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# Tadoba

DIARIES

The official Newsletter of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

**GLOBAL TIGER DAY SPECIAL ISSUE**

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve Conservation Foundation, Chandrapur

₹ 30/-



# Economic value of ecosystem services: Understanding the price of nature!

Dear Reader,

**W**hen we visit nature, we tend to forget all our worries and material concerns for some time and just feel the serenity of the surroundings filled with lush green forest, meandering sparkling streams, songs of the birds and sights of wildlife that we want to capture not only in our cameras but into our hearts. Everything seems so priceless. But in today's world, the value of almost everything needs to be estimated in monetary terms for easy understanding and to appreciate the opportunity cost of preserving large areas undisturbed as national parks and sanctuaries, especially in a developing country like ours.

An attempt to do so for the global ecosystems was done in 1997. A global study was undertaken evaluating 17 different groups ecosystem services ranging from climate regulation, water regulation, erosion control, nutrient cycling, pollination (critical for global food security), soil formation and recreation among others. The value of global ecosystem services was estimated to be 33 trillion dollars per year. And it was a conservative estimate excluding all nonrenewable provisions of nature like various minerals. This gives us a fair idea of how valuable nature is.

However, to factor in this value into policy making, we also need to estimate the values of specific ecosystem services of our sanctuaries and national parks which have huge tangible and intangible benefits to the society arising from Biodiversity and ecological services, recreational values, watershed values, preventing of flood and soil erosion along with health benefits, spiritual and intrinsic values. Several of these values cannot be measured as market prices do not exist and hence, they become invisible.

Tiger reserves of our country represent almost all unique ecosystems of our vast country. To evaluate the value of wide range of services emanating from them, National Tiger Conservation Authority had commissioned a study for estimating the value of direct and indirect ecosystem services for 10 tiger reserves. It was estimated that the direct benefits from these 10 tiger reserves were in the range of 8.97 crores to 101.87 crores, whereas indirect benefits were valued the range of 4221.34 crores to 13317.50 crores per annum.

We know that the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is ecologically important for the Chandrapur district for its water security, pollution control and several other ecosystem services. Similarly the park supports livelihood of thousands of families engaged in ecotourism and hospitality sector.

However, a systematic evaluation of these tangible and non-tangible services has not been conducted for Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. It apparent that such a detailed study on costs and benefits of TATR is required to be conducted. The district planning and development council has taken lead in this and the responsibility of carrying out the study for Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve has been entrusted to Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.

The study, once completed, will help us in giving due important to the tiger reserve in policy making, allocating appropriate budget to maintain the national park and also to implement management approaches that can provide multiple ecological services.

India has recently celebrated 50 years of project tiger at a national program at Mysore, Karnataka. On upcoming 29th of July, we are celebrating global tiger day at one of the most prominent tiger reserves of the country, The Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand.

At this historical and important juncture in the history of tiger conservation, and for better management, it is necessary to put ecosystem services as a focal area in Tiger management. A proper understanding of what ecosystem services are available from a tiger reserve and who has access to them can therefore assist in understanding how costs and benefits of conservation are distributed, and thus help to address conflicts related to tiger reserves. Comprehensive analysis of ecosystem services may result in establishing partnerships with relevant stakeholders including local communities, making effective policies and mechanisms for incentivizing conservation. Further, since tiger reserves generate such an immense quantum of values, adequate investment in natural capital contained in tiger reserves is essential to ensure the flow of ecosystem services in future. Where justified by broader benefit, economic valuation consequently can help in establishing effective policies and mechanisms for payment of ecosystem services to equitably share benefits and costs of conservation.

In a nutshell, for the purpose of economic policy and prioritizing conservation over all other economic uses of land, we need to put a price tag on nature!

**Dr. Jitendra Ramgaokar**

Field Director, TATR  
and Executive Director, TATR Conservation Foundation

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Suyash Tilak, Actor

## A Hard Core Fan of Tadoba

**M**arathi television and film Actor Suyash Tilak visited Tadoba last month. It was his second visit in the last two months. Tadoba Diaries spoke to him regarding his love for wildlife.

**Q: How was your experience at Tadoba?**

**A:** My experience at Tadoba was truly remarkable. I first visited Tadoba when I was very young, and returning after almost ten years, I noticed a significant change. The frequency of wildlife sightings has increased, making it an even more captivating experience. I had the privilege of visiting Tadoba twice in the past two months, once in April and again in June, and both times were simply amazing. This beautiful forest left a lasting impression on me, and if possible, I would love to visit every month.

