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Tadoba DIARIES

The Official Newsletter of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

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Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve Conservation Foundation, Chandrapur

GREEN DESK

COUNTING TIGERS

Dear Reader,

This summer marks a significant phase for us at Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, as we are currently engaged in the All India Tiger Estimation Protocol, a rigorous exercise conducted every four years across the country. The ongoing work represents Phase IV monitoring under the guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), focusing on estimating the densities of both predators and prey in tiger-bearing landscapes. This nationwide effort gathers data from potential tiger habitats, which is later analysed and formally released on Global Tiger Day (29th July) by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the NTCA and the Wildlife Institute of India.

The process of estimating tiger populations is both scientific and intensive, comprising four distinct phases. Phase I involves a six-day ground survey where field staff traverse forest beats on foot, documenting signs of carnivores and herbivores along predefined transects. Phase II integrates remotely sensed data such as satellite imagery, while Phase III employs strategically placed camera traps across tiger habitats. The current Phase IV is dedicated to the continuous monitoring of source populations within reserves like Tadoba, ensuring long-term ecological understanding.

At Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, we follow globally accepted methodologies such as transect-based distance sampling for prey estimation and Spatially Explicit Capture-Recapture (SECR) using camera traps for large carnivores. A systematic grid design is deployed across the reserve, with paired camera traps placed within each grid to capture both flanks of animals like tigers and leopards—crucial for individual identification through stripe patterns. Each set of cameras remains active for approximately 30 days, covering a vast landscape and generating an enormous volume of data, which is subsequently analysed at the NTCA's Tiger Cell at WII, Dehradun.

To illustrate the scale of this exercise, the previous cycle in 2022 generated 9,30,536 images, of which 3,965 were of tigers, enabling the identification of 87 unique individuals. The cameras also recorded many mammalian species, reflecting the rich biodiversity of this landscape. Such data not only informs population estimates but also guides adaptive management strategies for conservation.

Behind this scientific endeavour lies the unwavering dedication of our frontline staff, who traverse thousands of kilometres on foot through challenging terrain and harsh weather. Their commitment, courage, and intimate knowledge of the forest are the true pillars of this exercise. It is because of their relentless efforts that Tadoba continues to thrive as a secure and vibrant habitat for tigers and countless other species.

Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla (IFS)
Conservator of Forests & Field Director, TATR
Executive Director, TATR Conservation Foundation

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LEUCISTIC DRONGO: A PALE PHANTOM IN THE FOREST

Have you ever seen a leucistic bird in the wild? For most wildlife enthusiasts, the answer would be no. That is what made this recent sighting in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve truly unforgettable—a rare glimpse of a leucistic Black Drongo in the Kolsa range, photographed in March 2026.

Drongos are typically known for their striking, glossy jet-black plumage and bold, aggressive behaviour. They are among the most recognisable birds of the Indian landscape. But this individual stood out instantly-its feathers washed in a pale, almost ghostly hue, a stark contrast to the species' usual appearance. The reason behind this transformation is Leucism, a rare genetic condition that leads to a partial loss of pigmentation.

Unlike albinism, where there is a complete absence of melanin resulting in red or pink eyes, leucistic birds retain their normal eye colour. Only the feathers lose their pigment, giving the bird a faded or patchy appearance. This makes such individuals not only rare but also visually striking—almost surreal against the backdrop of a dense forest.

Spotting such an anomaly in the wild is a reminder of how little we truly know about nature's endless variations. It is these unexpected moments that transform an ordinary safari into something extraordinary.

In the forests of Tadoba, where the spotlight often remains on the tiger, quieter wonders like this leucistic drongo reveal another dimension of biodiversity- subtle, rare, and deeply fascinating. Because in the wild, even the familiar can surprise you, if you look closely enough.

Siddhesh Mungekar
Engineer, Mumbai

BACK TO TADOBA

After years of a demanding urban routine, we decided to plan a quiet family reunion in the wild- somewhere meaningful. Though not all could join, my wife and I were accompanied by our two sons, travelling from the UK and USA. The choice was instinctive: Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve—the very landscape where I began my forestry career in the late 1960s. Returning after decades was both nostalgic and deeply fulfilling.

