



2nd NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LESSER-KNOWN SPECIES OF MP

20-21st January, 2024
BHOPAL

THEME 2024

Day-1

Current Status, Conservation
Efforts & Management Challenges
of Lesser Known Faunal Species

Day-2

Role of Translocation &
Captive Breeding in Conservation
of Lesser Known Endangered
Faunal Diversity

DATE

20 & 21st of January 2024

VENUE

EPCO Conference Hall, Paryavaran Parisar
E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal

ORGANISING AGENCY

SNHC India

(Society of Nature Healers, Conservators and
Local Tourism Development) Bhopal

COLLABORATIVE AGENCY

Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Madhya Pradesh harbours more than 45 species of mammalian fauna which is about 10% of India's wild mammals. It broadly lies in the Deccan Plateau, the largest biogeographic zone of India. Madhya Pradesh is the second largest state in India with an area of 3,08,245 square kilometres, covering almost 9.38% of geographical area of the country of which 25.13% is forested. It has the largest forest cover among all the Indian states.

The first National Conference on Lesser-Known Species of Madhya Pradesh was organized in Jan 2023; Topic was first of its kind to be organized in India. The main purpose of this conference was to highlight the conservation efforts and management challenges of lesser-known faunal diversity, lesser known as in the species with low distribution or declining numbers, less researched or endangered as per IUCN. We are mostly data deficient in those species, not even baseline in the majority of them. In Nature every species has their role to play in Ecosystem the impact of declining numbers cannot be figured out without proper study or research.

In 2 days of the conference, 15 technical sessions were held in which speakers shared their rich experience and hard work in the field and threw light on different aspects of Biology to Ecology, from conservation challenges to conservation strategies. People active in the field of nature conservation came together under one roof to plan and act for the way forward in conservation of these lesser-known species of Madhya Pradesh.

SNHC India is trying to fill the conservation gap & strengthen the conservation community of Central India by highlighting very important and much needed topic of lesser-known species that are equally important as flagship species of Madhya Pradesh. We in Collaboration with **MP State Biodiversity Board** are coming up with the **2nd edition of the conference** to push the conservation efforts of lesser known species of Madhya Pradesh.



ABOUT MPSBB

Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board has been constituted by the State Government as per the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 notified by the Government of India. Objectives of the Board being Conservation of biodiversity, Sustainable use of its components and Equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Board has an advisory role in promoting biodiversity concerns among various stakeholders. One of the focus areas of the board includes promotion of research and advocacy of policy in gap areas. The lesser known faunal species is one such gap area which needs focus and action.

OUTCOME

- To review the available research data of lesser-known species of Madhya Pradesh.
- To give platform to the National experts of these species.
- To make conservation action plan and management strategies for these species.
- To highlight the conservation efforts for these species.
- To highlight Fauna of Madhya Pradesh in National scenario through these species.

KEY SPEAKERS



Aseem Shrivastava, IFS
PCCF Wildlife & CWLW, MP



Jasbir Singh Chouhan
IFS Retd, Former PCCF
Wildlife MP



Parveen Shaikh
Scientist C, BNHS
Mumbai



Dr. Rajat Bhargava
Sr. Ornithologist &
Coordinator Green Munia
Project, BNHS



Dr. Sujit Narwade,
Asst. Director, BNHS,
Mumbai



Pratyush P Mohapatra
Scientist E, Zoological Survey
of India, Kolkata



Dr. Salvador Lyngdoh
Scientist-E, Wildlife
Institute of India



Mr. Aditya Joshi
Head, Conservation
Research, Wildlife Conservation
Trust, Mumbai



Dr. Joy Day
Asst. Director Padmaja
Naidu Himalayan
Zoological Park, Darjeeling



Jailabdeen A
Project Manager, GEP
Madras Crocodile Bank Trust



Atul Bodkhe
Principal, J. D. Patil
College, Amrawati, MH



Aishwarya Laghate
Project Officer - Raptor
Conservation Programme,
WWF India



Bhavna Menon
Conservationist &
Communications Consultant,
Earth Focus Foundation



Alok Govind Sheode
Lecturer, Prabodhan
Jr. College Buldhana, MH



Debadityo Sinha
Sr. Resident Fellow & Lead
Climate & Ecosystems
Vidhi Legal, New Delhi.