**Q: What was the most memorable moment during your safaris?**

**A:** During my safaris, I made sure to enjoy the jungle and the wildlife to the fullest. The most memorable moment for me was observing the adorable tiger cubs being trained by their mother, and witnessing the new generation preparing for the challenges of the jungle. It was a heart-warming sight and truly captured the essence of the wildlife in Tadoba.

**Q: What aspects of Tadoba did you appreciate the most?**

**A:** One of the things I appreciated the most about Tadoba was the meticulous maintenance of the reserve. The guides and drivers consistently adhered to all the rules and regulations, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience. The staff and guides are highly trained and possess extensive knowledge not only about tigers but also about other species. Additionally, Tadoba is renowned for its abundance of

dominant male tigers, which is quite rare in other reserves.

**Q: How does your artistic side perceive the nature around you?**

**A:** Nature and art are inherently intertwined. As an artist, being in the presence of nature or exploring national parks inspires me and prepares me for new challenges in my artistic field. Observing wildlife teaches me the importance of remaining undisturbed and focused amidst the chaos around me, enabling me to strive for the best version of myself.

**Q: What would be your dream sighting?**

**A:** It would be observing an entire tiger family together, including the male, female, and their cubs. Additionally, seeing a black leopard would also be a cherished experience, as it is a rare and elusive creature.

**Q: Since you have studied environmental science, what message would you like to convey to tourists visiting Tadoba or any other reserves?**

**A:** I urge all the tourists to maintain discipline and respect both inside and outside the reserve. It is crucial not to obstruct roads or attempt to get too close to tigers or any other wild animals. Treat the wildlife with dignity and respect, while also showing reverence for the natural surroundings. Avoid littering and strive to maintain a quiet atmosphere, as loud noises and excessive excitement can disturb the animals' peaceful existence. Let them live their lives undisturbed, allowing us to appreciate their beauty from a distance.

- Team Tadoba Diaries



## Women Empowerment at Tadoba

Under its community development initiative, TATR frequently organizes training sessions and workshops for villagers residing in the vicinity of the forests. This initiative aims to foster skill development among both men and women, providing them with alternative livelihood opportunities. Consequently, it reduces their dependency on forests, leading to environmental conservation.

### Steering the Change

TATR's groundbreaking initiative is currently igniting change in remote villages, empowering women to excel in the field of eco-tourism. Through comprehensive training and the acquisition of permanent licenses, women are stepping into the role of gypsy drivers, unlocking a plethora of opportunities. This program not only opens doors to government opportunities and eco-tourism resorts but also creates a ripple effect of empowerment within their communities.



For the first time in Maharashtra, women will challenge the male-dominated field of safari gypsy driving through the exclusive training program named 'Bharari.' This project, initiated under the guidance of Nandkishore Kale, Deputy Director (Core), is part of Tadoba's mission for sustainable livelihood development. The United Nations has also adopted Sustainable Development Goals, including achieving gender equality and empowering girls and women.

Currently, all drivers ferrying tourists to the safari in the TATR core and buffer zone are men, with approximately 500 Gypsies



**Ms. Mayuri Kulsange** the first woman driver in Tadoba Buffer at Sirkada Gate

in operation. In response to the local girls' demand for equal opportunities in this field, TATR has decided to give them a chance to make their mark in this male-dominated sector.

Through the driving program, the participating trainees will receive initial training followed by the issuance of regular driving licenses. All expenses related to the training will be covered by the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Conservation Foundation.

### Weed to Wealth

In collaboration with Ajay Bahuddeshya Sanstha, TATR recently organized a training session for women in the buffer zone on utilizing water weed to create various products. A total of thirty women from Nimbala and Dudhala villages participated in this training. The trainers taught them how to extract water hyacinth weed from water bodies, clean it, and transform it into marketable products.



The women received training from February 17th to March 8th, 2023. Following the training, self-help groups were formed among the women, and they are now being compensated for their work. Collectively, these women are earning between 10,000 and 40,000 rupees per month.

By equipping women with the necessary skills and resources to thrive in the eco-tourism sector, TATR is driving sustainable development and preserving its rich natural heritage.

