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Tadoba

D I A R I E S

The Official Newsletter of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve



Anup Jadhav

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Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve
Conservation Foundation, Chandrapur

BEFORE THE HEAT RISES

Dear Reader,

Every year, as winter begins to loosen its grip, preparations quietly gather pace inside Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. These preparations aim to achieve a Fire-Free Tadoba. For the forest staff, the period from 15 November to 15 February is the critical window for building the first line of defence against summer forest fires. During these months, extensive fire lines are created across the forest. Depending on terrain and vulnerability, these protective strips range from 6 to 20 metres in width. The process begins with the first cutting of grass, carried out through a combination of machines and manual labour. Once the biomass dries, controlled burning is conducted to remove combustible material. This systematic preparation ensures that, if accidental or natural fires occur later, their spread can be quickly confined to a limited area.

From 16 February to 15 June, the focus shifts from preparation to vigilance. Fire watchers, recruited from nearby local communities, become the eyes and ears of the reserve. Their familiarity with the terrain and forest conditions makes them invaluable partners in protecting the forest. These watchers remain within the forest, stationed in strategically positioned Protection Huts at sensitive locations, enabling immediate detection and response to any smoke or fire incident. Watch towers located at the highest points in the forest are manned continuously, enabling long-range visual surveillance and early detection of smoke columns, even in remote forest blocks. At the operational core of this system is the Fire Control Room, which functions round the clock throughout the fire

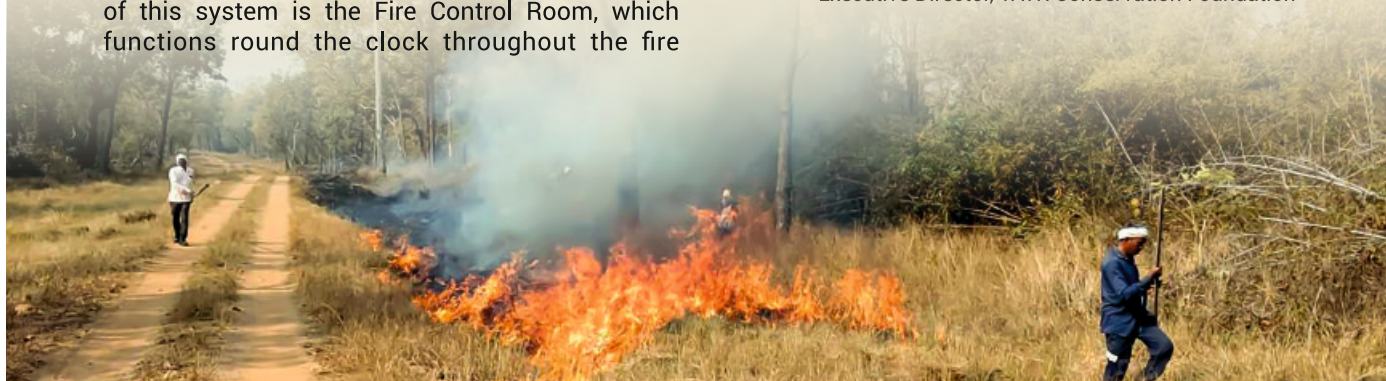
season. Staffed 24×7, it coordinates field movements, receives alerts, relays information to range offices, and mobilises response teams the moment a fire is reported. Rapid communication often makes the decisive difference between a controllable blaze and a large-scale emergency.

Yet, perhaps the most crucial layer of protection lies outside the forest boundary. Nearly 95 villages lie in the buffer landscape surrounding the reserve. Hence, TATR launched the Fire-Free Tadoba Program, a community-supported initiative to tackle forest fires. Under this initiative, awareness programmes are conducted for local communities before and during the summer. TATR has also organised a Forest Fire-Free Adarsh Gram Competition for the buffer villages. Thus, the emphasis is on safe agricultural burning practices, early fire reporting, and the shared responsibility for protecting forest resources. This partnership with local residents transforms fire prevention from a departmental task into a collective mission.

