



Issue 51 / Feb. 2026

Tadoba

DIARIES

The Official Newsletter of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve



Swethakumar Rangarao Bobbili

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Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve
Conservation Foundation, Chandrapur



READING THE FOREST ON FOOT

Dear Reader,

As part of the All India Tiger Estimation 2026, Tadoba–Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) is once again engaging in one of the most fundamental yet scientifically robust exercises in wildlife monitoring—the Carnivore and Herbivore Sign Survey. While camera traps and advanced analytics often dominate public imagination, it is these systematic, ground-level surveys that continue to form the backbone of India's tiger conservation framework. The sign survey is built around disciplined foot patrols, each covering approximately 5 kilometres, during which trained field staff carefully document signs left behind by animals. These include pugmarks, scats, scrape marks, scent sprays, kills, and movement trails of key carnivore species such as the Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, and Wild Dog (Dhole). Along with carnivores, mega herbivores like the Gaur (Indian Bison) are also recorded through direct sightings or indirect signs during the survey along with this, Scat samples are collected. In dense Bamboo-dominated forests like Tadoba, where direct sightings are often limited, such indirect evidence becomes indispensable.

What makes this exercise particularly valuable is its systematic and repeatable nature. Conducted across multiple ranges of TATR, the survey generates comparable data that helps assess not just presence or absence, but patterns of habitat use, spatial distribution, and relative abundance. Over time, these datasets allow managers to detect shifts—whether caused by seasonal changes, prey availability, human pressure, or broader ecological trends. Importantly, carnivore sign surveys do more than track flagship species. They act as indicators of ecosystem health. A landscape that consistently records signs of multiple carnivore species suggests a

functioning food web, adequate prey base, and relatively intact habitats. Conversely, gaps or sudden declines in sign frequency can serve as early warning signals, prompting targeted management interventions.

Similarly, for the herbivorous animals, a transect line survey is conducted. A 2 km transect line in every beat is walked for three days, and all herbivorous animals sighted along the line are recorded. Habitat plots are laid at every 400 meters along the transect line, where data on trees, shrubs, grasses, unpalatable plants, and human disturbance are recorded. Additionally, dung, pellets samples of herbivorous animals are collected and documented.

Within the national context, data generated from Tadoba feeds directly into the All India Tiger Estimation, strengthening population models and occupancy analyses at a landscape scale. This bottom-up flow of information—from forest beat to national database—ensures that conservation policy is anchored in field reality rather than abstraction. Equally significant is the human dimension of the survey. Conducted through coordinated and safety-conscious efforts of frontline staff and officers from the TATR Core, these patrols reaffirm the central role of forest personnel as observers, interpreters, and custodians of the landscape. Their ability to “read” the forest—distinguishing old signs from fresh, interpreting directionality, and understanding context—cannot be replaced by technology alone.

In an era increasingly shaped by remote sensing and automation, the sign survey reminds us of a simple truth: conservation begins on foot, with trained eyes on the ground.

Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla (IFS)

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

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CHAPARALA

A HIDDEN JEWEL OF VIDARBHA

Gadchiroli district in eastern Maharashtra has long been associated in the public imagination with Naxal activity and compensatory afforestation projects. What is often overlooked is that nearly 71 per cent of the district is under forest cover, making it one of the most forested regions in the state and a significant repository of biodiversity. The district hosts several protected areas, including Chaparala Wildlife Sanctuary, Pranhita Wildlife Sanctuary, Kolamarka Wildlife Sanctuary— notified for the conservation of Wild Water Buffalo—and Konsari Conservation Reserve, dedicated to the protection of the Indian Giant Squirrel, Maharashtra's State Animal.

The region is also home to indigenous tribal communities such as the Madia and Gond, whose traditional landscapes overlap with rich forest ecosystems. For a variety of historical, administrative, and logistical reasons, large parts of Gadchiroli remained underexplored in terms of systematic biodiversity documentation.

A turning point came when Chaparala Wildlife Sanctuary was brought under the unified administrative control of Tadoba—Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR). This integration significantly strengthened forest management, monitoring, and scientific surveys. Spread across 134.78 sq km, Chaparala lies in a strategically important landscape. The Pranhita River, forming the western boundary and the Maharashtra-Telangana border, and the Wainganga River to the south-west, shape its hydrology and habitat diversity. The sanctuary represents Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests, with teak as the dominant species, and was officially notified on 25 February 1986.

