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Tadoba

DIARIES

The Official Newsletter of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve



Tracy Desiderio

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve Conservation Foundation, Chandrapur

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LET THE FOREST REJUVENATE

Dear Reader

As the monsoon clouds gather over Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, the forest prepares for a quiet transformation. This is the time when nature heals, grows, and flourishes. With over 95 tigers recorded in the 2024 Phase-IV tiger estimation and more than three lakh tourists visiting the park in the past year, Tadoba plays a critical role in both tiger conservation and eco-tourism. Connecting the Central Indian tiger landscape with the Godavari landscape, TATR is a sanctuary not just for tigers, but for hundreds of other species and the ecosystems that support them.

To protect this delicate balance, it is essential to give the forest space to rejuvenate during the monsoon. Every year, the core safari gates are closed from July to September to minimise disturbance during the breeding and regeneration season. Heavy rains also make safari routes risky for tourists. While core zones remain closed, we have kept select buffer zones open, such as Agarzari, Dewada, Junona, Kolara Chauradev, Belara, Alizanza, and Navegaon Buffer, allowing nature lovers to experience the beauty of Tadoba still while reducing pressure on the core area.

The closure during monsoon is based on practical experience and aligns with ecological needs. It is not just about rules—it is about respect for the forest's rhythm. The NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority) advises all reserves to regulate tourism during sensitive times like the monsoon, and Tadoba follows this guidance while balancing wildlife protection and community engagement. Buffer tourism has become a successful model in this regard, supporting local livelihoods while preserving the core area as wild and undisturbed.

We thank our visitors, guides, and local communities for their continued support and understanding. Your cooperation helps us keep Tadoba safe, vibrant, and wild. As we step into the monsoon season, let's allow the forest to rest, recover, and return stronger. We look forward to welcoming you to the core areas again from 1st October 2025, with renewed energy and thriving wildlife. Until then, let's travel gently, wisely, and responsibly.

Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla (IFS)

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

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TADOBA IN MONSOON

There's something unforgettable about Tadoba during the monsoon. The moment the first rains hit, the forest transforms. Dry, dusty trails turn into fresh green carpets, trees wear bright new coats of life, and the air feels cool and alive. It's a complete reset- not just for nature, but for anyone who enters it.

Most people think safaris are best in summer when tiger sightings are common near waterholes. But monsoon? It shows you a different Tadoba- more peaceful, more real. The jungle isn't just about big cats. It's about the rhythm of raindrops on leaves, the dance of peacocks in the drizzle, and the deep, earthy smell that fills your lungs and stays with you long after you've left.

Tracks in the wet mud tell fresh stories- maybe a tiger passed just minutes ago. Birds are more active, deer are everywhere, and the entire forest hums with life. Even without a tiger sighting, you never feel disappointed.



A monsoon safari teaches patience and presence. You slow down, notice the smallest details- tiny frogs, mushrooms, butterflies, fresh blooms. It's not just a safari; it's a sensory experience.

If you have only seen Tadoba in summer or winter, you are missing out. Everyone should try a monsoon safari at least once. That's when the jungle is at its most alive.

And honestly, you come back not just with photos, but with peace.

Mandar Vivek Amte
Student, Chandrapur



King Charles Calls for Tree Protection

At a global event in London, King Charles urged investors to fund forest protection. He highlighted that clearing habitats threatens most endangered species—linking forest health directly to climate and biodiversity!

Hyena Cubs Make a Comeback in Haryana

Two newborn hyena cubs in Pipli Zoo, Haryana, were rescued after being abandoned by their mother. After urgent care in Rohtak Zoo, the

cubs have made a full recovery and returned safely—marking a first for wildlife rescue in the region!



Delhi Sees 160 Bird Species This Summer

In Delhi's biggest-ever summer birdwatching survey, volunteers recorded 160 different birds, including flamingos, eagles, and pittas. The project aims to understand city habitats and protect birdlife in unexpected places, such as dumps and gardens.