We undertook two safaris—on 1st March through Junona Gate and on 2nd March via Moharli Gate. Both outings turned out to be exceptionally rewarding, with sightings that exceeded expectations—six tigers and a leopard!

The Junona safari offered a classic Tadoba moment. We encountered a tigress and a fully grown leopard, both walking ahead of us along the forest road for a considerable distance, almost as if allowing us the privilege of observing them at leisure. It was a rare and memorable experience.

The following day at Moharli was equally enthralling. Soon after entering, we sighted a sub-adult female cub of T163, fondly known as

Collarwali. Not long after, on the Kosekanal road, we observed another sub-adult cub of the tigress Zaara. Driving further, we were fortunate to witness three sub-adult cubs of T115, popularly known as Bijli- two males and a female- displaying the vitality of youth.

Yet, true to human nature, a slight sense of incompleteness lingered—- we missed Roma by a whisker, reportedly with a kill nearby.

Overall, the experience was immensely satisfying. I must commend the exemplary management of TATR under its Field Director and staff.

V. R. Singh
IFS (Retired), Maharashtra

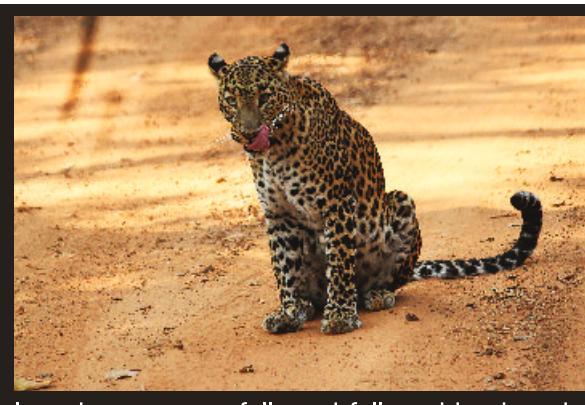
WHEN THE JUNGLE CHOOSES YOU

It was the morning of 20th February 2026 in the Keslaghat Buffer Zone. My wife, our little one, my cousin, and I were on our third safari of the trip. Our driver and guide, seasoned by years in the forest, moved through the jungle with quiet focus. Then suddenly, we noticed a lone gypsy standing ahead on the right side of the track. As we rolled closer, curiosity turned into astonishment.

A leopard couple! The male stood confidently near a small waterhole, his golden coat glowing against the earthy tones of the forest. Just behind him, partially hidden in the foliage, was the female- watchful, shy, almost blending into the jungle.

The male leopard began walking parallel to our gypsy, unhurried and regal. He rolled playfully in the mud, dust rising around him like a curtain. Then, to our utter disbelief, he walked straight onto the road, settled comfortably in the middle, and sat there- almost posing, as if aware of the fascinated audience watching him.

The female remained cautious, mostly hidden in the greenery. After a while, she quietly crossed the road, pausing briefly as if signalling the male. Moments



later, he rose gracefully and followed her into the dense jungle.

For nearly thirty magical minutes, we had witnessed something extraordinary.

When we exited the forest, excited chatter filled the air. Several other gypsies had witnessed a tiger mating sighting! For a brief moment, a tiny sense of guilt crept in. Had we missed the bigger spectacle?

But as we replayed our experience in our minds, that feeling faded quickly. Tiger sightings may come again on another safari. But a leopard like this-calm, confident, lingering in the open-that was truly special!

Vijay Vardhan M.
Creative Director, Mumbai

VELVET PAWS AND IRON CLAWS

Imagine a male Bengal tiger weighing over 200 kg moving through a dry, crunchy forest. By all laws of physics, such a hefty predator stepping on dry leaves and brittle twigs should sound like a bulldozer crashing through the brush. Yet, a tiger can sneak up right behind a highly alert deer without making a sound. How does an animal so massive move like a ghost? The answer lies in the brilliant biological engineering of its paws.

If you were to look at the bottom of a tiger's foot, you wouldn't see hard hooves or tough, calloused skin. Instead, you would find large, incredibly soft, fleshy cushions known as digital pads (the toes) and the metacarpal pad (the main palm).

Interestingly, to support its role as a heavy apex predator, a tiger's forepaws are noticeably larger than its hind paws. These massive pads act like high-tech shock absorbers. When a tiger takes a slow, deliberate step, the pads spread out and compress, absorbing the pressure of the animal's weight and completely muffling the 'crunch' of the forest floor beneath them.

