

BIODIV News

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A Quarterly e-Newsletter



White-breasted Kingfisher
Courtesy : Nasim Ahmed Ansari

Editorial

Dear Readers,

The People's Biodiversity Register (PBRs) focus on participatory documentation of local biodiversity, traditional knowledge and practices. They are seen as key legal documents in ascertaining the rights of local people over the biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. This issue includes formation of PBR of gramsabha Bhitauli Kalan, District Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh.

The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow celebrated "Van Mahotsava" during 01st - 07th July, 2013. On this occasion, painting and essay competitions were organized in different schools/colleges at Lucknow. The topic of the events was "Plant Trees and save the Environment".

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. Awareness Programmes play a vital role in the conservation of all flora and fauna. Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow and Department of Zoology University of Lucknow celebrated International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) on 7th September 2013 with the aim to initiate a synchronized international day that will broadcast the conservation of vultures to a wider audience and emphasize the imperative work being carried out by the world's vulture conservationists. This issue also includes the various activities organized by the Board on above events.

We hope you find this issue interesting and welcome any suggestions and comments to improve the Bio div news.

– Editor

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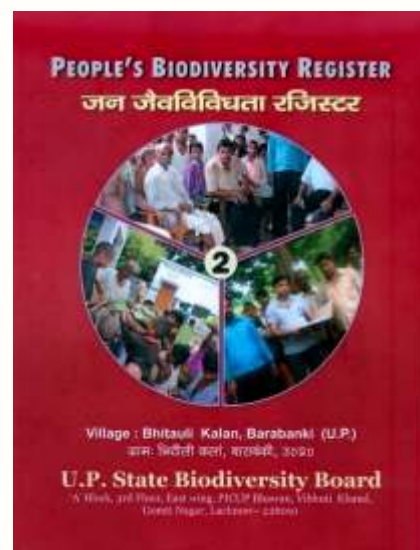
1- People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

The main function of the BMC is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register in consultation with local people. The Registers shall contain comprehensive information on the availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use or any other traditional knowledge associated with them.

The PBRs focus on participatory documentation of local biodiversity, traditional knowledge and practices. They are seen as key legal documents in ascertaining the rights of local people over the biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

During this period the work of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) of Barabanki have been completed:

Gram Sabha: Bhitauli Kalan, Distt. – Barabanki: The Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of this village was formed on 03-03-2011. Extensive survey was done during formation of the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) of this village. PBR of the village was validated on 28-06-2013 by the BMC. Overall **204 species** were recorded in this village; details of the same are given below in the table:



Total diversity of life recorded in Village Bhitauli Kalan, Distt. Barabanki

Crop Plants	39	Wild Plant Species of Importance	06
Pests of Crops	10	Wild relatives of Crops	03
Ornamental Plants	09	Fodder Crop	02
Wild Aquatic Plant Species of Importance	04	Fumigate / Chewing Plants	00
Aquatic Biodiversity	05	Domesticated Animals	06
Other Plants in the Wild	10	Culture Fisheries	06
Wild Animals (Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibian, Insects, others)	45	Wild Plants of Medicinal Importance	12
Trees, Shrubs, Herbs, Tubers, Grasses, Climbers	00	Fruit Plants	22
Medicinal Plants	06	Weeds	11
Timber Plants	08		

2. Van Mahotsava 1st -07th July 2013

The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow celebrated “**Van Mahotsava**” during 01st - 07th July, 2013. On this occasion, painting and essay competitions were organized in schools/colleges at Lucknow. The topic of the events was “Plant Trees and save the Environment”

A total of **434 students** from different schools of Lucknow actively participated in these competitions. Out of which, 95 students of Group A (Class V to VII) and 151 students of Group B (Class VIII to X) participated in the Essay Competition. About 101 students of Group A and 87 students of Group B participated in the Painting Competition. The winners were awarded prizes accordingly. The list of prize winners of the competition is mentioned below:

Results of Essay Competition

Group A Category: Vth – VIIth

S. No	Name	Name of School	Class	Result
1	Anurag Kumar	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Sec-C, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	VI-A	First
2	Janhvi Yadav	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Sec- 14, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	VII-D	Second
3.	Abhishek Tiwari	Avadh Academy Inter College, Chinhat, Faizabad Road, Lucknow	VII	Third
4.	Prachi Yadav	T.D. Girls Inter College, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	VI-A	Consolation

