



BIODIV News

Editorial



Spotted Munias
(*Lonchura punctulata*)

Photo Credit :
Neeraj Mishra

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Esteemed Readers,

This quarter saw the celebration of the Wildlife Week that is celebrated every year in the state of Uttar Pradesh between October 1 and 7th. The main objective of the celebration of this week is to promote among people the idea of conservation of wildlife in all its forms. The UPSBB celebrated this week with students , an elaborate report of which is covered in this issue.

As we celebrate the Wildlife week, the latest edition of the **Living Planet Reports** says that the Living Planet Index (LPI), which measures more than 10,000 representative populations of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, has declined by 52 per cent since 1970. In a way, in less than two human generations, population sizes of vertebrate species have dropped by half. These are the living forms that constitute the fabric of the ecosystems which sustain life on Earth – and the barometer of what we are doing to our own planet, our only home.

Hopefully, celebrations like these, will work to ensure that the upcoming generation can seize the opportunity that we have so far failed to grasp, to close this destructive chapter in our history, and build a future where people can live and prosper in harmony with nature.

We are all connected – and collectively, we have the potential to create the solutions that will safeguard the future of this, our one and only planet. Our Plan A. There is no Plan B.

Regards,

– Editor

“The hope of the future lies not in curbing the influence of human occupancy – it is already too late for that – but in creating a better understanding of the extent of that influence and a new ethic for its governance.”

– Aldo Leopold

1- Wildlife Week (1st -7th October 2014)

The U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow celebrated **Wildlife Week from 01 – 07 October, 2014** in collaboration with Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow, Regional Science City, Lucknow and South Asian Network of the International Zoo Educators Association, Coimbatore Tamil Nadu.

The programme aimed at creating awareness among the youth to have a passionate heart for the biodiversity around them. During the celebration, several competitions for students were organized to raise consciousness in favour of wildlife preservation. The details of the events are furnished below:

The Chief Guest Dr. S. B. Nimse, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Lucknow, Lucknow inaugurated the "Wildlife Week". Mrs. Sulabha Nimse, University of Lucknow was the Special Guest. The Programme started with the lightening of lamp by Chief Guest Dr. S. B. Nimse Vice-Chancellor University of Lucknow, Special Guest Mrs. Sulabha Nimse, University of Lucknow, Prof. Madhu Tripathi Head Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow and Shri Umesh Kumar Project Co-ordinator Regional Science City, Aliganj.



Prof. Madhu Tripathi



Dr. Amita Kanaujia

Dr. Amita Kanaujia delivered a lecture on **"Bird watching and their identification"**. Various Schools participated in the Nukkad Natak on **Man and Animal Conflict**. The photo exhibition on **learn from birds, National and State Symbols, Biodiversity of Birds and Awareness Programmes** was organized.

On **2nd October**, Debate and Poem Recitation Competitions were held on the topic **"Animal Labor: Ethical or unethical"** and **"Parrot or Bulbul"** respectively. In these competitions, more than 200 students enthusiastically took part from more than 20 schools and colleges of Lucknow. A lecture on Arthropod Biodiversity was delivered by Dr. Ashish Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow. He briefed the participants about the biodiversity of Arthropods with special emphasis on Butterflies.



Dr. Ashish Kumar

On **3rd day**, Poster competitions on **Coral Ecosystems, Collage on Animal in Indian Mythology, Greeting card making on Arboreal Biodiversity, Mimicry on Indicating voice of Animals and Face Painting on Face of Animals competitions** were held. More than 200 students took part from 25 different schools and colleges of the Lucknow.

On the 4th day, students expressed their outlook through power point presentation on the assigned topic **"Ex-situ versus In-situ Conservation"**.

On the **5th day**, all the winners of the competitions held till 4th October was taken to Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Unnao. The students learnt about bird watching as well as the dos and don'ts during field visits. They were shown the nesting of Asian- Open Bill in the sanctuary. Other birds seen were cormorants, pond herons and egrets.



Dr. R.S. Bhadauria

On 6th day, Rangoli and Quiz competitions were organized. The theme for Rangoli was “**Riverine Biodiversity**”. Students made attention-grabbing and beautiful rangolis showing various riverine animals such as fishes, turtles, snails, frogs, crocodile, and ducks. The students as well as the teachers enjoyed the game of snakes and ladders designed on wildlife with its dos and don'ts related to wildlife conservation. The students participated actively in the open quiz on wildlife. For the correct answer, they were felicitated with a pocket notebook. A lecture on “**Legal Aspects in Wildlife Conservation**” was also delivered by Dr. R.S. Bhadauria PCCF, Wildlife (Retd.). More than 300 students from 30 schools attended the events.

On 7th October 2014, at the Valedictory function of the Wildlife Week, Chief Guest Mrs. Pratibha Singh Conservator of Forests, U. P. State Biodiversity Board addressed the students regarding importance of wildlife and its conservation. Mrs. Pratibha Singh. During the Wildlife Week celebration, about 400 students from more than 35 schools actively participated in various events during the programme. Prizes along with the certificates were distributed to the winners by Mrs. Pratibha Singh, Conservator of Forests, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow.



Mrs. Pratibha Singh

POSTERS MADE BY WINNERS AT THE WILDLIFE WEEK

Group A (Class 4th – 8th)



First Prize, Jahanvi Shukla, Class 4th B,
La Martiniere Girls College



Second Prize Sakshi Yadav, Class 3rd A,
R.L.B. Senior Secondary School



Second Prize, Shreya Maurya, Class 8th,
Immaculate Convention Convent School



Third Prize, Prapti Pandey Class 8th,
Immaculate Convention Convent School

Group B (Class 9th – 12th)



First Prize, Bhavna Yadav, Class 12th B,
Seth M.R.Jaipuria School



Second Prize, Harshi Lal, Class 9th E,
Seth M.R.Jaipuria School



Third Prize, Vansh Shukla, Class 9th,
Mont Fort Inter College



Consolation Prize, Shubhi Tiwari, Class 12th ,
Mahila Vidhyalaya Inter College

Group C (College Students)



First Prize, Pooja Singh, M. Sc. II,
B.S.N.V P.G. College



Second Prize, Shipra Sharma, B. Sc. III,
Lucknow University



Third Prize, Anil Kumar Gautam, B. Sc. III,
Lucknow University



Consolation Prize, Ashish Kumar Sharma,
B. VA. II, Lucknow University

COLLAGE MADE BY WINNERS

Group A (Class-4th-8th)



First Prize, Jahanvi Shukla,
Class 4th B,
La Martiniere Girls College



Second Prize, Sakshi Yadav,
Class 3rd A,
R.L.B. Senior Secondary School

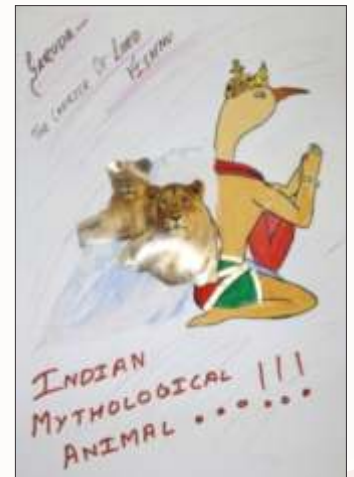
Group B (9th -12 th)



First Prize, Ashmita, Class 10th D,
Seth M.R.Jaipuria School



Second Prize, Anamika, Class 12th E,
Seth M.R.Jaipuria School



Third Prize, Rupanshi Mishra,
Class 9th B, Loreto Convent

Group C (College Students)