Forest protection in summer is therefore not a single intervention but a carefully timed chain of preparation, vigilance, coordination, and community engagement. Long before temperatures rise and the forest floor turns brittle, the groundwork for safeguarding Tadoba is already in motion – silent, systematic, and steadfast.

Dr. Prabhu Nath Shukla (IFS)

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



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A RARE AND UNIQUE OBSERVATION FROM TADOBA BUFFER

A truly unusual and fascinating incident was witnessed in the Tadoba Buffer area. A lone gaur was seen in an extremely exhausted state, its hind legs badly injured due to an earlier tiger attack. Because of the injuries, the gaur was unable to run or defend itself effectively.

The cubs of tigress T202 were the first to approach and attempt to bring down the gaur. They were 16 to 18 months old and were struggling to hunt. Still, they kept attacking the gaur. During this intense moment, an unexpected presence changed the entire scene. A sub-adult male tiger suddenly appeared. It was from the Ballarshah Territorial forest.

The situation was tense. Will the cubs take on the intruder? Will the sub-adult male attack the cubs? Initially, the cubs showed visible fear and hesitation in his presence, unsure of how the situation would unfold.

What followed was something rarely observed in the wild.

Instead of conflict, cooperation took over. The male tiger eventually joined the cubs, and together they successfully killed the gaur.

But the drama was far from over yet. Soon after, another tiger appeared on the scene. It was a sub-adult male from the T155 lineage. Now, there were four tigers there, born to three different mothers! This was indeed a rare and unique situation. One could feel the unrest and tension in the air. What was going to unfold?

Once again, the tigers shook the common beliefs and expectations. The new male tiger also joined the group! Despite belonging to different lineages and territorial backgrounds, all the tigers shared the kill peacefully.

Such tolerance and sharing among unrelated tigers is highly uncommon, making this incident a remarkable example of how survival instincts can sometimes override territorial behaviour in the wild.

Lt. Kushagra Pathak

Deputy Director, TATR (Buffer)



MUCH MORE TO IT

Coming from Nagpur, dragging visiting cousins into the wilderness has become my peculiar tradition. My cousins carried that fervent desperation to glimpse a tiger. What we encountered instead was an empire of chital, a solitary wild gaur staring timidly despite its great size, drongos clocking their next alarm, and peacocks attempting flight with all the grace of Victorian ladies flaunting their skirts.

No tiger. But we were, in a deeper way, content. Because here's the truth: a safari is not a tiger-spotting expedition with inconvenient animals cluttering the frame.

When you escape your 9-to-5 existence and feel that cold air on your skin, when your hair becomes a repository for dust, you realise it's magnificently worth it. Every deer freezes in astonishment. And there's profound beauty in that vigilance, chital mothers shielding their calves, some camouflaged in bushes, others bounding across roads in arcs of pure athletic grace.

You encounter birds whose names you've never learned in your concrete life. You discover the

crucial distinction between parakeet and parrot (one that will make you sound smart at dinner parties).

The wilderness holds volumes we rarely take time to read. A safari succeeds not when you tick the tiger box, but when you choose to truly see the intricate web of life that continues with or without your validation.

The tiger would have been spectacular. But what we found was perhaps more valuable: a reminder that majesty wears many forms, and sometimes the greatest wonder is simply being present to witness it all.

Prajakta Pote

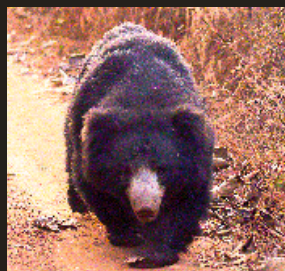
Geology Student, Nagpur

DRAMA ON THE JUNGLE TRACK

It was our last evening in TATR. Tadoba had already blessed us with at least one tiger sighting on each safari, and we were hoping for one final surprise. During the drive, we reached a stretch where several jeeps were lined up. There was excitement in the air. Photographers were leaning out with cameras raised, clearly focused on something ahead.

Then we saw it - a sloth bear emerging from beside one of the vehicles. A fully grown bear, with a shaggy black coat, was slowly foraging along the track and moving toward us. Its long, curved claws scratched the dusty edge of the path while its pale snout kept dipping to the ground, sniffing and scraping for food. The bear soon stood in the open space between our jeep and the others, still completely absorbed in its search.