Chaparala supports a diverse assemblage of fauna including leopard, sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), spotted deer (*Axis axis*), sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), four-horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*), Indian tree shrew (*Anathana ellioti*), and occasional tigers. The presence of species such as wild water buffalo



(*Bubalus arnee*), king cobra, and banded krait in the larger Gadchiroli landscape highlights a strong biogeographic link with the Eastern Ghats and Northeast Indian forests. Chaparala thus emerges as a critical, yet understudied, ecological bridge within central India.

Dr. Raju Kasambe, Ph.D.

Ornithologist and Butterfly Researcher,
Dombivli



SUPER MOM OF TADOBA

On a cool December afternoon, we entered the TATR through the Pangdi (core) gate, unaware that we were about to see one of the rarest sightings. Our guide informed us that the tigress T-14, also known as Kuwani, had made a kill, five minutes away from the gate, just 3 to 4 days earlier. We entered quietly, scanning the area with anticipation.

Soon, we spotted a small lake behind the roadside tall grass. At first glance, it looked empty, but our guide quickly pointed out Kuwani lying low in the grass with her cubs. We waited patiently, taking photographs as she rested. After a few minutes, she stood up and climbed over a small mound before going back down again. She briefly returned to her original spot by the water to nap, then chose to lie down in open grass instead.

She crossed the small mound and settled in the open while her cubs stayed awake, running and playing around her. Kuwani kept them in line with just a sharp look. She nursed them calmly before moving into the shadows whenever sunlight hit



her. Eventually, the cubs curled up beside her and slept for almost two hours.

After waking up, the tigress looked towards the road. Our guide realised Kuwani wanted to cross into the dense forest beyond, so we quickly moved our jeeps aside. She walked onto the road and sat there, waiting for her cubs. They soon followed, though they lingered behind, play-fighting, rolling around and enjoying the open space. One cub even walked right up to our jeeps and stared at us before finally disappearing into the jungle.

What made this sighting truly special was that it was the first long public sighting of Kuwani's two cubs. I feel extremely fortunate to have witnessed such a rare and intimate moment.

Vihan Bhagwat
Student, Std, VIII, Pune

SUN, WATER & STRIPES

A quiet afternoon in the jungle, the wind fighting against my face, the jeep rocking over uneven ground, and my hair now one with the dust I tried to seclude it from. With little but symmetrical spider webs, curly branches warped around trees in an almost Fibonacci-like sequence, and two Indian hornbills from our morning safari, the fixation on seeing something magnificent grew.

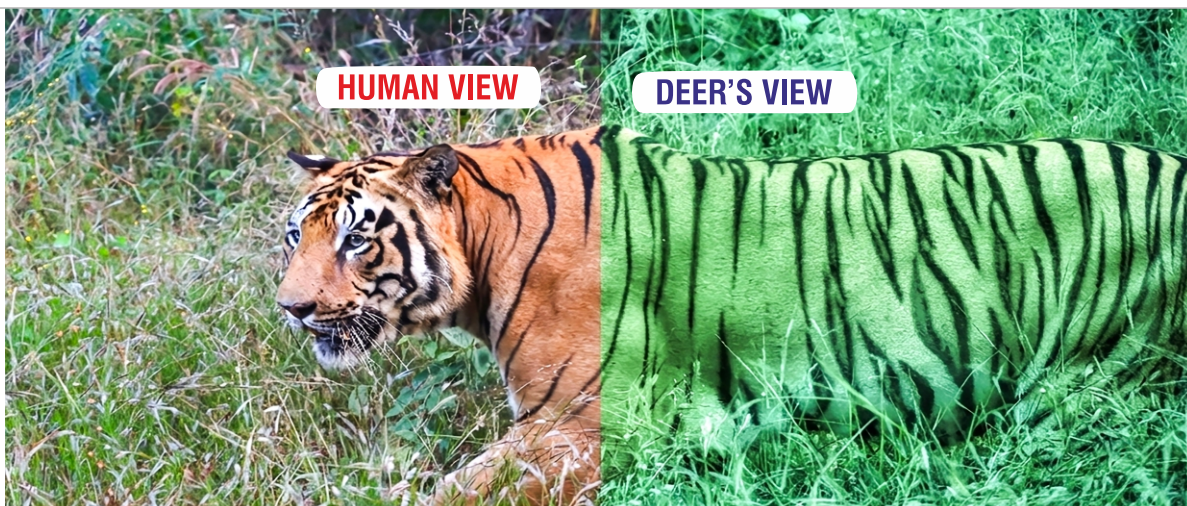
We stopped at a water body on our guide's instinct, and the sudden stillness sharpened the anticipation. To our left was a narrow path connected to the bigger pool on our right. Busy capturing the sun's reflective rays dancing on the teal water, I felt a surge of adrenaline when I turned left. There he was, swift yet majestic, wading out of the shallow water and stepping onto black, eroded stones. Unbothered by the lack of privacy, the tiger T178, popularly known as Xylo entered the pool again, catching the light at precise angles. Sun and water moved across his



