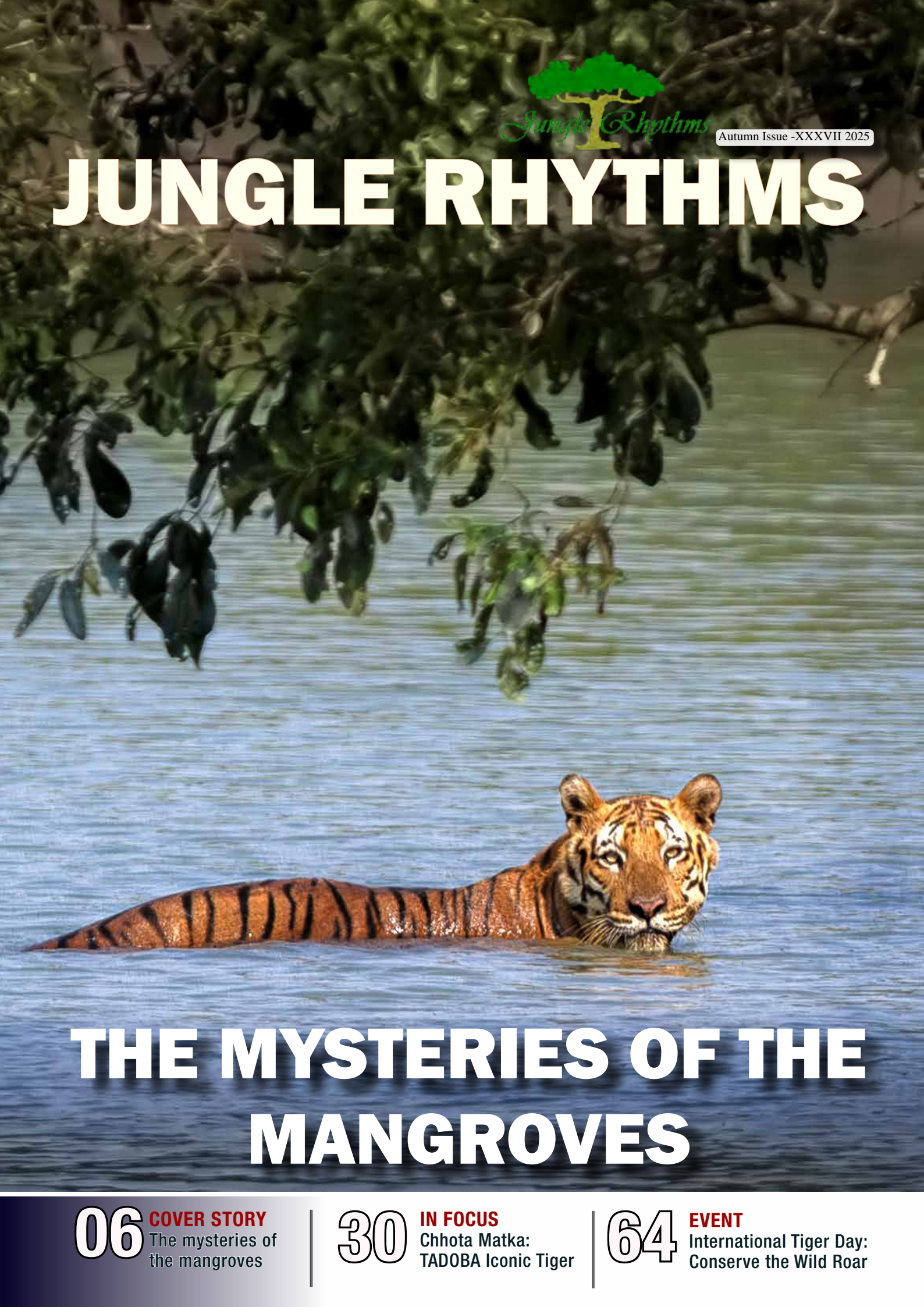


JUNGLE RHYTHMS



THE MYSTERIES OF THE MANGROVES

06

COVER STORY

The mysteries of
the mangroves

30

IN FOCUS

Chhota Matka:
TADOBA Iconic Tiger

64

EVENT

International Tiger Day:
Conserve the Wild Roar



Jungle Rhythms celebrating 50years of Project Tiger

Environmental protection is a fundamental duty of every citizen of this country under Article 51-A(g) of our Constitution and it reads as - “It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.”

© NIRMALYA CHAKRABORTY

CONTENTS

■ Editorial



06. COVER STORY

The mysteries of the mangroves



16. COVER STORY

Old Boro Maa



20. COVER STORY

New Male / Choto Male / Kata Male



24. EXPERIENCE

Tiger Talk: The spoken and symbolic idiom of the delta



30. IN FOCUS

Chhota Matka: TADOBA Iconic Tiger



34. THE EMERALD FOREST

A tale of resurgence from Panna



42. BLUE PLANET

The ocean is speaking Are we listening?



50. COEXISTANCE

Lessons from Paschim Bardhaman's Wolves and Hyenas



54. LEUCISTIC GAUR

Leucistic Gaur of Satpura Tiger Reserve



60. AWARDS

Jungle Rhythms Awards & Recognitions



64. EVENTS

International Tiger Day: Conserve the Wild Roar

Editor-in-Chief:

Dr. Nirmalya Chakraborty

Contributors:

Soumyajit Nandy, Uddalak Das, Mohit Sanyal, Krishnendu Mukherjee, Arpita Dutta, Animesh Manna, Manish Kumar Chattopadhyay,

Design & Art Work: Chhanda Roy

Website: www.jungle.rhythms.com

Mail: jungle.rhythms@gmail.com


Mobile: +91 702 802 2301



The Indian subcontinent is a unique land of rich biodiversity and culturally beautiful people. We have diverse ecosystems and life forms, vivid colours, songs and languages in the natural world. We have been living in harmony with our wild neighbours since ages and continue to have a deep cultural influence from wildlife and nature. Respect for nature's processes is a way of life.

This fine line of tolerance is being tested every time our increasing population have experienced the 'modern day hardships and challenges'. The aspirations of becoming a global economic power have also pushed countless infrastructure projects, some of which leading to natural disasters, ecological imbalances and direct climate impacts. With shrinking forests and ever-eroding legal protections, the space for wildlife is now challenged by an ever-tightening ring of human habitation, roads, mines, agricultural farm lands, industries and defense demands. Due to less space, animals have started dispersing out from their congested 'little forests' in search of new habitats. Many jungle corridors and forest patches through which they travel are now overgrazed, over-utilized or fragmented by roads, dams, rails, powerlines or human homes. Many non-protected habitats and migratory routes are now fragmented and lost. The incidents of elephant deaths on railway lines, high-tension power lines have increased. Territorial fights among wildlife have also intensified leading to tiger deaths. There is now a stiff rise in tension and human-animal conflicts leading to livestock predation and loss of life.

There is a need for strong commitment, collaboration and action. Let us plan to balance commerce, environment and biodiversity conservation in a sustainable way. It will ensure our better quality of life, ecological balance and our rich wildlife will continue to thrive in our forests.

Let us be greener and live an eco-sensitive life. 

Dr. Nirmalya Chakraborty



In the intricate tidal maze of the Indian Sundarbans, where tigers are phantoms, one individual reigned with unparalleled presence. Known by many names—Big Male, Big Boss, and affectionately as Nantu

THE MYSTERIES OF THE MANGROVES



Soumyajit Nandy

My journey into the enigmatic tourism zones of the Indian Sundarbans began in 2008, but it was from August 2014 that my explorations intensified, evolving into a dedicated and systematic documentation project. The Sundarbans mangrove forest is legendary for its impenetrability, a tidal labyrinth where tiger sightings are exceptionally rare, often considered a matter of pure luck. Faced with this challenge, I realized conventional methods were insufficient for tracking these elusive predators.