500 Bird Species at Risk of Extinction

A recent study warns that 500 bird species could vanish in the next century due to habitat loss, hunting, and climate change. Scientists say urgent action—like protecting habitats and breeding programs—is needed to save them.



Ready for a jungle challenge?

Take this quiz and see how much you know about forests and wildlife!

1. What is the largest species of bear?

- A) Black Bear
- B) Grizzly Bear
- C) Polar Bear
- D) Panda Bear

2. Which of these predators is primarily known for hunting in packs?

- A) Leopard
- B) Wild Dog (Dhole)
- C) Tiger
- D) Hyena

3. What is the main purpose of the web of a spider?

- A) To catch prey
- B) To create shelter
- C) To lay eggs
- D) To store food

4. What type of animal is a Komodo Dragon?

- A) Mammal
- B) Reptile
- C) Amphibian
- D) Fish

5. The term "biosphere" refers to:

- A) The Earth's atmosphere
- B) The layer of gases surrounding Earth
- C) The solid outer layer of Earth
- D) All living organisms on Earth

A NIGHT ON MACHAN

On 12th May 2025, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Buddha Purnima Machan Census organised by Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. This was my very first machan experience, and it couldn't have been more perfect- set in the serene Belara buffer zone. My machan was beautifully perched beside a peaceful water body known as Khod Talav.

As evening fell, the forest slowly came alive. Peacocks, doves, kingfishers, and nightjars added flashes of colour and bursts of sound to the quiet wilderness. Soon, the calls of sambar

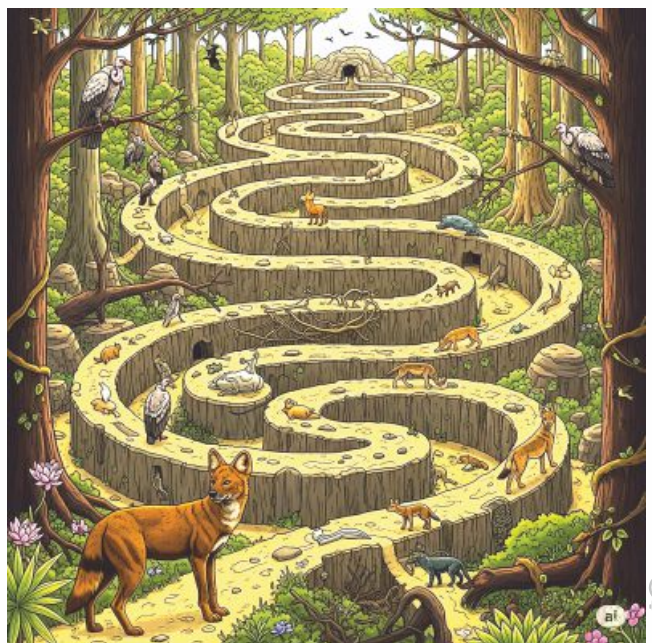
and other alarm calls echoed through the jungle, hinting at the presence of a tiger nearby.

Though the elusive big cat remained hidden, we were treated to the graceful sight of Indian gaur and deer cautiously approaching the water under the cover of darkness. The true magic, however, was in the moonlight. On Buddha Purnima, the forest was bathed in a glow so bright I could see my own shadow. I even managed to capture a photograph of Khod Talav shimmering under this celestial light.

Anurag Bagde
Tourist, Nagpur

DASH OF THE DHOLE!

A clever dhole (wild dog) has grabbed a chunk of meat and now must sprint back to its den before the scavenging vultures and sneaky jackals catch its scent. Can you help the dhole weave through the tall grass, fallen logs, and thick bamboo without being spotted?



THE LESSER KNOWN KHAKI #04

.. HAPPY **VAN MAHOTSAVA** WEEK ...

THE FESTIVAL OF FORESTS, symbolising the festival of life, begins today... Join this nature led festivity with resolve to plant

At least one
tree each...