Just then, to our left, a tiger stepped out of the forest. It was a sub-adult, walking casually along the line of jeeps, unaware of the bear only a few metres away. As it entered the open patch, it suddenly noticed the bear and startled, uncertain. It took a cautious step forward and stopped again.



In a flash, the bear spun around, reared onto its hind legs, and let out a thunderous roar. Without hesitation, it charged. The startled tiger bolted into the bushes, the furious bear chasing close behind. Growls echoed through the forest as both disappeared from sight.

Moments later, the tiger dashed back across the road and vanished again, still pursued. Finally the bear emerged alone, snorting, chest heaving, and glaring once toward the jungle before calmly trotting away into the vegetation.

We sat speechless. What we had witnessed was pure forest drama - the kind that rarely unfolds before human eyes, yet that evening, Tadoba showed it to us.

T. Murugavel

Professor and Head
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, SVCE,
Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu



TIGER'S SIXTH SENSE

Imagine walking through the dense bamboo forests of Tadoba at night. It is pitch black. You can't see your hand in front of your face. If you take a step, you trip over a root or crash into a bush.

Yet, the tiger moves through this same darkness in total silence. It glides through thick undergrowth without snapping a single twig. How does a 200-kilogram animal move so gracefully when it can barely see its own feet in the dark?

The secret lies on its face.

More than Just a Moustache

To us, whiskers look like a magnificent moustache, adding to the tiger's majestic look. But scientifically, these aren't just hairs. They are a high-tech sensory device.

In biology, they are called Vibrissae (from the Latin word vibrare, meaning "to vibrate"). Unlike the hair on a tiger's back (or the hair on your head), whiskers are thicker, stiffer, and rooted three times deeper into the skin.

The root of every whisker is surrounded by a capsule of blood and hundreds of sensitive nerve endings called mechanoreceptors. This makes them incredibly sensitive to touch. In fact, a tiger's whiskers are as sensitive as your fingertips.

So, how do they work? Think of a blind person using a cane to tap the ground and feel obstacles. A tiger uses its whiskers in the exact same way.

When a tiger walks through tall grass or dense

bushes, it fans its whiskers out. These stiff hairs detect the slightest touch of a leaf or a branch. If the whiskers on the left side bend, the tiger's brain instantly gets a message: "Obstacle on the left. Move right."

This allows the tiger to adjust its path milliseconds before its body hits a bush. It prevents the rustling of leaves or the snapping of twigs, allowing the tiger to stalk its prey in absolute silence.

Measured Movement

Whiskers also serve a very specific measuring function. You might notice that a tiger's whiskers extend out roughly as wide as its body.

This is nature's built-in tape measure. If a tiger is trying to squeeze through a narrow gap between two rocks or trees, it uses its whiskers to judge the distance. If the whiskers pass through without bending, the tiger knows its shoulders and hips will fit through, too. If the whiskers get stuck, the tiger knows to back up, preventing it from getting wedged in a tight spot.

It is fascinating to think that an animal known for its brute strength relies so heavily on such a delicate sense of touch. The next time you see a tiger photo, look closely at the muzzle. You aren't just looking at hair; you are looking at the biological radar that makes the tiger the ghost of the forest.

Shaillendra Singh Deora
Wildlife Biologist, TATR



A SILENT MARCH! Heads low and noses busy, the forest's tireless diggers patrol their woodland home. Every sniff maps a world we humans can barely perceive. A wild moment captured on a camera trap.

DRAGONFLY VS DAMSELFLY

Do you know what the difference is between a dragonfly and a damselfly?

Dragonfly

- The fore wings and hind wings are unequal in size. Hind wings are broader at the base than the fore wings.
- Typically larger thicker bodies. Wings are broad at the base.
- Wings spread out like a plane when resting.
- Eyes are large, wrapped around from the side to the front of the face.
- Body is bulky with a short and thick appearance.

Damselfly

- The fore wings and hind wings are equal in size and shape.
- Typically smaller, slender bodies. Wings are narrow at the base.
- Wings are usually held together over the thorax and abdomen when the insect is resting.
- Eyes are large, but there is always a gap between them.
- Body is slender with a long and thin appearance.