Group B Category: VIIIth - Xth

S. No	Name	Name of School	Class	Result
1	Alisha Raizada	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Sec-C, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	X-E	First
2	Anshika Mishra	T.D. Girls Inter College, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	X-A	Second
3.	Nancy Singh	Riverside Academy, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	X	Third
4.	Swati Sharma	Avadh Academy Inter College, Chinhat, Faizabad Road, Lucknow	X	Consolation

Results of Painting Competition

Group A Category: Vth - VIIth

S. No	Name	Name of School	Class	Result
1	Saumya Mall	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Sec-C, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	VII-C	First
2	Ankita Singh	Avadh Academy Inter College, Chinhat, Faizabad Road, Lucknow	VI	Second
3.	Nandini Kanojiya	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Sec-C, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	VII-C	Third
4.	Tushar Upreti	Riverside Academy, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	VI	Consolation

Group B Category: VIIIth - Xth

S. No	Name	Name of School	Class	Result
1	Pragya Gaur	Avadh Academy Inter College, Chinhat, Faizabad Road, Lucknow	X	First
2	Ambuli Mishra	Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Sec-C, Indira Nagar, Lucknow	IX-B	Second
3.	Mansi Prajapati	Avadh Academy Inter College, Chinhat, Faizabad Road, Lucknow	X	Third
4.	Roshini Singh	T.D. Girls Inter College, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	IX-B	Consolation

Results of Painting Competition



1st Prize Saumya Mall



2nd Prize Ankita Singh



3rd Prize Nandini Kanojiya



Consolation Prize Tushar Upreti



1st Prize Pragya Gaur



2nd Prize Ambuli Mishra



3rd Prize Mansi Prajapati



Consolation Prize Roshini Singh

Glimpses of Essay & Painting competitions organized during “**Van Mahotsava**”



Avadh Academy Inter College



Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School



T.D. Girls Inter College



3. International Day for Vulture Awareness

07th Sept. 2013



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. Vultures have come into consideration due to an unexpected and sharp decline in their population. They act as the sanitation department of the natural world.

The services rendered by these scavengers have an impact on health, economy as well as environment. Vultures are very perceptive to the environmental changes as they have long life spans, low breeding rate, have large selective diet and are at the top of the food chain. Therefore, they are excellent marker of the state of health of ecosystems. The Indian Government as well as NGOs and Conservationists are taking the initiatives to conserve these spectacular scavengers through *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation. Awareness Programmes play a vital role in the conservation of all flora and fauna.

This year Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow and Department of Zoology University of Lucknow celebrated International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) on 7th September 2013 with the aim to initiate a synchronized international day that will broadcast the conservation of vultures to a wider audience and emphasize the imperative work being carried out by the world's vulture conservationists.

On this occasion Smt. Pratibha Singh, Conservator of Forests, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board Lucknow & Special Secretary (Forests), U.P Govt. and Prof. S. B. Nimse, Vice- Chancellor, University of Lucknow inaugurated an awareness stall at gate no. 4th of University of Lucknow and subsequently flagged off 3 cars for awareness campaign in districts Lucknow and Unnao.

About 3000 flyers, 1000 booklets and pamphlets related to importance and conservation of vultures were distributed as awareness materials at the stalls as well as during awareness campaign in Lucknow and Unnao. Awareness materials were also circulated in districts Jhansi, Shahjahanpur, Orchha and Lalitpur by the volunteers.

In this regard, a field trip via awareness car was arranged to Unnao to see Egyptian Vulture (Gobar Giddh), in which about 11 students of different schools/Colleges participated enthusiastically. The students were excited to see the Egyptian vultures in Unnao. Approximately 175 vultures were spotted during the visit. The vultures were seen flying at low heights as well as seen sitting on water tanks. Most of them were observed around the Indargo factories and bone factories. It was experienced that the conditions are favourable for them in Unnao as they feed mainly on bones and insects from dung.