First Prize, Anjali Chaudhary, M.Sc II, I.T.P.G.College



Second Prize, Nivedita Tripathi, B.Sc. II, B.V.B Girls Degree College



Third Prize, Vartika Singh, B. S. III, Neetaji S.C.Bose P.G.College



Consolation Prize, Nidhi Srivastava, B.Sc. III, Career Convent Degree College

GREETING CARDS MADE BY WINNERS



First Prize, Shreya Maurya, Class 8th, Immaculate Convention Convent School



Second Prize, Alisha, Class 5th, Newton Public School



Third prize, Sakshi Yadav, Class 3rd, A, R.L.B. Senior Secondary School



Consolation Prize, Jahanvi Shukla, Class 4th B,
La Martiniere Girls College



Consolation Prize, Sidharth Rao,
Class 4th, A.V.M Convent

Group B (Class 9th-12th)



First Prize, Bhavna Yadav,
Class 12th B,
Seth M.R.Jaipuria School



Second Prize Raj Laxmi,
Class 10th A,
K.V.Aliganj



Third Prize, Harshita Rajnish,
Class 12th D,
Seth M.R.Jaipuria School



Consolation Prize, Shashank Tiwari,
Class 9th , Lucknow Public School

Group C (College Students)



First Prize, Nidhi Srivastava,
B.Sc. III, Career Convent Girls Degree College



Second Prize, Pallavi Gupta,
B. Sc. I, N.S.C.Bose Rajkiya Mahila P.G.College



Third Prize, Suraj Kumar, B. Sc. III,
Lucknow University



Consolation Prize, Shikha Pandey, B. Sc. III,
Lucknow University



Consolation Prize, Swati Singh Yadav,
B. Sc. II, B.V.B Girls Degree College

SLOGAN MADE BY WINNERS

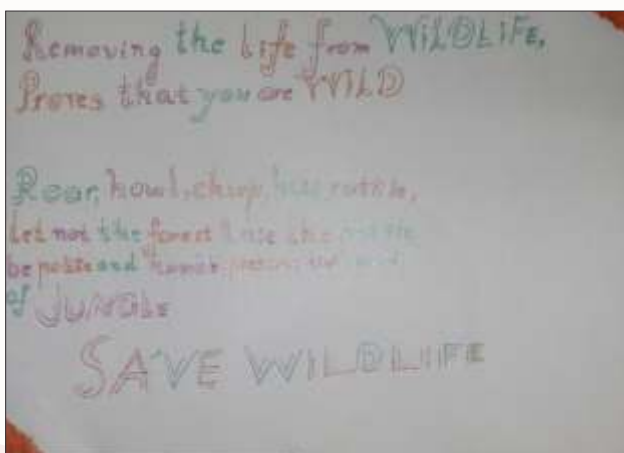
Group A: (Class 4th – 8th)



First Prize, Aoishi, Class 5th B, Loreto Convent



Second Prize, Sanya Pathak, Class 5th C, Loreto Convent



Third Prize, Jahnvi Shukla, Class 4th B, La Martiniere Girls College

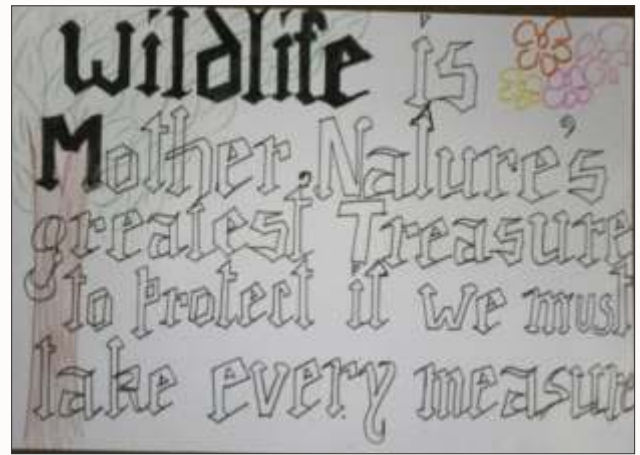


Consolation Prize, Khushi Tripathi, Class 1st A, Loreto Convent

Group B (Class 9th-12th)



First Prize, Aarushi Sinha, Class 9th, Immaculate Conception Convent School



Second Prize, Saumya, Class 9th, Delhi Public School



Third prize, Stuti Tiwari, Class 8th A, S.K.D Academy

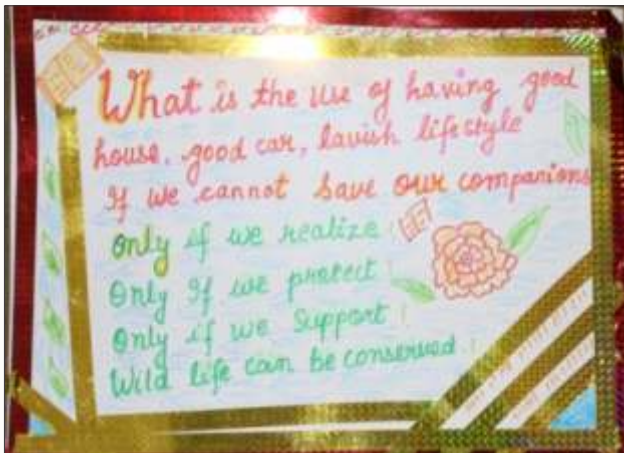
Group C (College Students)



First Prize, Sonali Mishra, B.Sc. I, National P.G.College



Second Prize, Nidhi Srivastava, B.Sc.III, Career Convent Girls Degree College



Third Prize, Priyanka Pandey, M.Sc., Lucknow University



Consolation Prize, Shipra Sharma, B. Sc. III, Lucknow University

GLIMPSES OF VARIOUS EVENTS ORGANIZED DURING “WILDLIFE WEEK-2014



Wildlife Play/ Nukkad Natak presented by participants of the various schools and colleges



Participants performing in Debate competition at Regional Science City, Lucknow

Workshops



Participants taking part in the Poem recitation competition at Regional science City



Participants are taking part in Poster competition on Coral Ecosystem



Participants of the slogan Writing competition



Participants of the Collage competition



Participants taking part in Power Point Presentation



Winners participants going to Unnao via Bus for nature trail



Winners Participants in the field for nature trail trip at Nawabganj Bird sanctuary, Unnao



Rangoli made by participants on Riverine Biodiversity



Invocation of light by Mrs. Pratibha Singh, Conservator of Forests, U P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow at valedictory session



Display of awareness on Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation



Participants collecting awareness material from the stalls



A view of participants



Winner of the Face Painting competition



Prize distribution by Mrs. Pratibha Singh, Conservator of Forests, U P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow



Prize distribution by Mr. Vijay Kumar, DCF, U.P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow



Prize distribution by Dr Ram Jee Srivastava, Senior Scientist, U P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow



Memento Presentation to Mrs Pratibha Singh, Conservator of Forests, U P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow



Children enjoying with snake-ladder game



Biodiversity Bus demonstration by Experts about the Biodiversity of Uttar Pradesh





Winners with Prizes and Certificates

2- Trainings/Workshops

1- Training on “Biodiversity: Law and Policy” at Forestry Training Institute, Kanpur (11-11-2014 to 12-11-2014)

A training programme on “Biodiversity: Law and Policy” was conducted by U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow at Forestry Training Institute, Kanpur from 11-11-2014 to 12-11-2014.

The participants in the training programme were in-service Deputy Rangers and Foresters from the different forest divisions of UP Forest Department.

A total of **26 forest officials** attended this programme, in which **08 Deputy Rangers** and **18 foresters** participated enthusiastically.