JOIN HANDS
WITH US TO MAKE
YOUR
SURROUNDING
GREEN
...



Do you
want to know what work
the foresters do?

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

Piyusha Jagtap (IFS)

Van Mahotsava

The planting festival... Celebrate the nature by 'growing greens' and 'growing greener' in all possible ways!!!

WHICH BIRD IS A REAL-LIFE TAILOR?

The Common Tailorbird, also known as Shimpi (in Marathi), is a clever songbird found across tropical Asia! This tiny bird gets its name from the way it builds its nest- by piercing the edges of a large leaf and sewing them together with plant fibre or spider silk to create a cosy cradle. Using its sharp beak like a needle, it even adds silk, grass, or tiny twigs as thread to hide its nest among thick foliage. Amazingly, this crafty bird sometimes steals fibres from house doormats to stitch up its nest pouch, though it can fall victim to sneaky cuckoos laying eggs in its tiny home!



Wikipedia

A MOTHER'S CALL IN THE WILD

In our tourism zone lives a shy and elusive tigress T20, fondly called Jharni. She is not one for the spotlight—quiet, cautious, and usually vanishing into the bamboo before tourists can even raise their cameras. So, imagine my surprise when I saw her three days in a row, moving calmly near tourist vehicles, seemingly undisturbed by our presence. This was unusual. Something was off.

As I observed her closely, the reason slowly became clear. Her posture was restless, her ears flicked at every sound, and she kept letting out low, soft calls. That's when it struck me. She was searching for her cubs. Jharni has three tiny cubs, just about five months old. She had hidden them carefully near a secluded waterhole. But the power equations in the forest were changing. A powerful male tiger, whom we call Virabhadra, had recently entered the area. Her mate and the cubs' father, T126, the mighty Chota Matka, had been badly injured in a territorial fight. With him weakened, Virabhadra saw an opportunity to claim new territory and Jharni's cubs were at serious risk.

Fierce and fearless, Jharni tried to defend her ground. She fought with everything she had, and in the process, got injured. But knowing she couldn't win, she lured Virabhadra away and hid her cubs, hoping to return once the danger had passed.

After she managed to push the intruding male tiger out of sight, she rushed back to the



Chinnmaya Ashar

waterhole. But the cubs were gone. For three long days, we watched as this brave mother roamed the forest, calling out, her voice soft but filled with urgency. She searched every thicket, every path, every scent trail. Her eyes scanned the forest with hope and pain. Then, on the fourth morning, a quiet forest T-point witnessed the reunion of a mother and her little ones. It wasn't just a wildlife sighting; it was an emotional journey through motherhood, survival, and love in the wild.

Watching Jharni in her struggle, I felt deeply moved. It reminded me that every tiger here isn't just a majestic animal- it's a story. And Jharni's story was one of courage, loss, and an unbreakable bond between a mother and her cubs.

Karishma Wakde

Guide, Alizanja Gate, TATR (Buffer)

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 check your knowledge.

GUESS WHO?

THE JUNGLE DANCER

I dance with feathers, blue and bright,
And fan my tail with sheer delight.
When raindrops fall, I call and show,
A dazzling rainbow, head to toe!

I live in forests, free and proud,
My voice is strong, my call is loud.
With eyes like jewels and steps so neat,
I charm the jungle with my feet.

TRACK THE TRAIL

WHO WALKED THIS WAY?

Late one evening, we found deep, round pawprints on a dusty trail near a termite mound. Each print had five long claw marks stretched out like tiny daggers! The soil was freshly turned, and nearby, the mound was broken open—someone had been digging for dinner!

The footprints wandered off into the bushes, zig-zagging as if the visitor had been sniffing around for more tasty treats.

Can you guess who it was?



MATCH-UP

Can you help these animals find their homes?
Draw a line to match each animal with where it lives!