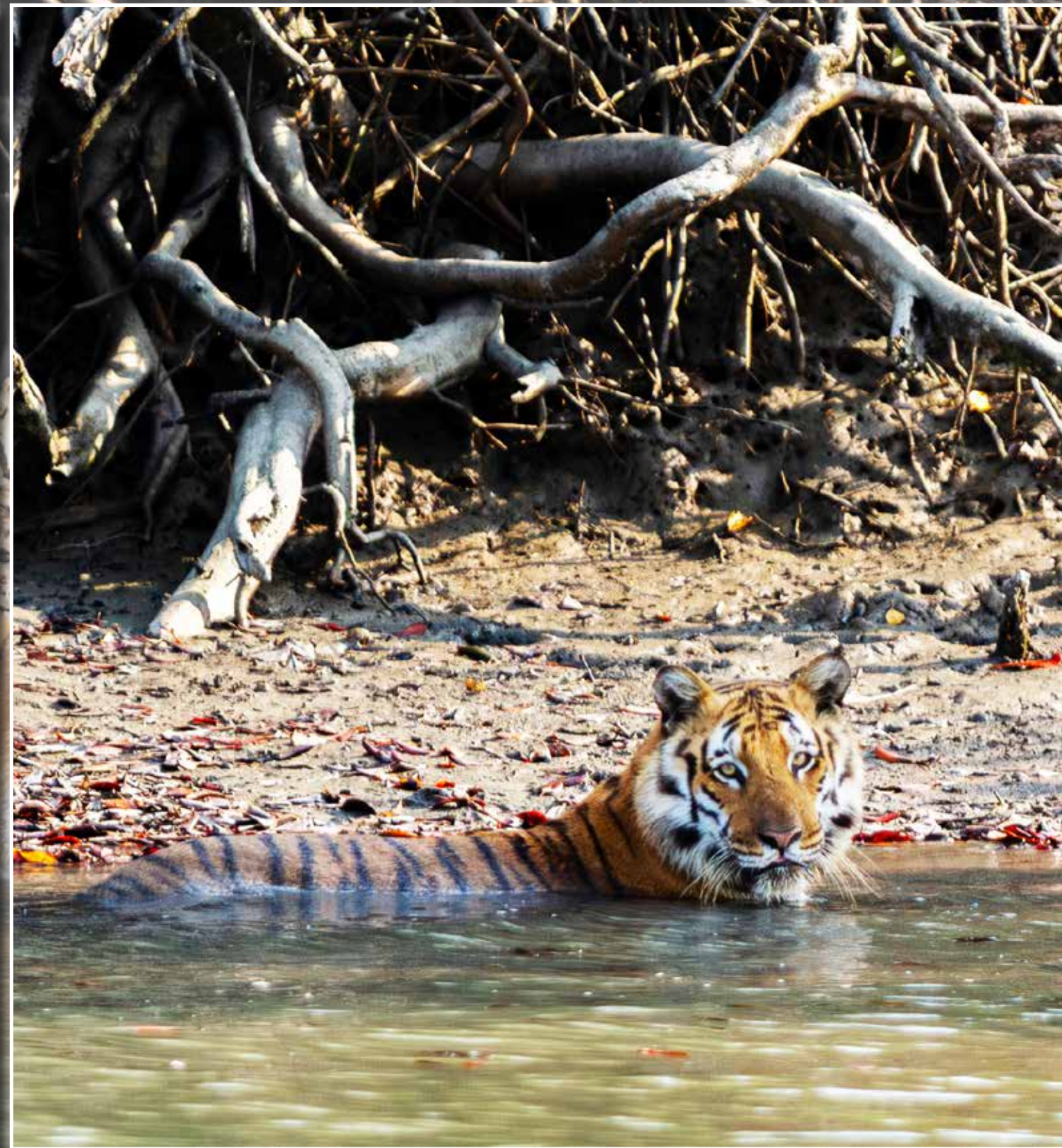
Over years of persistent fieldwork, I successfully developed a unique tracking mechanism, meticulously observing pugmarks and tidal patterns to anticipate the animals' movements. This bespoke methodology proved instrumental in overcoming the region's inherent difficulties. It has allowed me to identify and photographically document 36 distinct individual tigers, a testament to the power of dedicated tracking. Among these incredible big cats, five have become 'star tigers,' whose stories of survival and dominance form a special chapter in my work. My efforts underscore that, with the right approach, even the mysteries of the mangroves can be revealed and understood, offering a deeper insight into their complex lives.

Big Male / Big Boss / Nantu:

In the intricate tidal maze of the Indian Sundarbans, where tigers are phantoms, one individual reigned with unparalleled presence. Known by many names—Big Male, Big Boss, and affectionately as Nantu—he was the most photographed and charismatic tiger of his time. For me, during my formative years of exploration, he was more than a magnificent subject; he was the masterclass from whom I learned the secrets of this difficult landscape. His unusual boldness, a stark contrast to the typically timid nature of Sundarban tigers, provided a rare window into their cryptic lives.

Following Nantu was a profound education. Unlike other tigers that would vanish at the slightest disturbance, he moved with a confident authority, allowing me to study him for extended periods. This was a privilege unheard of in this terrain. I meticulously documented not just his movements, but a spectrum of his behaviours: from his unique hunting strategy of ambushing deer at the water's edge during low tide, to his powerful swimming across wide, turbulent channels. I observed him marking his territory with deep claw scrapes on mangrove trees and learned to read the story his pugmarks left on the silt, identifying his preferred patrol routes.











Nantu, the legendary tiger of the Indian Sundarbans, is remembered as one of the most dominant males ever recorded in the mangrove wilderness. Commanding a vast territory of over 350 square kilometers, he ruled a mosaic of creeks, islands, and dense mangrove forests where his pugmarks were found across an enormous range. Known for his unmistakable frame and confidence, Nantu was believed to have fathered the highest number of cubs ever documented in the tourism zone, passing on his robust genes across generations of the delta's tiger population.

Old Boro Maa:

Old Boro Maa was one of the most fearless and commanding tigresses of the Indian Sundarbans—a regal matriarch whose story still echoes through the mangrove wilderness. I had the privilege of observing and documenting her until 2018, and every sighting of hers carried the raw essence of the wild. She dominated her swampy territory with quiet authority, often seen wading through the brackish creeks or resting atop tide-washed embankments, unbothered by the challenges the ever-changing landscape presented.

One of the most unforgettable moments in my field experience occurred on a summer midday when torrential rain drenched the mangroves. In that surreal setting—a curtain of monsoon rain shimmering over her territory—I witnessed Old Boro Maa locked in a fierce territorial fight with her own grown daughter from a previous litter. The two tigresses clashed with stunning ferocity, their roars merging with the sound of the rain and thunder. It was both heartbreaking and awe-inspiring—a vivid reminder that in the Sundarbans, survival transcends kinship, and even a mother and daughter may turn rivals when power and space are at stake.

Though weathered and scarred, Old Boro Maa triumphed that day, reinforcing her reputation as the fearless queen of her realm. Today, her legacy continues through her bloodline. Her daughter from the last litter, Pith Banka Female, has established herself as a dominant female in another portion of the tourism zone, now raising two cubs of her own. Her rise ensures that the indomitable spirit of Old Boro Maa still flows through the mangroves, unseen yet ever-present.

Even now, each ripple in the tidal creeks seems to whisper her story—of resilience, reign, and the wild grace that defined one of Sundarbans' most unforgettable tigresses.

Old Boro Maa was one of the most fearless and commanding tigresses of the Indian Sundarbans—a regal matriarch whose story still echoes through the mangrove wilderness.







New Male / Choto Male / Kata Male:

The tiger known as New Male—also referred to as Choto Male or Kata Male—emerged in the Indian Sundarbans in August 2017 as a lanky sub-adult just beginning to explore his independence. Later identified as one of the sons of the legendary Nantu, he inherited a portion of his father's expansive kingdom but not his bold, dominating temperament. While Nantu was known for his confident daylight patrols and frequent sightings, Kata Male grew into a more cautious, discreet ruler—one who preferred the solitude of mangrove interiors

and moved mostly under the cover of tide and shadow.

Despite his elusive nature, Kata Male has proven himself an effective and successful sire. Over the years, he has likely fathered between ten and twelve cubs—an impressive record for a tiger less often seen. Both New Boro Maa and Choto Maa, two of the most prominent tigresses in the tourism zone, reside within his territory, and their repeated successful litters are believed to be fathered by him. His presence, though rarely observed directly, is marked unmistakably by fresh pugmarks along creek banks and territorial

sprays left beneath gnarled pneumatophores—silent proof of a powerful yet secretive male maintaining order in the labyrinthine mangroves.