Glimpses of the training programme



Sri Vijay Kumar, DCF, UPSBB delivering lectures to the trainees



A view of the trainees

2- Training on “Biodiversity: Law and Policy” at Forestry Training Institute, Kanpur (04-12-2014 - 05-12-2014)

A training programme on “Biodiversity: Law and Policy” was conducted by U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow at Forestry Training Institute, Kanpur during 04-12-2014 - 05-12-2014. The aim of this training was to make aware about biodiversity conservation, laws related biodiversity and its policy.



This training was imparted to 17 forest officials, in which they were in-service foresters from different forest divisions of U P Forest Department. The trainees participated actively in the training programme.

3- Training on "Biodiversity and Its Conservation" at Lucknow University, Lucknow (07-12-2014)

A one day training programme on "Biodiversity and Its Conservation" was organized by U P State Biodiversity Board at Zoology Department, Lucknow University.



The objective of the training programme was to bring awareness to conserve nature, especially endangered species and threatened habitats, About 75 teachers from Lucknow University, Amity University, Intergral University, Mahila Inter college, B.S.N.V. Inter College, Rajat Degree College, Navyug Kanya Mahavidhalaya, Mumtaj P.G. College, APM Degree College, New Way School, Shia P. G. College, Islamic Degree College, Dayanand B.P.G. College, BBS Hall, Karamat H.M.G. P.G. College, Lucknow Public School, BNSD Shiksha Niketan, Kanpur, Virendra Swaroop , Kendriya Vidyalaya, Mahila Vidyalaya Degree College, Army Public School, Onkareshwar SVN Inter College, Awadh Academy, Ayodhya Prasad Memorial School, City Montessori School, etc. attended the training programme.

Glimpses of the training programme



Lecture by Dr R S Bhadouria on Legal Aspects of Wildlife and Biodiversity



Lecture by Dr. V Elangovan on Bat Diversity



Lecture by Dr. Ram Jee Srivastava on Biodiversity and its importance



Participants clearing their queries with experts

3- Visits

1. Sri Vijay Kumar, DCF, U. P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow visited village Laxmipur, Maharajganj on 30-12-2014. He interacted with the Gram Pradhan and the BMC members. He discussed about 130 floral and 82 faunal species described in the PBR and he also explained the importance of the PBR to the members.



At the end of the interaction, Sri Vijay Kumar, DCF, UPSBB handed over the PBR to Smt Kanti Devi, Gram Pradhan, Laxmipur in presence of the other BMC members and local people.

2. Dr. Ram Jee Srivastava, Senior Scientist, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow delivered a lecture on “Biodiversity and its importance” to the teachers/participants during one day training programme on “Biodiversity and Its Conservation” organized at

Lucknow University, Lucknow on 07-12-2014

3. Dr. Somesh Gupta, GIS/Technical Associate, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow imparted training on “Biodiversity” to the Foresters at Forestry Training Institute, Kanpur on 27-11-2014.
4. Dr. Somesh Gupta, GIS/Technical Associate, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow delivered a lecture on “Medicinal Plants” to the Foresters at Forestry Training Institute, Kanpur on 13-11-2014.



Greater Flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and White Pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*).

Photo credit : Neeraj Mishra

7. Newspaper Clippings

(i) International News

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2014

WE HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS FOR THE GOOD OF OUR PEOPLE, THE STABILITY OF THE REGION AND THE WORLD.

ASHRAF GHANI AHMADZAI, Afghanistan president

Global wildlife populations down by half since 1970: WWF

Reuters

www.reuters.com

GENEVA The world populations of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles fell overall by 52% between 1970 and 2010, far faster than previously thought, the World Wildlife Fund said on Tuesday.

The conservation group's Living Planet Report, published every two years, said human-kind's demands were now 50% more than nature can bear with trees being felled, ground-water pumped and carbon dioxide emitted faster than Earth can recover.

"This damage is not inevitable but a consequence of the way we choose to live," Ken Norris, Director of Science at the Zoological Society of London, said.

However, there was still hope if politicians and businesses took the right action to protect nature, the report said.

"It is essential that we seize the opportunity — while we still can — to develop sustainably and create a future where people can live and prosper in harmony with nature," said WWF International Director General Marco Lambertini.

The report's finding on the populations of vertebrate wildlife found that the biggest declines were in tropical regions, especially Latin America. The WWF's so-called "Living Planet Index" is based on trends in 10,380 populations of 3,038 mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and fish species.

The main reasons for declining populations were the loss of

natural habitats, exploitation through hunting or fishing, and climate change. To gauge the variations between different countries' environmental impact, the report measured how big an "ecological footprint" each one had and how much productive land and water area, or "biocapacity", each country accounted for. Kuwait had the biggest ecological footprint, meaning they consume and waste more resources per head than any other nation, the report said, followed by Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Many poorer countries — including India, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo — had an ecological footprint that was well within the planet's ability to absorb their demands.

LIVING PLANET INDEX

It measures trends in vertebrate species populations

There is no room for complacency. We are using nature's gifts as if we had more than just one Earth at our disposal.

Marco Lambertini, WWF Director General

Report's findings: Between 1970-2010

52% overall decline in vertebrate species
76% decline in freshwater species
39% decline in marine species
39% decline in terrestrial species

28% the overall decline reported between 1970-2008 by the same report two years ago

Primary threats to LPI populations (in %)

37 Exploitation

31.4 Habitat degradation

13.4

Habitat loss

7.1

Climate change

5.1

Invasive species

4

Pollution

2

Diseases

Global footprint network

13.7% China

7.1% India

3.7% Russia

13.7% US

3.7% Brazil

52.8% Rest of the world

LAST ROAR

Habitat loss and hunting have reduced tigers from 100,000 a century ago to just 3,000



01 Oct. 2014, Hindustan Times : The "Living Planet Report" of WWF and says that the World Populations of fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles has fallen by 52% between 1970 & 2010.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2014

NEW SPECIES

Indian, Sri Lankan Golden back frogs distinct, reveals research

HT Correspondent

www.hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI A new research has broken the 150 year-old myth that Golden back frogs in India and Sri Lanka are the same. The decade-long research in 28,000 square km of Western Ghats in the two neighbouring countries has also found seven new sub-species of the frogs.

The paper by the Indo-Sri Lankan research team led by SD Biju of Delhi University and published in international journal Contributions to Zoology on Wednesday was based on DNA sampling of the Golden back frog species and morphological tools in the two countries.

Golden-backed frogs



Indian Golden back frog

(Hylarana) are one of the most widely distributed group of frogs and their distribution extends across Africa, Asia and Australia.

Their common name is derived from the golden colour of their skin but that is also a reason for confusion as lack of distinct colour of different species leading to potential misidentification.

The research was the first taxonomic effort to differentiate between a variety of Golden backed frogs found in the Western Ghats region of the two countries.

"After more than a century of misidentification, the frogs have finally received taxonomic justice," said Biju, popularly known as frog man of India for his discovery of 70 new species of amphibians, said.

The findings have its implications for conservation of the amphibians as till now their distribution range was believed to be large. The research team also discovered seven new species of the Golden backed frogs — six from parts of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra and one new species found in Sri Lanka.

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2014 THE HINDU • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2014

7 new frog species reported from Western Ghats and Sri Lanka

T. Nandakumar

TRIVENDRAMPURAM A team of researchers from India and Sri Lanka has discovered seven new species of Golden-backed frogs in the Western Ghats-Sri Lanka global biodiversity hot spot, throwing new light on the highly distinct and diverse fauna in the two countries.