**- Kushagra Pathak**  
Deputy Director, TATR (Buffer)





## Harmonious Coexistence

In the heart of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, lies the enchanting Kolsa range and Kolsa village. Humans and wildlife coexist in this breathtaking natural beauty. As I set out on my journey to Kolsa, anticipation filled the air. With my trusted driver by my side, our mission was two-fold: collect animal droppings for diet analysis and immerse ourselves in the captivating wilderness. This research would provide valuable insights for the Tadoba administration, fostering a balanced ecosystem where predators and prey thrive, and reducing conflicts with farmlands and human settlements. Driving through the lush green landscape of Kolsa, we searched for fresh signs of tigers, dholes, or leopards.

After a few hours, I found myself on Shivanzari Chauk, a scenic road leading to another village of Rantalodhi, curled up deep within the core zone. It was a delightful winter morning, with yellow grass leaves and trees shedding their leaves. It was a hint of the arrival of summer soon. The sun gently warmed the surroundings, enhancing the serene ambiance. I was captivated by a majestic Semal tree, almost leafless, with green bulbs on its branches, a sign of vibrant pink flowers soon to bloom.

While collecting samples in the wilderness, we stumbled upon fresh droppings of a wild dog. A Black Rajah butterfly fluttered around it, and a round Pirot perched on the faeces, extracting minerals. As I gathered samples, my driver remained watchful, scanning nearby bushes for signs of animal activity.

Suddenly, a langur's screech startled me. The troupe was on high alert, sensing movement behind the bamboo canopy. We quickly settled in the vehicle and moved forward, following the alert calls. After a minute, a ghostly figure appeared in front of us, leaving us in awe. The leopard walked through bushes behind us while I collected samples and emerged ahead, boldly walking on the road. It remained on the prowl, seizing opportunistic chances to capture a peafowl, and ran behind a jungle fowl but both managed to escape. The leopard then attempted to climb a tree. This spectacle continued for over an hour, with the leopard leading us towards Rantalodhi

village, which was only a kilometre away. Suddenly, a bike appeared on the road, approximately 50 meters away from the leopard. My heart raced with excitement. The leopard and villagers spotted each other, giving each other space. The villagers stood still on the bike, while the leopard decided to leave the road and entered a thick bamboo thicket. I watched as this gentle giant walked diagonally, avoiding a close encounter with humans.

Kolsa and Rantalodhi villagers, nestled within the critical tiger habitat, were familiar with wildlife encounters during their daily commute. Unlike the modern world with constant notifications and phone signals, these villages embraced silence. Here, one could truly detoxify the soul and connect with nature. The tribal communities in the Tadoba landscape held a deep reverence for the tiger, believing that those who perished at its jaws merged with the essence of the tiger itself. In honour of this mystical bond, they erected the Waghoba shrine, symbolizing their profound respect for the natural world. Although now Kolsa village has relocated completely and Rantalodhi is going to relocate soon, their connections with the culture and aesthetic of the forest will still grow.

While the people residing in the vicinity of the forest had grown accustomed to sharing their home with wildlife, they trod cautiously, avoiding close encounters whenever possible.

And so, as we traversed the untamed terrain, diligently collecting fresh poop and observing the intricate dance of life, I couldn't help but admire the profound connection between humans and the wilderness. It was a testament to our shared existence, a delicate balance where nature and civilization intertwined. Within the boundaries of Tadoba, amidst the rustling bamboo and flowing streams, I realized that our journey was not just about scientific inquiry, but also a journey of the heart—a journey that celebrated the harmonious coexistence of mankind and the wild.

- Prajakta Hushangabdkar  
Wildlife Biologist, TATR



## Vaghachi Maushi

It was a captivating afternoon safari in the Nimdela buffer of TATR on May 25, 2023. Our initial sighting was a male tiger named T-126, affectionately known as Chota Matka, basking in slumberous grandeur. Not wanting to disturb his peaceful repose, we decided to venture forth and explore other areas. As we continued our journey, a sudden movement amidst the woods caught my attention. At first, I presumed it to be a sub-adult leopard, but as it gradually emerged into view, I immediately recognized the distinctive figure. It was none other than a Jungle Cat (*Felis Chaus*), known as 'Waghachi Mavshi' in Marathi, meaning "aunt of the tiger". Unfazed by our presence, this feline strolled with regal grace, resembling a prince of the wilderness. It gracefully crossed the road before us and disappeared into the depths of the forest on the other side. The sight of a Jungle Cat during daylight hours was a remarkable rarity, as these creatures are predominantly nocturnal. This extraordinary encounter serves as a testament to the abundant biodiversity that thrives within TATR, perpetually capable of surprising those fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time.

