

# U P STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD, LUCKNOW

## BIODIV NEWS



**Vol.: 11, Issue: 44, July – Sept 2020, A Quarterly e-Newsletter**

### Editorial

#### Esteemed Readers,

This quarter saw the celebration of the International Day for Vulture Awareness. Vultures are an ecologically vital group of birds that face a range of threats in many areas that they occur. Populations of many species are under pressure and some species are facing extinction.

The International Vulture Awareness Day is celebrated each year on the first Saturday of September. The aim is to carry out the conservational activities by the different institution participating in it from different countries. It is now recognized that a coordinated international day will publicize the conservation of vultures to a wider audience and highlight the important work being carried out by the world's vulture conservationists.

Due to pandemic COVID-19 situation, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board in collaboration with ENVIS-RP, Institute for Wildlife Sciences, ONGC, Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Lucknow and Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology celebrated International Vulture Awareness Day on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020 by organizing online International E-symposium on Vulture Conservation.

**-Editor**

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Celebration of International Day for Vulture Awareness (IVAD) 2020

## International Day for Vulture Awareness (IVAD) 05-06 Sept. 2020

Vultures are most important scavenger and play an important role in clearing animal carcasses and municipal dumps. Vultures are large birds' carrion eaters. By consuming the carcasses of diseased animals, vultures prevent the spread of life-threatening diseases such as rabies and anthrax among animals and humans.



There are 22 kinds of vultures which includes 15 types of Old World vultures and 7 types of New World vultures. Due to a lot of variations in geographical and environmental gradient 9 species are reported to be present in India (Ali and Ripley, 1987): King vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), Cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Himalayan Griffon vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*), Long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*), Slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*), White-backed vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) (Ali *et al.*, 1995).

Vultures are known to colonize wooded as well as open habitats with agriculture and tree cover (Robinson 1994; Donazar *et al.* 2002a,b). On the basis of forest and vegetation cover, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been divided into three major eco-zones: The Tarai (moist deciduous forests), the Gangetic plains (agriculture landscape) and the Bundelkhand (dry deciduous forests) including Vindhyan regions (Islam & Rahmani 2004). **There are 8 species of vultures in Uttar Pradesh.**

The International Vulture Awareness Day is celebrated each year on the first Saturday of September. The aim is to carry out the conservational activities by the different institution participating in it from different countries.

Due to pandemic COVID-19 situation, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board in collaboration with ENVIS-RP, Institute for Wildlife Sciences, ONGC, Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Lucknow and Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology celebrated International Vulture Awareness Day on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020 organized online International E-symposium on Vulture Conservation.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, Inaugural and opening remarks on Vulture Conservation were given by Shri. Sanjaya Singh, Secretary, Forests, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Shri. Sunil Pandey, PCCF (Wildlife), U.P. Forest Department, Shri. Pawan Kumar, Secretary, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, Vice Chancellor, Lucknow University, Shri. Sanjay Singh, APCCF (Eco-Development) and Dr. K Thomas, Director Forest Research Institute.

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University of Lucknow



ENVIS-RP, IWS, University of Lucknow



U.P. State Biodiversity Board

## International E-Symposium on Vulture Conservation

On the occasion of  
International Vulture Awareness Day -2020  
5-6 September 2020  
University of Lucknow

**Inaugural and opening remarks by**



**Prof. Alok Kumar Rai**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor  
University of Lucknow  
**Patron**



**Mr. Sanjaya Singh,**  
Secretary, Environment,  
Forest & Climate  
Change, Department  
U.P.



**Shri Sunil Pandey,**  
PCCF (Wildlife),  
Environment, Forest  
and Climate Change  
Department U.P.



**Shri, Pawan Kumar  
Sharma,** Secretary, U.P.  
State Biodiversity Board  
India



**Shri Sanjay Shrivastava**  
APCCF (Eco-  
Development)  
Environment, Forest and  
Climate Change  
Department U.P.



**Dr. K. Thomas**  
IFS, Director,  
SFRI, Kanpur

**Date- 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**Time- 1:00-2:00 P.M.**

Meeting ID: 864 0229 7467 Passcode: 358382  
Zoom Meeting link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86402297467?pwd=YndrMk9wWU9xY3VBBeURNRU5GSGhhZz09>

On 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 lectures on various aspects of vulture conservation were delivered by the eminent experts from various countries viz. Switzerland, UK, South Africa, UAE, Nepal, IIFM, Bhopal, MGS University, Rajasthan and Ela Foundation, Maharashtra.

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Biodiversity  
Board

## International E-Symposium on Vulture Conservation

On the occasion of  
International Vulture Awareness Day -2020

5-6 September 2020

University of Lucknow



**Prof. Alok Kumar Rai**  
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor  
University of Lucknow  
**Patron**



**Dr. Chris Bowden**  
Vulture Programme Manager, UK



**Dr. Jose Tavares**  
Director, Vulture Conservation  
Foundation, Switzerland



**Dr. Ryno Kemp**  
Research Manager  
VULPRO, South Africa

**Shakeel Ahmad**  
Scientist Environment  
agency,  
Abudhabi, U.A.E



**Dr. Tulsi Subedi**  
Director of Programs,  
Himalayan Nature  
Kathmandu, Nepal



**Andre Botha**  
Programme Manager  
Vultures for Africa,  
Endangered Wildlife Trust



**Prof. Anil Kumar Chhangani**  
MGS University, Rajasthan, India



**Prof. K.K. Jha**  
Former PCCF & Professor,  
Technical Forestry, IIFM,  
Bhopal, India.



**Dr. Satish Pande**  
Founder Director, Ela  
Foundation, Pune, Maharashtra,  
India



**Dr. Amita Kanaujia**  
Prof. & Coordinator  
Envvis-RP & Institute of Wildlife Sciences  
University of Lucknow

**:Links & Passcode:**  
Zoom meeting link will be shared shortly

E-Certificate will be provided only to  
registered candidate. For any query kindly  
contact [envisrp\\_lu@yahoo.com](mailto:envisrp_lu@yahoo.com)  
9415030061, 7054941555

Registration link:- <https://forms.gle/ES6oR57F9spTff1p8>

Participants from all over the world participated enthusiastically in the E-Symposium. E-Certificates were provided to all the participants.

### **Editorial Board**

**Pawan Kumar Sharma, IFS, UPSBB, Lucknow;**  
**Dr. Somesh Gupta, UPSBB, Lucknow;**  
**K. K. Tiwari, UPSBB, Lucknow.**