Do you know?

Dragonflies are some of the fastest insects on Earth.

They can reach speeds up to 70 km/h (43 mph). That's as fast as a car!!



A TIGRESS MEETS A PORCUPINE

Working as a safari guide for many years, I have learnt that no two days in the forest are ever the same. Some safaris pass quietly, some bring thrilling tiger sightings, and once in a while the jungle reveals a moment so rare that it stays with you forever. One such unforgettable encounter happened on a warm summer morning a few years ago.

That morning, I entered the forest with my guests through the Khutwanda gate. The sunlight was already bright, and the dry summer forest carried its own silent beauty. Our safari had been pleasant so far — we had spotted herds of deer, langurs resting on trees, and several beautiful birds crossing the track. Everyone in the vehicle was relaxed, simply enjoying the peaceful drive through the jungle.

As we came onto the main road, our luck suddenly changed. Ahead of us, walking calmly on the road, was the well-known tigress T114, fondly called Roma. She was a majestic tigress, famous among guides and tourists for her confident habit of walking right in front of safari vehicles. That day only two or three vehicles were present there, making the sighting even more special. Roma seemed completely comfortable and continued her slow royal walk. We followed her respectfully, maintaining a safe distance and watching in admiration.

Near Kumbhi Tank, Roma suddenly became alert. She paused and fixed her gaze on something ahead. Soon we noticed it too — a porcupine was crossing the road slowly, its quills still flat and its movement calm, completely unaware of the tigress nearby.

In a split second, Roma's behaviour changed. Her relaxed stride turned into a hunter's focus. She lowered her head and rushed forward. As she approached, the porcupine sensed danger and instantly raised its sharp quills in defence. The sudden display clearly surprised Roma. She halted, stepped cautiously, and stretched her paw to touch it gently. That brief contact was enough for her to understand the risk.

Still determined, Roma began circling the porcupine, searching for a safe angle to attack. But the porcupine remained alert and clever. With quills raised like armour, it kept turning constantly so its back always faced the tigress, never giving her a chance. Roma made several careful attempts, testing and retreating each time. The tense standoff continued for nearly five to seven minutes, and during those moments, all of us in the vehicle stood in complete silence, watching nature's strategy unfold.

Finally, Roma seemed to decide the effort was not worth the danger. With calm acceptance, she abandoned the attempt. The porcupine slowly completed its crossing and disappeared safely into the bushes.

Moments later, Roma resumed her dignified walk down the road as though nothing had happened. We too drove on quietly, carrying with us a rare lesson from the wild — that in the forest, survival belongs not only to the strongest, but also to the most prepared.

Shahrukh Sheikh

Guide, Khutwanda 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.





BLUE TIGER

In the land of the tiger, Tadoba is also home to a graceful "flying tiger" - the Blue Tiger butterfly (*Tirumala limniace*). This elegant species is among the most striking butterflies seen across India. It thrives in warm tropical regions, from forests and hills to gardens, and is commonly found in the Chandrapur landscape. Spotting one gently fluttering along a forest trail adds a special charm to Tadoba's wilderness.

Wings of Soft Blue Light

The Blue Tiger is recognised by its velvety black wings marked with delicate bluish-white streaks. Rather than shining metallic blue, its colour appears soft and luminous, glowing beautifully in sunlight. Its slow, floating flight makes it easy to watch as it glides quietly through clearings, streamsides, and woodland paths.

Life Among Forest Plants

This butterfly belongs to the milkweed-feeding group. The female lays eggs on host plants of the Apocynaceae family, and in Chandrapur it is often seen using the Harandoh creeper (*Watakaka volubilis*). The caterpillar feeds on these leaves and stores plant toxins that protect it from predators. The full life cycle-from egg to adult-takes about 20–30 days. In Tadoba's rich ecosystem, the Blue Tiger reminds us that not all tigers walk the forest floor - some float silently above it.