- Capt. Mandar Salaye (R)  
Wildlife Enthusiast, Mumbai



## Shambhu and Sonam

During our recent visit to TATR on May end, we were fortunate to see two glamorous big cats from a very close distance. On our afternoon safari, we were stunned and excited to see Shambhu, the big male walking in a royal style and mood. He stared back at us with calm eyes, then gradually turned his head and passed by our vehicle. We were amazed to see its colour, size and gesture from such proximity.

On the next morning, our safari guide told us about T-24 Sonam, the tigress and how we would be able to see her if we were lucky. She had recently given birth to cubs. While our vehicle entered into deep forest, we suddenly saw one vehicle returning to the main road. Immediately our guide asked our

driver to turn around and reach that road hoping to spot her. That was a great moment when we first saw Sonam at our right, walking gently. We started following her movement and our guide brilliantly guided our vehicle such a way that the entire time we were moving by her side, keeping a safe distance, till we reached a pond where the majestic tigress started drinking water. We saw her marking her territory till the end of the pond as she walked with the stride, gesture and sincerity of a new mother. To top it all we heard her roar with vigour which left us speechless, giving our safari a thrilling end.

- Samir Kumar Samanta  
Former Joint Director of Research  
B.C. Krishi Viswavidyalaya, West Bengal





## Omkara

In April 2022, our passionate Jungle Lover Group eagerly reserved a morning safari at Kolsa Core Zone, drawn by the news of the Hirdinala Female and her cubs inhabiting the area. We embarked on our adventure through Zari Gate, but alas, there were no sightings of majestic creatures nor any echoes of monkeys or Sambar Deer calls at that time. However, the sheer beauty of the jungle captivated our senses. As we traversed past the quaint Kolsa Village, our path led us deeper into the heart of the wilderness.

Suddenly, our friend Mangesh Lahange whispered, "Stop, stop! I caught sight of a tiger's head emerging from the water amidst the bushes." With bated breath, we beheld the presence of a new dominant male, gracefully positioned in a

small waterhole by the roadside. Only his regal head peeked above the water's surface. Our lone Gypsy vehicle stood witness to this captivating scene. Time passed, and he eventually rose to unveil his muscular physique, adorned with OM-like markings on his neck. Our guide informed us that he was a newcomer to the area, identified as C1, the offspring of Sharmili and Khali. We christened him Omkara. With a deliberate gait, he emerged from the waterhole and embarked on a steady march into the depths of the jungle. Before disappearing into the arid embrace of the wilderness, he cast one last gaze upon us, etching a memory that would linger within our hearts.

- Tushar Deshmukh  
Tourist, Chandrapur

## A Memorable Trip

We came from Mumbai with a lot of excitement to see wild animals and most importantly one of the VIPs of Tadoba- tiger. We did two safaris. Junona



buffer zone night safari was a very different experience. During Moharli core zone morning safari, there was an alarm call by barking deer from the area near the Telia lake. Guide uncle explained us about this call and took us to the lake. There we saw the tigress T-24 Sonam walking at the lake and then she came close to our gypsy. It was a great sighting. We also saw wild dogs, a dancing peacock, and an Indian gaur.

Then we went to our third safari which was at Devada-Adegaon buffer zone morning safari. We saw a huge tiger T-185 Taru sitting in a pond. After some time, he came out and went into the forest. Guide uncle took us to the spot, where he thought Taru would cross the road. We waited for some time and as we looked back, we saw Taru just behind our gypsy! That was a wonderful experience which I will never forget.

- Dhruv Vikrant Deshpande  
Age- 10 years, Standard - 5, Euro School, Thane





Kushu Poo

**THE SHOW-STOPPERS!** One of the most popular tigresses at TATR, T-24- affectionately known as Sonam, delighted tourists by introducing her three adorable cubs. The tourism season in the core zone culminated with delightful sightings of these tiny show-stoppers.





## Nursery of Cubs!

With exemplary conservation and protection practices, Tadoba has evolved into an extraordinary haven for tiger breeding. This remarkable reality became evident in June as wildlife enthusiasts were blessed with frequent sightings of tiger cubs scattered across various regions of TATR. A fortunate few managed to immortalize these breath-taking moments through the lens of their cameras, capturing the enchanting glimpses of tigresses and their respective cubs. Here are the mesmerizing images of the magnificent tigresses: 1) T-114 Roma 2) T-184 Veera and 3) T-158 Babli, tenderly nurturing their adorable offspring.