vibrant orange fur and unmistakable X and Y stripes, while ripples distorted his lower body, as if announcing his presence.

The terrain felt designed for passage. Branches arched naturally overhead, and timeworn rocks formed an organic walkway along the water's edge. Between the core forest and its buffer zone, Tadoba reveals a delicate equilibrium where humans and animals coexist not as separate entities, but as overlapping lives shaped by necessity, history, and adaptation.

Tara Salgia Patel
Multidisciplinary Creative, New York



This split-panel image provides a direct comparison between the human view (left) and the deer's view (right).

WHY AREN'T TIGERS GREEN?

Have you ever looked at a tiger and thought, 'That is a very bright orange cat'? It seems to be a strange colour choice for a hunter trying to stay hidden. In the green forests of India, a bright orange coat should stand out like a neon sign.

So, why aren't tigers green? And how do they manage to vanish into the bushes so easily?

The answer isn't about what we see. It's about what the deer see.

Through the Eyes of the Prey

As humans, we are lucky. Our eyes have three types of colour receptors- red, blue, and green, which allow us to see the world in millions of vibrant shades. To us, orange looks very different from green.

But the tiger's main food animals like spotted deer (Chital) and sambar view the world very differently. They only have two types of colour receptors- blue and green. They are essentially colour-blind to the colour red. To a deer, the colour orange doesn't exist. Instead, that bright flame-coloured fur looks like a dull, muddy green or grey. In the eyes of a deer, a tiger standing in tall dry grass matches the background perfectly. Nature has played a trick on them: the one colour they can't see is the colour of their biggest enemy.

The Magic of Stripes

But colour is only half the magic. If a tiger were just a solid block of colour, its shape would still be easy to spot. This is where the stripes come in.

Scientists call this Disruptive Colouration. Think of it like a soldier's camouflage uniform. The

black stripes break up the outline of the tiger's body. In the jungle, where sunlight filters through trees and creates long, dark shadows, the stripes look exactly like shadows of tall grass or bamboo stems.

When a tiger freezes, its body shape dissolves. The deer doesn't see a 'cat'; it just sees a confusing mix of light and dark patches that look like ordinary bushes.

Why Not Just Be Green?

You might wonder, 'Why didn't nature just make tigers green? Wouldn't that be easier?'

Actually, no. In the animal kingdom, it is very difficult for mammals to grow green fur. While birds and reptiles can be green, mammals only have two main chemical pigments for hair: one that makes brown/black colours and one that makes yellow/red colours. There is no chemical recipe in a mammal's body to create green fur.

So, nature did the next best thing. It used the orange pigment (which it had plenty of) and relied on the fact that deer can't tell the difference anyway.

Food for thought:

It is fascinating to realize that the tiger's survival depends entirely on a "flaw" in the deer's vision. If deer could see the colour red, tigers would be starving. It reminds us that in nature, nothing is perfect every advantage, like a tiger's strength, relies on someone else's limitation.



SHARED FEEDING: Three predators. One kill. A rare glimpse into the unspoken rules of coexistence among leopards in the Kolsa range of Tadoba.

SECRET OF A POND SKATER

Pond skaters also known as water striders are one of the most interesting and enjoyable aquatic creatures to observe. Best of all, they're found widely in lakes, creeks, urban ponds, water features and even mud puddles.

Do you know? The water strider's legs are so buoyant they can support fifteen times the insect's weight without sinking even in a rainstorm, or in waves, the strider stays afloat!

These bugs can skate, jump, and fly. Three pairs of long legs and water-repellent feet allow pond skaters to spread their already light weight and skate over the surface of water. Pond skaters are carnivorous and eat other insects.