- Yogita N. D. Chhapekar
Biologist, Nagpur



greenverz.com

SHIVAN

One of the most unassuming yet valuable trees in our forests is the Shivan tree (*Gmelina arborea*), often called the "poor man's teak." A fast-growing deciduous species native to the Indian subcontinent, it is widely preferred for plantations. The tree naturally thrives in moist deciduous forests, riverine tracts, and well-drained soils, and grows well in tropical and subtropical climates up to about 1,500 metres in altitude.

Distinctive Features

Shivan typically develops a straight stem with light grey to pale brown bark. Its large, broad, heart-shaped leaves arranged in opposite pairs are easy to recognise. In spring, clusters of bright yellow to orange tubular flowers make the tree particularly attractive. Like many deciduous species, it sheds its leaves in the dry season and flowers profusely just before fresh foliage emerges, adding colour to otherwise dry woodland.

Ecological and Practical Importance

Ecologically, Shivan provides shade and habitat for birds, insects, and small mammals. Its flowers attract bees and butterflies, while the fruits are eaten by wildlife. Because of its rapid growth, the species is widely used in reforestation and soil conservation on degraded land. The wood is light, durable, termite-resistant, and easy to work with, making it suitable for furniture, plywood, carvings, and farm implements. In Ayurveda, its roots and bark are valued medicinally and form part of the classical "Dashamoola" group.

- Anirudh Chaoji
Senior Naturalist, Nagpur



JACK-O'-LANTERN

A quiet passage through the Kolsa range during the monsoon. Tall trees whispering as raindrops slipped from their leaves, the earth damp and fragrant underfoot. Then, on the stump of an old tree worn down by time, a sudden burst of deep orange caught the eye like a hidden flame. In tight, overlapping clusters grew the Jack-o'-lantern mushroom (*Omphalotus olearius*), a species that reveals its secret only after sunset.

Laminating Beauty

As the evening slowly melted into the night, Kolsa began to change. Then, almost magically, the gills of the Jack-o'-lantern mushroom began to glow. A soft greenish light slowly spread from beneath the caps, glowing so gently that it felt like the forest itself was breathing in the dark. The magic happens because an enzyme called luciferase acts on a compound called luciferin, producing light much like fireflies do. Interestingly, this gentle glow may also attract nocturnal insects, which help carry the mushroom's spores and spread new life across the forest.

Magic with a Message

Though beautiful, the Jack-o'-lantern mushroom is poisonous and should never be consumed. Its glow is not meant to invite, but to inspire. In that quiet shimmer, the forest reminds us that even in Tadoba, the greatest wonders are sometimes the smallest ones, the gills of a humble mushroom shining softly in the dark.

- Muhammed Suhail N A
Wildlife Biologist, TATR



INDIAN EAGLE-OWL

Indian eagle-owl (*Bubo bengalensis*), also known as the Bengal or rock eagle-owl, is a large nocturnal predator native to the Indian subcontinent.

Physical characteristics

It features prominent ear tufts, piercing orange eyes, and plumage splashed in brown, grey, and white with a distinctive white throat patch outlined in black stripes. One of India's largest owls, it has feathers adapted for silent flight and can rotate its head nearly 270 degrees for wide vision.

Habitat and Range

Found in India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, it prefers rocky hills, scrub forests, ravines, and riverbanks below 1,500 meters, avoiding dense evergreen forests or extreme deserts. Pairs roost by day in bushes, rocky overhangs, or thick trees like mango near villages. Not common in the TATR core, it is seen in some part of the buffer area.

Behaviour and Diet

Nocturnal and territorial, it emits deep, resonant two-note hoots audible kilometres away, especially at dusk during breeding peaks in February. It hunts rodents, birds, and reptiles from perches, tearing prey rather than swallowing whole; captives eat about 61 g daily.

Breeding

Nesting spans November to April in rocky crevices, cliffs, or ground scrapes, with 2-4 creamy white eggs incubated 33-35 days by the female while the male provisions food. Chicks fledge in 6-7 weeks but depend on their parents up to six months.

