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Tadoba

DIARIES

The official Newsletter of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve Conservation Foundation, Chandrapur

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TADOBA IN MONSOON



Monsoon is the lifeline of the Indian subcontinent and its central role in our ecology and economy cannot be overstated. Farmers across the country wait with bated breath for the rains to start sowing their crops. A good monsoon is a sign of hope and better things to come.

The monsoon is also when forests are born anew. Tigers may breed round the year but several other species, big and small, breed in rains which ushers in an abundance of food in the form of luxuriant growth of grass and other vegetation. This is ideal for nurturing the young ones of deer, thus restocking the depleted prey population in the forest. Monsoon also brings about an explosion in the number of insects and smaller invertebrates that

support wildlife higher up in the food chain.

From the tourist's point of view, the monsoon season may be disappointing as this is when the core areas of the tiger reserves are closed for tourism for three months. But for the wild animals, it provides a respite from the constant disturbance caused by vehicular movement.

Besides, the closing of the park is an essential part of reserve management. An important task undertaken this season is to take care of the grasslands that are power houses of the park. Extensive weed removal operations are carried out manually as well as mechanically and native grass seeds are broadcasted. These seeds have been painstakingly collected from reserve grasslands by our staff from the end of the last monsoon season. This ensures that the meadows have plenty of palatable grasses till the next summer when food resources again start depleting.

An important management intervention in the monsoon is the restoration of lands voluntarily vacated by the villagers within the core habitat of the reserve. In Tadoba, successful restoration of village lands in Navegaon, Palasgaon and Jamni has resulted into these areas getting developed as finest of the grasslands supporting a high density of prey species. The ongoing voluntary relocation of Kolsa village is also a momentous landmark in the timeline of the history of Tadoba; and we expect to then start restoring those lands too.

Similarly, this is also an intense period for research. Monitoring of dispersing tigers, estimation of tigers and other co-predators, studies related to their food preferences, composition of communities of grasses and formulating strategies for eradicating invasive weeds are continued in the rainy season with great vigour and intensity.

In recent times, we have also observed gregarious flowering of bamboo in large parts of Tadoba. Rich regeneration of bamboo across the flowered areas is expected in the rainy season. Protecting this regeneration is going to be paramount for the future restoration of bamboo in Tadoba.

We also intensify protection in monsoons though it comes with its own challenges as grasses are high, visibility poor and several roads within the park become unmotorable causing great inconvenience and sometimes even emergency situations. Even so, our staff and the Special Tiger Protection Force units undertake special monsoon patrolling to ensure heightened surveillance to prevent poaching and other forest crime.

And yes, for keen tourists all is not lost this season! All the 15 buffer zones of Tadoba will remain open for the entire monsoon. Sightings of the big cat may be a bit poor, but Tadoba comes into its own in the monsoon, and for keen and budding naturalists, there is much to see and experience. Our only request is that visitors avoid being too adventurous especially in heavy rains and respect nature and its power.

Dr. Jitendra Ramgaokar
Field Director, TATR
and Executive Director,
TATR Conservation Foundation

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Romance of The Jungle

- Raveena Tandon
Actress

Bollywood diva Raveena Tandon is a die-hard fan of wildlife and frequently visits TATR. During her recent visit, Tadoba Diaries caught up with her at Limban Resort. Excerpts from her interview:

Q: When did the love for wildlife, nature and environment start?

A: I have always had a love for wildlife, nature, environment and anything that walks on four legs! Then came the love for photography - to capture the special moments that I've witnessed. I have a definite passion towards working for wildlife awareness and conservation. I feel that the best way forward is for people who are at responsible statures in life to start addressing the need for conservation. In this regard, understanding the need for sustaining the environment, our wildlife and our planet goes hand in hand. At the end of the day, we need to think about the planet that we are leaving behind for our children. The kind of legacy that we leave behind holds a great deal of importance.

