonous to humans!

Sambar deer safely munch the ripe ones.

Tadoba has two types:

White Phetra (*Ceriscoides turgida*)

Dark Phetra (*Tamilnadia uliginosa*)

These plants grow about 12-20 feet tall with white flowers that turn yellow.

Local people use Phetra for:

Treating scorpion stings, Stomach aches, Epilepsy

Tip: On your next safari in Tadoba, ask your guide to show you Phetra! But never eat wild fruits without asking!

Anirudh Chaoji
Senior Naturalist,
Ran Mangli, Nagpur



INDIAN CUPID BUTTERFLY

Have you ever noticed a small, bright blue butterfly fluttering near flowers? That could be the Indian Cupid Butterfly! Also known as the Orange-crowned Cupid, this delicate butterfly belongs to the Lycaenidae family, which includes nearly 380 species in India.

Shimmering Blue Wings - The upper side of its wings has a beautiful blue colour, while the underside is pale white with black and grey patterns.

Tiny Crown Marks - Two orange-crowned black spots on its hindwings give this butterfly its name.

Where Can You Find It?

Grasslands and forest edges, Areas filled with flowers and thorny Acacia plants

A Surprising Friendship with Ants

The caterpillar of this butterfly has a flat, woodlouse-like body and a special trick—it releases sweet secretions that attract ants! In return, ants protect it from predators. This unique bond is called myrmecophily.

Fun Fact!

Male Indian Cupid butterflies use only four legs, while females use all six! This small difference helps experts tell them apart.

Yogita N. D. Chhapekar
Biologist, Nagpur



JERDON'S NIGHTJAR

Have you ever walked through the forest at dusk and heard a mysterious call? That could be the Jerdon's Nightjar! This rare, secretive bird comes alive at night and is one of the four nightjar species found in Tadoba.

Master of Disguise - Its warm brown feathers with a reddish neck band and white throat help it blend into dry leaves.

Silent Watcher - It rests in bushes all day, completely still, making it hard to spot!

A Repeating Call - It sings a liquid-sounding song 13-20 times per minute!

Where Does It Live?

Near the edges of forests
Roosting in bushes during the day

What Does It Eat?

Moths, Insects, Other small bugs

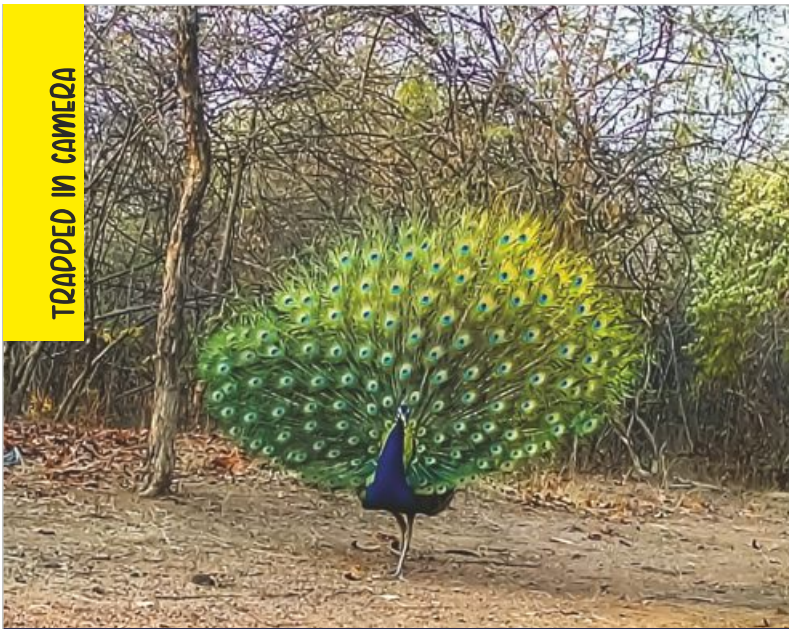
No Nest? No Problem!

Unlike most birds, the Jerdon's Nightjar doesn't build a nest! Instead, it lays two marbled eggs directly on the ground between March and July.

Who Discovered This Bird?

A British naturalist, Thomas C. Jerdon, first described this unique nightjar!

Rundan Katkar
Range Forest Officer, Kolasa, TATR



A DANCING STAR! On a quiet, lonely road of Tadoba, a peacock twirled and swayed, lost in its own magical dance. No one was around to watch- or so it thought! A hidden camera trap set up by the Forest Department to monitor wildlife secretly captured its dazzling moves!

STAR OF THE MONTH

Join us in cheering for the heroes of the wild—the best-performing forest guards of TATR! These fearless frontline warriors have covered the most ground, tirelessly patrolling the forests to protect wildlife. We are thrilled to announce the top two achievers for February 2025!

Forest Guard - P.H. Borkar
Beat - Chipalghat
Round - Karwa
Range - Karwa
Division - Core TATR
Duration - 24 Days
Target - 125 Km/Month
Actual Patrolling - 358.83 Km



Forest Guard - S.B. Choudhari
Beat - Padmapur
Round - Padmapur
Range - Moharli Buffer
Division - Core TATR
Duration - 24 Days
Target - 125 Km/Month
Actual Patrolling - 313.46 Km

20.078104
e: 79.356237
e: 241.93412 m
e: 6.9 m

ANSWERS

WILD WISDOM

1-C, 2-A, 3-B, 4-A, 5-C

GUESS WHO?

Frog



TRACK THE TRAIL

Leopard



MATCH-UP:

Animals/Birds

Young Ones

1. Tiger



A. Calf

2. Elephant



B. Cub

3. Crocodile



C. Chick

4. Peacock



D. Infant

5. Monkey



E. Hatchling

JUNGLE JUMBLE:

T	I	G	E	R	
R				I	
E		H	I	V	E
E				E	Y
		H	A	R	E



Lowell Thakre

FLYING COLOURS!

A peacock takes flight, painting the Tadoba lake with its colours!



Omkar Fatak

BORN TO RULE!

A young leopard stands tall, ruling the wild from above!

Book-Post

From,
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Ph. 07172 - 251414

To, _____