As with all insects, the water strider has three pairs of legs. The front legs are much shorter, and allow the strider to quickly grab prey on the surface. The middle legs act as paddles. The back legs are the longest and provide additional power, and also enable the strider to steer and "brake." Unfortunately for the water strider, these extraordinary capabilities don't extend to land. Their legs are almost useless on hard surfaces.

Water striders walk on this membrane. The secret



of the water strider is its legs! The legs have tiny hairs that repel water and capture air. By repelling water, the tiny water striders stand on the water's surface and the captured air allows them to float and move easily.

A LESSON IN THE WILD

That morning safari remains etched in my memory, not for what I expected to see, but for what the forest chose to reveal. It was a typical early drive, the jungle still waking up, mist hanging low over the track. Word soon reached us that most vehicles had enjoyed a sighting of a young tigress named Chanda. I could sense the disappointment in my guests immediately. We had been exploring another part of the forest at that time, and missing a tiger sighting can feel like a missed promise. I tried to reassure them, reminding them that the forest works on its own terms.

As we moved ahead, one of my guide colleagues shared that Chanda had been seen moving along a particular stretch of road and felt there was a chance she might return. Trusting experience and instinct, I asked our driver to head in that direction. When we reached the spot, the forest was unnervingly calm. No vehicles, no movement, no signs. I decided to wait. Patience, after all, is one of the most important tools a guide carries. A few minutes later, the silence broke. A sambar's sharp alarm call echoed through the trees, followed by the frantic warnings of langoors. Those sounds never lie. I knew instantly that a big cat was close. Every person in the vehicle went silent, eyes scanning the road ahead.

Then she appeared.

Chanda stepped onto the road—young, graceful, and strikingly confident. She was about one-and-a-half to two years old, the daughter of Jharni and Chota Matka, already carrying herself with remarkable composure. My guests' disappointment turned into pure joy. That joy deepened when she began walking straight toward us. Ours was the only vehicle there. I asked the driver to reverse, giving her space as she advanced. Unbothered by our presence, Chanda continued walking. For nearly one-and-a-half kilometres she moved along the road, owning it completely. At one point, I decided it would be better let her complete her walk without our presence. I asked the driver to pull to the side



AI generated image

and let her pass without confrontation.

Chanda walked right up to our vehicle and then stopped. What followed tested everyone's nerves. She approached the front, lowered her head, and sniffed the bumper. Inside the jeep, time seemed to freeze. I asked everyone to remain calm, knowing that sudden movement could provoke her. But fear took over. My guests urged us to leave immediately. The driver waited for the right moment and moved forward when Chanda was at the rear. The sudden motion startled her. In an instant, she broke into a run, chasing the vehicle for nearly a hundred feet. The driver accelerated, creating distance. Then she stopped, the chase was over as quickly as it began.

I explained to the guests that what they had witnessed was a mock charge, not an attack—an expression of irritation, curiosity, and youthful confidence rather than aggression. When I looked back, Chanda had settled calmly in the middle of the road, watching us leave. We observed her for another ten minutes. She showed no hostility, only quiet assurance.

We eventually moved on to explore other parts of the forest, but the lesson stayed with us—respect, patience, and understanding are as essential as excitement. Some encounters are not just sightings— they are experiences that teach you how small you are in the wild.

Deepak Chaukhe

Guide, Alizanjha Gate, TATR (Buffer)

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.





AI generated image

COMMON MORMON

The Common Mormon (*Papilio polytes*) is one of the most intriguing butterflies found in and around the Tadoba landscape. At first glance, it appears to be a typical black swallowtail with clean white markings. Yet it has the most sophisticated survival strategies seen in insects.

Where It Lives

The Common Mormon is commonly observed along forest edges, buffer zones, gardens, and human-modified landscapes near Tadoba. It thrives in areas where host plants grow close to wooded habitats, allowing it to move easily between forest interiors and open spaces.

What It Eats

Adult butterflies feed on nectar from a variety of flowering plants. The caterpillars depend mainly on citrus plants and curry leaf trees, which are abundant around villages and forest fringes.

Life Cycle and Behaviour

The species follows the typical butterfly life cycle of egg, caterpillar, pupa, and adult. Early-stage caterpillars resemble bird droppings, an effective form of camouflage. As they mature, they develop a defensive organ called the osmeterium. What sets the Common Mormon apart is Batesian mimicry. Female butterflies occur in multiple forms, some closely imitating the toxic Common Rose and Crimson Rose butterflies in colour, pattern, and flight. By copying these unpalatable species, the Common Mormon avoids predators without being poisonous itself.