1



2



3



## An Unusual Chase

It was the end of the rainy season in 2022. I found myself on a morning safari accompanied by my guests. Within minutes of entering the gate, we arrived at Madnapur lake, where the forest department had carried out a plantation on the right side. A magnificent herd of spotted deer was peacefully grazing in the grass, emanating a breath-taking beauty in the morning sunlight. I promptly halted the Gypsy to allow my guests to savour this mesmerizing sight.

However, the tranquillity was abruptly disrupted when the herd suddenly became agitated, with its members frantically dashing about. To our astonishment, a male deer found himself being relentlessly pursued by a female wild boar. This unusual spectacle unfolded before our eyes, as the deer sprinted frenziedly, and the boar exerted all her strength in pursuit. The other deer attempted to divert the boar's attention, but she remained fixated on a single target. This thrilling chase persisted for several minutes until the deer leaped over a nallah and made his escape, while the boar, unable to jump, was left behind.

I had never witnessed a wild boar chasing a deer before, so I pondered the reasons behind this extraordinary event. Eager for answers, I instructed the driver to proceed further.



However, our progress was impeded by a piglet—a tender and very young offspring of the wild boar—lying injured on the road. The poor creature was bleeding from a wound on its back. While I pointed out the injured piglet to my guests, the mother of the piglet, the same female wild boar that had engaged in the chase, emerged on the road. In that moment, I comprehended the motivation behind the pursuit we had just witnessed. The male deer had harmed her baby, instigating her to pursue him in vengeance. Although she had failed to catch the deer, her maternal instincts led her back to her wounded offspring. Nevertheless, her anger remained evident, as she mock-charged our vehicle a couple of times.

Recognizing the mother's intense fury and her displeasure with our presence, I promptly urged my driver to move on. By doing so, we hoped to grant her some respite, enabling her to attend to the injured baby without further disturbance.

- Rakesh Sheraki  
Guide, Madnapur

The Tadoba management undertook an extensive initiative to plant ficus species to provide additional food for frugivorous birds, as Tadoba primarily consists of bamboo and teak forests. Numerous ficus trees were strategically planted around the forest chowkies to ensure proper care by the staff.

Ficus species, such as Banyan, Peepal, Umbar, and Pakhad, are large trees that serve as focal points of attraction when they bear fruit. Flocks of frugivorous birds and insects, including insectivorous birds, gather around these trees. Moreover, the rough bark of ficus trees creates a suitable habitat for various reptiles and other animals.

Among the ficus species, the Pakhad tree (*Ficus virens*) stands out as an exceptionally attractive tree, especially when it sprouts new leaves. Its foliage undergoes captivating transformations, ranging from cinnamon tones to bronze brown, fiery red, and pink, and finally turning green, which are a sight to behold in the forest.

Similar to most ficus trees, the Pakhad tree bears hidden flowers inside oval-shaped figs. The pollination process relies on a specific species of wasp. The female wasp, carrying pollen from a previous fig where she was born, enters a new fig

to lay eggs and pollinate the flowers within using the carried pollen. This fertilization ensures that the fig develops into a fruit. Meanwhile, the eggs hatch and the females collect pollen, eventually becoming new egg bearers after mating with the males. The males assist in burrowing a tunnel, allowing the females to move out and continue this remarkable symbiotic cycle within a new unripe fig. While the ripe figs are consumed by birds and mammals, who then excrete the seeds throughout the forest, a specific bird called the Hornbill has even earned the title of "farmer of the forest" due to its role in dispersing ficus seeds. The saplings that grow from these bird-eaten seeds begin their life on top of another tree, eventually sending down roots that strangle and kill the host tree.

Pakhad wood is soft and does not have significant commercial value. However, its bark is used to prepare a gargling decoction and as a wash for ulcers.

Next time you encounter a ficus tree, such as the Pakhad, bearing fruits, take a moment to sit down and observe the multitude of birds visiting this wild restaurant in the jungle.

- Anirudh Chaoji  
Senior Naturalist

### PAKHAD THE WILD RESTAURANT





## Unveiling the Unforeseen

It was the 1st of May 2021. If I had been in Mumbai that day, I would have been enjoying the Maharashtra Day and International Labour Day holiday in the comfort of my cozy home! However, fate had brought me to Tadoba, where our dedicated team of frontline forest department staff worked tirelessly, 365 days a year. On this particular day, I was about to embark on a foot patrol with the elite Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF).