The engineering doesn't stop at stealth. If you look closely between the toes of a Bengal tiger, you will find slight webbing. This webbing acts like built-in flippers, making tigers exceptional swimmers, capable of easily crossing rivers to cool off or ambush prey.

Furthermore, the footprint they leave behind, known as a pugmark, features a pattern as unique to the individual as a human fingerprint. Wildlife biologists study the unique shape of these marks to identify specific tigers, track their territories, and monitor the health of the population.

But a tiger cannot take down a massive deer with soft velvet alone. Hidden deep inside those fluffy toes are deadly, four-inch-long, curved weapons.

Looking at a footprint of a wild dog or a wolf in soft dirt, you will see the scratch marks of the claw at the top of the toe pads. Dogs cannot pull their claws in, which constantly scrape against the earth as they walk, wearing them down and blunting them. Tigers have solved this problem through the science of retractability. Inside a tiger's toe is a clever system of elastic ligaments. When a tiger is just walking or resting, these ligaments naturally pull the claws back up and hide them safely inside sheaths of skin. Because the claws never touch the ground during a normal walk, they don't wear down.

The paw is also a high-tech communication device. Tigers have specialised scent glands located right between their toes. When they unsheathe their claws to aggressively scratch the bark of a tree, they aren't just visually marking their territory. They are actively pressing those glands against the wood, releasing a unique chemical scent marker to warn rival tigers to stay away.

When the time for stealth is over, and the tiger is ready to strike, it flexes a specific set of muscles in its lower leg. Instantly, the razor-sharp claws snap out and lock into place, transforming a soft paw into a deadly grappling hook designed to securely grip and hold struggling prey.

It is a true masterpiece of natural engineering: stealth, aquatic adaptation, chemical communication, and lethal power, all contained within a single footprint.

Shaillendra Singh Deora
Wildlife Biologist, TATR

TRAPPED IN CAMERA

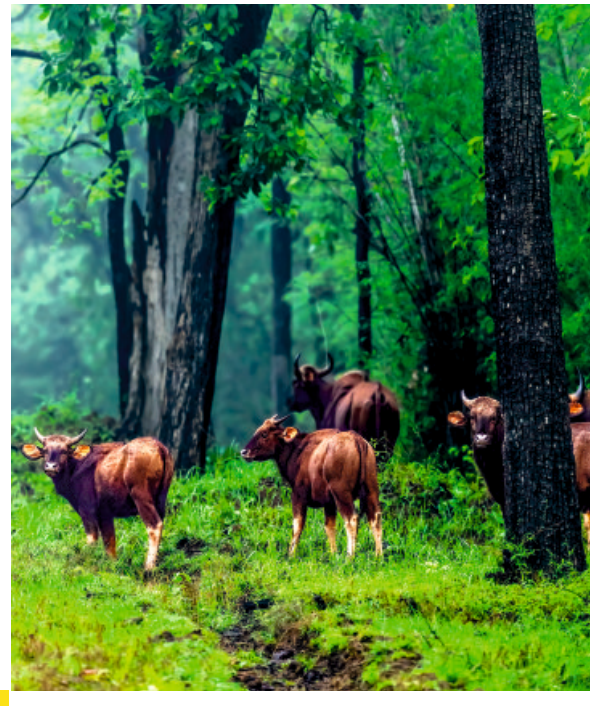
FLYING BULL! Caught mid-flight on the forest floor- this Nilgai (Blue Bull) bursts into motion in a split second, where speed isn't just grace, but the ultimate instinct for survival in the wild.

DO YOU KNOW?

THE TALLEST WILD CATTLE

Do you know that many people refer to the Indian Gaur as the Bison?
This is a misnomer. Bisons are commonly found in America & are smaller than Indian Gaurs.

- The gaur (Bos gaurus), is the largest extant bovine, native to the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia. It has been listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List since 1986.
- Gaur is the largest representative of the wild cattle. Males weigh between 600 and 1000 Kgs. They can reach 8 to 11 feet in length and from 5 to 7 feet in height at the shoulder. Females reach only ¾ of the male's size.
- The Gaurs have a distinctive white part continuing below their knees, which looks like socks worn by them.