- Yogita N. D. Chhapekar
Biologist, Nagpur

NATURE PANCHAMI

Vasant, or Basant, is revered in the Indian tradition as Raturaj-the King of Seasons. Marked by Vasant Panchami and dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, it is more than a religious observance. It celebrates renewal, learning, and the completion of an agricultural cycle. In the forests of Tadoba, this transition is subtle yet profound, as winter's restraint gives way to warmth, fragrance, and movement.

The Forest in Bloom

As the chill recedes, the forest begins to stir. Trees that stood dormant now respond eagerly to lengthening days. Kanchan trees bloom in soft pinks and violets, their fragrant flowers appearing like butterflies resting on bare branches. Mango and Chironji trees release a gentle perfume into the air, while some species bloom even before leafing. The fiery orange clusters of Palash, aptly called the Flame of the Forest, illuminate the landscape. Silk Cotton (Katesavar/Bombax) and India Coral (Pangara) prepare to unveil their striking reds, signalling abundance and vitality.

Sounds, Colours, and Cycles

With flowers come life and sound. Bees hum busily, insects hover, and birds announce the season-cuckoos calling sharply, racquet-tailed drongos cutting the air with their notes. Yellow, the colour of Basant Panchami, dominates the land: golden sunlight, swaying mustard blooms, and ripening wheat tassels reflect prosperity and balance.

- Anirudh Chaoji
Senior Naturalist, Nagpur



Antony Grossy (Wikimedia Commons)

FOREST STARS

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is a bio-diversity rich habitat. This new column will introduce you to the amazing world of mushrooms found in Tadoba.

In Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, everyone looks ahead into bushes, along tracks, toward the promise of a tiger sighting. I was walking slowly after the monsoon, when something unusual caught my eye below. On the moist, leaf covered ground, tiny stars lay scattered, as if the sky had quietly slipped into the forest. These were Earthstar mushrooms (Geastrum).

How do they look?

Their outer skin had split open into sharp, pointed arms, pale cream with hints of brown and grey, resting on the dark humus like fallen celestial objects. For a second, I wondered if they were edible, but this star was never meant to be tasted, only wondered at.

The closer I looked, the more alive they felt. At the center of each star sat a small, round spore sac, dusty grey and fragile. When a raindrop touched it or a footstep passed nearby, it released a gentle puff, sending spores drifting into the forest air.

Recycling Machine

Quietly, these mushrooms recycle fallen leaves, enrich the soil, and support new life. In tadoba, while tigers command attention, earthstars remind us that even the smallest forest stories can shine the brightest.

MOTTLED WOOD OWL

The Mottled Wood Owl (*Strix ocellata*) is one of the more imposing nocturnal birds found in and around the Tadoba landscape. Though rarely seen, its haunting calls often reveal its presence, echoing through the forest at dusk and before dawn.

Physical Characteristics

This large owl measures about 41–48 cm in length. Its plumage is a rich mix of reddish-brown and white, marked with mottled patterns that provide excellent camouflage against tree bark. The facial disc shows fine concentric black-and-white barring, framing dark brown eyes that lend the bird an intense expression. Unlike some other owls, it lacks ear tufts.

Habitat and Range

The Mottled Wood Owl inhabits a wide range of habitats, including gardens, dry deciduous forests, thorn forests, farmlands, and forest edges. In regions like Tadoba, it is often associated with dense tree cover and may occur surprisingly close to human settlements. During the day, these owls roost quietly in thick foliage, frequently in pairs.

Behaviour and Calls

Primarily nocturnal, the species is best known for its eerie, tremulous duet calls heard at dawn and dusk, especially during the breeding season. When disturbed, it may flush and fly even in daylight.

Five White-rumped Vultures Released



Under a joint initiative of the Maharashtra Forest Department and BNHS, five White-rumped Vultures were successfully released into the wild on 30 December 2025 from the Jatayu Conservation Project at Botezari, Kolsa Forest Range. The release was carried out by Shri Pravinsinh Pardeshi, Chairman, BNHS. Two vultures are fitted with satellite transmitters and three with GSM tags for scientific monitoring. The programme was attended by senior forest officials and BNHS experts.