Recognizing the crucial role of tiger conservation in preserving biodiversity, the Finance Minister of India announced policy initiatives on the 29th of February, 2008, leading to the establishment of the STPF. This specialized force was formed in the tiger reserves across India and underwent rigorous training to combat poaching and enforce intelligence-based operations in the challenging terrain of the forest.

My mission for the day was to accompany one of the STPF units and gain insights into their important work. Arriving at Khatoda gate around 10 am, I was scheduled to meet the then RFO Manisha Jadhav, who led one of the three STPF units at TATR. While waiting for her, a team from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), led by Krishnan, arrived at the gate. Knowing each other well, the team graciously invited me to join them as they ventured towards a nearby waterhole, a mere 100 feet away. Delighted, I immediately accepted the invitation.

Yadu, a young researcher, took out a set of instruments from his bag and began measuring various parameters such as pH, salt levels, and temperature of the water. His research topic was 'visitation pattern of mammals at waterholes'. I keenly observed and offered my assistance. The serene ambiance of the place made it evident that it held immense significance for the resident tigers. Once the WII team completed their tasks, I bid them farewell and returned to the gate.

In less than ten minutes, RFO Manisha Jadhav arrived. We found shade under a tree, and I began introducing myself.

Before I could finish, her team rushed in, reporting that tigress T-19, fondly known as Lara, had made a kill earlier and was heading towards the waterhole. RFO Manisha swiftly retrieved her camera from the vehicle, and together we hurried back to the gate. Taking a position near the compound, we eagerly awaited Lara's arrival. Within moments, the magnificent tigress emerged from the bushes, barely 100 feet away, without paying us any attention.

I stood awestruck, mesmerized by the sheer beauty of Lara. She belonged to the renowned "Four Sisters of Teliya," born a decade ago to T-10, affectionately called Madhuri. The four female cubs, unofficially named Sonam, Lara, Geeta, and Mona, graced the world through Madhuri's love. The most dominant sister, T-24 Sonam, later claimed the Teliya Dam territory from Madhuri. Lara, along with her two sisters, was forced into the buffer zone. Over time, history repeated itself, and Lara's daughter, famously known as Collarwali, seized her territory. However, during her third litter, Lara reclaimed her place in the core zone, displacing the Devdoh female in the Khutwanda-Palasa road area. And now, here she was, right before my eyes!

Gracefully, Lara walked cautiously, crossing the tar road and making her way to the same waterhole I had visited with the WII team just ten minutes earlier. As Lara disappeared into the bushes, a small cub came running out of the bushes, followed by three more, each as adorable as the next. These four playful cubs

were only four to five months old, the youngest and cutest I had ever encountered. It was truly a dream come true for me!

Little did I know that it was not all. The real excitement was yet to be unfolded!

- Anant Sonawane  
Communications Officer, TATR

### 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](mailto:tadobadiaries2021@gmail.com). Your photograph/experience must be related to TATR only. The best content will be published with due credit.







## Run for Life

As our Gypsy meandered through the lush wilderness, our guide's voice filled the air with intriguing stories about the resident tigers. The anticipation in the vehicle grew with each passing moment, and soon we reached a serene water body, the perfect spot for wildlife to quench their thirst.

Suddenly, a magnificent male tiger emerged from the dense foliage amidst the tranquil ambiance. He was K2, a renowned reserve resident known for his regal demeanor. His coat glistened under the fading sunlight, radiating a sense of power and grace.

As K2 took his stroll near the water, a group of unsuspecting wild boars ventured toward the same area. Oblivious to the presence of the stealthy predator, they continued their casual exploration, completely unaware of the danger lurking nearby.

With lightning speed and precision, K2's primal instincts kicked in. Without a moment's hesitation, he unleashed a sudden charge toward the unsuspecting wild boars. The atmosphere crackled with tension as the drama unfolded before our eyes.