The results of the decade-long survey published in the latest issue of Contributions to Zoology, an international journal brought out by the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre in the Netherlands, show that the frogs in Sri Lanka and those in India belong to distinctly different species. It was earlier believed that some of the Golden-backed frogs (Genus Hylarana) found in the two countries were of the same species.

The team, led by Delhi University's Prof. S.D. Biju, used DNA techniques and morphological evidence as tools to identify species and understand the frogs' distribution.

The survey yielded 18 distinct Golden-backed frogs, with seven new species, including one Hylarana discovered from Sri Lanka. Of the six new species from the Western Ghats, four (Gf doni, Hylarana magna and Hylarana urbis) are found in Kerala and one each in Karnataka (Gf malkol) and Maharashtra (Gf caesari).

"The distribution pattern of the species highlights the need to reassess the conservation status of the amphibians and work out separate conservation strategies," Prof. Biju said.

The study also indicates that frogs in the region are under threat due to habitat destruction. Interestingly, one of the newly-named species, Hylarana urbis, had remained unnoticed through its habitat in a urban area in and around Kochi and is under threat due to human activity.

Clearly, Golden-backed frogs are one of the most widely distributed group of frogs. Their distribution extends across Africa, Asia and Australia.



Six of the seven species of the Golden-backed frog that were discovered by a team of scientists from India and Sri Lanka. (Clockwise from top left) Hylarana sreeni; the large Golden-backed frog (Hylarana magna); Don's Golden-backed frog (Hylarana doni); urban Golden-backed frog (Hylarana urbis); the Serendip Bronzed Frog (Hylarana serendipi); and the Indian Golden-backed frog (Hylarana indica). — PHOTOS: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

between the India subcontinent and the island of Sri Lanka that existed 50,000 years ago led to the assumption that two Golden-backed frog species (Hylarana indica and H. temporalis) were common to both the countries.

At present, there are nearly 200 known amphibian species in the Western Ghats, of which 100 were discovered only in the last 15 years.

30 Oct. 2014, Hindustan Times & Times of India : Golden-backed frogs (Hylarana) found in India and Sri Lanka are 2 different species as confirmed by genetic studies done by a team headed by Dr. S.D. Biju. The team also discovered seven new species of frogs-6 from the Western ghats and one from Sri Lanka — 1. Hylarana sreeni; 2. Hylarana magna- The large Golden-backed frog; 3. Hylarana doni- Don's Golden-backed frog; 4. Hylarana urbis — Urban Golden-backed frog; 5. Hylarana serendipi — The Serendip Bronzed frog; 6. Hylarana indica — Indian Golden-backed frog; 7. Hylarana caesari.

Newspaper Clippings

ALLAHABAD

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014

Figuring out spillover of a bat-borne virus

N. GOPAL RAJ

Using a bat-borne virus that sporadically infects horses in Australia as an example, a team of scientists has examined conditions under which viruses that bats carry could spill over into other species.

Bats are host to a number of viruses that are lethal to humans, Ebola being one of them. Understanding what makes it possible for such viruses to make the leap out of bats is therefore of interest.

In a review paper published recently in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, scientists from Australia and the U.S. looked at factors involved in spillovers from bats, focusing on the Hendra virus.

The discovery

This virus was discovered in 1994 when 20 horses in a racing stable at Hendra, a suburb of the city of Brisbane in Australia, became infected. A trainer at the stable and his assistant also caught the virus, with the former dying of the infection.

The virus circulates in fruit bat populations in the country, and spillovers of the virus into horses have occurred sporadically. Since 2006, such spillovers have been detected with increasing frequency and over an expanding geographical range, according to the paper.

Raina K. Plowright of the Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics at Pennsylvania State University in the U.S. and colleagues examined why the spillovers occurred only in some places, and not oth-



DEADLY CARRIERS: Bats host a number of viruses that are lethal to humans, Ebola being one of them.

— PHOTO: L. BALACHANDAR

ers, where bat and horse populations overlapped. Moreover, just a small proportion of horses in an area where an outbreak occurred were affected.

In the paper, they listed a hierarchy of at least five “enabling conditions” that made it possible for the Hendra virus to cross from bat to horse.

Not only must bats be present and carrying the virus, but they must also be shedding those viruses.

New evidence

New evidence suggested that virus excretion from bats occurred in pulses that could drive spillover, they noted. Shortage of food and pregnancy might be among the factors that lead to such pulses of virus shedding.

Bats excrete urine and faeces around trees where they feed or roost, and their saliva can be present in fruit they partially consume. Horses could pick up the Hendra vi-

rus when grazing near trees with bats. In addition, the susceptibility of individual horses also determined their probability of infection.

Removal of any of the enabling conditions should prevent spillover, the scientists observed.

Conservation and restoration of critical feeding habitats for bats should reduce the risk of nutritional stress and their moving to urban and semi-urban areas in search of food. Vaccination would reduce the susceptibility of horses to the virus.

But culling or dispersing fruit bat populations — for which there has been public and political pressure in Australia — would not help.

“We found no evidence that the prevalence of Hendra virus in bat populations was associated with population density and therefore that decreases in host density would reduce virus prevalence,” they pointed out.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014

Seychelles poachers go after erotic shaped nuts

Agence France-Press
• letters@hindustantimes.com



VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES: Under cover of darkness in the steamy jungles of the Seychelles thieves creep out to harvest the sizeable and valuable nuts of the famous coco de mer palm, but their activities are threatening its long-term survival.

Nicknamed “coco bottom” on the Indian Ocean archipelago for its curves like a person’s bottom, some 40 of the giant nuts have been stolen since the beginning of the year on the island of Praslin.

The trees survive, but slashing with knives means the rare palms produce fewer fruit each year, while the seeds themselves are taken off for sale rather than producing new plants.

It is a worrying problem for the Seychelles, which features the coco de mer on its coat of arms. Conservationists fear the illegal trade threatens the future of nut, the biggest in the world and endemic to just two of the country’s islands. “Shock and horror,” the headline of a Seychelles

■ **Young Coco de Mer Palms** at the Vallee de Mai natural reserve on Praslin island. AFP

news agency story read after a raid last month in which 10 nuts were stolen.

With some 17,000 trees counted on Praslin and 10,000 on neighbouring Curieuse island, the tree is now on the warning “red list” of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN. It says numbers have dropped by almost a third within three generations of trees.

The nut is a fertility symbol for some and in Asia, particularly in China, it has a reputation as an alleged aphrodisiac.

Thousands of tourists who visit the white sand beaches of the Seychelles also eye them as ornaments.

20 Nov. 2014, *The Hindu* : Bats are host to a number of viruses that are lethal to humans, Ebola being one of them. Scientists from Australia and U.S. have looked at factors involving spillover of the Hendra virus from bats to horses and have identified “five enabling conditions” for these.

24 Nov. 2014, *Hindustan Times* : A worrying problem for the island of Seychelles the coco de mer palm giant nuts are being stolen. This means fewer fruits, which means fewer seeds. The tree is on the IUCN red list with just about 27,000 trees now.

Newspaper Clippings

(ii) National News

THE HINDU • MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014

No more camel sacrifice in Rajasthan town

The royal family of Tonk decides to put an end to the 150-year-old tradition

Aarti Dhan

JHUM: The royal family of Tonk has decided to do away with the 150-year-old tradition of camel sacrifice on Eid-ul-Zuha (to be celebrated on Monday).