Flagging off cars for awareness campaign on the occasion of IVAD-2013

The list of students participated in the field trip to Unnao is as follows:

List of students participated in Unnao field trip on the occasion of International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) 7th Sept. 2013

S.N.	Name of Participants	Class	School
1	Sumit Joshi	11th	R. L. B. Sector 14 Indira Nagar, Lucknow
2	Abdul Hamid	11th	R. L. B. Sector 14 Indira Nagar, Lucknow
3	Anurag Pandey	10th	Awadh Academy Inter College, Lucknow
4	Kishan Yadav	12th	Awadh Academy Inter College, Lucknow
5	Saif Ali	12th	Awadh Academy Inter College, Lucknow
6	Nikhil Mishra	10th	Awadh Academy Inter College, Lucknow
7	Prasant		Awadh Academy Inter College, Lucknow
8	Aniket Singh	8th	New Way Senior Sec School Nirala Nagar, Lucknow
9	Manav Chaudhary	8th	New Way Senior Sec School Nirala Nagar, Lucknow
10	Sarthak Goel	8th	New Way Senior Sec School Nirala Nagar, Lucknow
11	Manan Singh Mahadev	B. A.	Lucknow University, Lucknow

Glimpses of awareness campaign organized on the occasion of International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) 7th September 2013



Students taking part in IVAD



Distribution of awareness material through stalls



Awareness material distribution among students by the volunteers



Awareness material distribution among students by the volunteers



Awareness stall at Lucknow University Gate no. 4



Awareness material distribution at Charbagh Railway Station, Lucknow

**A view of field trip organized in Unnao on the occasion
International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) 7th September 2013**



Flagging off car for awareness campaign



Viewing vultures during the visit



Students during field trip in Unnao to see the Vultures



Field trip in Unnao to see the Vultures



A view of Egyptian Vultures in flight



Egyptian Vultures sitting on a water tank in Unnao

Awareness materials distributed at Campaign



Pamphlet

उत्तर प्रदेश में बिच्छू की प्रजातियाँ पहचान कूँजी



Booklet



Photo: Gyps indicus (Juvenile)

संघ स्त अकादमी
डा. अमिता कर्तोविता
उपाध्यक्ष
जानु विज्ञान विभाग
लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय, लखनऊ
मु. शोधक कुरुवाडा
संघ अध्यक्ष
जानु विज्ञान विभाग
लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय, लखनऊ

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लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय, लखनऊ

जानु विज्ञान विभाग
लखनऊ विश्वविद्यालय
लखनऊ
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वेबसाइट : upsbdb.org

4. Visits/Trainings/Conferences

1. Dr. Ram Jee Srivastava, Senior Scientist, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow visited Allahabad to monitor the progress of project entitled "Assessment of sedges based on micro-morphological characters, food value and potential role in phytoremediation in wetlands of Uttar Pradesh" during -15-16 August 2013.
2. Shri Vijay Kumar, ACF, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow delivered a lecture on "Application of GPS in Forestry" to Range Officers, Dy. Rangers and Foresters organized by CAMPA at Forestry Training Institute, Kanpur on 20-09-2013.
3. Dr. Somesh Gupta, GIS/Technical Associate, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow imparted training on "Biodiversity" to Range Officers, Dy. Rangers and Foresters organized by CAMPA at Forestry Training Institute, Kanpur on 27-09-2013.



► **Big-jawed Spider *Leucauge decorata*** and its web. The web also captured a prey. This is common spider found in Indian region. The body and leg shapes and the silver, black and yellow markings of *Leucauge* females make identification of the genus relatively easy. They have two rows of long, slender curved hairs on the femurs of the fourth leg. In most cases the web is slanted rather than vertical and the spider rests in the middle of the web with its underside facing upwards.

Senegal Dartlet *Ischura senegalensis* damselfly in water body. This damselfly also known as Common Bluetail, Marsh Bluetail, Ubiquitous Bluetail or African Bluetail. The species is found in slow-stagnant or leisurely flowing water bodies and tolerates both disturbances and



Photos courtesy : Nasim Ahmad Asnari

7. Newspaper Clippings

(i) International News

THE HINDU | LUCKNOW, SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2013

Rare natural birth for panda cub in Vienna



VIENNA: Weighing in at 100 grams, pink-skinned and covered in white fur, Vienna's newest panda (in photo) clung to its mother after a highly rare natural birth. Pictures showed the 10-cm cub nestled in the paw of Giant Panda Yang Yang and being carried in her mouth at the city's Schoenbrunn zoo. Staff said it was only the third successful attempt to breed the endangered species naturally in Europe — the other two cubs also came into the world at the Vienna zoo and are now back in their home country China. "Although we are of course very happy, we must remain realistic. The mortality rate for Giant Pandas is around 40 per cent during the first year," said zoo director Dagmar Schratter. Giant pandas are one of the world's most endangered species. There are about 1,600 known to be living in the wild and some 300 in captivity, mostly in China. Most pandas bred in captivity are conceived through artificial insemination. — Reuters

Aug. 18, 2013 : Weighing in at 100 grams, pink skinned and covered in white fur, rare natural birth for panda cub in Vienna.