Animals

1. Tiger



2. Monkey



3. Snake



4. Bird



5. Fox



Homes

A. Burrow

B. Nest

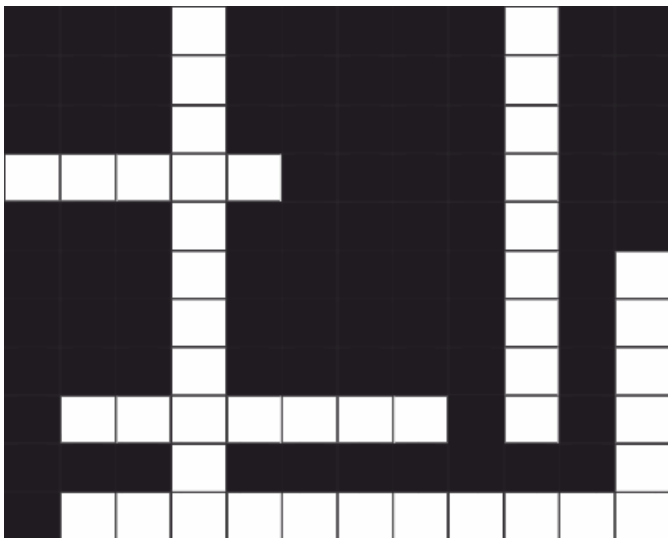
C. Cave

D. Tree canopy

E. Termite mound



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



ACROSS:

1. This big cat rules the jungles of Tadoba
2. A black-and-white bird often seen moving its tail fast near water
3. This small antelope barks like a dog.

DOWN:

1. A nocturnal mammal that loves honey and is rarely seen
2. These trees have smooth white bark and grow in dry patches
3. This fruit-eating mammal with a long tail leaps between trees in Tadoba.

What do Tadoba Tigers Eat?



From flying squirrels to wild mongoose, and from sloth bear to hare, tigers in Tadoba have gorged on a variety of prey, with sambar being their top pick. A study conducted by researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, and officials of TATR revealed that the diet of tigers in the buffer zone consists of almost 23% domestic animals.

Tiger Density in TATR Increased



The tiger density (per 100 sq) in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) has increased by almost 30% in the last decade, while for leopards it grew by 60% in last five years since it was tracked. As per the report titled 'Status of Tigers, Co-Predators, and Prey in TATR (2024)', the number of tigers utilizing buffer zone exclusively has grown by a whopping 260% in 10 years due to overall development of the area by the forest department.

Vaidu Sammelan 2025



Vaidu Sammelan 2025, jointly organised by the TATR at Priyadarshini Hall, Chandrapur, was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr. Ashok Janabai Ramaji Uike, Minister for Tribal Development, and Guardian Minister of Chandrapur district. Distinguished guests present on the occasion included Hon'ble Shri Namdev Kirsan, MP, Hon'ble Shri Kishore Jorgewar, MLA, and Hon'ble Shri Karan Devtale, MLA. Traditional healers (Vaidus) from districts across Vidarbha shared their views on the use of medicinal plants, traditional healing methods, personal experiences, and forest-based health science. Vaidu Sammelan was a significant step in promoting the Forest Department's policy of "Conservation through Community Participation." The conference provided clear direction towards the documentation of traditional knowledge, sustainable use of medicinal plants, and strengthening healthcare collaboration with tribal communities.

Roaring Together: Maharashtra & Telangana Summit!



A landmark inter-state summit brought together officials from TATR and Kawal Tiger Reserve (KTR), Telangana at the Chandrapur Forest Academy yesterday. Chaired by Shri. Ramanujam, CCF Chandrapur, the meet focused on habitat connectivity, conflict mitigation, and technology-driven wildlife protection. Field visits to RRT, TTC, and the Rambagh Control Room gave delegates a hands-on look at Maharashtra's conservation innovations. This powerful collaboration marks a major stride towards unified tiger conservation efforts across state borders. The meet saw participation of the senior officials from both reserves including Shri M. Shantaram, FD, KTR and Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla, FD, TATR.