Kata Male represents the quieter side of tiger authority in the Sundarbans—one that thrives not through dominance in open display but through strategic adaptation to a dynamic environment. His lineage links the past reign of Nantu with the newer generation of tigers shaping the region's future. Though seldom sighted, his genetic legacy runs deep through the current population, making him an unseen yet vital force in the ongoing story of the Sundarbans' tigers.



New Boro Maa:

New Boro Maa, the present-day queen of a prime stretch of the Indian Sundarbans, has carved her own legacy—unrelated to the famed Old Boro Maa yet carrying forward the same spirit of dominance and survival. First sighted in November 2017, she was then a shy and secretive tigress who kept to the deeper mangrove interiors, avoiding open creeks and human presence. Over time, this elusive female transformed completely. After giving birth to her first litter, she emerged as a bold and assertive matriarch, confidently patrolling her mudflat kingdom, crossing creeks in daylight, and fiercely defending her growing cubs.

Since then, New Boro Maa has successfully raised three litters—each with two healthy cubs—an impressive record in the challenging and shifting landscape of the delta. Her mastery over the tides, sharp instincts, and strategic movements have defined her reign and earned her recognition among locals and forest watchers as one of the most successful mothers of the region.

One of her female cubs from an earlier litter, Fuleshwari, has now become a dominant tigress in another part of the tourism zone and sired her first litter, ensuring that New Boro Maa's legacy continues. Her story is one of evolution and empowerment—from a reticent wanderer to a fearless ruler whose resilience mirrors the untamed heartbeat of the Sundarbans.

Choto Maa:

Choto Maa was one of the most unforgettable tigresses of the Indian Sundarbans, first sighted in February 2017 during the filming of a BBC wildlife documentary. Even in those early days, she stood out as a bold and confident individual—unfazed by boat presence and the hum of cameras, moving through the mangroves with commanding grace. Her strength and fearlessness quickly became well known among guides and forest watchers.

A rare and remarkable event marked her as extraordinary—documentation exists of her giving birth to a litter of three cubs, an unusual occurrence in the Sundarbans where litter sizes typically range from one to two. Over her reign, Choto Maa successfully raised three litters, producing a total of six healthy cubs. Her efficiency as a mother, her ability to secure food in the challenging tidal terrain, and her unwavering guardianship over her young earned her a place among the most accomplished females of the delta.

In recent years, however, Choto Maa has not been seen. Whether she moved deeper into the inaccessible interiors or succumbed to the harsh realities of the wild remains a mystery. Yet in the quiet bend of creeks and the whisper of mangrove winds, her legacy persists—a memory of a fearless tigress who defied odds and left behind a lineage that still roams the Sundarbans.

Conclusion:

The rise of the “five-star tigers” of the Indian Sundarban—Nantu, Old Boro Maa, Kata Male, New Boro Maa, and Chot Maa—has been pivotal in putting this mangrove wilderness on India's tiger tourism map. Known for their striking appearances along creeks, sandy banks, and dense mangrove channels, these charismatic individuals gave visitors rare opportunities to witness the elusive Sundarban tiger in its natural realm. Their bold yet instinctive behaviour, whether swimming across tidal rivers or patrolling mudflats, turned them into living legends of the delta. Each sighting brought global attention to the Sundarban, blending adventure with conservation awareness. Through their fame, the Sundarban transformed from an inaccessible frontier into a celebrated wildlife destination, proving that in this tidal kingdom, the tiger reigns supreme. Their stories continue to inspire photographers, travellers, and conservationists, keeping alive the mystique and spirit of the world's largest mangrove tiger habitat. 🐅

About the author:

Soumyajit Nandy, an architect turned wildlife photographer, is the Managing Partner of GoingWild LLP. A subject matter expert on the Sundarban and its tigers, he combines design sensibilities with a deep understanding of wildlife. Through his tours and photography, he inspires meaningful connections between people, nature, and conservation.



TIGER TALK :

THE SPOKEN AND SYMBOLIC IDIOM OF THE DELTA

Uddalak Das

A movement like a flutter, like a shadow over the soul. In stealth and great speed alike. Something like a god, a ghost, power and terror personified. Often a sneak, a marvellous opportunist. Sometimes seen, mostly felt. The legend of oracles, the fountainhead of myths. Looming in terror, blooming in fame. Regal, dangerous. The lord master of the eighteen tides. The lore of the swamps, alluring.

Today, we take a look at names which adorn the swamp tiger, the one apex predator who is never called by name, going by swamp wisdom.

And some special terms, which are centred around the striped lord of the mangroves.

1. Swamp tiger - the most identifiable name of the Sundarban tiger, in vogue with wildlife lovers. This name has gradually supplanted the more generic Bengal Tiger (as all Indian tigers are Bengal Tigers).

2. RBT - mostly used by the Forest Department for all matters pertaining to tiger management. And yes, individuals have numbers

and codes, but never special names - unlike other tiger forests.

3. Babu / Boro Babu - The esteemed one, the special one. 'Babu' is an adjoined term given to Bengali names, signifying prestige and acclaim. It is used by forest-dependent locals, both terms connoting respect and grace - mostly used when the tiger is glimpsed at a distance or palpably felt at the forest.

4. Fakir / Bandhu fakir - The wise men or fakirs, like the gazis, had their best time with the advent of Islamisation in lower deltaic Bengal in the Middle Ages. This brought about a mixed heritage at the delta - and somehow, became an addition in jungle lingo over the centuries, attributing nobility and wisdom to the apex predator of the swamps.

5. Lamba Fakir - The long fakir. Sundarban tigers are elusive and illusive too. Movements are spotted only once in a while, although its shadow looms large over the entire woodland. This illusory aspect brings variance in understanding of the size, length and girth of the tiger. It moves magically among the slush and roots and undergrowth, almost endowed with supernatural







skills with which many of the delta wisemen were blessed, in times of yore - a possible reason for this naming.

6. Thakur/ Gurudeb - A parallel name in Hindu analogy, this term denotes reverence and divinity in Bengali and is often used by locals during sudden interactions at the forest, mostly at a safe distance. As much love and respect is assigned, as the fear and awe. Two beautiful names which knocked me off, when I heard them first from crabbers deep inside the forest.

7. Janoar / Jantu - A simple name, both come from the Bengali word for animal/ beast. Used mostly by forest-dependent locals in villages, often during interactions with non-forester locals and outsiders - for the striped beast is also often not called by name away from the forest too!

8. Sheyal / Boro Sheyal - The fox or the big fox. The guile and cunning with which the tiger ambushes prey has possibly attributed this term to it. A master of disguise and concealment, the swamp tiger is a cunning and crafty hunter extraordinaire and lives up truly to this name.


9. Bandhu - The friend. Despite a long history of conflict and the perils of living with an aggressive predator, the Sundarban local is ever reverential to the tiger. This one name signifies the deep love and respect of the delta for the apex predator. Death, injury, loss of livestock or crop degradation

notwithstanding, villagers never lose sight of the special place the swamp tiger holds in their consciousness.

10. Korta/ Boro Korta - The eminent one, an honorific bestowed by forest-going locals on the swamp tiger.

11. Boro Miya - Prevalent more in Bangladesh and in parts of Indian Sundarban with a sizeable number of Islam followers. Equivalent of royalty, the name rightly provides a sense of eminence and grandeur which the Sundarban tiger deserves.

12. Mal - A colloquial expression, derogatory in intent. Often used when conflict is narrowly averted. Not to be confused with the 'maal' or forest.

13. Dakshin Ray - An erroneous name, the tiger is NOT Dakshin Ray. This name has been an addition over the last decade and a half, crafted by the media, the tourism sector and social media. Historically, Dakshin Ray was an avaricious, powerful and bloodthirsty landlord whose story got weaved into the Banabibi saga, post Islamization of the delta. At best, it can be said that the swamp tiger went on to appropriate the negative traits of the individual who was Dakshin Ray. The ferocious beast of the swamp shares some traits which were used to typify Dakshin Ray. However, the beast and the god are two DIFFERENT entities altogether. 