SCHEDULE

DAY-1

Time	Topics/Details and Speakers
09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	Preparation & Protocol Management for arrival of The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Governor of MP
10.00-10.45	INAUGURATION By HON'BLE GOVERNOR
10:45-10:55	Memento distribution to dignitaries and Group Photo
10:55-11:20	Tea Break
11:20-11:30	Keynote address by Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh
	TECHNICAL SESSION -1
11:30-12:10	Indian Pangolin: Conservation - Ecology and Conservation Mr. Aditya Joshi Head, Conservation Research, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Mumbai <i>Chaired By: Mr. Jasbir Singh Chauhan, IFS Retd, Former PCCF Wildlife MP</i>
12:10-12:50	Carnivores (Small and Medium) In the rapidly Changing Landscapes of Madhya Pradesh/India Anam Ahsan (PhD Candidate University of Missouri, USA) for Dr. Shekhar Kolipaka (Leiden University, The Netherlands) <i>Chaired By: R Srinivasa Murthy, IFS (Retd), Ex. Member Secretary, MPSBB</i>
12:50-13:30	Wolves in India: Ecology and Conservation Dr. Salvador Lyngdoh Scientist - E, Wildlife Institute of India <i>Chaired By: Dr M K Ranjitsinh, IAS (Retd) & Ex Forest Secretary MP Govt</i>
13:30-14:10	Lunch Break
	TECHNICAL SESSION -2
14:10-14:50	Tales of Terns: Status, Distribution and Conservation needs of Black Bellied Tern at Chambal Ms. Parveen Sheikh Scientist-C, Conservation Department, BNHS Mumbai <i>Chaired By: Mr Subharanjan Sen, IFS , APCCF Wildlife MP</i>
14:50-15:30	Conservation of Lesser Known Species Outside Protected Areas Debadityo Sinha Senior Resident Fellow & Lead, Climate & Ecosystems, Vidhi Legal, New Delhi <i>Chaired By: Mr. Rajnish Singh, IFS, Deputy Director Pench Tiger Reserve</i>
15:30-16:10	In-situ and Ex-situ Conservation Green Avadavat in central India Dr. Rajat Bhargava Sr. Ornithologist & Coordinator Green Munia BNHS Mumbai <i>Chaired By: Dr. Yogesh Dubey, Professor, IIFM Bhopal</i>
16:10-16:50	Why are Spiders important? Atul Bodkhe Principal, J D Patil College, Amravati, MH <i>Chaired By: Mr. Jagdish Chandra, IFS Retd, Former Director Van Vihar</i>
16:50-17:20	Hi Tea