Q: What is it about Tadoba that makes you keep coming back time and again?

A: I have been to even South Africa on numerous occasions, but the romance of the Indian jungle is unrivalled! It's the unpredictability, the excitement and the variation in flora and fauna that we have here. It just creates a different romance altogether!

Q. How were your safaris this time?

A: Sensational! Unbelievable! It was something like I've never seen before. The sighting I had had of a sloth bear was something right out of the Jungle Book! Full on 'Bare Necessities'! Scratching his back and everything.

We saw a tigress T-60 popularly known as Sharmili and her little ones too. OMG! The way they were calling out to her was just too adorable. I was very excited when I discovered 'RT' marking on Sharmili's body. Personally, I like taking pictures that are different. It has to be a different framing, a different setting. There has to be something unusual about it. But, there were these moments where I wanted to just put the camera down and enjoy the moment. In the frenzy of taking pictures you sometimes lose out on seeing something with your naked eye and absorbing it into your brain for posterity.

Q. We heard that you were on a mission to see cubs this time. Did you manage to get a good sighting?

A: I have seen cubs before, so many litters at Tadoba itself. But I had never gotten a chance to see cubs as tiny as Sharmili's. So it was a mission to see her cubs this time!

Q. Your family accompanied you on this trip as well. How have they enjoyed Tadoba?

A: They have thoroughly enjoyed the experience! The best moment of the trip was when my daughter, Rasha, saw a sloth bear and its cub. That was the best sighting she's had. It was just stunning! Both my kids are very passionate about wildlife. In fact, the whole family is a wildlife buff and every year we plan to visit one or two forests. Since 2000, we've been doing two forests a year. So that is everywhere from Bandipur to Bandhavgarh, Ranthambore to Kabini and so many others. The

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Tree Shrew

On your safari, you may have encountered something similar to a squirrel and thought why did it look brown, unlike the commonly seen three-striped squirrel. This tiny brown creature is hard to capture on camera while it keeps jumping on dead wooden blocks. You try to have a closer look and it will elope in the bush as soon it senses your presence around. This very shy and tiny animal is known as the Madras Tree Shrew (*Anathana ellioti*), also known as the Indian Tree Shrew. It is a small mammal that lives in the forests of peninsular southern India. What differentiates the Madras Tree Shrew is its unique tail. The tree shrew walks with its tail in an upward curve and a curl that continues in the opposite direction. The tree shrew is usually six to seven inches long and its tail is of the same length making its total length about 13 to 17 inches. On an average, it weighs about 160 grams.

Tree shrews are the natural pest control agents from the woods as they feast on insects. They also eat berries and seeds. Their high metabolic rates lead them to a daily food intake of up to their body weight or more. Hence they are in constant search for food.

Tree shrews are common residents (though not so common to sight) in bamboo patches in Tadoba- Andhari Tiger Reserve. Their Latin name very well justifies their habitat. The name "*Anathana ellioti*" in which *Anathana* is the genus that comes from the Tamil words Moongil Anathan - which means "Bamboo Squirrel"; while *ellioti*, the species name, comes from the man who first documented the species – Sir Walter Elliot.

The tree shrew is listed as 'Near Threatened' species but it is close to entitling to a 'Threatened' category in the near future due to habitat loss.

Next time when you go on a safari, do look for this common but not very commonly seen shy tiny resident of the forest. You may get an opportunity to capture one on camera, if you are lucky!

- **Prajakta Hushangbadkar**
Wildlife Biologist, TATR



Hail Arjuna

Kunti, the mother of Pandavas was in love with these handsome riverside Arjuna trees (*Terminalia arjuna*) showing off their bright shining barks. She, in fact, made it a point to name one of her sons as Arjuna, to inspire him to grow tall and stately as the tree itself.