CHHOTA MATKA: TADOBA ICONIC TIGER

Mohit Sanyal

Photo: Nirmalya Chakraborty

A true “superstar” of the wild, Chhota Matka drew thousands of international tourists and wildlife photographers, hungry for a glimpse of his striking features and magnetic presence. Known for his iconic facial scars and intense blue eyes, he dominated social media and became the subject of viral documentaries, reels, and travelogues. Chhota Matka’s life was filled with blockbuster moments—from his rise

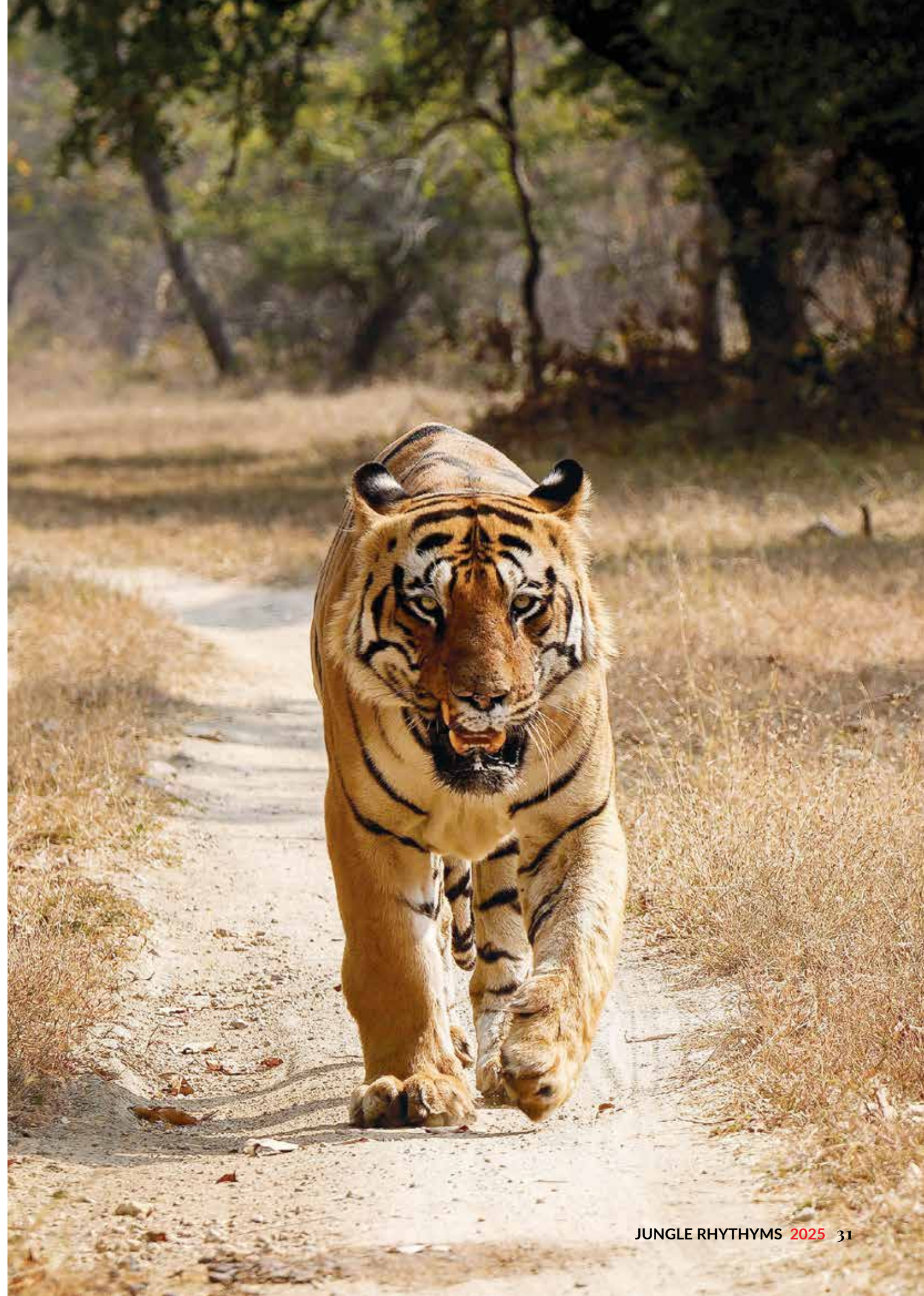
Chhota Matka: famous for his fearless leadership, dramatic battles, and an awe-inspiring legacy from his first days as a shy cub in the heart of India’s Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra’s jungle, Chhota Matka’s journey captured the world’s imagination. Born to the legendary Maya and Matkasur, he inherited both regal looks and a fierce fighting spirit, quickly outgrowing his small start to conquer some of the region’s toughest rivals. A true “superstar” of the wild, Chhota Matka drew thousands of international tourists and wildlife photographers, hungry for a glimpse of his striking features and magnetic presence. Known for his iconic facial scars and intense blue eyes, he dominated social media and became the subject of viral documentaries, reels, and travelogues. Chhota Matka’s life was filled with blockbuster moments—from his rise to power after defeating formidable contenders like Bajrang, Bramha, and Mowgli, to his legendary reign as Tadoba’s most photographed tiger. Through dramatic territory battles, heartbreaking injuries, and a resilient comeback spirit, he inspired fans across the globe. Beyond being a wildlife celebrity, Chhota Matka

became a beacon for conservation, reminding the world of both the beauty and vulnerability of India’s natural heritage. His story remains a symbol of courage, survival, and hope—an enduring presence in the annals of wildlife stardom.

Born of Legends in 2016, deep within Tadoba’s core, a small striped cub opened his eyes to the wild. Son of the mighty Matkasur and the renowned Choti Tara, Chhota Matka’s bloodline was already marked with strength and wisdom. Alongside his brother, he explored the grasslands and streams under their mother’s watchful gaze.

Early Loss and First Struggles Tragedy came early—his sibling’s life was lost to an electrocution accident, leaving Chhota Matka to journey onward alone. This early hardship kindled a fire within him, forging a resolve that would define his life.

The Making of a Warrior Guided by his father’s might and his mother’s calm courage, Chhota Matka learned to hunt, to mark territory, and to survive. As his mother grew old and was pushed out, the young male knew his time had come. He ventured into buffer zones—Nimdhela, Alizanza, and Navegaon—facing lone nights and



Ruler of the Buffers
Chhota Matka's muscles grew and so did his legend. He fought off every rival male in the buffer zones, earning the title of "undefeated king." He became a protective father, raising a significant lineage across Tadoba's buffers—a gentle giant with scars to show for every battle.



hungry days, every step a fight to live another day.

Ruler of the Buffers Chhota Matka's muscles grew and so did his legend. He fought off every rival male in the buffer zones, earning the title of "undefeated king." He became a protective father, raising a significant lineage across Tadoba's buffers—a gentle giant with scars to show for every battle.

Fame, Battles, and Blue Eyes His striking features—rare blue eyes and a powerful frame—caught the


eyes of tourists and photographers. His life became the subject of viral reels and documentaries as every sighting was celebrated across wildlife networks. Fierce battles with tigers like Bajrang and Mowgli forged his reputation as a warrior and survivor.

The Fall and the Legacy with advancing age, injuries from brutal territorial fights slowed Chhota Matka. He ventured close to villages, raising new challenges for himself and the humans nearby. In 2025, after weeks of concerns for

his health, he was rescued and sent for treatment, sparking reflections worldwide on the cost of survival and human-wildlife coexistence.

Forever the King from a vulnerable cub to a legendary, battle-scarred king, Chhota Matka remains the unspoken spirit of Tadoba. His lineage, his fights, and his resilience have etched his name into the annals of wildlife lore, inspiring all who love the wild.

Chota Matka is not just a tiger but a chord of emotion which touches

the life of every wildlife enthusiast. Even in the difficult times, everyone who wanted to track his well-being were not excited rather worried of his survival with the injuries that had derailed him from his natural instincts. That's what the legendary CM has achieved in his wilderness tenure. Nevertheless, his survival in captivity is a nation wide concern with mixed reactions amongst the wildlife clan. But one has to accept that nature has its own projects to deal with, so it's judicious to respect the destiny of Chota Matka. 

A TALE OF RESURGENCE FROM PANNA: THE LAND OF GORGES AND PLATEAUS



Text & Photos: Krishnendu Mukherjee

June 11, 5.30 am | As the forest gate opens, a battery of tourist vehicles stand in a queue to make their entry to this dry deciduous forest land in central India. And, the destination is Pipartolla inside the forest's tourism zone — the haven for P-141 and her three cubs. Before our vehicle could even reach the spot, from a distance, we could see a couple of other Gypsies (safari vehicles) parked along a stretch with tourists busy clicking snaps. Early hours

during summer are preferred both by tigers and tourists with the soaring heat making movement difficult as the day progresses. As we gradually approach them, we manage to spot P-141 and her cubs with a kill by the roadside.