SCHEDULE

DAY-2

Time	Topics/Details and Speakers
6:45 to 8:45	Field Visit to Van Vihar National Park Bird Watching (Winter Migrants) and Nature Trail
09:15-10:00	Registration
	TECHNICAL SESSION - 3
10:00-10:40	Role of Translocation in conservation of Endangered/Lesser Known Faunal Species Mr. Jasbir Singh Chauhan IFS Retd, Former PCCF Wildlife MP <i>Chaired By: Dr M K Ranjitsinh, IAS (Retd) & Ex Forest Secretary MP Govt</i>
10:40 - 11:20	Conservation of Grassland Birds-Present Status, Conservation Challenges, How to Revive Dr. Sujit Narwade Asth. Director, BNHS & Coordinator Great Indian Bustard & Lesser Florican Program <i>Chaired By: Dr. Yogesh Dubey, Professor, IIFM Bhopal</i>
11:20 -11:40	Tea Break
	TECHNICAL SESSION -4
11:40 -12:15	Conservation of Gharials-Past & Present Story of National Chambal Sanctuary Mr. Jailabdeen A Project Manager/ Coordinator , GE Project, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust <i>Chaired By: Prof R. J. Rao, Former VC BU Bhopal</i>
12:15-12:50	Conservation Breeding, Rewilding & Augmentation of Red Pandas in Singalila National Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal Dr. Joy Day Asth Director Cum Veterinary Officer, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling <i>Chaired By: Smt. Padampriya Balakrishnan, IFS, Director Van Vihar NP, Bhopal</i>
12:50 - 13:25	Raptor Conservation (Endangered/Lesser Known) - Present Status, Conservation Challenges, How to Revive Miss. Aishwarya Laghate Project Officer - Raptor Conservation Programme, WWF India <i>Chaired By: Mr Subharanjan Sen, IFS , APCCF Wildlife MP</i>
13:25-14:05	Lunch Break
	TECHNICAL SESSION - 5
14:05 -14:40	Fascinating Reptiles of Central India Dr. Pratyush Mohapatra Scientist E, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata <i>Chaired By: Mr Aseem Shrivastava, IFS , PCCF Wildlife MP</i>
14:40 -15:15	Role of Outreach Programme & Community Participation in Conservation- How both are benefitted & strengthened Miss. Bhavna Menon Conservationist and Communication Consultant, Earth Focus Kanha <i>Chaired By: Mr K Raman, IFS Retd, Former APCCF MP</i>
15:15 -15:45	Wildlife Crime/ Trafficking of Lesser known Animal Species of MP and its mitigation - Koushik Mondal Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Jabalpur, MP
15:45-16:20	The Aesthetics of Grasshoppers Alok Sheode Retd. Lecturer & Insect Photographer, Buldhana, MH
16:20-17:10	Valedictory Session & Adoption of Workshop Recommendations
17:10-17:30	Hi Tea



Jasbir Singh Chouhan
IFS Retd, Former PCCF
Wildlife MP

He joined the Indian Forest Service in 1987 after training, he was posted in Madhya Pradesh. In 1995, he took over as Deputy Director of the Kanha Tiger Reserve, during his three-year tenure, his contribution to the consolidation of the reserve's management was significant. The initiative he took in the relocation of eight permanent cattle camps from Phen Wildlife Sanctuary in 1996 paved the way for the restoration of the sanctuary's habitat. His contributions to wildlife protection in Madhya Pradesh include enforcing strict protection measures, regulating tourism activity and streamlining the tourist guide system. In 1998, he was posted as DFO, Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary, and he took over Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project in Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary. A very vital aspect of this project includes the voluntary relocation of the 24 villages from inside the sanctuary. He, working with the district administration and NGOs, has supervised the re-housing of over 1,400 families from 23 villages. The remarkable response to such efforts has been a virtual explosion of natural regeneration in Kuno, where the prey base has risen and water regimes already show marked signs of improvement. He attributes such successes to departmental support, teamwork among Kuno's frontline staff and the cooperation of NGOs. The 345 sq. kms. Kuno Sanctuary has been liberated from the pressure of over 10,000 migratory cattle that used to be brought in from Rajasthan and nearby villages annually.

As PCCF Wildlife and CWLW Madhya Pradesh he has executed the "Cheetah" reintroduction project in a very precise way following the Cheetah Action Plan with dedicated and non stop hard work from frontline staff, he says this programme a historic event in wildlife conservation.

She currently works as a Scientist 'C' with the Conservation Department, **Bombay Natural History Society**. Her interests are behavioural ecology, conservation biology, conservation through community participation and citizen science. She presently works at Chambal understanding the nest survival and conservation needs of Indian Skimmer and Black-bellied Tern. She along with her team at BNHS are conserving Indian Skimmer along with other riverine nesting birds at Chambal through a 'Guardians of the Skimmer' project which is a community-based conservation initiative.



Parveen Shaikh
Scientist C, BNHS
Mumbai



Dr. Rajat Bhargava
Sr. Ornithologist &
Coordinator Green Munia
Project, BNHS

A ornithologist by profession and passion, working with BNHS as an Assistant Director his main interest is conservation of threatened endemic Indian birds, with his favorite Finn's Weaver and Green Munia. Grew up as an aviculturist, his interest lies in Conservation Breeding.