Another person coming close to Arjuna's stature himself, found this tree to be his best friend - late former President APJ Abdul Kalam! He spent hours in company of a hundred-year-old Arjuna tree at his 10, Rajaji Marg residence in Delhi. There were hordes of bees, insects and singing birds giving our Missile Man a company.

In fact, many scientists consider Arjuna tree to be a 'Keystone species'. A 'Keystone species' is a species on which other species in an ecosystem largely depend. Apart from hosting innumerable insects, reptiles and birds in its canopy and deep grooved bark, the Arjuna tree is also known to support a very wide diversity of plants that grow in the shade of its canopy. Moreover, the soil under the Arjuna tree is considered to be very rich in organic carbon and moisture content.

Since ancient times, the bark of this tree has been known to be useful to strengthen and tone the heart muscles, thereby helping in its proper functioning.

My fascination for this tree is associated with the old memories of a huge Arjuna tree along the Panchadhara stream that provided me shade in the hot afternoons. Another equally charming one is next to the small culvert on the safari route at Junona buffer. Don't miss seeing it. Also look out for the tell-a-tale autographs left behind by sloth bears and big cats on its bark.

- **Anirudh Chaoji**
Senior Naturalist

A CRAZY SIGHTING

We reached Junona gate which was close to the MTDC resort (where we had stayed for the day) at about 6:30 pm. My parents and two of my uncles and aunt were near the booking office. I bought an issue of Tadoba Diaries at the gate, sat in an empty Gypsy and started reading it.

In the magazine, I was reading about an incident where a forest officer had a very close encounter with a tigress. Just when I read that he had heard someone scream, "Tiger.. Tiger," – believe it or not – I heard those exact words from behind me. My initial instinct was to run, but then it crossed my mind that I was sitting right in front of the forest gate and that the tiger would have come running from there. When I looked up from magazine, there was nothing! Left and right... there was no sign of a tiger. Then I looked behind me...

All the people were pointing towards our resort from where we had just come. I got down from the gypsy and ran to the edge of the road as my parents were already running there. Then we saw a tiger, a sub-adult male sitting right beside the compound wall of the MTDC resort! The people of the resort seemed to be in panic, and were trying their best to drive the tiger away. They surely did get rid of the tiger, but it started coming towards us! I managed to get only a blurry picture of the tiger. We ran back to the Gypsies, which had by now been commandeered by a group of forest staff and guides. They ensured our safety quickly. The driver took us to where the tiger was supposedly hidden. We waited for some time, but could not see the tiger again. So we returned to the Junona Gate as it was time for our safari. Everyone who had witnessed the crazy sighting couldn't stop talking about that incident!

- Nikita Oumdhakar
Tourist, Mumbai



AND LUCK SMILED

Every monsoon season, I remember that rainy evening from 2015 or maybe 2016. I was on a safari and my guests from Chandrapur were extremely desperate to see a tiger. It is never easy to sight a tiger in the monsoon season. As I expected, we did not sight one during the safari. Last few minutes of safari time were left. Hence I took my disappointed guests to the Irai dam backwater to do some bird watching. There were a lot of birds chirping there. A herd of eight to ten Indian gaurs was grazing on the banks. There were a couple of young ones in the herd.

As we were watching them, suddenly a tigress flashed out of the tall grass just 10 to 15 feet away from us! It was T-10, popularly known as Madhuri. She was so close to us, but we did not detect her until she came out. We were thrilled to see her. However, she did not care about our presence. Before we understood her intentions, she sprinted towards the herd of the Indian gaurs, isolated a young one and attacked it with her full might. The little gaur collapsed on the spot at the first strike itself. By then the grown-ups in the herd got alerted and counter-attacked the tigress. Because of their aggressive move, Madhuri had to step back. She disappeared in the grass leaving behind her prey.

The herd tried to wake up the young one attacked by Madhuri. But it was already dead. Hence the herd moved away in next 10-15 minutes. As the herd went away, Madhuri re-emerged from the grass, picked up her prey and went back into the grass.