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STORY OF A LIFETIME

I started working as a nature guide at the Kolara (Core) gate of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in 2021. Barely a year into my journey, I witnessed what remains, to this day, the most unforgettable safari of my life.

It was a pleasant morning in March 2022. As usual, I introduced myself to my guests and asked if it was their first safari. They smiled faintly and said it was their fifth. The earlier ones had all been "dry"—no tiger sightings at all. Their disappointment was clear. They weren't asking for much—just a glimpse, even for a few seconds.

We drove through the forest for quite some time, scanning every turn, every shadow, but the jungle remained quiet. I remembered that a tiger had been sighted the previous day at a waterhole called Chikhalwahi. I decided to try our luck there. On the way, we crossed a few gypsies coming back. Their guides shook their heads—no movement, no signs. Most had already given up on that spot.

But something told me to go anyway. I asked the driver to continue.

When we reached Chikhalwahi, the forest felt still, almost too still. No alarm calls, no movement. My guests looked disappointed again. I suggested we wait for a while. They agreed, though with little hope left.

Fifteen minutes passed. And then, as if the jungle itself had parted-she appeared.

The legendary tigress of Tadoba- T12, popularly known as Maya, walked in with quiet authority. Calm, majestic, and completely at ease, she moved towards the water like a queen entering her court. For a moment, it felt as if she had come just for us.

She drank slowly, unbothered by our presence. Cameras clicked, but nobody spoke. We were simply watching, absorbing every second.

Suddenly, everything changed. Maya lifted her head and looked towards the bushes behind the waterhole. Her posture stiffened. Her eyes locked onto something we couldn't see. In an instant, her relaxed demeanour turned into intense focus. She lowered her body and silently slipped into the jungle.

I knew what was coming-she was stalking.

Within seconds, a loud distress call shattered the silence. A sambar deer. Then another cry... and then nothing. The forest fell silent again.

Those few seconds felt endless. We held our breath, staring at the bushes, waiting.

And then-she emerged.

Maya walked out, powerful and composed, holding a full-grown male sambar in her jaws. It was a breath-taking sight—raw, real, and unforgettable. She crossed the road right in front of us, her prize firmly gripped, disappearing back into the forest.

We were the only vehicle there. Just us and the wild.

That day, Maya didn't just give us a sighting. She gave us a story for a lifetime.

Sarika Sarate
Guide, Kolara Gate, TATR (Core)

Contribute to ' Tadoba Diaries '

Are you a forest department staff, tourist, guide, driver, working with a resort, managing a home stay or a community member from TATR vicinity? Do you want to join our effort to spread awareness on forest and wildlife conservation through 'Tadoba Diaries'? Please share your interesting photographs (not less than 4 MB) and experiences (not more than 250 words) on tadobadiaries2021@gmail.com. Your photograph/experience must be related to TATR only. The best content will be published with due credit.

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COMMON MAPWING BUTTERFLY

The Common Mapwing Butterfly is a fascinating example of nature's creativity and beauty. Its wings display intricate patterns that resemble a map, making it truly unique among butterflies. This 'living map' flies gracefully through forests, capturing the attention of those lucky enough to spot it in the wild. Observing this butterfly requires patience and persistence; as one enthusiast shared, it took him nearly two years to capture a perfect photograph.

Habitat

There are about 25 species in the Cyrestis genus worldwide, but only two—thyodamas and cocles—are found in the Indian subcontinent. The Common Mapwing is widespread across India and inhabits both primary and secondary forests. Its larvae primarily feed on the leaves of fig trees (Ficus species), which play an important role in its life cycle.

Basking Beauties

These butterflies are usually seen alone or in small groups of two or three, especially along forest edges. Males are often observed on gravel roads or near pebble-filled riverbanks, where they bask in sunlight while absorbing mineral-rich moisture from the ground. Although initially shy and difficult to approach, they tend to remain still for several minutes once settled. Females are less frequently seen but may appear along forest trails or feeding on nectar in garden areas. Both males and females typically rest beneath leaves with their wings spread, occasionally basking on leaf surfaces in softly filtered sunlight.