Welcome to the Madla tourism zone of Madhya Pradesh's Panna Tiger Reserve — the emerald forest. Panna National Park — the 22nd tiger reserve in India and the fifth in MP — is nicknamed the 'emerald

forest' due to its rich, dry deciduous forests and its past as a diamond mining area, with the green colour of the forest resembling emeralds.

The park is also known for the Ken river, considered one of the cleanest rivers in India.

As we spend some beautiful moments watching P-141 teaching her cubs to drag and guard the kill — probably of a sambar deer — from the curious onlookers, I also think of the resurgence tale of the tiger reserve that lost all its tigers by 2008-09.

The past

Panna National Park was once a desolate landscape, devoid of the majestic tigers that once roamed its forests. However, the reserve made a remarkable recovery and is now a model for tiger reintroduction efforts, thanks to the tireless efforts

of the Panna Tiger Reintroduction Program.

The project has successfully reintroduced tigers into the park's natural habitats, resulting in close to 80 tigers, including cubs, thriving within its 543 sq km boundaries.

As per reports, the project's success has earned recognition as one of the best 'Adaptive Active Management Practice Models', and it received the 'Award of Excellence' in the Active Management Category in 2012 from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

In 2009, the Ministry of Environment and Forests decided to relocate two tigers and two tigresses to the park, from MP's Bandhavgarh and Kanha, spearheaded by R Shreenivasa Murthy, the then-field director of Panna.

Over the years, seven translocated tigers, five females and two males,

have mated multiple times, giving birth to over 80 cubs. These efforts have transformed Panna into a safe tiger haven, where the royal stripes roam free and flourish in a protected environment. The tale of the reserve's resurgence is one of the greatest wildlife comeback stories in recent times.

On the Panna model, a senior MP forester said that by 2009, Panna National Park became the second tiger reserve in India after Sariska to lose all its tigers. "Though the big cats were reintroduced in Rajasthan's Sariska before Panna, the latter has pipped the former in terms of tiger population now," he added.

Tourism push

Panna, over the years, has experienced a tourism push, particularly due to its increased tiger sighting and proximity to the temple town of Khajuraho. Panna is a major at-



With cub on kill



With cubs at Ken river



traction, along with the Ken Gharial Sanctuary and the scenic Pandav and Raneh falls. The region also boasts historical and religious sites, including the Mahamati Prannathji Temple and the Baldeoji Temple.

The Madla zone — at the bottom of the three-plateau system — now has two popular dominant tigresses, P-141 and P-151, both of whom have cubs. While P-141 is usually seen in the grassland areas, P-151 roams the forests near Ken river, particularly around the boating area. The two dominant males of the region are P-621 and P-663, with the latter visiting both the Madla and Hinauta plateau zones.

If you are lucky enough, you can also spot P151-21 with her cubs on the other side of the Ken river during a boat ride. Since the tigress roams the forests of the non-tourism zone, one only has the chance to spot her during boat rides if she decides to cool herself in the Ken river. As per naturalists, she is the first cub of P-151's second litter.

The second level in the system is Hi-

nauta plateau where tigresses P-142 and P-652 are often spotted by the tourists. The dominant male here is P-663 who has recently dethroned P-243. A sub-adult of P-652 has also separated from his mother and is on the lookout to establish his own territory. The zone also boasts some beautiful grassland patches.

The top-most level of the three-plateau system houses Akola — also known as the buffer zone. Since this zone is predominantly a forest of lantana — a major shrub species of the park — wildlife sighting here is an issue as dense lantana thickets indeed make it difficult to spot wildlife in forests. Lantana, also a highly invasive shrub, forms dense, impenetrable mats that restrict visibility and limit the movement of both animals and humans.

But if luck has its say, then one can sight a tiger crossing a road or sitting in a waterhole. Since very few vehicles visit this zone, one can photograph the majestic beauty without any disturbance.

Beyond tigers, Panna boasts a



healthy population of leopards, sloth bears and hyenas, along with sambar deer, chital, Indian gaur and various bird species. If luck permits, one can also photograph hyenas, sloth bears or leopards here, particularly during the night safaris at Jhinna zone.

Vulture Point in Panna Tiger Reserve is a key location known for its role in vulture conservation and is a popular spot for birdwatching. It is characterized by its rocky cliffs and lush greenery, offering a scenic view and a chance to observe vultures in their natural habitat. The area is also known for its role in providing a safe, diclofenac-free food source for vultures, helping to combat the decline in their population.

The road ahead, can it hold on to the success story?

As we criss-crossed the Ken river to catch a glimpse of P151-21 with her cubs during a boatride, a sombre mood gripped me.

The beautiful sighting of the mother

and cubs also flagged a worry over the ongoing Ken-Betwa river-linking project inside the tiger reserve that has put 60 sq km — over 10% of 542 sq km core area — under threat. A road has already been reportedly built to the site of the project — which will channel excess Ken water to Betwa to solve water problems of people living in MP and neighbouring Uttar Pradesh.

With reports of the forest near project site home to a tigress, her two cubs, a male tiger and several prey species, the sighting raised a key question — can the tiger reserve hold on to the remarkable success story it scripted with the big cat relocation project?

“Unfortunately, a substantial portion of the biodiverse Panna Tiger Reserve is currently under threat of submersion due to the proposed Ken-Betwa river-linking project, which poses a significant risk to the conservation efforts in the area,” quoted the All-India tiger estimation report of 2022.

■ The Emerald Forest



Ken river habitat



With cub

Right of passage

Panna-Ranipur corridor

As per reports, the Panna block, located within the Vindhya range, has become geographically separated from the Bandhavgarh-Guru Ghasidas landscape in recent times. However, there have been reports of collared tigers navigating the human-dominated landscape between the two reserves, undertaking a risky journey from Panna

Tiger Reserve to Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve.

“Panna serves as the source population within this block. After facing local extirpation, the tiger population in Panna has been successfully restored through reintroduction efforts and the effective enforcement of laws by the Madhya Pradesh forest dept. Panna is connected to the newly established Ranipur Tiger Re-

serve in Uttar Pradesh through the territorial forest divisions of North Panna and Satna. Habitat improvement, ungulate augmentation, and protection is needed to establish tiger population,” said the all-India tiger estimation report in 2022.

In the south, the fragmented habitat of the South Panna Territorial Division acts as a stepping stone for dispersing tigers from Panna Tiger Reserve towards Bandhavgarh and Noradehi Wildlife Sanctuary. The current estimated population of tigers in this block is 79 individuals, occupying an area of 2,840 square kilometres, the report added.