The decision was taken after Rajasthan declared the camel as the state animal which makes its killing illegal. Animal lovers had also been demanding an end to the practice for many years, and have been assisting Chief Minister Vasudeva Patel's intervention. Naveh Harun Ali, member of the royal family, said the decision was taken to maintain communal harmony and to respect the law of the land. The tradition of sacrificing camels was started in 1864 by the then ruler of Tonk Nawab Ibrahim Ali Khan IV. The camel race was then discontinued among the poor.

Until 1993, the family sacrificed 160 camels every Eid-ul-Zuha — one at Mugh and another inside Nawab Mahal.



Now that the camel is Rajasthan's State animal, it has acquired protection and status. — FILE PHOTO: AP

From 1993, the family used to sacrifice only one camel.

Cow slaughter is banned under the Rajasthan Bovine Animal Protection and Regulation Migration or Export Act, 1995, and the State proposes to

bring another law on the same lines to ban camel slaughter.

As per the 19th round of Livestock Census data, there are only 3.21 lakh camels left in Rajasthan as compared to 4.9 lakh in 2007 Census. There were 6.68 lakh camels in 1997

which came down to 4.98 lakh in 2003, amounting to a 25 per cent decrease in five years. By 2006, the number decreased further by 13.5 per cent to 4.30 lakh.

The latest census puts the figure at 4 lakh.

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014

Nagaland awaits Amur falcons from Mongolia

Sushanta Talukdar

KOHIMA: Even as the first flock of Amur falcons from Mongolia has reached Pangli village in Wokha district of Nagaland to mark the advent of another migratory season, the scientific community is eagerly awaiting the arrival of 'Naga' and 'Pangli' — two Amur falcons which were satellite-tagged in Nagaland last year before the Amur falcons started their journey to South Polaroid Chief Commissioner of Forests and head of Forest Force Nagaland, M. Lakshwara Rao told. The family that 'Naga' and 'Pangli' had been tracked in inner Mongolian-Wendensky and the two satellite-tagged birds were expected to arrive in Nagaland sometime in October or early November.



The Amur falcon

to South Africa via Nagaland. However, why the Amur falcons skip Nagaland on their return journey from South Africa to Mongolia will still remain a mystery.

Satellite-tagged

On November 4, 2013 three Amur falcons — Naga, Pangli and Wokha, named after Nagaland, Patkai Bilaspur and Wokha district re-

spectively — were satellite-tagged and released in Nagaland's Doyang forest. They reached South Africa on January 9 after flying over Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Bangladesh, Bay of Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and the Arabian Sea. They started their return journey from South Africa in April third week. However, 'Wokha' continued to be tracked in Somalia, which probably meant that either the bird died or the satellite-tracking device got detached from its body, said Mr. Rao.

Longest bird migration

Every year, from October to November, a large number of Amur falcons arrive in the northeast, especially in Nagaland for roosting from Mongolia en route to their final destination — South Africa. The falcons travel up to 22,000 km a year — known to be one of the longest

distance migration of birds.

Nagaland Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Trust (NWBCT) Managing Trustee Bano Harun said that the Trust has started conducting nature camps under its Friends of the Amur falcon programme for building awareness on conservation of biodiversity among the children and villagers in the areas which the Amur falcons visit for the third consecutive year.

She said that conservation of Amur falcons in Nagaland gained ground from 2012 and in 2013 an killing of the migratory bird was reported.

"Nagaland is very rich in biodiversity and when people start understanding the importance of its role in conservation of the ecosystems then conservation efforts such as conservations of Amur falcons start producing positive results," she added.

06 Oct. 2014, The Hindu : Camel is state animal of Rajasthan. The royal family of Tonk has done away with the 150 year old tradition of camel sacrifice on Eid-ul-Zuha.

09 Oct. 2014, The Hindu : Every year from October to November, a large number of Amur falcons arrive in the north east, especially Nagaland for roosting from Mongolia en route to their final destination — South Africa- about 22,000 kms. are travelled in a year-one of the longest distance migration of birds.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014

Vultures at greater risk as quacks bypass drug ban

Anupam Srivastava

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LUCKNOW: Despite the state government having imposed a ban on the veterinary medicine diclofenac sodium last month, veterinary quacks continue to use the drug in the rural areas, increasing the threat to the lives of vultures.

The drug causes the death of vultures. Around 90% of these natural scavengers die after feeding on the carcasses of animals that are administered the anti-inflammatory drug to increase the working life of cattle, say experts.

On their part, the companies have changed the modus operandi to sell their drug. They have introduced vials of 30 ml, ostensibly for human use which cannot be banned by the government. In reality, the 30 ml vials are being used by veterinary doctors for treating animals in pain.

Ornithologist and conservationist

Suresh Chaudhary, who has been working on vultures for the last 20 years, says the alternative pain killer — meloxicam — is a bit expensive and its effect is milder than diclofenac that's why it is not preferred by vet-

erinarrians.

Chaudhary says it is the duty of the district administration and the department of animal husbandry to check the misuse of the drug. Chaudhary also says the vultures are falling prey to the diclofenac alarmingly.

All the eight critically endangered species of vultures in Uttar Pradesh continue to decline due to the use of diclofenac to treat livestock.

Officials of the animal husbandry department say that they will soon start a drive to check the misuse of the drug with the help of the district administration and the drug controller.

"We are jointly going to set up a conservation centre for vultures, because its population has fallen drastically in the state. The stakeholders like Katarniaghat Foundation, Bombay Natural History Society, along with the state government, are working out the nitty gritty of conservation," said a highly placed official of the animal husbandry department.

The state also has plans to set up some vulture safe zones.



THE HINDU • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014

Over one-fifth of frogs under threat

Shiv Sahay Singh

KOLKATA: More than 20 per cent of frogs and toads — 78 of the 340 species — found in India are under threat, according to recent findings of the Zoological Survey of India.

In a publication titled 'Threatened Amphibians of India', which catalogue these species, the ZSI pointed out that of the species under threat, 17 are 'critically endangered', 22 are 'endangered', 22 are 'vulnerable', and the remaining seven are 'near threatened species'.



A Resplendent Bush Frog and a Khansi Hill Rock Toad. — PHOTOS: SUSHANTA PATRONDESHI

According to ZSI scientist Kaushik Deuti, frogs and toads are very sensitive to habitat and climate change and are referred as 'bio in-

dicators." "Their presence or absence denotes whether a habitat is in good condition or is undergoing change and is under threat," he said. One of

the main reasons behind the diminishing numbers of the amphibians, ZSI director K. Venkataraman said, was climate change, widespread deforestation and destruction of the frog's natural habitat. Frogs are also captured to be sold off in the global market.

According to the ZSI, out of the 17 critically endangered species — whose total population is less than 250 — one particular species of frog, known as Resplendent Bush Frog (*Rhacophorus resplendens*), can only be found in a 25 km area atop the Anamudi

Peak in Kerala's Idukki district.

Similarly, extensive deforestation has put the Khansi Hill Rock Toad (*Rhacophorus meghalayensis*) on the endangered list.

In the Indian Gangetic Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, there is a colourful species of frog called the False Malabar Gliding Frog (*Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus*), which is found under 500 sq km, and is witnessing a continuing decline in the extent and the quality of its habitat and number of individuals.

19 Oct. 2014, The Hindu : The ZSI in its recent publication "Threatened Amphibians of India" has said that 20% of frogs and toads is 78 out of 340 species found in India are under threat of these 17 are Critically endangered, 32 are endangered and 22 are vulnerable.

18 Oct. 2014, Hindustan Times : Despite the ban on use of Diclofenac, quacks continue its use in rural areas-endangering the lives of vultures.