- Yogita N. D. Chhapekar
Biologist, Nagpur

RED SANDALWOOD

Many years ago, during my first stay at the Moharli buffer rest house in TATR, I noticed something unusual—two trees enclosed within chain-link fencing. This was my first encounter with Rakta Chandan, or Red Sandalwood, a species far more associated with the forests of southern India and the Eastern Ghats than central India. These individuals had been planted here by a far-sighted forest officer.

Red at Heart

Rakta Chandan is a deciduous tree known for its dense, richly grained, blood-red heartwood. So dense is this wood that it often sinks in water—a rarity in the plant world. It thrives in hot, dry climates with well-drained, rocky soils, and grows slowly, taking decades to develop its prized core.

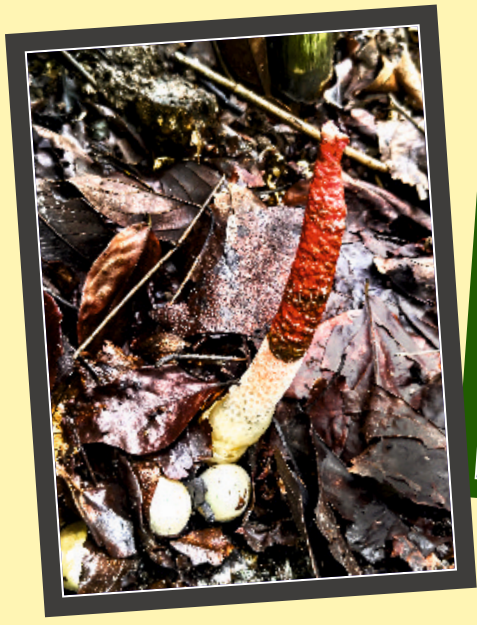
Value and Vulnerability

The deep red heartwood of Rakta Chandan is coveted for fine furniture, musical instruments, intricate carvings, natural dyes, and even cosmetics. In Ayurveda, it is valued for its cooling and healing properties, often used in medicinal pastes for skin ailments.

However, this very value has pushed the species towards exploitation. Illegal trade and overharvesting have made it highly threatened, prompting strict regulation by the Government of India. Conservation efforts, through plantations, protection, and awareness, are now critical.

In the quiet corner of Moharli, these fenced trees stand as a reminder: when nature's beauty acquires economic value, only mindful stewardship can ensure its survival.

- Anirudh Chaoji
Senior Naturalist, Nagpur



DOG STINKHORN

With the arrival of the monsoon, Tadoba's bamboo groves come alive with many hidden wonders, and one of the most fascinating among them is the Dog Stinkhorn *(Mutinus bambusinus)*. Growing in small to dense groups, this unusual mushroom appears suddenly on the damp forest floor, especially around bamboo.

In its early stage, it looks like tiny clustered eggs, often going unnoticed. But within a short time, these eggs open and give rise to tall, slender structures that stand out with their form and a strong, distinctive smell, making them easy to locate during field walks.

Morphology

The early stage consists of small, oval eggs occurring in close clusters. As they develop, the outer covering splits into patches, allowing the mature structure to emerge. The expanded fungus is elongated and spindle-shaped, with a soft and spongy texture. It shows reddish tones that gradually fade into white towards the base. The stalk is hollow and tapers downward into a volva. Unlike many other stinkhorns, there is no clear separation between the head and the stalk.

Dispersing Spores

The smell attracts insects, which play an important role in carrying and dispersing the spores across the forest floor.

- Muhammed Suhail N A
Wildlife Biologist, TATR

INDIAN SCOPS OWL

The Indian scops owl *(Otus bakkamoena)* is a small, nocturnal owl native to South Asia. It thrives in wooded habitats and is known for its excellent camouflage.

This owl measures 23-25 cm in length with small ear-like tufts, grey or brown upperparts featuring buff spotting, and buff underparts with darker streaking. Its orange or brown eyes and whitish facial disc help it blend with tree bark during the day.

Habitat and Range

Found across India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and parts of Iran and Southeast Asia, it inhabits forests, scrublands, agricultural areas, and even gardens or orchards. It often roosts hidden in dense foliage during the day; its excellent camouflage makes it hard to spot, though it may be revealed by small birds mobbing it.