Empowering Communities, Strengthening Conservation!



A two-day Eco-Development Committee (EDC) Strengthening Workshop was organised on 19-20 June 2025 at the Chandrapur Forest Circle Office, chaired by Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla, Conservator of Forests & Field Director, TATR. EDC representatives from four forest ranges are participating to deepen community involvement in conservation. Together, we are building stronger forest-fringe partnerships for a sustainable future.

Strengthening Eco-tourism through Skill Assessment



A written and interview-based assessment of 40 naturalists from various resorts at TATR was conducted on Sunday, at Moharli Forest Hall in the presence of Anand Reddy, Deputy Director (Core). The process was guided by experts Sanjay Karkare and Aniruddha Chaoji, with valuable support from Vivek Natu, ACF (Core) and Arun Gond, RFO, Moharli (Core).

International Yoga Day



On the occasion of International Yoga Day 2025, a rejuvenating yoga session was organized at the Moharli Nature Tourism Gate of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. From 6 to 7 AM, officers and staff of the reserve actively participated in the session led by Dr. Vilas Sherkure and his team, who demonstrated 'Sahaj Yoga' and shared valuable insights on managing stress through meditation. The event also saw the presence of Field Director Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla and other senior officials, marking a strong step toward promoting holistic wellness amidst nature.

Roots of Love, Branches of Hope!



Women forest guards of Moharli Range in TATR celebrated Vat Purnima by planting 50 banyan saplings. While many banyan trees are cut down during this festival, they chose to protect and grow them instead. Their green gesture sends a powerful message of love for both their partners and the planet.


 Vivak Sharma

GREEN KEELBACK

The Green Keelback (*Macropisthodon plumbicolor*) is a harmless snake often seen in and around Tadoba. It has a strong, stout body covered with rough (keeled) scales and a dull green colour. Look closely and you might spot black bands along its body! The young ones have a bright yellow mark on the neck, which disappears as they grow older. Its big, round pupils give it a calm and gentle look.

Night Walker

This snake is mostly active at night. You can find it in grasslands, rice fields, gardens, and near small ponds or streams. Even in cities, they sometimes visit garden areas looking for food!

What It Eats

Green Keelbacks love eating frogs and toads, making them great friends to farmers and gardeners.

Nature's Gentle Pretender

Though peaceful by nature, when scared, this snake flattens its neck like a cobra and flashes bluish colours to look dangerous! Females lay around 8-12 eggs during August.

Chinmay Deshpande
Naturalist, Nagpur


 Wikimedia Commons

MEDSHENGI

If you're driving from Moharli to Bhamdeli in April or May, look out for a leafy tree with large white flowers and old, sickle-shaped seed pods hanging down—that's the Medshengi tree (*Dolichandrone falcata*)! Its name comes from these curved pods, called "falcate." While often seen as a small, lopped tree near villages (grazers love feeding its leaves to cattle), deep in the forest, it can grow tall—up to 10-15 metres!

Summer Bloomer

The tree bursts into bloom in summer, showing off its big, trumpet-shaped white flowers. These flowers are not just pretty— they're fragrant and attract bees, insects, and even food lovers!

What It's Used For

The flowers are edible and sometimes cooked in local village dishes. Its light, soft wood is used to make simple tools, furniture, and houses in rural areas.

Little-Known Facts

In some parts of Central India, the bark is used to stun fish, and leaf juice is believed to help treat diabetes. A quiet forest gem worth noticing!

Anirudh Chaoji
Senior Naturalist, Nagpur



COMMON GRASS YELLOW

The Common Grass Yellow (*Eurema hecabe*) is a bright little butterfly that looks like a flying drop of sunshine! It's small, lemon-yellow in colour, and is often seen fluttering close to the ground in open fields, grassy patches, and gardens. It belongs to the Pieridae family- also called the Whites and Yellows.