Awareness Programme on Wildlife Safety



On 21 January 2026, an awareness programme was conducted by TATR at Maroda village to educate local residents about wild animals such as tiger, leopard, sloth bear, and snakes, and to provide guidance on safety measures and conflict avoidance. It was attended by Forest Guard Shri Dudhe, Ms. Masaram, Shri Mallerwar Babuji, members of the PRT team, forest labourers, and villagers of Maroda.

School Waste Segregation



Under the Zero Waste Tadoba initiative, Zilla Parishad School students in Kukadheti learned solid waste segregation through fun games. The team conducted an engaging session in Shioni village, TATR Buffer zone. Early education on waste segregation helps build responsible habits and supports a sustainable future.

Special Drive to Control Stray Dogs



TATR has launched a special drive to manage the stray dog population to protect wildlife and public health. Since January 2025, 2,271 dogs in villages around the reserve have been sterilised and vaccinated, with a target of 100% coverage by March 31, 2026. Field Director Shri Prabhu Nath Shukla said the initiative will help prevent wildlife attacks, dog bites, and the spread of diseases.

Special Students from Chimur Visit Tadoba



Students with hearing impairment and other disabilities from Rashtrasant Tukdoji School, Chimur, visited Tadoba on an educational tour. The students enjoyed memorable wildlife sightings, including tigers and other species. Teachers appreciated the coordinated and sensitive efforts of TATR staff for ensuring a safe and inclusive experience.

Plast India Swachh Bharat Yatra



Under the PlastIndia Swachh Bharat Yatra and Switch EKO initiative, a 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle demonstration' was conducted at Moharli village. Practical demonstrations were given to showcase sustainable waste management practices and promote responsible use of resources. The programme aimed to create awareness among villagers and support the Zero Waste Tadoba initiative by encouraging eco-friendly habits at the community level.

Taru Cycle Awareness Rally



On January 23, 2025, a Taru Cycle awareness rally was organised at Vihirgaon (Belara). The cycle rally was conducted across the village to create awareness about preventing human-wildlife conflict and promoting peaceful coexistence. Villagers were sensitized through direct interaction and information sharing. The programme was conducted in the presence of forest guards and the PRT team, Vihirgaon, ensuring effective outreach and community participation.

STAR OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2025

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 conservation on the ground.



Sambha Madhav Nannaware
Forester, Range: Tadoba (Core)

- Patrolling during the month as per M-Stripe
- Completed various tasks according to the KRA targets



S. B. Wandhre
Forest Guard, Range: Chandrapur (Buffer)

- Patrolling during the month (201.93 km) as per M-Stripe
- Supported subordinates in KRA data entry
- Completed KRA targets



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)

Though it has been an age old practice, with increasing number of cattle and constant pressure on land resource, free and uncontrolled grazing on forest land is no longer sustainable... Solutions are cut and carry grasses for stall feeding and strict implementation of rotational grazing as per realistic carrying capacity. Anti-grazing drives may seem 'Anti-people' however they are with the sole intention of protecting forests for larger humanity!



Ready for a jungle challenge?

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

- Which mushroom has a round spore sac?
A) Moonstar B) Earthstar
C) Megastar D) None
- Which owl among these lacks ear tufts?
A) Indian Eagle Owl
B) Great Horned Owl
C) Mottled Wood Owl
D) Eurasian Eagle Owl
- What types of colour receptors do spotted deer have?
A) Blue and Green
B) Red and Blue
C) Black and White
D) Black and Orange
- What is the official identification number of the tigress popularly known as Kuwani female?
A) T11 B) T12
C) T13 D) T14
- TATR's Zero Waste Tadoba initiative is about...
A. Controlling stray dog population
B. Mitigating human-wildlife conflict
C. Reducing and managing waste
D. Providing alternative livelihood to locals

Check page no. 14 for correct answers.

JUNGLE DETECTIVE

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

GUESS WHO?

Forest's Little Rainbow

I flutter soft through fields of green,
My wings like jewels - bright and clean.
I sip from blooms with gentle flair,
A dancer floating through the air.

From tiny egg to crawling worm,
Then wings - a lovely, bright new form.
A symbol of change, of hope so true
Can you guess this flyer too?

TRACK THE TRAIL

Who Walked This Way?

The forest path bore huge round impressions, deep in the moist earth, scattered with broken branches and crushed bamboo.