THE HINDU | LUCKNOW, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013

Has climate change altered apples' taste?

ANJANA KRISHNAN



While it may not be evident, the taste and texture of apples may have undergone a considerable change over the last many years due to climate change, says a new study conducted by Toshihiko Sugiura and team at the National Agriculture and Food Research Organisation in Fujimoto, Japan. The paper was published in *Scientific Reports* last week.

The study attributes the change in taste and texture — essential qualities for a fresh fruit — to the increase in global temperature over the years, specifically during the maturation period of the fruit.

To understand the effect of environmental factors like temperature, precipitation and solar radiation on apple phenology (the study of cyclic natural phenomena related to plant or animal life), the team studied two common and widely-used cultivar varieties of apples in Japan — Fuji and Tsugaru — over a period of 40 years from 1970 to 2010.

Analyzing the environmental factors during this time, the study found that there was a considerable increase in the mean air temperature in these two regions.

Environment

The study then tabulated the environmental factors during the bud breaking and full bloom times of the fruit. A significant increase in the mean air temperature during March and March-April was found; bud breaking and blooming times of the fruit take place during this time.

The authors found an advancement of bud breaking day and full bloom day in the fruit's calendar (nearly one to

Apples might have become a tad sweeter over the years. — PHOTO: C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

2.3 days per decade during the study period), and correlated these to the increase in temperature.

Taste and texture

Acid concentration and soluble solids are the corresponding indicators of sourness and sweetness in a fruit while fruit firmness and watercore rating determine the fruit's hardness and softness respectively. These factors were judged against five maturation indexes for the fruit. The study found that the average change rate of these factors when compared against the five maturation indexes showed a decrease in the acid concentration, firmness and watercore rating levels and an increase in the soluble solid levels.

As per the study, these factors were found to exhibit a similar trend when the mean air temperature rose during the maturation period, resulting in a possible change in the taste and texture of the fruit.

So, while we may not have realised it, it may be possible that our apples have become a tad sweeter over the years!

Aug. 22, 2013 : A new study conducted by Toshihiko Sugiura and team at the National Agriculture and Food Research Organisation in Fujimoto, Japan suggests that the taste and texture of apples may have undergone a considerable change due to climate change.

Newspaper Clippings



Aug. 26, 2013 : In India, Bt brinjal is under an indefinite moratorium because of uncertainty over its health and environmental impact whereas Bangladesh's new policy may allow Bt brinjal to be commercially released.



Sept. 5, 2013 : The Spanish Oceanography Institute has discovered in the waters of the Canary Islands a large deposits of fossils of a shark, the largest predator that become extinct two million years ago.



Sept. 26, 2013 : University of Florida research suggests that many ancient and modern crustacean species living in rapidly declining coral reef habitats may be vulnerable.

Newspaper Clippings

(ii) National News

THE HINDU | LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2013

Rare Egyptian vultures sighted in Odisha

BERHAMPUR: Rare Egyptian vultures have been spotted near Laxmipur in Chikiti forest range of Odisha's Ganjam district. The Forest Department wanted to carry out a survey of the birds. Divisional Forest Officer (Berhampur) S.S. Mishra said: "The sight of vultures indicates a healthy and rich biodiversity of the area." — PTI

Jul. 31, 2013 : Rare Egyptian vultures have been spotted near Laxmipur in Chikiti forest range of Odisha's Ganjam district.

THE HINDU | LUCKNOW, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

First rhino born under ex-situ conservation

Sushanta Talukdar

GUWAHATI: A rhino gave birth to a male calf in the Assam State Zoo here on Sunday night. This is the first calf born under the ex-situ conservation programme of the Asian rhino. Under the programme, the Assam State Zoo is the coordinating zoo and the Delhi and the Patna Zoos are the participating ones.

The programme aims at having at least 100 healthy rhinos bred in captivity.

The calf was born in an off-display enclosure, constructed with funds from the Central Zoo Authority. The mother, 'Baghechaity', was rescued from Kaziranga on August 10, 1991 at the age of one. The sire 'Bishnu' is zoo-born, aged 26.

Apart from the rhino, the Assam State Zoo has also been selected for ex-situ conservation programme of serow, golden langur, golden cat and grey peacock pheasant.