Diet

Primarily insectivorous, the Indian scops owl hunts at night using a soft "whuk" call to communicate.

Conservation and status

The Indian scops owl is listed as 'Least Concern' by the IUCN because of a broad range and stable populations across much of its distribution.

One can find this owl across the Tadoba forests. So, the next time you go on a safari in Tadoba, don't forget to look around for the Indian scops owl.

- Rundan Katkar
Range Forest Officer, Kolsa, TATR

Staff Welfare Initiative

On the Foundation Day of TATR (23rd February), a staff welfare initiative was carried out across Kolsa, Karwa, Kolara, Moharli and Tadoba ranges. In collaboration with India Post, insurance enrolment camps were organised for fire watchers and daily-wage workers. Around 600 frontline staff participated, each covered under a 10 lakh accidental insurance scheme, along with awareness on benefits, claims and support systems.

Stress Management Workshop

On 2 March 2026, a stress management counselling workshop was organised across Mul, Karwa, and Kolsa ranges under Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. The initiative was conducted in collaboration with Aditya Birla Group and Ujaas. A large number of forest guards participated, gaining valuable insights on mental well-being, stress management, and enhancing workplace efficiency.

Annual Health Check-up

On the occasion of International Women's Day, a comprehensive Annual Health Check-up was organised for field staff of the TATR Core. Around 60 frontline forest staff benefited from the initiative. The screening covered 72 diagnostic parameters, including CBC, FBS, HbA1c, KFT, lipid profile, LFT, thyroid profile, Vitamin D, and B12 tests. This reflects the department's commitment to the health and well-being of its frontline workforce.

Special Guests at Tadoba

On 13 March 2026, TATR hosted a special nature trail as part of the 'Chala Majhya Tadobala' initiative. Around 20 intellectually disabled students and 20 teachers from Mount Carmel Convent School participated in this enriching experience. The visit offered them a chance to connect with nature, highlighting how forests can inspire, heal, and inclusively welcome everyone.

Matrushakti Felicitated

Women from Matrushakti Sitarampeth were felicitated in Mumbai at the Mukta Samman 2026, organised by News18 Marathi. The awards recognised women from grassroots communities across Maharashtra for their courage and outstanding achievements in various fields. The initiative aims to inspire others and empower women by highlighting their contributions and encouraging stronger participation in society.

E-dakia at Tadoba

TATR has introduced its first-ever e-dakia, marking a green step towards sustainable governance. The Field Director's Office, an ISO 9001:2015 certified office and a top performer in Maharashtra's 100-Day Administrative Reform Program, provided an e-cycle to official dak personnel. This initiative enhances communication efficiency while reducing environmental impact, reinforcing the message that conservation begins with everyday actions

Pledged for Fire-free Forests

On the occasion of World Forest Day (21 March), a unique initiative was undertaken at TATR where over 2,000 villagers pledged to keep forests fire-free. The campaign covered 95 buffer villages with participation from PRT members, volunteers, and forest staff. The initiative focused on fire prevention awareness, community participation, and promoting responsible practices to protect forests during the critical summer season.

STAR OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2026

Let's celebrate the dedication and impact of our frontline staff who go above and beyond to protect our forests and wildlife. It is a token of appreciation for their outstanding service, vigilance, and commitment to on-the-ground conservation.

Vivekanand Ramesh Dandekar
Forest Guard, Range: Karwa (Core)

- Completed fire line work in Piparheti-1 in time
- Highest (40 Kg) seed collection in the range
- Completed all tasks in KRA
- Regular patrolling, fire control and help to other beats.

S. M. Kaparde
Forest Guard, Range:Anti-Encroachment (Patrolling) Squad

- Protected forests and wildlife
- Regular patrolling as per M-Stripe
- Completed all assigned tasks in time
- Active participation in the beat work

CHAPARALA: AN UNEXPLORED AVIAN DIVERSITY

Building on earlier biodiversity work, Tadoba–Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) organised its first citizen science-based bird survey in Chaparala Wildlife Sanctuary on 29–30 November 2025. Fifteen participants, including Forest Department staff and volunteers, undertook systematic observations across forest, wetland, and riparian habitats.