Dr. Sujit Narwade,
Asst. Director, BNHS,
Mumbai

He is working in BNHS since year 2004 and at present coordinating projects on;

- a. Conservation of critically endangered bird Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indicus* in Shokaliya landscape, Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- b. Conservation of the critically endangered bird Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps* (GIB) with community engagement in the Thar Desert.
- c. Developing strategies for the conservation of critically endangered Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indicus* and its habitat through assessment of its population, distribution, and threats in Bidar district, Karnataka supported by Karnataka Forest Department.
- d. ENVIS Resource Partner in Avian Ecology, BNHS India supported by the Ministry of Environment and climate change (MoEF & CC).

Educational Qualifications

(2018). Got a Ph.D. degree in the subject of Zoology at Mumbai University through BNHS. Topic - "Status, distribution, habitat use and conservation of birds of Deccan region of Maharashtra, India, with special reference to Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps*."

Pratyush Mohapatra is working as Scientist-E in the Zoological Survey of India with broad interests in the fields of animal taxonomy, evolution and conservation. He also specialises in wildlife conservation and Protected Area management. He completed his Masters in Zoology from Utkal University in 2002 and a Ph.D. in Systematics and Biogeography of snakes of Eastern Ghats ranges of Orissa in 2009. He works on varied faunal groups specifically on reptiles, amphibians, and scorpions, and has described 13 new species of reptiles, amphibians and Cicadas in collaboration with researchers from India and abroad. He is pursuing his interest in stabilizing taxonomic discrepancies in Indian reptiles and is in-charge of the National Zoological Collection of Reptiles in the Zoological Survey of India where some 37000 reptile collections are housed from 1835 onwards.

In the field of conservation, he has contributed information on more than 150 species of South Asian reptiles and amphibians in the IUCN Red List assessments. He has contributed information on Reptiles of India in the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022. He was also instrumental in submission of three proposals from India during the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 19) of the CITES held on 14th - 25th November 2022 for inclusion of Jeypore Hill gecko in Appendix-II and transfer of two species of turtles from Appendix- II to Appendix-I. He is currently involved in the preparation of management plans for exotic species of reptiles in India. For more than two decades, he has been working closely with various stakeholders in India to understand biodiversity conservation issues and threats to species. He is currently supervising six students for PhD and one of his students has been awarded PhD. He has a total of 244 publications comprising 12 books, 62 in peer-reviewed journals, 40 book chapters and 130 IUCN peer-reviewed publications. He is also a reviewer for various national and international Scientific Journals.



Pratyush P Mohapatra
Scientist E, Zoological Survey
of India, Kolkata



Mr. Aditya Joshi
Head, Conservation
Research, Wildlife Conservation
Trust, Mumbai

Aditya Joshi is a trained wildlife biologist with a Master's in Wildlife Biology and Conservation from the National Centre for Biological Sciences-TIFR. As part of his master's thesis, he carried out one of the first studies on the connectivity of tiger populations using a combination of conservation genetics and landscape ecology, substantiating long-range dispersal by tigers. He is a recipient of the Karanth J. Paul Getty Award 2010 for academic and conservation excellence. He has worked extensively on occupancy surveys of tiger corridors and tiger monitoring outside Protected Areas. He works on projects focusing on the ecology and conservation of lesser-known species like the Indian pangolin and the Eurasian otter. He is a member of the IUCN - SSC Pangolin Specialist Group and IUCN - WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group. He currently heads the Conservation Research vertical of the Wildlife Conservation Trust.



Dr. Salvador Lyngdoh
Scientist-E, Wildlife
Institute of India

Wildlife Biologist and carnivore ecologist has over 15 years of experience of working on carnivores in North eastern, Western and Trans-Himalayan region of India. He has actively been working in this region with policy aspects of develop of Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the State of Meghalaya 2020-2030 in close collaboration with the State Biodiversity Board. He has been studying habitat interactions in the field of mammalian ecology in Northeast state of Assam with respect to many large and small mammals through a DST funded program on Ecology of Clouded Leopards (*Neofelis nebulosa*) in Manas National Park.