We could not believe that it all happened in front of our eyes! My guests were crazy with joy. What they were praying for was a simple sighting. But the luck smiled and they got an experience for the life-time!

- Subhash Yedme
Guide, Agarzari Gate



MONSOON MAGIC

Monsoon stirs up the animal realm: peacocks dance, fireflies light up the forest, and frogs croak with all their might to find a mate for the season. Ponds replenish, trees grow, tiny wild-flowers dance over the rhythm of the wind and the soil thirstily soaks up the rain, releasing petrichor. As a pluviophile, I get excited knowing that the monsoon will start as the harsh summer draws to an end, but I am not the only one who anticipates the arrival of the rainy season. There are several species- birds, flowers, Arachnids and insects- that when spotted in the wild indicate the impending arrival of the monsoon!

Sighting the **Pied Cuckoos** (*Clamator jacobinus*) also called **Jacobin Cuckoos** or **Chatak** in local parlance in North and Central India is associated with the onset of the monsoon season. These black and white birds have a distinct crest on their head. While not scientifically proven, the movement of the Pied Crested Cuckoo is believed to foreshadow the monsoon. Cuckoos travel with the southwest monsoon winds that start from East Africa and hit the southern coast of India in Kerala. Scientists have attached the satellite transmitter to Pied Cuckoo to understand its migration routes and the arrival of the monsoon.

You may have seen images of a large lizard on social media tagged as **Komodo Dragon**. It isn't. This is the Bengal monitor or common Indian monitor, which is widely distributed in the Indian Subcontinent, as well as parts of Southeast Asia and West Asia. This large lizard is mainly a terrestrial animal and is well-known for his strong grip. In monsoon, the monitor lizard is a frequent sight, and I have seen them on termite mounds or ant hills.

Though listed as a Schedule I species - the same as the tiger - under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Monitor lizards are illegally hunted, trafficked and consumed across India.

Red Velvet-Mites are the largest members of the mite family. For most of the year, they reside under the surface, preferring the dark, cool confines of topsoil to the warmth and light above, but with the first shower of rain, they emerge for one principal reason: to mate. They are also known as **Mrug Kida** in Marathi after the **Mrug Nakshatra** which is also deeply connected with the arrival of the monsoon season. Red velvet mites serve an important function in the ecosystem as they feed on insects and small vertebrates that damage plants. The red velvet mite also signifies a healthy soil, although intensive use of pesticides threatens their survival.

Monsoon is the best season for many insects like fireflies, bugs and beetles. The **Tiger Beetle** species is seen only during the early monsoon after the first few showers when the soil is lightly moist. They are the fastest running insects on earth at a speed of 9 km per hour! Not easy to capture a photograph, then! Like all ground dwelling creatures, tiger beetles are also threatened by soil pollution caused by insecticides and chemical fertilizers.

Fan-throated Lizards are ground-dwelling lizards. As their name indicates, male lizards have a brilliant multi-coloured loose skin on their throats called a dewlap, which swells up like a fan when they display to attract a mate. Fan-throated Lizards in India belong to two genera:





Sitana and **Sarada**, and are mostly found in shrub-lands and coastal areas. With the commencement of monsoon, they start their courtship display and breeding activity as an abundant supply of entomofauna insects which constitutes their main diet is available.

The largest frog species found in India, **Indian Bullfrogs** (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*) are mostly present in freshwater ponds, marshes, and paddy fields. They come out of hibernation at the start of the monsoon when it is time to breed. In many regions, rains are predicted when one hears the bullfrogs' orchestra from rainwater pools. But the excessive use of pesticides, particularly in rice fields, has threatened the population of these monsoon singers.