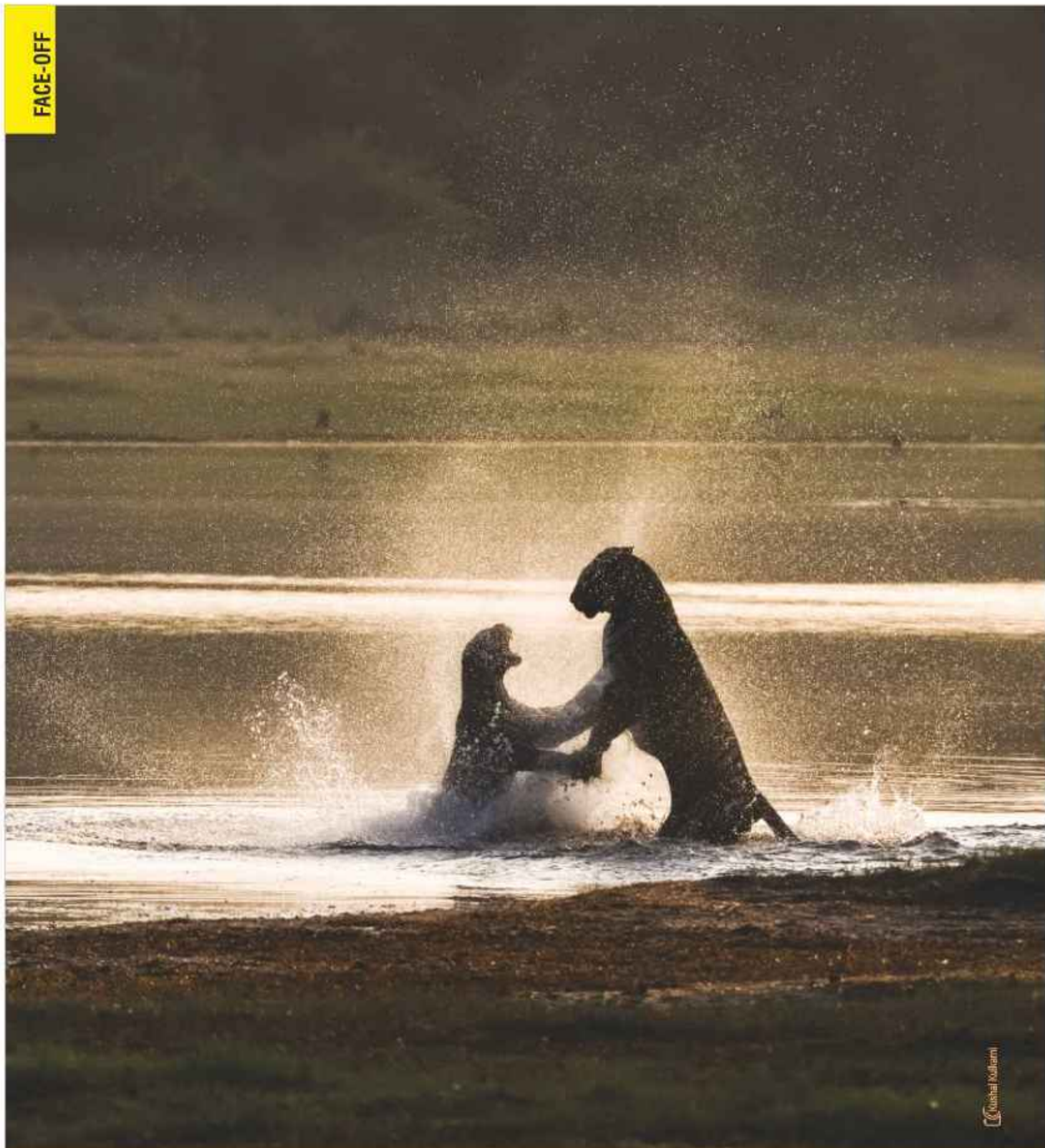
In a heartbeat, chaos ensued. The wild boars, startled by K2's sudden ambush, scurried in all directions, their tiny hooves kicking up clouds of dust. Their survival instincts kicked in, allowing them to narrowly escape the jaws of the mighty predator.

Although K2's attempt to secure a meal failed, his display of agility and power left the spectators spellbound. We stood in awe, our hearts pounding with a mix of excitement and admiration for the intricate balance of nature. It served as a powerful reminder of the untamed beauty and unpredictability of the natural world, where every encounter carries a profound sense of wonder.

As we returned to the resort, our minds buzzed with reflections on the raw magnificence we had witnessed. It was an experience that would forever hold a special place in our hearts, reminding us of the fragile yet awe-inspiring dance between predator and prey in the depths of the wild.

- Dr. Akash Akinwar  
MDS - Periodontics & Implantology,  
GDC Mumbai





Kushal Kulkarni

**FIGHT IN THE WATER!**

Territorial conflicts among tigers are a common occurrence in the wild, although they are not easily witnessed. However, the chance to observe two tigers engaged in a water fight is an even rarer opportunity. Recently, a fortunate group of tourists had the privilege of witnessing such a captivating spectacle in Agarzari. It involved a dominant male tiger named T-185, affectionately known as Taru, engaging in a fierce confrontation with an unidentified female tiger in the water. The intense aggression displayed by the tigers, the splashes of water, and the play of light created a truly breathtaking image.