He has been studying population estimation techniques, foraging behaviour as well as assessing wildlife human conflict with respect large carnivores, particularly dholes (*Cuon alpinus*) in Western Arunachal Pradesh, India. He has also been associated with the Ecology and conservation of Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus*) project in states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim. He has worked on Landscape ecology on aspects such as investigating drivers of land-use change in a semi-arid region of Sariska Tiger Reserve India. Furthermore, he has assisted in technical inputs for the draft of Forest Type mapping as well a Forest Cover Mapping of Indian States by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun. Currently, he is a Scientist 'D' at the Department of Animal Ecology and Conservation Biology in Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. He has also conducted in depth studies on large carnivores. He has studied wolf movement ecology, snow leopard foraging ecology, small cats and clouded leopard activity patterns in selected sites and has expertise in population estimation, behavioural ecology tracking, immobilisation and radio-collaring of such animals. Recent project that have been supervised by him also include studies on vigilance architecture in tropical bats (*Pteropus giganteus*) and conservation of endangered primates.

Dr Atul Keshaorao Bodkhe is Principal at J. D. Patil Sangludkar Mahavidyalaya, Daryapur, Dist. Amravati (MS), India. He has completed a project entitled “Environment Impact Assessment of Proposed Upper Tapi Project Stage II” and Diversity of Spiders from Lonar Crater Sanctuary, funded by UGC, New Delhi. He has successfully organized the 3rd Conference of the Asian Society of Arachnology, 16-19 November 2015 at Amravati. A total of 120 participants were attended by 18 countries. He has established Spider Research Lab (SR-Lab) in collaboration with Evolutionary Zoology Laboratory Slovenia, according to the terms and conditions of this Mou collage developed a spider research laboratory for developing the interest in spider research between student and research scholars and another aim of the development of this lab to introduce spiders as a bio pesticide in agriculture and train the farmers in the rearing of spiders.

He has completed the Fasttrack Young Scientist Fellowship entitled “Natural history and systematics of spiders from Lonar Crater Sanctuary”, Funded by SERB, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, Govt. Of India. He also completed the project titled “Diversity and microhabitat utilization patter of spiders from Satpura landscape”, funded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. Of India, He keeps interested in Systematic and Ecology of Spiders and Environmental Impact Assessment. He was also awarded by the State Government by “Best Photography Award” on the Occasion of World Environment Day” 2009 for Photographs on Spiders from Melghat Reserve Forest and recently 2018 his three new species published in the book faunal discovery of India which was released by the hands of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the occasion of World Environmental Day at New Delhi. He is also working as a member of the Animal Expert committee under the State Biodiversity Board, Govt. of Maharashtra. He also released the first spider song of India “EK PAHELI”. He has published National and International papers in the field of Arachnology. He is also the Founder Secretary of the Indian Society of Arachnology, a Member of the International Society of Arachnology and a Member of the European Society of Arachnology. Currently working as a Convener, Indian Science Congress, Amravati Chapter.



Atul Bodkhe
Principal, J. D. Patil
College, Amrawati, MH



Alok Govind Sheode
Lecturer, Prabodhan
Jr. College Buldhana, MH

Prof. Alok Sheode, retired lecturer and insect photographer... clicked 325 species of insects in the forest of Buldhana.. Recently received the copyright for two species of grasshoppers having colour patterns of our National Flag...Named them as त्रिवर्ण तेजा and त्रिवर्ण शोभा..Main focus is on the study of personality traits of insects... have recorded such behaviour in videos... have presented 261 lectures on insect diversity and personality across India.. strongly feel that insects have emotions and feelings just like us...



Debadityo Sinha
Sr. Resident Fellow & Lead
Climate & Ecosystems
Vidhi Legal, New Delhi.

Debadityo Sinha is a Senior Resident Fellow and Lead, Climate & Ecosystems team at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi. With over 12 years of professional experience, he has dedicatedly worked on legal and policy matters concerning the protection of the environment, forests, and wildlife. In recognition of his conservation efforts, he was honoured with the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award in 2019. He is also a member of IUCN-Species Survival Commission's Bear Specialist Group and Founder of Vindhyan Ecology & Natural History Foundation.