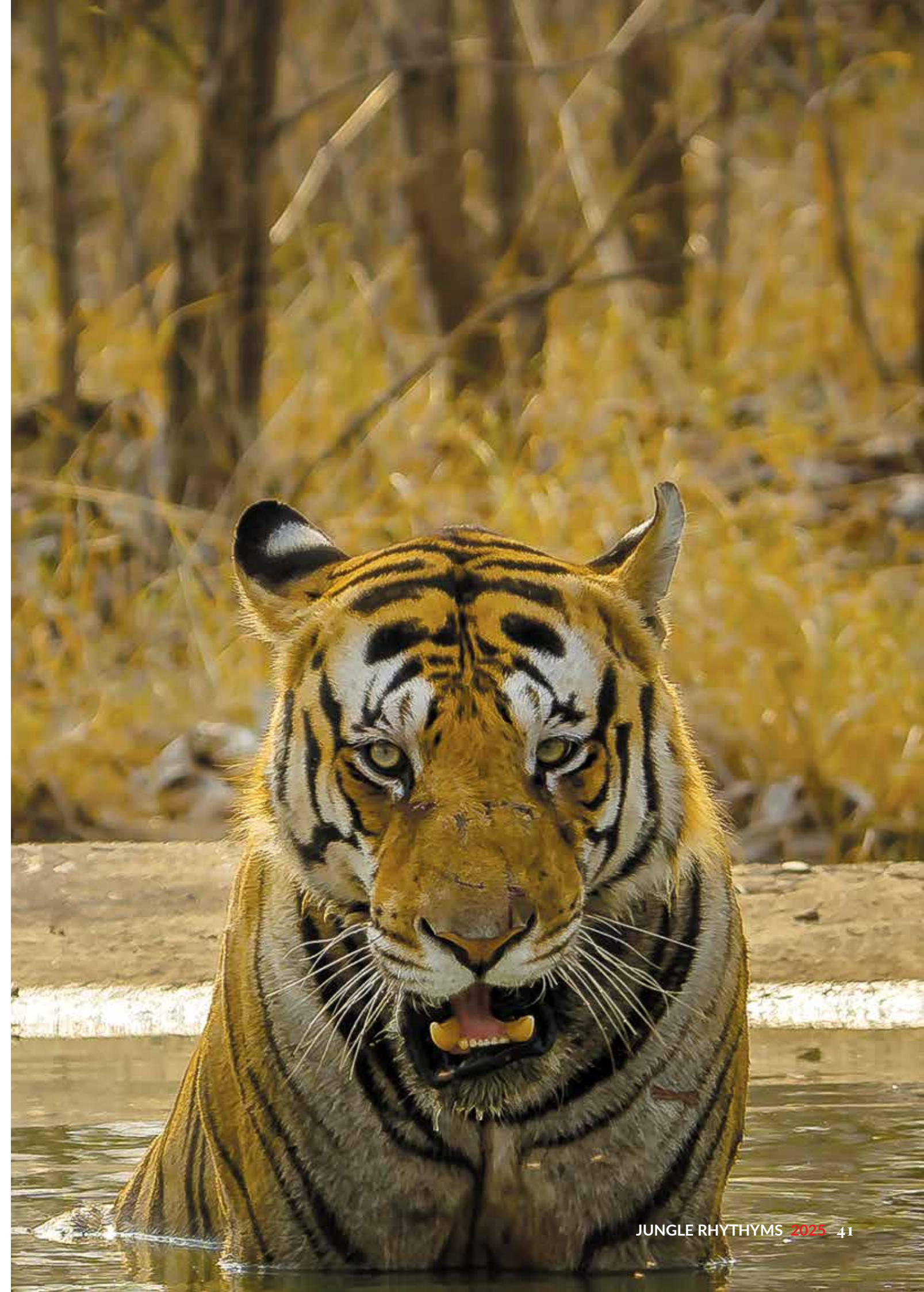
Tiger stats from Panna

Panna tiger reserve is now home to 55-63 tigers, with presence of 14 additional tigers in the immediate landscape

As per the 2022 report, a camera trap sampling of 574 locations with a sampling effort of 25,428 trap-nights resulted in the capture of 55 individual tigers (>1 year of age) from 2,034 tiger photos.

The estimated tiger density was 3.18 tigers per 100 km²

The detection-corrected tiger sex ratio in Panna Tiger Reserve was 1.58 females per male, indicating a female-biased sex ratio. **JR**



THE OCEAN IS SPEAKING ARE WE LISTENING?

Text & Photos: Arpita Dutta

This year, I gifted myself a departure from land for my birthday. Instead of forests and grasslands, I immersed myself in a world lesser-known to me — the sea. I enrolled in the PADI Open Water certification in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia. For decades as a conservationist, I have witnessed climate change, pollution, habitat loss & degradation, and overexploitation of nature — and I have carried the weight of species pushed to the brink. I hoped diving would bring calm—a way to quiet the despair. What I found instead was transformation.

A WORLD REBORN

In those first dives, the world below the surface humbled me: the mechanics of breath, balance, buoyancy. And then the reef unfolded: turtles drifting like ancient mariners; mating rituals

of mantas and stingrays gliding in a slow sea-ballet; octopuses camouflaging into coral crevices; cuttlefish shimmering in changing light; clownfish darting through anemones; reef sharks, eels, boxfish, barracudas, parrot fish, the vibrant nudibranchs — a carnival of colour and life. Even the ocean current made me learn to fly underwater.

But the highlight for me was the sea turtles — the magnificent hawksbill and green turtles. I have always felt a deep connection with Chelonians. They are close to my heart not only because I work in freshwater turtle conservation, but because they embody such extraordinary evolutionary resilience. For over 200 million years, they have traversed land and sea — ancient survivors whose every slow movement carries the weight of time.

To meet them in their ocean realm was profoundly moving, almost sacred. There were a couple of moments when the turtles swam straight toward me, and I could feel

my heartbeat race. One came so close it almost brushed me with its flipper — a fleeting touch that felt like a blessing. I wanted to ascend and scream with joy, to share what I had just experienced. But when I surfaced, I cried instead.

It was a strange mixture of happiness and grief — the joy of connection, shadowed by the reality of loss. Not long after, I noticed a patch of floating debris. My instructor and I began collecting it — plastic bottles, wrappers, and what looked like a disposable cup. When I held it, the plastic felt brittle, disintegrating at the touch, breaking into shards that small fish were already nibbling at. It was shocking — to see life and death, beauty and pollution, coexist in such intimate proximity.

And yet, it was the corals that left me spellbound. Beneath the glimmering surface, they stretched like living cathedrals — intricate, luminous, alive and a home. Their forms were astonishing — branching staghorns, boulder-like brain corals, delicate lace-like fans, each painted in surreal shades of



violet, gold, turquoise, and crimson. Indonesia lies at the heart of the Coral Triangle, often called the “Amazon of the Sea” — a region that hosts 76% of the world’s coral species and nearly 37% of all reef fish species. After my dives, I could easily see why. I had explored only the waters around four islands, and yet every descent revealed a different city of life — bustling, vibrant, endlessly diverse. But beauty often shares space with fragility. Amidst the bursts of colour,

I saw patches of coral bleaching and others glowing with unnatural neon hues — a sign of stress, the corals’ last attempt to survive rising temperatures. Even in this paradise, the warnings were visible, quietly pulsing beneath the surface. On my 10th dive, at Babi Island in Maumere, I descended into a giant fissure left by the 1992 earthquake. To one side: a wall of corals blazing with life. To the other, a bottomless abyss of blue was giving an eerie feeling, but there was a calm.



Suspended at 19.2 metres, I felt as though I were floating in a dream. It was awe. It was joy.

THE VOICE OF COLLAPSE

What I witnessed underwater was magical. What I felt was a warning.

This is not mere metaphor. A 2025 global report confirms that the world has crossed its first major climate-tipping point — warm-water coral reefs are now at the threshold of near-irreversible collapse. Over 84 % of the world’s coral reefs have

been exposed to bleaching-level heat stress since January 2023. In the iconic Great Barrier Reef, the largest annual decline in coral cover in 39 years was recorded — some regions losing over 30 % of hard-coral cover between 2024 and 2025.

At this pace, within a few decades, the very fabric of reef ecosystems may unravel. The lifeblood of marine habitats, coastal protection, fisheries, tourism — everything tied to the reef will feel the ripples of loss.





Coral reefs aren't simply collections of colour and fish; they are the foundational ecologies on which entire marine worlds depend. When the reef declines, so do the myriad species it supports, including us — entire human communities, too.

AND YET — A FLICKER OF HOPE

Despite the devastation, there are signs of resilience. Reef-restoration techniques — coral micro-fragmentation, selective breeding of heat-tolerant corals, community-driven reef gardens — are slowly gaining traction. If focused, scaled and sustained, they could help hold the line.

But scale matters. The crisis isn't a local blip. It is global. And time is slipping faster than we realise. The tipping-point report warns:

unless global warming is urgently reversed, most warm-water reefs could vanish by 2050.

A GIFT THAT BECAME A CALLING

I meant to give myself a gift. What I received instead was a message — heavier, deeper than I expected. The ocean did not remain silent. It spoke: in the colours of living reefs; in the yawning blue abyss; in the drift of plastic and bleached coral. It reminded me that a conservationist's mind cannot be at rest.

You cannot only read about it, you must feel it. Floating between life and loss, I realised that understanding the planet requires more than science — it demands empathy.

The question is no longer: Is the

ocean speaking?

The question is: When will we finally listen?

Because what's at stake is not just reefs, turtles or sharks. It is the living heart of our planet.

We each have a role. If you're a traveller, choose reef-safe practices: use reef-friendly sunscreen, avoid touching coral, and support responsible dive operators. If you're a citizen, push for stronger climate policy, cleaner seas, and marine-protected areas that include reef ecosystems. If you're in conservation or science, amplify reef voices and restoration stories.