The cooler weather and moist air during the monsoon season creates magic with a host of fungi and tiny wildflowers bursting forth from the earth. Magically, the rains also welcome the orchids that are in a dormant state during hot summer. After the first shower of rain in early June, they spring back. Within a week, all the dendrobiums start showing off fat little green spikes which will grow into some of the most beautiful of nature's creations. Every orchid survives hot summer to give birth to one spike which also attracts the insects for pollination. Their presence along with other epiphytes is an indication of a healthy ecosystem. Orchids are sensitive to even the slightest disturbance, and thus are gravely threatened due to the heavy pressure on forest resources. Most vulnerable are the vanda species which grow commonly on trees like mahua and mango, which are heavily utilised by local communities for their various uses as food and herbal medicines.

Bahava flowers are golden yellow chandeliers that start blooming in the forest during April. It is also said that the flowers signal the shift in the seasons. It is a local belief that the Bahava flowers or Amaltas bloom 40 days before the arrival of monsoon. Bahava pods are also a favorite food for the sloth bear. The next time you see the golden hue of the Bahavas, know that the rains are not far behind!

Crimm Lilies only come to life to be with monsoon. These flowers only bloom after the first few showers and they disappear, not to be seen until the next season!

After hibernation of almost seven months, **Wild Turmeric**, **Flame Lily**, **Kali** and **Safed Musali** all start flowering with a few showers of rain. Their vibrant colours make the forest look beautiful. They attract a variety of bees, butterflies and a host of insects. They also play important role in food of many wild animals like wild boar and rodents.

As you have just read, the monsoon is an important time for many plant and animal species. Some come out of their burrows for the first time in the year, others await the arrival of the monsoon to breed, some produce seeds, yet others start their courtship. It's a season for nature to refresh, rejuvenate. It's a season for new beginnings and it is best that the flora and fauna are left undisturbed to begin the new cycle of life.

- **Prajakta Hushangabadkar**
Wildlife Biologist, TATR



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FATAL ATTRACTION! Two enthusiastic young tigers chasing a porcupine in the darkness of night. Porcupine's quills can prove to be fatal for a tiger as they can seriously injure him. Image captured on a camera trap installed by forest department.

BOATING

While on your visit to Tadoba, you can take a break from your hectic schedule of back-to-back safaris and take a boat ride on the calm waters of Erai Reservoir. You can spot resident and migratory birds during the ride. Your luck may fetch you a sighting of wild animals as well.

Location: Sitarampeth (Moharli Zone)

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WOMEN SENSITIZATION



Women residing in the periphery of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve are extensively attached to the forest for the collection of fuelwood, Mahua flowers and Tendu-patta. It is seen that the number of women in the resource collection is higher than that of men. They have no fear of big carnivores. TATR provided LPG in almost all the households in the villages in buffer, but still, they are using Chulha to prepare meals.

BNHS in association with TATR conducted sensitization program in Agarzari for the women. Total 450 women from 11 villages in the Vadala Range participated in the 12-day program organized between 30th May to 10th June. Assistant Director Sanjay Karkare, Education officer Sampada Karkare and the BNHS team conducted it with the support of the Axis Bank Foundation. The participants were sensitized on the subjects like the importance of Tadoba for the villagers, water-forest relations, man-animal conflict, the importance of tiger tourism and participation of women in the conservation of the forest. They were also made aware about various schemes by the forest department and alternatives for the betterment of the women by using self-help group schemes. They were taken to the forest for a safari in Moharli core area.

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Lt happened just a few months back. Yet whenever I remember the incident, a chill runs down my spine. At the same time, I don't forget to thank God for saving my life that day.

It was a pleasant winter day in the forest. I completed my duty in Karwa range and started my journey back towards home at Shivni. I was on my motor cycle. Two of colleagues were behind me on their own motor cycles. Cool breeze had a soothing effect on my mind. While I was enjoying the driving through the forest, my trained eyes were alert and looking for any possible danger around.