- Rundan Katkar
Range Forest Officer, Kolsa, TATR

World Wetlands Day Celebration



On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, various conservation and awareness activities were organised across the core and buffer areas of TATR. Birdwatching and educational sessions were conducted at Kolsa Lake, while plastic-free cleanliness drives were carried out at Karwa, Kolara, Moharli, Katwal, Arjuni, Janala, Haldi, and Chandai lakes. Forest staff, students, villagers, guides, and tourists actively participated in these programmes. The initiative effectively conveyed a strong message on wetland conservation, biodiversity protection, and environmental responsibility.

Range Office Inaugurated



The Range Forest Office, Moharli (Wildlife), was inaugurated by M. S. Reddy, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State. A mini bus newly procured for the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), Chimur, was also formally inaugurated, strengthening field mobility and protection efforts. At the TATR Conservation Foundation Office, detailed discussions were held with wildlife biologists regarding ongoing research initiatives, and the scientific efforts undertaken in the Reserve were commended.

Towards a Fire-Free Tadoba



A fire tender demonstration was conducted near Moharli Gate to enhance the field staff's response capacity and safety measures during the fire season. The programme was held in the presence of Dr Prabhu Nath Shukla, Field Director and Anand Reddy, Deputy Director (Core) along with senior officials and frontline staff. Protecting forests means protecting wildlife and surrounding communities - every step counts in building resilience against fire hazards.

Hospitality Training Workshop



A two-day Hospitality Training Workshop was organised at Agarzari Hall, jointly by TATR and Tata STRIVE. Gate managers, Rest House staff, booking staff, and home stay owners actively participated in the programme. The workshop focused on enhancing service quality, visitor experience, and promoting sustainable tourism practices in and around Tadoba. The initiative marks another step towards strengthening eco-tourism standards and community engagement in the region.

Star Tortoises Released



Twenty star tortoises were successfully released into their natural habitat within TATR. Nine tortoises were released at Pandharpauni Beat, while ten were released near Rampur Fire Line Overflow. The initiative supports species conservation and habitat restoration efforts in Tadoba. Sincere thanks to RESQ Charitable Trust for their dedicated efforts in wildlife rescue and conservation.

Stress Management Workshop



At Tadoba, caring for nature also means caring for people. A Stress Management & Counselling Workshop was successfully conducted at Agarzari Hall for all FD Office staff, with the support of the Aditya Birla Group. The session focused on mental well-being, workplace balance, and building emotional resilience — reinforcing the belief that stronger minds lead to stronger conservation efforts.

Chala Mazya Tadobala



12 schools from 11 villages within the Mul Buffer Range actively participated in the 'Chala Mazya Tadobala' initiative. 233 students and 15 teachers registered their participation, making the programme a meaningful step towards environmental awareness and connecting young minds with nature. The campaign continues to inspire students to understand wildlife conservation and develop a sense of responsibility towards forests and biodiversity.

STAR OF THE MONTH JANUARY 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 conservation on the ground



Rakesh Janardan Gedam
Forester, Range: Tadoba (Core)

- Impressive performance in the BOMA area of Jamni
- Successful completion of fire line cutting
- Repair work of tourism road
- Regular patrolling in Jamni



S. S. Siddiqui
Forest Guard, Range: Moharli (Buffer)

- Protecting forests and wildlife
- Patrolling during the month (334.09 km) as per M-Stripe
- Completing all assigned tasks in time
- Creating public awareness to prevent human-wildlife conflict



CHAPARALA: AN UNDERSTUDIED BUTTERFLY HEAVEN

The biological richness of Chaparala Wildlife Sanctuary became particularly evident during its first systematic butterfly survey, conducted on 8–9 November 2025. Thirteen participants, including myself, surveyed multiple habitat types over two days and recorded an impressive 59 species of butterflies, a remarkable figure for a first-time effort.

One of the most striking observations was the abundance of the Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*), the State Butterfly of Maharashtra, which appeared to be common across the sanctuary. Equally significant was the presence of the Common Lascar, a species typically associated with the Eastern Himalayas and Western Ghats, and previously reported from parts of Tadoba and eastern Vidarbha. In Chaparala, however, it appeared to have a well-established population.

Perhaps the most exciting record was that of the Common Banded Peacock (*Papilio crino*), an iridescent swallowtail known primarily from the southern Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, and parts of the eastern peninsula, usually in low numbers. Encountering this species in good numbers in Chaparala was both surprising and exhilarating, underscoring the sanctuary's unique biogeographic character.