**PLAY WITH ME!**

Occasionally, camera traps seize amusing moments within the confines of the forest. In one such instance, a lighthearted scene unfolded as a playful sloth bear was caught on camera toying with a camera device it had snatched from the side of the road. This mischievous encounter was captured by the camera trap, positioned on the opposite side.

## The Achievers May 2023

**P**lease join us in celebrating the achievements of the best-performing forest guards at TATR. These frontline soldiers of the forest department have done the maximum foot patrolling in their respective divisions.

We are happy to announce the top two achievers in May 2023



Forest Guard - S. M. Mattami  
Beat - Palasgaon (Additional)  
Round - Moharli  
Range - Moharli (Core)  
Division - Core TATR  
Duration - 18 Days  
Target - 125 km/Month  
Actual Patrolling - 290.36 Km



Forest Guard - V. Y. Katkar  
Beat - Dewada  
Round - Agarzari  
Range - Moharli (Buffer)  
Division - Buffer TATR  
Duration - 23 Days  
Target - 125 km/Month  
Actual Patrolling - 329.06 Km

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## Nylon Rope and Tiger Cubs

**W**e stood at the water's edge, eagerly awaiting a family of tigers peacefully sleeping in the shade of trees, perspiring under the scorching sun. Suddenly, a young cub emerged from the shadows and approached a nearby large tree, where a nylon rope was tied. Intriguingly, the cub circled the tree and began tugging on the rope with great force. It was an amusing sight, witnessing a tiger playfully engaging with a nylon rope! Shortly thereafter, another cub joined in, taking hold of the rope from the first cub's paw and mimicking the playful behavior.

Curiosity overwhelmed me, wondering why someone would have tied a rope to a tree in such a remote part of the forest, and how the cub became so engrossed in playing with it. In the jungle, everything happens for a reason, and there are countless mysteries to unravel. Seeking answers, I inquired about the rope from our guide. He explained that the tigress, injured last month, used to come and sit near the waterhole. The workers working here might have tied the rope here for some work. The cubs used to play with the rope since they were very young. The memory of those playful days remained imprinted in the cubs' minds, which explained their fascination and involvement with the rope. Tigers truly possess remarkable recollection abilities.

Capturing memorable photographs and listening to yet another amusing anecdote from the forest, I found great joy in my safari experiences. The jungle offered an abundance of encounters, and as Mehmet once said, it silently observed me, unveiling captivating tales at every turn, allowing me to become an integral part of its narrative as a keen observer. Undoubtedly, spending time in the forest bestowed upon me an extraordinary gift. I expressed my gratitude to God for granting me such precious moments and enabling me to immerse myself in the wonders of the jungle. As I embarked on my journey back to the concrete jungle, I made a promise to return soon and continue paying my respects to the creator—the mastermind behind this mesmerizing entity we call the jungle, not just as a storyteller but as the ultimate architect.

- Sanjay Deshpande

Wildlife Enthusiast, Sanjeevani Developers, Pune



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MY HOME**

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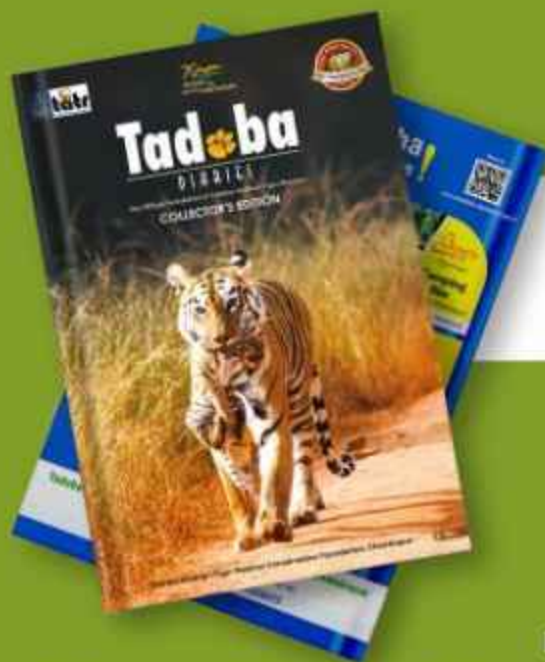
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