It was around 6-6.30 in the evening and we were passing through the Shivni-Karwa road. There was a pillar at the side of the road. I used to pass by it every day. So was I going to do that day. Little did I know that it was not a usual day for me. I was hardly five feet away from the pillar and suddenly I noticed something! What was that? What I could see was a pair of ears...with a white spot on them...erected...alert! Within a fraction of a second, my brain processed the information- it was a tiger! He was hiding behind the pillar. His upward pointing ears indicated that he was in an attacking mode. He was ready to pounce. I had seen an un-experienced, young male tiger in the area. It must be him only waiting for me behind the pillar, I thought.

By the time I realized his existence, I was very close to him. A five feet distance was merely a matter of a single jump for him. I had only two options- stopping on the spot or fleeing from the spot. The first option would have meant a certain invitation to a fatal attack. Hence I decided to take a chance and chose the second option. I raced my motor



cycle to the fullest extent. The tiger might not have expected it. As soon as I passed by the pillar, he pounced on me. However, because of my suddenly increased speed, he missed me. Yet he jumped a couple of times again. But I was out of his reach, by then. As I realized, he was not chasing me, I stopped the motor cycle and looked behind because I was worried about my colleagues who were driving behind me. Fortunately, they had seen the whole episode and had stopped at a safe distance. The tiger was still on the road...between me and my colleagues. None of us were within his reach. He stood there for a minute watching us and then walked away calmly as if nothing had happened.

As I saw him going away, my heartbeats came back to normal and I thanked God for that miraculous escape. My training and presence of mind had helped me save my life. Looking back, when I think about why that tiger would have behaved in such a way that day, I feel it must be because of his enthusiasm or prejudice about a moving motor cycle and lack of experience. Hence I don't blame him for that attack. In fact, it was a great learning experience for both of us!

- Manik Ankade
Forest Guard, Karwa, TATR

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A Story of Baghdev

This summer, after Bor & UKWS, I went to Tadoba and visited newly opened gates of the buffer on the Kolara side (Chimur city side), which not many tourists visit. I found that there were a few small temples at the entrance of Kolara buffer gate. All those temples had statues of tiger inside them. Locals called it Baghdev. I was curious to know why they built four-five temples at the same place. When I asked the guide about it, his answer was fascinating. He told me that they were not temples of the tiger but each temple indicated a person that was killed by the tiger in the past! I further inquired about the chain tied to the neck of tiger statue, and the guide sheepishly said, "Sir, you are from city so you won't believe it. But it is to keep the spirit of the tiger which has killed the respective person, tied all the time to the place to make it unable to move around and thus restrain the tiger from killing more people." The answer gave me goose bumps! Only those who have wandered in the dark nights and in total silence around the forests can imagine the terror a tiger can cause in the minds of people living around. I think it is this fear that can make you believe anything. Human psychology!

To add to my surprise, I saw a marriage invite by a local

family kept at the feet of one of the tiger statues. I was told that the first invite is always offered to the tiger spirit! What could be a better example of co-existence between wildlife and humans where tiger is considered a respected member of the family and his spirit is invited to family events like marriage. This is what we need to make tourists aware about - this is the way you live with the tigers and conserve the forests along!



In my next safaris, I listened many such stories about the places in the forests, about the people and the animals. It is such stories that make your forest outings memorable because then you look at the forest with a different perspective. Then no more only the tiger is on your agenda. I think this is exactly what we need to make part of the training of the guides as well the locals. The tourists also should not ask only about tigers, but should try to make conversations with the guides and make them speak about the forest at large and not just about the tiger sightings. There can be a small booklet of FAQs for the tourists with such small stories about the place. Believe me. Every place has some story, all we need is to have an ear to listen it and a mind to absorb it.

- Sanjay Deshpande

Wildlife Enthusiast, Sanjeevani Developers, Pune

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.





DHIRAS GATA

AAJ MAI UPARI

Being a nocturnal animal Asian palm civet is usually not seen in broad day light. However, this bold Civet not only decided to show up during the day, but also posed for camera after climbing a tree.