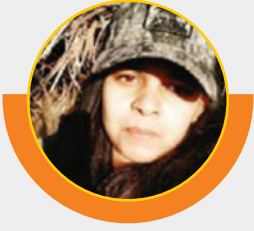
Jailabdeen A
Project Manager, GEP
Madras Crocodile Bank Trust

Mr. Jailabdeen is currently working as Project Manager of Gharial Ecology Project under Madras Crocodile Bank Trust leading the field works in National Chambal Sanctuary, which is the last strong-hold population of critically endangered gharials. Also, he is perusing a PhD in Animal Science from Bharathidasan University on acoustic and chemical signalling in gharials. Through his research he has learned about the unique POP acoustic signature signals in male gharials, communication between rival males, females during courtship season and adult-hatching communication in post-hatch season.



Bhavna Menon
Conservationist &
Communications Consultant,
Earth Focus Foundation

Bhavna Menon has worked in the field of wildlife conservation for 14 years wherein she was involved in conservation outreach, capacity building with the frontline staff, and creation of alternate livelihoods. Today, she works as a freelance writer contributing to different publications, with a strong focus on covering conservation stories and people who are making a difference on the ground. She has also taken up the role of a consultant and works with Earth Focus Foundation, an NGO working towards education and Nature - based livelihoods in Kanha Tiger Reserve and is associated with a conservation craft center in Bandhavgarh which provides livelihood opportunities to people living around tiger reserves.



Anam Ahsan
PhD Candidate University
of Missouri, USA

I am a dedicated Ph.D. candidate at the University of Missouri, USA, specializing in wildlife sciences. Holding a Master's degree in Remote Sensing and GIS applications and an MSc in Wildlife Sciences (Gold Medalist), my academic journey reflects a strong foundation in both theoretical knowledge and practical application.

Prior to my doctoral pursuits, I served as a biologist in the prestigious Corbett Tiger Reserve, where I gained invaluable hands-on expertise in wildlife conservation. With a profound commitment to biodiversity preservation, I made significant contributions to tiger conservation in Kanha and Pench Tiger Reserves, with a specific focus on monitoring and preserving vital tiger corridors. My eight years of GIS experience played a pivotal role in enhancing wildlife conservation efforts.

Currently, I am actively engaged in cutting-edge research at the intersection of environmental science and GIS technology in the Indravati Tiger Reserve and Kanger Valley National Park, Chhattisgarh. My research employs a multidisciplinary approach, utilizing GIS techniques to assess and manage diverse ecosystems within these reserves. The core of my research lies in unraveling the dynamics of wildlife habitats, with a particular emphasis on implementing strategies for the sustainable coexistence of humans and wildlife.

I am an active biologist member of the Bhopal-based NGO known as TINSA Ecological Foundation. As a Nature Education Expert at Disha India, I play a pivotal role in fostering environmental awareness and appreciation through a multifaceted approach. Currently, I contribute my expertise as a team member at SMEW company, serving as a GIS expert and ecologist.

My professional journey showcases a seamless blend of academic excellence, hands-on experience in the field, and a commitment to environmental.

Hailing from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Aishwarya's passion for birds and wildlife at a young age inspired her to become an accomplished birdwatcher, exploring various areas of Madhya Pradesh. Recognizing the critical importance of understanding the connections between habitats and species, she decided to pursue a career in wildlife research and conservation. With a particular interest in vultures, Aishwarya was moved to action after reading case studies about declining vulture populations and the importance of protecting natural ecosystem cleaners. After completing graduation in environmental sciences from Fergusson College, Pune and receiving her M.Sc. in Wildlife Conservation and Action from the Institute of Environment Education & Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune, she joined WWF-India in 2021 as a Project Officer in the Raptor Conservation Programme. She has been actively involved in vulture nest monitoring, raptor hotspot monitoring, education outreach, capacity building, community involvement, and advocacy in Central India.



Aishwarya Laghate
Project Officer - Raptor
Conservation Programme,
WWF India



Dr. Joy Day
Asst. Director Padmaja
Naidu Himalayan
Zoological Park, Darjeeling

Dr. Joy Dey graduated as a Veterinarian from Assam Agricultural University in the year 1996 and joined as a Veterinary Officer in ARD Department Govt. of West Bengal in the year 2002. Since then, has been working in different capacities with active involvement in numerous rescue and treatment of Wild and Zoo Animals. Has been involved full time with Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, popularly known as Darjeeling Zoo since 2018. Since joining PNHZ Park, has developed reference data for Haematology and Biochemistry analysis for wide range of Herbivores, Snow Leopard, and Red Panda apart from numerous successful surgeries conducted on Snow Leopards, other carnivores, and herbivores. His efforts on artificial incubation of pheasant eggs have led to significant rise in their population. He has been an integral part of very successful Snow Leopard Captive Breeding Programme and Red Panda Captive Breeding and Augmentation with a pivotal role in Release of Pheasants, Himalayan Goral and Release of Red Pandas into the Wild. He is the Indian Veterinary Representative at GSMP for RED PANDA CONSERVATION.



Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, is a fascinating amalgam of scenic beauty, old historic city and modern urban planning. It is the 11th century city Bhojpal, founded by Raja Bhoj, but the present city was established by an Afghan soldier, Dost Mohammed (1707-1740). His descendants built Bhopal into a beautiful city.

The two lakes of Bhopal still dominate the city, and are indeed its nucleus. Bordered along their shores stand silent sentinels that testify to the growth of the city.

Bhopal today presents a multi-faceted profile; the old city with its marketplaces and fine old mosques and palaces still bears the aristocratic imprint of its former rulers, among them the succession of powerful Begums who ruled Bhopal from 1819 to 1926. Equally impressive is the new city with its verdant, exquisitely laid out parks and gardens, broad avenues and streamlined modern edifices. It is greener and cleaner than most cities in the country.

Bhopal has enacted the concept of unity in diversity. Here, people of all religions and communities live by mutual goodwill and brotherhood.

The main centres of rural and urban culture in the city are Bharat Bhawan, Museum of Mankind, Swaraj Bhawan and Ravindra Cultural Bhawan. Van Vihar has also been developed for conservation of wild animals, in which there are rare wild animals of different species. Surrounded by lakes and hills, this district is famous for its natural shade.

ABOUT BHOPAL CITY



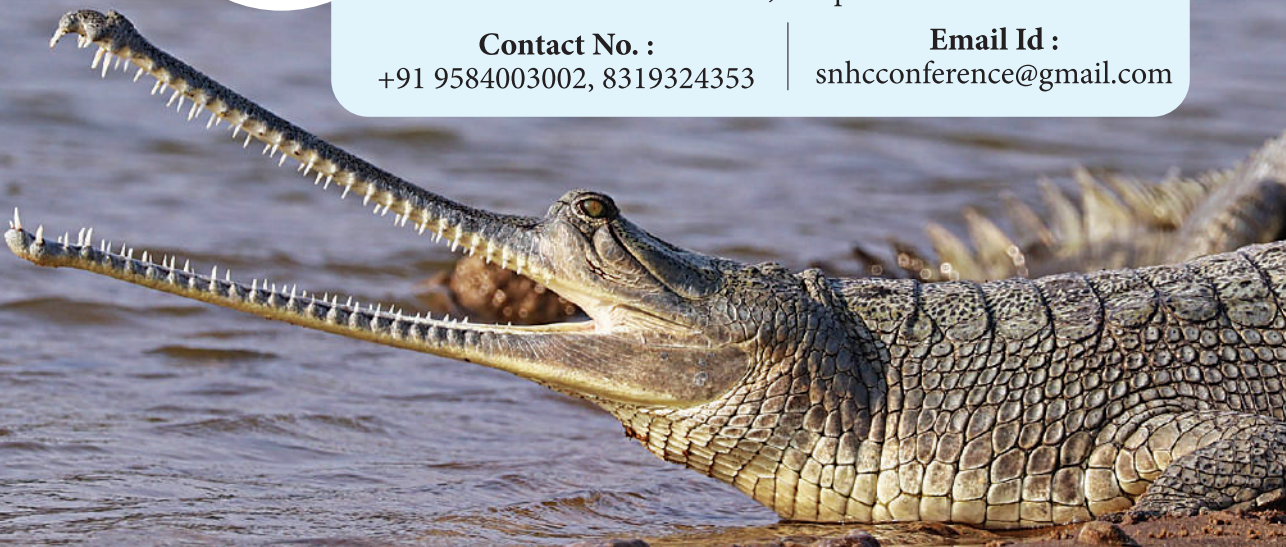
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