Newspaper Clippings

ALLAHABAD
THE HINDU • SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2014

Winged beauties under threat

Shiv Sahay Singh

KOLKATA: Writer Nathaniel Hawthorne once wrote: "Happiness is like a butterfly, which when pursued is always just beyond your grasp."

Since time immemorial, butterflies have been the subject of poetry and literature. They serve a far more practical purpose in nature. Referred to as "flagship species," butterflies are not only pollinators of flowering plants, but are also useful in monitoring environmental changes.

A recent study by the scientists of the Zoological Survey of India, (ZSI) has revealed that of the 1,677 species and subspecies found in India, more than one-fourth (close to 425) are either threatened or endangered.

Of the 425 species of butterflies, 123 species and sub-



Common Birdwing, the largest butterfly found in the country.

species of butterflies are included under Schedule-I (Part-IV) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, while 302 subspecies and species are under Scheduled II (Part II) of the Act.

Manual being readied

Measures are being taken to publish a manual for identification of the threatened 123 species and subspecies, ZSI Director K. Venkataraman told *The Hindu*.

"We will train managers and forest officials who can help in the protection of

these butterflies. The handbook will serve as a practical training module for those interested in the subject," Mr. Venkataraman said.

Bulgagan Mitra, a butterfly expert at the ZSI, said their migration behaviour, seasonal variation, mating behaviour, colouration, prey-predator relationship, butterfly-flower association, are some of the most interesting subjects on which the biologists are conducting research.

"The largest known Indian butterfly is Common Birdwing (*Triodes Helena*), with a maximum expanse of 190 mm. It can measure 32 cm from wingtip to wingtip and is bigger than a small bird," Mr. Mitra said.

Among the threatened species are also butterflies like the Andaman King Crow (*Euploea roepstorffii*), which are found only in the Andaman Islands.

02 Nov. 2014, The Hindu : A recent study by ZSI revealed that of the 1677 species of butterflies found in India, more than one fourth (close to 425) are either threatened or endangered.

ALLAHABAD
THE HINDU • SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2014

Wayanad completes biodiversity documentation

T. Nandakumar

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Local self-government institutions in Wayanad district are now armed with an effective weapon against biopiracy. As many as 25 grama panchayats and one municipality in the district have completed the documentation of biodiversity.

The People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) has been prepared for all the local bodies in Wayanad, making it the first district in Kerala to have completed the process. The PBRs have been submitted to the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), the custodian of the document.

First district to have People's Biodiversity Register for all local bodies

Prepared through a participatory effort coordinated by the panchayat-level Biodiversity Management Committee, the PBR is a statutory document detailing floral and faunal diversity and its distribution in each local body. "The process involves a lengthy and exhaustive data collection exercise by an army of field workers, followed by compilation of the information," K.P. Laladhas, Member

• Biodiversity registers have been submitted to KSBB

• Will help plan for biodiversity conservation, development

Secretary, KSBB, said.

The PBR is designed to be an effective tool in planning for biodiversity conservation and development activities at the local level.

"Regularly updated, it can help to keep a close tab on environmental degradation and species extinction," Gommen V. Gommen,

Chairman, KSBB, said.

Running into hundreds of pages, each register lists the agro biodiversity, wild biodiversity, aquatic biodiversity, and urban biodiversity in a local body, including trees, shrubs, climbers, crops, fruits, fodder plants, weeds, pests, domesticated animals, tubers, medicinal and ornamental plants, timber trees, culture fisheries, landscape, waterscape, soil type, wild relatives of crops, mammals, reptiles, and domesticated animals. Rare species are described along with pictures.

Traditional uses of biodiversity are also recorded in the PBR. Pointing to the failed move to patent the use

of turmeric and neem in the U.S. and Europe, Prof. Laladhas said, "Documenting prior knowledge of the use of biological resources is important to check biopiracy and exploitation."

Prof. Gommen said efforts were on to digitise the PBRs and update them periodically.

The software for digitisation has been prepared by the Department of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, University of Kerala.

As many as 716 grama panchayats and nine municipalities in the State have submitted PBRs while the remaining 100 local bodies are collecting data.

02 Nov. 2014, The Hindu : 25 Gram Panchayats and one municipality of Wayanad district have completed making of PBR's (Peoples Biodiversity Register).

Newspaper Clippings

ALLAHABAD

THE HINDU • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Scientists track flight of the Amur Falcon

For the first time, the bird's entire migratory route has been plotted

Sushanta Talukdar

GUWAHATI: The entire migration route of Amur Falcons — from Nagaland to South Africa on to Mongolia and back to Nagaland — has been scientifically plotted, with scientists confirming that a satellite-tagged Amur Falcon 'Naga' has arrived almost a year after it began its journey.

Amur Falcons travel up to 22,000 km a year — known to be one of the longest distances undertaken by migratory birds. The bird Naga was released in Doyang in Wokha district in Nagaland on November 7, 2013, and returned on October 29, 2014.

"This is a historic day for all scientific communities. The tracking gives clear scientific data on the entire migration route of the Amur Falcons," Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of Forest Force, Nagaland, M. Lokeswara Rao told *The Hindu*.

In October and November every year, a large number of



Amur Falcons roost in Morigaon district in Assam on Thursday. — PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

Amur Falcons arrive in the northeast, especially in Nagaland, from Mongolia en route to South Africa. However, why these migratory birds skip Nagaland on their return flight to Mongolia remains a mystery.

Two other Amur Falcons had set off with Naga. Pangti and Wokha, named after Pangti village and Wokha district respectively, were satellite-tagged and released in Naga-

land's Doyang forest. They reached South Africa on January 9 after flying over Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Bangladesh, the Bay of Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and the Arabian Sea. They started their return journey from South Africa in the third week of April. Mr. Rao said that scientists have also confirmed the presence of Pangti close to Nagaland and it

should soon reach Doyang.

However, Wokha continues to be tracked in Somalia, which could either mean that the bird died or its satellite-tracking device got detached from its body.

Conservationist Nick Williams heads the coordinating unit studying migratory birds of prey through a project of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the United Nations Environment Programme.

In an email to the Nagaland Forest Department, Mr. Williams said: "The routes they have chosen have illuminated in detail for the first time the incredible journey that they make annually, including such spectacular feats as crossings over the Arabian Sea. It is wonderful to see both Naga and Pangti heading back 'home' towards the Falcon Capital of the World. They certainly appear to be aiming to be close-by for the anniversary of the day on which we tagged them."

04 Nov. 2014, *The Hindu* : The entire migratory route of *Amur falcons*- Nagaland to South Africa on to Mongolia and back to Nagaland have been Scientifically plotted.

Newspaper Clippings

ALLAHABAD
THE HINDU • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2014

Rs. 800-crore plan to save flamingo habitat

Alok Deshpande

MUMBAI: Aerial concerns by environmentalists and bird lovers, the Maharashtra government will spend around Rs 800 crore to minimise the damage caused to Sewri mudflats in Central Mumbai, better known for housing flamingos during their annual migration in Mumbai.

The Sewri port is site of the many old and dilapidated structures in central Mumbai. A chemical fertilizer factory, two oil refineries and a thermal power plant stand opposite to it. In winter, flamingos fly to the Sewri-Mumbai mudflats, filled with chemicals and sewage, in search of food.

The long-pending Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) project, which involved in building a 22-km bridge from Sewri to Nhava in Navi Mumbai, is posing a threat to the

birds' habitat. The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has been demanding shifting of its starting point in Sewri to 500 metres south to minimise the destruction of mudflats. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), the nodal agency of the state government, which is implementing the project, has expressed its inability to shift the starting point.