Let us give back to the reef not just admiration, but action. [JR](#)



Lessons from Paschim Bardhaman's Wolves and Hyenas

Manish Kumar Chattopadhyay

Wildlife Week 2025 reminds us of a timeless truth: our survival is inseparably bound to the survival of the natural world. This year's theme, "Coexist with Nature", calls for a deeper reflection on how humans and wildlife can share space, even in landscapes transformed by industry and urbanization. A compelling example of this delicate balance can be found in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district, home to the twin industrial cities of Durgapur and Asansol. Here, amidst coal mines, steel plants, and highways, two remarkable survivors, the Indian Grey Wolf and the Indian Striped Hyena, continue to hold on to existence. Their stories are not just about survival, but also about the possibility of coexistence.

The Ghosts of Durgapur's Sal Forests
The Indian Grey Wolf, often called the "ghost of the grasslands", has found an unlikely home in the fragmented Sal forests around Durgapur. These wolves navigate a perilous world where industrial expansion constantly eats into their territory. With natural prey dwindling, they sometimes stray into villages, attacking livestock and triggering conflict with local communities. The tragic events in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, in 2024, where habitat destruction led to wolf attacks on humans, serve as a cautionary tale for Durgapur. Yet, conservation groups such as WINGS, in collaboration with WWF-India and the West Bengal Forest Department, are working to prevent such outcomes. From mapping wolf corridors with camera traps to introducing innova-



tive conflict-mitigation techniques like fladry, these initiatives aim to reduce hostility and foster coexistence. More importantly, villagers are slowly being engaged as stakeholders, trained as wildlife monitors, ecotourism guides, and conservation advocates. This approach demonstrates that protecting wolves is not just about saving a species, but about

redefining how communities live alongside wildlife in rapidly urbanizing landscapes. The efforts of the West Bengal Forest Department, through awareness and protection initiatives, deserve special praise for ensuring that wolves remain part of the district's living heritage. The Silent Survivors of the Coal Belt If wolves represent adaptability, the Indian Striped Hyena symbolizes

resilience. Misunderstood and maligned, these scavengers still roam the coal-dominated landscapes of Asansol and Durgapur. Their survival depends on quiet refuges such as abandoned mines, rocky outcrops, and scrublands where they raise their young. Yet, their fragile existence is constantly threatened by road kills, retaliatory killings, and industrial encroachment.

Here too, hope lies in community-based conservation. The Durgapur Forest Division, under the West Bengal Forest Department, has taken proactive leadership in protecting hyenas. Together with WINGS and leading conservation organizations, the department has launched awareness campaigns among schools, mining communities, and industry stakeholders. Scientific research, such as camera-trap studies and mapping of wildlife crossings, is guiding practical solutions. In some mining areas, companies have begun installing speed breakers and wildlife signage, proving that industry and conservation need not always be at odds. The hyena's role as nature's cleaner, disposing of carrion and preventing disease, has become a powerful point of awareness. Protecting them is not merely an act of compassion but an ecological necessity. The

Forest Department's consistent involvement in fieldwork, community outreach, and policy advocacy has made it the backbone of conservation in this challenging region. Paschim Bardhaman: A Living Laboratory of Coexistence The continued presence of wolves and hyenas in Paschim Bardhaman highlights both the challenges and possibilities of coexistence. This region, at once an industrial powerhouse and an ecological transition zone, shows that conservation is possible even in the most altered habitats. Coexistence here is not an abstract idea, it is being built through grassroots education, scientific monitoring, strong institutional support, and above all, community participation. The stories of these two species remind us that coexistence requires balance: between development and conservation, fear and understand-

ing, industry and ecology. Wolves teach us the importance of foresight, of protecting habitats before conflict spirals out of control. Hyenas teach us resilience, how life persists even on the margins, and why every species, no matter how humble, is vital to ecological health.

Towards a Shared Future
As Paschim Bardhaman stands at this crossroads, the message of Wildlife Week becomes clear: coexistence is not only possible but essential. Protecting wolves and hyenas here is not just about saving wildlife, it is about creating a model for how cities, industries, and communities can live in harmony with nature.

In the quiet howl of a wolf across the Sal Forest, or the shadowy movement of a hyena across an abandoned mine, lies a simple reminder: nature endures, adapts, and waits for us to choose whether we will walk beside it, or push it away forever.

If we choose coexistence, then Paschim Bardhaman can stand as a beacon of hope not just for West Bengal, but for all of India. **JK**

My work focuses on the wildlife of southern West Bengal, especially species like the Indian Grey Wolf and Striped Hyena. I currently serve as the Joint Secretary of WINGS (Wildlife Information & Nature Guide Society) and lead the field research team working on conservation projects supported by WWF-India, Wildlife Trust of India, The Habitat Trust, and the Wildlife Conservation Trust.

— Manish Kumar Chattopadhyay -
Joint Secretary
Wildlife Information and
Nature Guide Society

Leucistic Gaur of Satpura Tiger Reserve

Text & Photos: Animesh Manna



One of the largest wild cattle in the world, the Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) has a prominent population at Satpura Tiger Reserve in the Central Indian landscape. According to the last estimation, 2024 there is 10,000+ individual thriving in the Tiger Reserve. Despite their huge size, their preferred habitat is in hilly terrain (Photo-1), which the Satpura has the most.

Although they have a seasonal altitude migration depending on the availability of food, as observed. Satpura Tiger Reserve is surrounded by the riverine ecosystem. The North-Western and South-Western part of the TR has the backwaters of the Tawa reservoir (Photo-2). Once water is released during the wheat

sowing season around December-January onwards, fresh grass sprouts, and big herds of Gaur move to these lowlands (Photo-3). Some of the herds consist of 10-20 individuals or some time more than that. Adult solitary males also join the herd being in a rut. They follow the females who are in Estrous cycle and also do the bellowing to his fellow competitor to show the dominance.

During the observation of the Gaur in different areas and with different herds at Satpura, we found that, some of the herd has some individual which paler in colour. Generally adult bull Gaurs are Dark brown to Blackish with a shiny coat (Photo-4), and cows are a light brown colour (Photo-5). But in some of the herds we have seen isolated pale co-


loured Gaur. In all these cases, we found it was always a female Gaur whose colour is different from the herd (Photo-6). But not more than one individual we have seen in one herd (Photo-3). In some cases there were whitish colour calves as well (Photo-7-8-9). Some are light brown (Photo-10) to pale cream (Photo-11) and whitish (Photo-12).

Every time we have seen the pale individual, the eyes were always black not red. So, it means that all the pale coloured individual that we see is not an Albino. In the case of Albinism they will not be producing any melanin in their body, hair and eyes as well. So, without the melanin in their eyes it will look blood red or pink.

But these Gaurs are posing a





natural phenomenon called a Leucism. Which means that this individuals partially lost their pigmentation on their hair and body but eyes are having melanin. Majorly this condition is caused by a genetic anomaly, usually recessive in nature. More genetic study on the Gaurs of Satpura is need to done to learn more about the Leucistic Gaurs of Satpura. We hope some researcher will do a proper study on it and come up with result why the Gaurs of Satpura Tiger Reserve having these typical colouration, till than enjoy the beauty of Leucistic Gaurs of Satpura. 



Jungle Rhythms Awards & Recognitions - Rapid Response Team - India & Nepal



Due to habitat loss, elephant herds of North Bengal along the borders with India and Nepal wander the human dominated habitats - both stressed and lost.

During the paddy harvesting season, tension rises. The hardworking farmers strongly protect their crop as the opportunistic elephants try to smartly enjoy the bounty during the cloak of night.

The RAPID RESPONSE TEAM from both India and Nepal jointly collaborate and conduct night operations using spotlights and sirens to keep the elephants unharmed and channelize them back into the forest in a very painless and effective way.

Jungle Rhythms witnessed one such operation and it is really an exhibition of greatest coordination, synergy and passion by the young youth on both sides of the international borders who selflessly protect both human lives, property and our elephants Love for elephants can really do miracles!

Jungle Rhythms' acknowledgement, appreciation and love for the full team will always remain and be a strong supporter for their work.

God bless. More strength to all of you.





INTERNATIONAL TIGERS' DAY



CONSERVE THE WILD ROAR

Dr. Nirmalya Chakraborty

ROAR! 29th July is the day of the roar. It is the International Tigers' Day. A day that marks pledging to conserve and save tigers. International Tigers' Day is not only about saving tigers but also about maintaining the ecological balance, indirectly.