Beside them lay half-eaten clumps of grass and splashed mud puddles - signs of a big, playful bather.

The air smelled earthy, and soft trumpets echoed from afar.

Only one mighty creature leaves such a mark of strength and peace.



MATCH-UP

Match each animal with the name of its young one!

Animal

1. Tiger



2. Deer



3. Elephant



4. Monkey



5. Crocodile



Baby

A. Hatchling

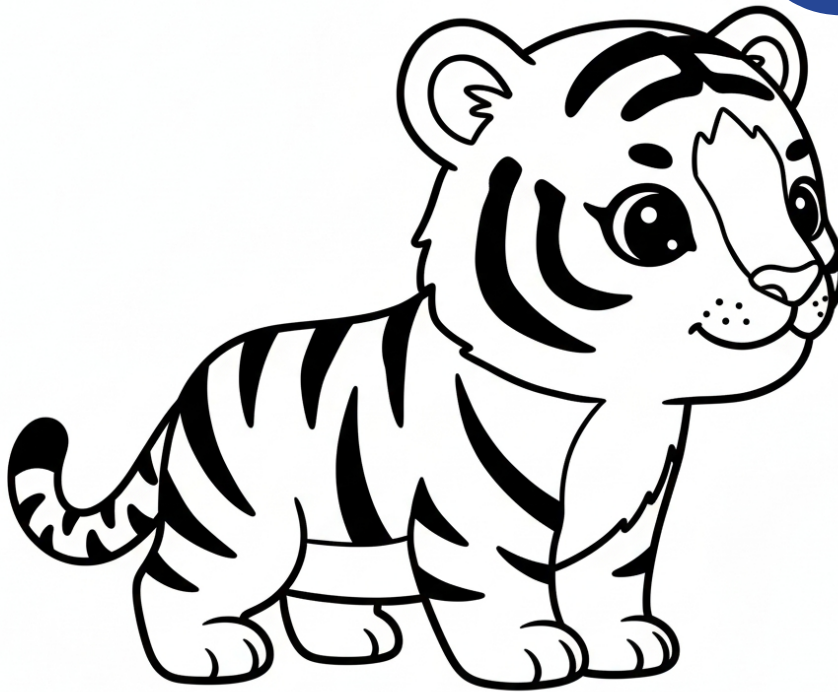
B. Calf

C. Infant

D. Cub

E. Fawn

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



WILD WISDOM

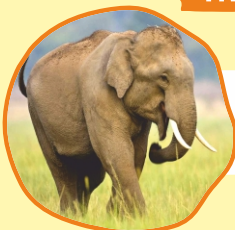
1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D, 5-C

GUESS WHO?

Butterfly



TRACK THE TRAIL



Elephant

MATCH-UP:

Animal

1. Tiger

2. Deer

3. Elephant

4. Monkey

5. Crocodile

Baby

A. Hatchling

B. Calf

C. Infant

D. Cub

E. Fawn



Tadoba-Themed Wildlife Fest for Kids

A Tadoba-themed Wildlife Fest for Kids, jointly organised by Jungle Belles, Nature Walk Charitable Trust, and Bougainvillea Farms, was held in Pune on January 10, 2026, and witnessed an enthusiastic response from both children and parents.

While addressing the gathering, Kushagra Pathak, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Buffer), Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, urged people to remain grateful and sensitive towards forests, describing them as an invaluable natural heritage. He highlighted Tadoba's successful conservation model, which is rooted in community participation and effective forest management practices.

The festival featured engaging sessions by experts from Tadoba. Dr. Ravikant Khobragade, Veterinary Officer, TATR, shared first-hand

experiences from wildlife rescue operations, offering children a rare insight into field realities. Young participants were captivated by a storytelling session on the Maya tigress by Anant Sonawane, Communications Officer, TATR, and thoroughly enjoyed a bird and animal call mimicking session conducted by naturalist Sumedh Waghmare. Filmmaker Sumesh Lekhi spoke about the lineage of some of Tadoba's iconic tigers and the role of conservation filmmaking in building awareness.

The blend of talks, films, and interactive activities made the festival both educational and engaging. The event concluded on an inspiring note, reinforcing the importance of nurturing curiosity, respect, and empathy for forests and wildlife among the younger generation.



ICANDO IT!

Following the mother, step by step, a young cub learns the rhythm of the forest. Each stride is a lesson in balance, awareness, and survival in a demanding landscape.