However, it has decided to sponsor an environmental consultant with an estimated budget of Rs 400 crore to minimise ecological losses. This budget is around nine per cent of the total estimated project cost.

"The project has been modified by taking in to account the environmental concerns of various activists and organisations," said Shikhar Sahasra, Chief Engineer, MMRDA.



Flamingos forage in the Sewri mudflats in Mumbai. PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

26 Nov. 2014, The Hindu : The Maharashtra government is spending Rs. 800 crore to minimize the damage caused to Sewri mud flats in Central Mumbai, famous for housing flamingos.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014

Endangered snow leopard caught on camera in reserve

Prithviraj Singh

prithviraj.singh@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand forest officials have found another snow leopard in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (NDBR), declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. This endangered big cat is the fifth snow leopard caught on camera in the state in the past five years.

NDBR officials did not disclose details of the animal for safety reasons, but sources said that the snow leopard was caught on camera at the Nanda Devi Forest Division area of the NDBR three days ago. So far division officials have only three pictures and they need to do further verification. Local division forest officials were not willing to disclose the location where the animal was seen.

Rajiv Dhiman, divisional forest officer, Nanda Devi Forest Division admitted that a new snow leopard was caught on camera in his division but he did not give details. He said officials are examining the pictures for finding out further details. "I cannot disclose much but it's true that a snow



A snow leopard photographed in Chamoli district earlier. HT FILE PHOTO

leopard was caught on camera. Only three pictures have been retrieved so far. These pictures are being examined for other details and will also be sent to Wildlife Institute of India," said Dhiman when contacted by Hindustan Times.

Between 2010 and 2014, five snow leopards have been sighted in the NDBR area. According to department records, one snow leopard has

been seen every year. This was later confirmed by the WB and it was inferred that all the big cats captured on camera were different from one another. A snow leopard is a highly endangered big cat. It is found in Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. This big cat has not been seen in any of these places barring Uttarakhand during the last two decades.

10 Dec. 2014, Hindustan Times : Snow leopard caught on Camera trap in NDBR- Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve from 2010 to 2014, 5 snow leopards have been sighted in NDBR area.

ALLAHABAD
THE HINDU • SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2014

Development 'threatens fragile S

'The forest has lost half its cover in the last five decades. Now we've laid groundwork to put the last nail in its coffin'

DHAKA: Bangladesh's rapid development on the doorstep of the ecologically fragile Sunderbans mangrove forest means "environmental disasters" like this month's oil spill in the massive delta are increasingly likely, experts warn.

A cargo ship last week crashed into an oil tanker in thick fog in a river of the Sunderbans, whose intricate network of waterways is home to rare dolphins, endangered Bengal tigers and other animals.

Authorities failed to organise a proper clean up until four days after the sunken tanker spewed tens of thousands of litres of oil into a dolphin sanctuary — ordering villagers and fishermen armed only with sponges and pans to scoop up the thick tar.

The Bangladeshi government opened up the delta in 2011 to large commercial vessels — a decision environmental experts described as a "bomb waiting to explode".

"The forest has lost half its cover in the last five decades. Now we've laid the groundwork to put the last nail in its coffin," Bangladesh's top independent wildlife expert, Mohsinuzzaman Chowdhury, said of the projects.

Mr. Chowdhury said he feared not only increased pollution from the projects but larger numbers of workers who would place greater stress on the delicate forest. "Presently, around one million people are directly or indirectly dependent on the forest. But in the next decade, this number could grow to more than five million. The

\$1.7 billion power plant is being built 14 km from the northern entrance of the delta to provide much-needed power to the impoverished but rapidly developing country. National forestry chief Yunus Ali said his department initially "raised concern" over the plant being built on the banks of the Pashur river that flows into the forest. "But the authorities have since adopted an environment management plan to mitigate any possible negative impact," he said.

A senior Sunderbans forest official cast "doubt" on the assessment, saying he was concerned waste from the tunnels of burnt coal would be dumped in the river when the plant finally becomes operational in 2018. "Our main concern is waste and hot wa-



A bird covered in oil lies on the banks of the Sunderbans delta. PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

ter management. Definitely, will also the plant would pump sludge which will in the Sunderbans' rivers. It est," the o

S. Prasad Basu was the Project Director of the 'glide bomb'.

Bird flu scare: over 100 birds culled in Sukhna lake

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar

CHANDIGARH: Following a bird flu scare, 100 geese and a few other birds were culled in the Sukhna lake here on Friday. The geese were the star attraction of the lake abutting a high-security zone housing several key government offices and residences.

The H5N1 virus was detected in one of the nearly 200 water birds found dead in the lake earlier. The lake has been closed to the public for 10 days.

The Chandigarh administration has put the government hospital in Sector 16 on alert and opened a special ward to treat suspected cases.

Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said bird flu had not been detected in humans in the State.

Prithviraj Singh had visited the lake after the issue was reported in local media. No certificate of conversion or re-conversion had taken place in their view, a senior official at the-

Conversion to solely for marriage valid: High C

ALLAHABAD: In a significant Allahabad High Court religious conversion of a faith and belief in Islam purpose of marriage to not be held valid.

Justice Surya Prakash the order while dismissing petitions filed by five couples from different districts of Uttar Pradesh sought "protection as in

In each case, the boys the girls were Hindus who Islam for solemnising "n

In his order earlier, Kesarwani quoted a Section of 2000 wherein it was held

"conversion of religion without any real change and only for the purpose of marriage is not valid." PTI

20 Dec. 2014, The Hindu : The crash of a cargo ship into an oil tanker in the Sunderbans (home to rare dolphins, royal Bengal Tigers and other animals) has spewed thousands of litres of oil into the area — A UNESCO World Heritage Site Some perils of allowing boats to sail through protected areas

Newspaper Clippings

(iii) State News

SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
OCTOBER 5, 2014

₹3L tag separates this sheep from goats

Yusra Husain | TNN

Lucknow: It's so lazy, a dumba—the fat-tailed sheep of Turkish origin—sold by a Barabanki seller in Lucknow to a buyer from Mumbai just refused to budge and board the train. Yet, it has beaten the traditional sacrificial goat in fetching a princely sum as Eid-ul-Zuha approaches. A two-and-half-year-old dumba in the Bakra Mandi in Old City is priced at Rs 3 lakh while another 20-month-old is raring to go for Rs 1.3 lakh. There's also news from the Benibagh goat market in Varanasi that a dumba is up for sale at Rs 4 lakh.

As per Islamic history, the



FOR SALE: Turkish origin sheep dumba on sale in Old City market

four-legged creature in the supreme sacrifice made by prophet Ibrahim was a dumba and suddenly there is an interest among the devout to offer the

original thing, hence this rush for the 200-plus kg sheep.

Daud and Mohammad Idrees, residents of a village in Barabanki have set up a special

shed for their breed of the Turkish sheep. Those weighing 230kg are priced as high as Rs 3 lakh in the city, while younger ones wait for their turn to be sold at Rs 1.3 lakh.

Some goats meanwhile have names of the Prophet or Allah etched naturally on the stomach or other parts and this adds to their value. Such variety even at a price of Rs 1.5 lakh finds many takers.

Varanasi goat seller, Amir Qureshi said, "I had bought a pair of goats for Rs 80,000 last year, but this year I am demanding Rs 2 lakh for the same pair and buyers are eager to pay."