Sunshine in the Grass

This butterfly loves sunlight! You'll often find it basking with its wings half-open or hovering around *Tridax* flowers, sipping nectar. Males are often seen in groups on damp soil, a behaviour called mud-puddling, while females stay more hidden.

Life from a Leaf

The female lays thin, tall eggs on plants like *Cassia*, *Acacia*, and *Sesbania*. The green caterpillar looks just like a twig and munches on soft leaves before turning into a chrysalis. The pupa hangs with a silk belt for support.

Nature's Camouflage Artist

When resting, it folds its wings to blend in with yellow leaves- making it hard to spot!

Yogita N. D. Chhapekar
Biologist, Nagpur



BLUE ROCK THRUSH

This starling-sized bird is a winter visitor to Tadoba! The male Blue Rock Thrush is easy to spot with its deep blue head, back, and chestnut-coloured belly. Females and young ones look quite different- they're brownish with light streaks on their undersides. Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*) belongs to the Muscicapidae family, though it was once thought to be a thrush.

Rocky Visitor

True to its name, this bird loves rocky cliffs, old buildings, and even city walls! In winter, it migrates from Central Asia and northern China to warmer regions, such as India.

What It Eats

This bird isn't fussy! It eats insects, small lizards, berries, and seeds. That makes it both an insect catcher and a berry picker!

A Sweet Singer

The male sings a rich, sweet song, perfect for early mornings in the wild. They build their nests in rock crevices and lay 3-5 eggs.

Rundan Katkar
Range Forest Officer, Kolsa, TATR

ANSWERS

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

Indian Peafowl (Peacock)



MATCH-UP:



			H				G		
			O				H		
			N				O		
T	I	G	E	R			S		
			Y				T		
			B				T	L	
			A				R	A	
			D				E	N	
	W	A	G	T	A	I	E	G	
			E					U	
B	A	R	K	I	N	G	D	E	R



SUMMER, WATERHOLES & THE SCHOOL OF TADOBA

In the forest, it's not just tiger sightings that thrill you- sometimes it's a sloth bear ambling by, or simply the stillness of the wilderness. These moments make you forget all discomfort. In a way, it's like practising Zen meditation: you're sitting under the harsh summer sun, waiting patiently while the tiger naps somewhere nearby- perhaps in the cool shade of bamboo or a hidden pool. You can't see it, but you know it's there. So, you wait.

If your gypsy is lucky enough to find shade under a tree, it's a blessing. Otherwise, enduring the blazing heat is your only option. You keep sipping water, knowing that nature's call is another challenge- because washrooms are far away. This, too, is part of the wildlife tourism experience. But the moment the tiger finally appears at the waterhole (only when it chooses to!), all that heat, thirst, and sweat are forgotten. You simply watch, in awe of the majestic animal and its magnetic presence.

Suddenly, you no longer feel the scorching sun, the dryness in your throat, or the ache in your back. Nothing matters anymore. Your heart is light, your mood lifted- that's the magic a tiger holds in a single sighting. That moment is what I carry back with me from the forest.

Even when a tiger doesn't appear, waiting at a waterhole teaches you something. If the waterbody is empty- no deer, no monkeys- then chances are, a tiger is resting close by. You can't see it, but

rest assured, the tiger has seen you. All you need then is patience. And if there's no tiger, you can still watch other animals quenching their thirst and observe their natural behaviour.

That's why I say- summer and waterholes are the best classrooms in the great school called the forest.

Sanjay Deshpande

Wildlife Enthusiast
Sanjeevani Developers, Pune



**My Way
My Forest
My Home**

“When We Build Your Home in Pune,
We Also Care for Their Home in Tadoba!”