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Romance of The Jungle



kids and I are on a mission now to see the elusive snow leopard. Blackie who has always evaded us is on the list as well.

Q. Are there any plans to visit Tadoba again in near future?

A: Of course! I'm coming again next month. I love the direction that Tadoba and many of the resorts are taking towards being more environment friendly. Many resorts are adopting the 3Rs policy of Reuse, Recycle and Reduce. They are even making an effort to introduce electronic vehicles on safaris which is great for noise pollution, air quality and really better for the forest overall.

- Amaan Lopez

Summer Intern, TATR Foundation



VIP GUEST OF TADOB

Under a unique initiative by TATR management, family members of the forest department staff are invited as VIP guests for a safari at Tadoba. Recently, Vikas Karkade a Forest Guard in Karwa range enjoyed a safari with his family. "It was the first time ever that my mother, brother, sister-in-law and three nieces visited the forest. They all thoroughly enjoyed the most exciting experience of their lives! I am very thankful to the department for providing me this opportunity", said Vikas Karkade. During a round through Moharli- Tadoba-Kolara, they could sight six tigers, wild dogs, Indian gaurs, spotted deer, sambar and many other wild animals and birds.

I SAW A GHOST!

Hi friends, I saw a ghost in the forest! Yes. You read it right. I saw a ghost, that too for half an hour! Afraid? Your parents must have told you that there are no ghosts in the world. But I saw one right here in Tadoba. He is called 'The Ghost of the Jungle'! I am talking about the leopard whose sighting is rare. All of us were very surprised and happy to see a leopard so close.

I was in Tadoba with my family and friends in May. We had five safaris in three days. I saw a tiger named Tala, a sloth bear, a deer, very

beautiful Asian paradise flycatcher, an Indian pitta, a peacock and many other birds and animals.

What I enjoyed the most was the night safari. I was very frightened when we were waiting for a tigress at a water body. But when I saw Asian palm civet, small Indian civet and flying squirrel, my fear vanished, just like the running hares. I enjoyed very much watching around 35 types of birds and 15 animals during the safaris.

I am very thankful to all the guide uncles and driver uncles who helped me enjoy my jungle trip. I wanted to see the black leopard who dodged us this time. Hence I wish to go back to Tadoba once again. Let's go!

- Om Rahul Ghatwal
Age- 9 Years, Mumbai



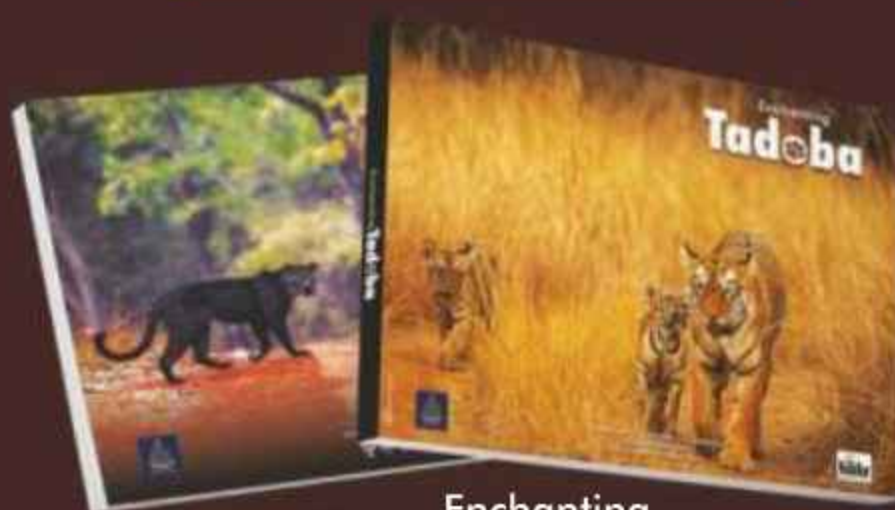
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