This new-born rhino calf at the Guwahati zoo is the first to be born out of the ex-situ conservation programme.

— PHOTO: RITU KIRJI KONWAR

Sept. 5, 2013 : The new born rhino calf at the Guwahati Zoo is the first to be born out of the ex-situ conservation programme.

THE HINDU | LUCKNOW, THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2013

Forest corridors crucial for tiger conservation

Corridors help avoid low genetic diversity

N. GOPAL RAJ

Forest corridors that allowed India's tiger populations to breed with one another are vital for the conservation of these magnificent animals, according to research that has been just been published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

Where once these animals roamed across much of the subcontinent, they now survive in India in small populations of just 20 to 120 individuals, mostly in tiger reserves. The country holds over half of the world's tigers, and an official assessment carried out in 2010 estimated that there were about 1,700 of these animals in 39 tiger reserves.

Genetic intermingling

Sandeep Sharma of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in the U.S. and his colleagues studied the extent of genetic intermingling between tiger populations in five tiger reserves in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

To do so, they analysed the DNA extracted from faecal, hair and claw samples of 273 animals.

When an animal moved and bred with an individual from a different population, its genes propagated in the latter group. Maintaining such gene flow between isolated tiger populations was important in order to avoid the deleterious effects of low genetic diversity and inbreeding, said Dr. Sharma



THE RESEARCH: DNA extracted from faecal, hair and claw samples of 273 animals were studied. — PHOTO: NAGARA GOPAL

in an email.

The tiger reserves were embedded in a landscape composed of agricultural land and fragmented forest patches, with numerous small villages and town. The scientists found that "there is a drastic reduction in gene flow" between reserves that had lost forest connectivity.

These forest corridors played "an important role in maintaining genetic variation and persistence of tigers in this landscape," they observed in their paper.

Legal status needed

Such corridors should be given legal status, said Dr. Sharma in his email. Tiger corridors in central India faced imminent threats from activities like road widening, construction of railway lines and coal mining.

Corridor-mediated gene flow was important for India's leopard populations too.

The necessity of maintaining the genetic diversity of Indian tigers was highlighted in another paper published in the same journal a few months back. In that paper, Uma Ramakrishnan of the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore and her colleagues noted that a large number of historic genetic variants were not found in modern tiger populations in the country.

As it was, current Indian tiger populations were quite small, she told this correspondent. With further fragmentation of their habitat, these populations could lose connectivity and become isolated.

The resulting loss of genetic variation and greater inbreeding could then make such groups more vulnerable to environmental changes.

Maintaining connectivity between tiger populations was crucial for the conservation of these animals, she emphasised.

Aug. 1, 2013 : According to a research, forest corridors that allow tiger populations to breed with over another are vital for the conservation of these magnificent animals.

THE HINDU | LUCKNOW, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

Anti-fungal molecule with medicinal properties found

MOHAMED NAZEER

Researchers from the Kannur University Department of Biotechnology and Microbiology have isolated an anti-fungal molecule in a bacterium. The molecule promises to be active against invasive fungal infections that primarily affect people with immune-deficiency including HIV/AIDS patients and those undergoing cancer chemotherapy or organ transplantation.

Researchers K. Sreejith and K. Ajesh say they purified and characterised the anti-fungal lipopeptide molecule from the *Bacillus cereus* AK1 bacterium. The pathogens the molecule is active against include invasive yeast pathogens (infectious agents) in the *Cryptococcosis* and *Candidiasis* species that affect people when immunity weakens, they say.

According to Dr. Sreejith, Associate Professor and head of the department, the finding was presented in the second international conference on anti-microbial research held at Lisbon, Portugal, in November 2012.

Their manuscript was accepted for publication last month by the *Journal of Applied Microbiology*. Formally announcing the research finding at a press conference in

Kannur on September 3, Kannur University Vice-Chancellor M.K. Abdul Khader said that it is a major breakthrough as it indicates that the molecule promises to have potential pharmaceutical and biotechnological applications.

The researchers named the molecule 'Kannurin' as a tribute to the place where the research work was carried out. Dr. Sreejith and Mr. Ajesh, a research scholar in the department, say that the drug resistance by the pathogenic fungi is more prevalent.

One of the great challenges is to find substitutes for classical antibiotics against infectious diseases caused by the invasive infectious agents responsible morbidity and mortality of patients with compromised immunity, they say. They further add that the new molecule is devoid of haemolytic activity which is characterised by accelerated rate of red blood cell destruction leading to health problems such as anaemia.