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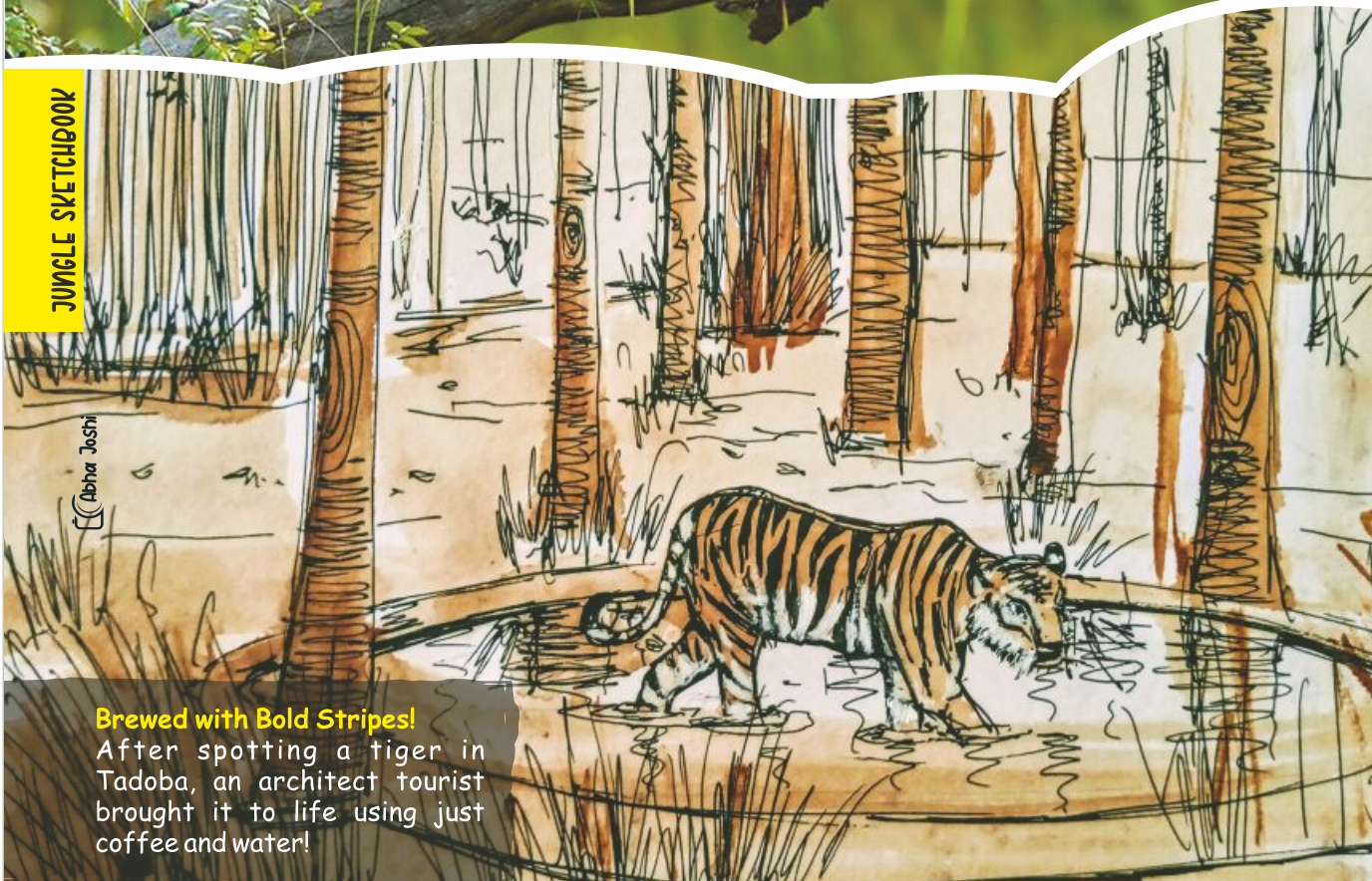
Fallen Tree, Rising Star!

Every step is a lesson as this brave and curious little cub surveys the forest around.

[[Sailya Madasa



[[Abha Joshi

**Brewed with Bold Stripes!**

After spotting a tiger in Tadoba, an architect tourist brought it to life using just coffee and water!

Book-Post

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To, _____