The first day focused on varied forest types and the Dhannur Talao wetland, which proved exceptionally productive. Several migratory waterfowl species were recorded, including Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Ruddy Shelduck, and a substantial population of Red-crested Pochard. Raptors such as the Osprey, observed actively fishing, and the Eurasian Kestrel were photographed. Resident waterbirds, notably Lesser Whistling Ducks and Small Pratincoles, were also present in good numbers. Evenings were spent reviewing photographs and collaboratively resolving identification challenges.

On the second day, surveys shifted to the Pranhita River, a key riparian habitat. Even before boarding a local donga (canoe), the loud calls of the Striated Grassbird were heard from a rocky river island. This species is highly habitat-specific and has been recorded from only a few locations in Maharashtra, including the Tapti basin. Recent records from Chandrapur and now Gadchiroli, uploaded to eBird, significantly extend its known range in the region.

Further exploration of a vegetated river island revealed numerous pugmarks of Smooth-coated Otters *(Lutrogale perspicillata)*. Following a request, camera traps installed by the Forest Department later confirmed the presence of a thriving otter group. This is particularly encouraging given the species' widespread decline due to conflict with fishing communities.

Noteworthy avian records included Orange-breasted Pigeons *(Treron bicinctus)*, a Forest Wagtail *(Dendronanthus indicus)*, and threatened species such as River Lapwing (Near Threatened) and River Tern (Vulnerable). Six nocturnal bird species were also documented. In total, 158 bird species were recorded. With reports of Indian Wolf (Canis lupus, Vulnerable) from camera traps, Chaparala clearly holds far greater biodiversity than currently documented, reaffirming its importance within central India's conservation landscape.

Dr. Raju Kasambe, Ph.D.
Ornithologist and Butterfly Researcher, Dombivli

LESSER KNOWN KHAKI

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)

Utmost satisfaction is when you see the plants grow and rain accumulate in the water conservation structures meant to feed it in the dry spells... It's like caring for your own baby!!!

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

1. **Which lethal weapons are hidden in the soft paws of the tiger?**

   A) Glands B) Canines
   C) Claws D) Knives

2. **What colour are the eyes of an Indian Nightjar when light falls on them at night?**

   A) BlueB) Red
   C) Green D) Yellow

3. **Which bird hunts at night?**

   A) Owl
   B) Eagle
   C) Kite
   D) Drongo

4. **With the arrival of the monsoon, which mushroom appears especially around bamboo?**

   A) Termite Mushroom
   B) Amanita
   C) Barometer Earthstar
   D) Dog Stinkhorn

5. **What does a peacock use its long attractive feathers for?**

   A) To fly
   B) To attract a mate
   C) To fight
   D) To hide from enemies

Check page no. 15 for correct answers.

JUNGLE DETECTIVE

Do you want to be a Jungle Detective?
Solve the following puzzles and check your knowledge.

GUESS WHO?

A SCALY FRIEND

I walk on the ground with scaly grace,
My armour shines, plate by plate.
By night I roam to find my treat,
Ants and termites — what a feast!

When danger nears, I curl so tight,
A rolling ball that's out of sight.
So rare to see, yet gentle too,
I am a scaly friend — can you guess who?

TRACK THE TRAIL

Who Walked This Way?

Long drag marks slithered across the muddy riverbank, ending in smooth slides near the water's edge.

Between the reeds, we spotted clawed imprints- powerful, webbed, and wide.

A silent splash broke the stillness. The owner of the marks was near, eyes just above the surface.

A patient hunter and a master of stealth

MATCH-UP

WHAT IS THEIR GROUP CALLED?

Match each bird with its group!

Birds		Group
1. Eagles		A. Parliament
2. Crows		B. Muster
3. Peacocks		C. Convocation
4. Flamingos		D. Murder
5. Owls		E. Flamboyance

Check page no. 15 for correct answers.

COLOUR ME

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

ANSWERS

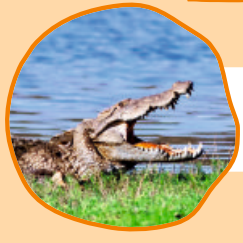
WILD WISDOM

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

GUESS WHO?