Additional notable records included the Paint-brush Swift (*Baoris farri*) and the Medus Brown (*Orsotriaena medus*), species with distributions centred in the Western Ghats and Northeast India and only sporadically reported from central India. A particularly rare and noteworthy observation was made by 11-year-old Master Ishan Sachin Shinde,



who photographed an Apefly (*Spalgis epius*), a carnivorous butterfly whose caterpillars feed on aphids. This remains the only photographic record of the species from the survey and adds to the very limited central Indian records.

These findings, when viewed alongside records of reptiles such as the Banded Krait, strongly suggest that the forests of Gadchiroli function as an important dispersal corridor connecting the Northeast, Eastern Ghats, and Western Ghats. During the butterfly survey, Indian Giant Squirrels (*Ratufa indica*) and their canopy nests were frequently observed, indicating mature, continuous forest cover. In parallel, 65 species of birds were also recorded, reinforcing Chaparala's status as a biodiversity hotspot deserving sustained scientific attention.

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

THE LESSER KNOWN KHAKI #12

RESCUE - treatment - **RELEASE** of the **SEA TURTLES** is one of the most important activity being done by the coastal foresters! After increasing awareness, local villagers & NGOs also help! Sometime they are also kept in the



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)

Rescuing the sea turtles and helping them get back to their habitat is a praiseworthy initiative... They often need to be hospitalised for a while in the Transit Treatment Centre! Hope we understand the effects of trashing our marine habitats!!!



Ready for a jungle challenge?

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

- Which organ helps a tiger sense its surroundings and navigate its path, much like a cane helps a blind person find the way?
 - Nails
 - Tail
 - Whiskers
 - Ears
- Which small mammal is known as the 'Jungle Cleaner' for eating leftover food and waste?
 - Porcupine
 - Mongoose
 - Jungle Cat
 - Palm Civet
- Which bird in Tadoba is known for mimicking the calls of other birds?
 - Drongo
 - Bulbul
 - Cuckoo
 - Sparrow
- What does the Indian Gaur mainly eat?
 - Meat
 - Grass and leaves
 - Insects
 - Fruits only
- Which insect glows at night during the monsoon?
 - Firefly
 - Butterfly
 - Moth
 - Beetle

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?

JUNGLE DRUMMER

I thump my chest and shout "hoo-hoo!"
That's how my friends know what to do.
I leap on trees both near and far,
My tail's as long as branches are!

At dawn, I greet the rising sun,
With calls so loud, no match for one.
A playful guard, brave and buzzing,
I warn the jungle — "Tiger is coming!"

TRACK THE TRAIL

Who Walked This Way?

We found neat, heart-shaped prints near the forest edge
- some close, some far apart, as if leaping in joy.

Fresh nibble marks on tender leaves and a few droppings
nearby gave away the breakfast stop.

Light-footed and graceful, this creature moves in herds
and sounds a sharp alarm when danger nears.

Guess who danced through the dew this dawn?



MATCH-UP

Guess Their Superpower

Match each animal with its special skill!

Animal

1. Chameleon



2. Flying Snake



3. Leopard



4. Porcupine



5. Owl



Superpower

A. Defends itself with quills

B. Sees and hunts in the dark

C. Changes colour to blend in

D. Climbs trees with ease

E. Glides from tree to tree

Check page no. 15 for correct answers.

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



WILD WISDOM

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

GUESS WHO?

Langur



TRACK THE TRAIL



Chital (Spotted Deer)

MATCH-UP:

Animal

1. Chameleon

2. Flying Snake

3. Leopard

4. Porcupine

5. Owl

Superpower

A. Defends itself with quills

B. Sees and hunts in the dark

C. Changes colour to blend in

D. Climbs trees with ease

E. Glides from tree to tree

INSPECTION TIME!

In the Somnath buffer of TATR, the real boss pauses to inspect a forest staff bike — nose first. For a moment, the jungle's king seems curious about this strange metal intruder. Out here, even a parked bike must pass the tiger's approval!