The absence of less haemolytic activity is important for any anti-microbial agents for its medicinal applications, they point out.

Aside from isolating the molecule, their work tested its potency against the fungi. The mode and mechanism of action are yet to be evaluated.

Sept. 5, 2013 : Researchers from the Kannur University, Deptt. of Biotechnology and Microbiology have isolated an anti-fungal molecule in a bacterium to be active against invasive fungal infections that primarily affect people with immune deficiency including HIV/AIDS.

Newspaper Clippings

(iii) State News

THE TIMES OF INDIA, LUCKNOW
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013

TIMES NATION

Dudhwa's tiger count may go up

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The number of tigers is likely to go up in the Dudhwa reserve this year as eight to ten big cats have been captured on the cameras installed in the territory. Though Dudhwa officials are tightlipped on the number of tigers spotted, they are hopeful that tiger census, slated to begin by year-end, would provide the exact count. More than 100 cameras were installed in the reserve last year as a part of the security arrangements.

The workshop to train forest staff and officials for the census will be held at Dudhwa reserve in September first week. Officials from the tiger reserves of Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh will be trained at the first workshop being organised by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).



Reuters

their numbers in UP at 109, Census-2011 gave the count of 118 tigers (with lower limit of 113 and upper limit of 124). "This time the number might increase further," an official said.

The tigers captured on the cameras appear to be around two-year-old or above. The last tiger census, held in 2010, had recorded tigers between one-and-a-half and two years. Since the cameras have been mounted at great height, they usually fail to click the cubs. So, there is a possibility that cubs below two years were not captured. These, too, are likely to be counted in the census.

The tiger population between 2006 and 2010 shows a stable trend in UP. The state has a total forest area of 14,341 sq km. Tigers occupied a total area of 2,766 sq km as per census 2009. In 2011, tigers were found occupying 2,948 sq km.

MORE THE MERRIER

The number of adult tigers has increased in UP in past three years. While a February 2008 report of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) put

Aug. 12, 2013 : The number of tigers is likely to go up in the Dudhwa reserve this year eight to ten big cats have been captured on the cameras installed in the territory. The number of adult tigers has increased in U.P. in past three years according to a report by MoEF.

hindustantimes

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 02, 2013

Protecting the quiet ecologies



green piece

Bharati Chaturvedi
bharati@hindustantimes.com

No matter how hard it becomes for industries to acquire land, with the new legislation in place the fact remains it may still be a terrible blow to the ecology if they do get some land. Consider two rich bird habitats, one untouched and the other, nearly gone.

About 10 kilometres away from the bird sanctuary of Sultanpur, is a stunning Basai village, with green fields, wetlands and in season, spectacular birds - from Painted Snipes to Golden Plovers.

In the last few years, the fields have been hemmed in by new multistoried constructions. The fields have been sold. Such building will expand, and the wetlands will be lost. There is simply no value placed on the ecosystem, and its importance to life.

Luckier, till now, is the lovely village of Sonkhalla, near Ajmer. Every monsoon, the shy Lesser Floricans breed here. Birders travel from as far as Bangalore and Mumbai to see the famous 'jump' of the male Florican, a leap up to a few feet, above the jowar fields it typically hides in.

No construction is under way here, but it is close to an important city, and given the trends of urban expansion, may see shifts in the coming decade. Even though this is a protected area, market forces can be brutal.

Solutions should be on a case-to-case basis and farmers should not be deprived. We need incentives for farmers and other landowners to not sell an important habitat.

The government needs to give incentives to farmers and other landowners to not sell an important habitat. MY FILE

Sept. 02, 2013 : About 10 km. away from the bird sanctuary of Sultanpur, U.P. is a stunning Basai Village, wetlands with green fields have been hemmed in by new multistoried constructions. The Govt. needs to take necessary steps to protect the quiet ecologies.



THIS 149TH FOUNDATION DAY
we celebrate success ...
we celebrate togetherness ...
Having Crossed a Business of ₹ 3.10 Lac Crore



Founded in 1865, Allahabad Bank has traversed through three Centuries of illustrious banking. Today, with a business of ₹ 3,10,000 crore, we rededicate ourselves to the customers and to the service of the Nation laying focus on sustainable and inclusive growth with excellent service.

*Har Kadam
aap ke Saath*

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