Pangolin

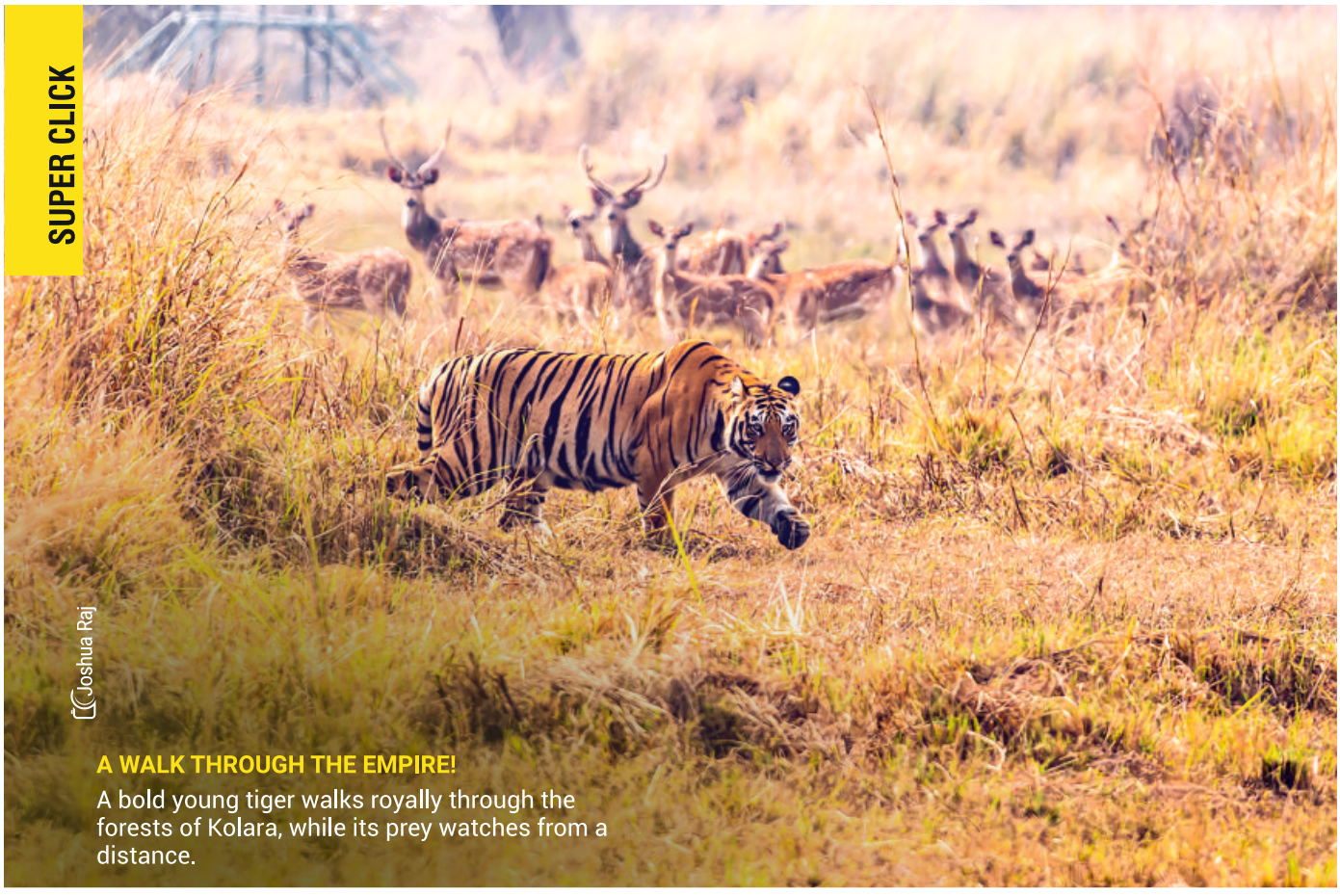
TRACK THE TRAIL



Mugger Crocodile

MATCH-UP:

Birds	Groups
1. Eagles	A. Parliament
2. Crows	B. Muster
3. Peacocks	C. Convocation
4. Flamingos	D. Murder
5. Owls	E. Flamboyance



Joshua Raj

A WALK THROUGH THE EMPIRE!

A bold young tiger walks royally through the forests of Kolara, while its prey watches from a distance.

Loukik Thakre

WHISPERS OF THE WILD!

Every turn in the road has a story to tell. What do you think they're watching for?