► **Flocking to mandi, P 2**

5 Oct. 2014, Times of India : A two and half year old dumba (Turkish sheep) in Barabanki district of U.P. sold for 3 lakhs on Eid.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014

SUCCESS TALE

Banana crop has been the real wealth of farmers in Daulatpur village

By Anshu Prasad

LUCKNOW: For over 1,800 residents of Daulatpur village of Daulatpur district, banana cultivation has become a source of pride. The village is known for its banana crop, which has become a major source of income for the farmers.

Primary known for tomato and mentha farming, the village witnessed mammoth yield of banana crop in a leading crop of the area. The banana produced this year was of good quality, they were also better in size and sweetness, claimed farmers who have expanded their produce in Delhi, Patna, Haridwar, Chandigarh and other parts of Madhya Pradesh.

Each farmer claimed to have made a profit of "thousands" this year. "I was a marginal farmer who could not even think of banana farming. But after seeing the success of my neighbours, I decided to try it. This year, I had a bumper crop. The quality was also good. I was able to sell it at a higher price than last year. I am now planning to expand my banana cultivation further."

SWEET RESULT AFTER HARD WORK



A farmer shows his crop yield.

system, studies and other applications are an integral part of the operation in the banana. Children go to school, some are even pursuing higher studies. "I am very happy and satisfied with the banana crop this year. I used to grow other crops like sugarcane, but this year I decided to focus on banana. The yield was amazing. I was able to sell it at a higher price than last year. I am now planning to expand my banana cultivation further."

"Banana farming is done on nearly 500 acres of land here. In the 20-40 million of Daulatpur village, banana farming takes the lead," he added.

"Celebrating the year of good yield this year, Verma and his fellow farmers have an advice for all the other farmers across the state. "Those who have land must try banana farming on a portion of it. There is a big scope of demand for the crop in UP and the farmers who need to invest in it. The crop is still important in UP. The state has a major demand for banana and to benefit the many state farmers must join in. This will give them profits and also check imports from other states," they added.

Banana crop is seen in July 20 in rain after 13 months, wind-blown.

1,150 plants accumulated in about 2 acres of land.

225 fruits weighing nearly 30 kg were in each plant.

Rs 12-14 the amount fetched by each yield.

350-400 quantity of crop can be grown on an acre of land.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
MONDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2014

WONDER HERB

Arthritis, obesity combatant herb 'Guggul' depleting slowly

By Anshu Prasad

LUCKNOW: Known for treating rheumatic and arthritic pains, obesity and other weight-related problems, the guggul herb (*Commiphora mukul*), found in the Aravallis and the north-western districts of Uttar Pradesh, is slowly depleting. Speaking at the National Conference on Ayurveda, dean of Dravyaguna at Sree Ayurvedic College, Bareilly Prof. RK Tiwari told HT.

"For over a decade now ayurveda doctors are finding it difficult to arrange for the herb and its gum, as the plant is dwindling in the forests of Jodhpur, Rajasthan as well as Kutch region in Gujarat."



medicines for its medicinal properties. It is analgesic and hypolipidemic. Its use, therefore, reduces weight and effectively does away with joint and pain."

Addressing the conference, ayurvedic doctors highlighted that the government needs to find out alternatives to promote its farming. "Kuljini (Alpinia galanga), Parashika, Vacha (Smilax china), Pishab (Butea monosperma), Shizhapa (Dalbergia sissoo), commonly known as shisham, could be used as an alternative for guggul," prof Tiwari said, adding that the union government has initiated some efforts to save the guggul.

08 Dec. 2014, Hindustan Times : *Commiphora mukul* (guggul herb) found in Aravallis and Western Uttar Pradesh is fast depleting. It is an analgesic and hypolipidemic in reduces weight and effectively does away gout and joint pain also.

27 Oct. 2014, Hindustan Times : Daulatpur village in Barabanki district primarily known for tomato and mentha farming, this year had a mammoth yield of Banana.

Newspaper Clippings

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014

**JESAL ACTORS BEING HUNTER, TELL DATE WE HAVE LOANED
CASES AGAINST 70% OF THE EMPLOYEES.**

By RITESH, Lucknow

Tiger elusive, foresters wring hands

IN A TIZZY Forest officials' chase from BKT to Mal prove futile as they fail to trace the tigers, most of the into prove false.

HT Correspondent
* Lucknow

From the BKT to Mal, forest officials have been hunting for tigers for weeks. But the tigers are elusive. The forest officials are frustrated. They are hunting for tigers in the forest. The forest officials are frustrated. They are hunting for tigers in the forest. The forest officials are frustrated. They are hunting for tigers in the forest.

OUT SINCE OCT 05

HYENA STRIKES TERROR IN GONDIA

NO SUCCESS YET



A photograph showing forest officials in a field, possibly searching for tigers. The officials are wearing uniforms and are looking towards the forest. The background shows a dense forest with trees and a clear sky.

27 Oct. 2014, Hindustan Times : Tiger out of its Habitat!

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2014

HELPING HAND

Dudhwa to 'market' spices, products by Tharu tribe

HT Correspondent
* Lucknow

THE MOVE WOULD HELP THE TRIBE IN MAKING A SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Lucknow: Tharu members of the tribe located in the core tiger habitat of Dudhwa National Park are a happy lot. Reason! The spices prepared by them would now be used in USA and European countries. Special spices prepared from natural herbs, which these tribals grow in the land given to them by administration for cultivation of natural herbs and crops, have been displayed in special stalls at the entrance for visitors.

The move would help the tribe to make sustainable living, as most used to eke out their livelihood by working as tourist guides, however, differences between the forest department and Tharu community on several issues including smuggling country-made liquor by the latter led to a fallout. Meanwhile, on seeing the plight of the tribe members, the forest department finally decided to help them make a sustainable living.



A photograph showing a stall at the Dudhwa entrance where spices and incense sticks are being sold. The stall is set up on a wooden platform and has various items on display. A person is visible behind the stall, and there are some people in the background.

31 Oct. 2014, Hindustan Times : Spices and incense sticks made by Tharu tribals are now being sold at a stall at Dudhwa entrance for visitors.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014

Bird-watching at Dudhwa from Dec 10

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Lucknow: Trips to Dudhwa are set to get more exciting for bird-watchers with the reserve planning to offer not only tiger-specific tourism but also a tour through spots flocked by rare birds from December 10.

The decision to combine tiger-tourism with bird-watching has been timed with the winter arrival of migratory birds like darter, grey and purple heron, large egret, racket-tailed drongo, eurasian ringneck dove. The latest census exercise also shows that some rare birds are natives of terai grasslands.

Private bird-watching experts have been roped in to give guides and tour drivers lessons in ornithology so that they can understand the call of birds and familiarize themselves with their traits and habitats before they take tourists on bird-trailing from December 10.

"Three-day workshops will be held in the coming week to train newly-recruited guides," said deputy director, Dudhwa tiger reserve, VK Singh.

Dudhwa, which comprises 26% grasslands, is home to endangered bengal florican and vulnerable bird species swamp partridge, also called swamp francolin. The two species were recorded in camera during the census exercise in July-August.

The advent of winters has added to the winged population in the reserve. At least 500 birds have been sighted in the reserve at present. "Birds come every winter, but this season, we decided to not keep tourism in Dudhwa confined to tigers," said director, Dudhwa tiger reserve, Sanjay Singh.



A photograph showing several birds flying in the sky. The birds are in various stages of flight, with some showing their wings and tails. The background is a clear blue sky.

01 Dec. 2014, The Times of India : Dudhwa which comprises 20% grasslands is home to over 500 bird species. Bird trailing will be started for tourists from Dec. 10 this year.



Mulberry (Shehtoot) fruits. Photo credit Simmi Mehrotra

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