Rishi Aurobindo Memorial Academy in tune with this ideology celebrated International Tigers' Day and organised an exhibition on tigers and forests. It was possible with the support of the school management especially Mr. Arjun Ghosh, the secretary of the school.

The exhibition was graced by the renowned wildlife photographer Dr. Nirmalya Chakraborty – the founder and editor of Jungle Rhythms. He highlighted how tigers are an integral part in maintaining the en-

vironmental balance. His inspiring words ignited the essence of the jungle and need for more forests and greenery on our earth.

Special thanks to the Environmental Science teacher, Mr. Rupam Ray who conducted the entire exhibition along with his team (fellow teachers: Miss Saheli Majumder and Dipsha Santra; and students). He encouraged the children to come up with different ideas to spread awareness among others regarding the endangered species, tiger. He highlighted different facts about tiger conservation programs in view to infuse with-in children about the importance of yellow-black striped big cats.

The program was followed by several speeches by the students on tiger conservation. The students focussed on tigers and how it symbolises strength.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXHIBITION

1. Charts Displayed

The exhibition featured a series of well-designed and informative charts created by students from various grades. Each chart was a visual representation of data, facts, and awareness messages about tigers. Some of the key charts included:

•**“Population Decline of Tigers Over the Years”**: A chart illustrating the drastic decrease in tiger populations from the 20th century to the present, highlighting key reasons

such as poaching, deforestation, and human-wildlife conflict.

•**“Types of Tigers Around the World”**: A colorful chart displaying different subspecies of tigers including the Bengal tiger, Siberian tiger, Sumatran tiger, and the Malayan tiger, with their respective geographical ranges.

•**“Tiger Habitats in India”**: A map of India marked with major tiger reserves like Sundarbans, Jim Corbett, Bandhavgarh, and Rantham-

bore, accompanied by statistics on tiger populations in each region.

•**“Why Tigers Are Endangered”**: A chart breaking down causes such as illegal wildlife trade (40%), habitat loss (30%), climate change (20%), and human encroachment (10%).

•**“Conservation Success Stories”**: A bar graph showing the increase in tiger populations in certain reserves after dedicated conservation efforts.

2. Models Displayed





The models at the exhibition showcased the creativity and craftsmanship of students, bringing the tiger's world to life:

●**Tiger Habitat Diorama:** A 3D model of a dense forest with a flowing river, prey animals, and a life-like tiger figurine resting under a tree. It included signs showing the balance of the green environment.

●**Timeline of Project Tiger**

Students prepared a colorful timeline highlighting major milestones in tiger conservation from 1973 to 2025, using charts, pictures, and infographics.

●**Poaching and Its Impact**

A glimpse of student's creativity

was shown in a grim model showing traps, deforested land, and skeletal remains of animals to depict the dangers of poaching. A QR code was linked for more details.

●**Tiger Reserves of India**

A large map of India was displayed, marking all major tiger reserves with facts and statistics. Each reserve, like Jim Corbett, Ranthambore, Sundarbans, and Bandipur, had mini pop-up displays.

3. Award Ceremony

The exceptionally eloquent speakers were given certificates and gifts as a token of appreciation by Jungle Rhythms. The chart presentation and models also received the best award by Jungle Rhythms.





- Best Speaker: Sabarni Chowdhury (IX)

- Best Model: Riya Singh (XI)

- Best Chart Presentation: Somoshree Saha (VIII)

Such initiatives by the school management joining hands with Jungle Rhythms evoked within students the need of the hour to maintain the ecological balance.

The celebration ended with a remarkable documentary on tigers by Dr. Nirmalya Chakraborty, Jungle Rhythms. It was awe-inspiring. Everyone could learn about the jungle habits and the behaviour of the wild.

- Screening of Tiger Documentary by Dr. Nirmalya Chakraborty at Tiger Exhibition:

As part of the much-anticipated Tiger Exhibition, a special docu-

mentary screening added depth and perspective to the student-led event. The highlight of the day was a powerful and thought-provoking tiger documentary presented by renowned wildlife photographer, Dr. Nirmalya Chakraborty.

Dr. Chakraborty, known for his extensive fieldwork and conservation advocacy, had graciously permitted the school to screen his acclaimed documentary titled “The Land of the Tigers”: The documentary provided students with a close-up view of the life, struggle, and survival of tigers and other animals in the wild. The children could relate to the idea “survival of the fittest” even more with the documentary.

Overview of the Documentary

Title: The Land of the Tigers

Director: Dr. Nirmalya Chakraborty
Duration: 30 minutes

Location Filmed: Jim Corbett National Park, Sunderbans, Bandhavgarh, Kaziranga reserves and other such reserves.

The documentary opened with stunning aerial shots of India’s dense forests, echoing with the sounds of nature. It took the audience on a journey through the tiger’s world—its hunting techniques, behavior, territorial instincts, and most importantly, the threats that jeopardize its existence.

● Key Highlights from the Documentary

1. Close Encounters in the Wild: Real footage of tiger cubs learning to stalk prey, a mother fiercely protecting her territory, and solitary males navigating the deep forest.

2. The irony of life and death: Nature intermingling with jungle rule led to goosebumps when a small fawn got





gulped by a huge python. We could see how life easily got swallowed by death with minutes.

● Students' Reactions and Reflections

The screening was attended by students from Classes 6 to 10, who watched in complete silence, captivated by the raw beauty and gravity of the documentary. Following the screening, a short interactive session was held where students shared their thoughts and asked curious questions.

“How do you behave sir when you see a tiger close to you?”

“What does a tiger think when they see humans?”

“How are photographs of such wild animals taken?”

● Message from Dr. Nirmalya Chakraborty

● Tigers behave differently when they are hungry. Also if they see humans on foot they tend to mistake them for monkeys and find them as an easy prey. However, humans in cars are less easy prey for tigers. Cars seem huge to tigers so they do not attack easily. “

✦ “Tigers are more than just majestic animals—they are symbols of balance in nature. If we lose them, we lose our forests. And if we lose forest, the entire ecosystem fall into imbalance. I'm deeply heartened to see students learning about conservation.”

The entire session was very informative and quite interesting in a way as it raised voice for the voiceless. Tigers, especially being our

national animal it is our duty to conserve those wild roars. Somewhere the fear of loud echoes of the roar around us are better than never hearing those loud roars ever.

The Tiger Exhibition proved to be an inspiring and educational event that left a strong impact on all attendees. It emphasized how even young minds can play a vital role in spreading awareness and protecting the natural world. The message was loud and clear: “If we protect the tiger, we protect the forest. And if we protect the forest, we secure our future.”

Thus, we hope our future forests to be shining with agile and ferocious tigers as we know by the words of William Blake

“Tyger Tyger burning bright
In the forest of the night...” **JB**



Jungle Rhythms - Global Tiger Day e-Celebrations 2025





Devvrat Sharma	Yashodham High School Mumbai
Saloni Chavan	Yashodham High School Mumbai
Moyetree Bandyopadhyay	Rishi Aurobindo Memorial Academy Kolkata
Ananya Singh	Yashodham High School Mumbai
Srinjoy Moulick	Dolna Day School Kolkata
Ashita K Dasoju	Yashodham High School Mumbai

Moyetree Bandyopadhyay	Rishi Aurobindo Memorial Academy Kolkata
Gauravi Patel	Yashodham High School Mumbai
Ichchha Katherna	Yashodham High School Mumbai
Saanvi Kolwankar	Yashodham High School Mumbai
Shikhar Kashyap	The Chintel's School Kanpur
Aisha Panda	UDTE, Utkal University Bhubaneswar
Priyashree Bordoloi	Kaziranga High School Assam

Jungle Rhythms Global Tiger Day 2025 Competitions for Youth

All kids were invited to roar the loudest and spread the message of love for nature and conservation of the tiger and it's habitat on the eve of Global Tiger Day on 29th July by participating in any of the following:

- The Events:**
- 1. Wild Art Competition (Age 10 to 15years)**
 - 2. Wild Storytelling Competition (Age 10 to 15years)**

Wild Storytelling: Kids to tell us interesting stories from the tigerland when they visited. Wild stories can be on animal behavior you saw that touched your heart or an incident that was rare or a story that connect the tiger forest with the local

people who live in the deep forests of India

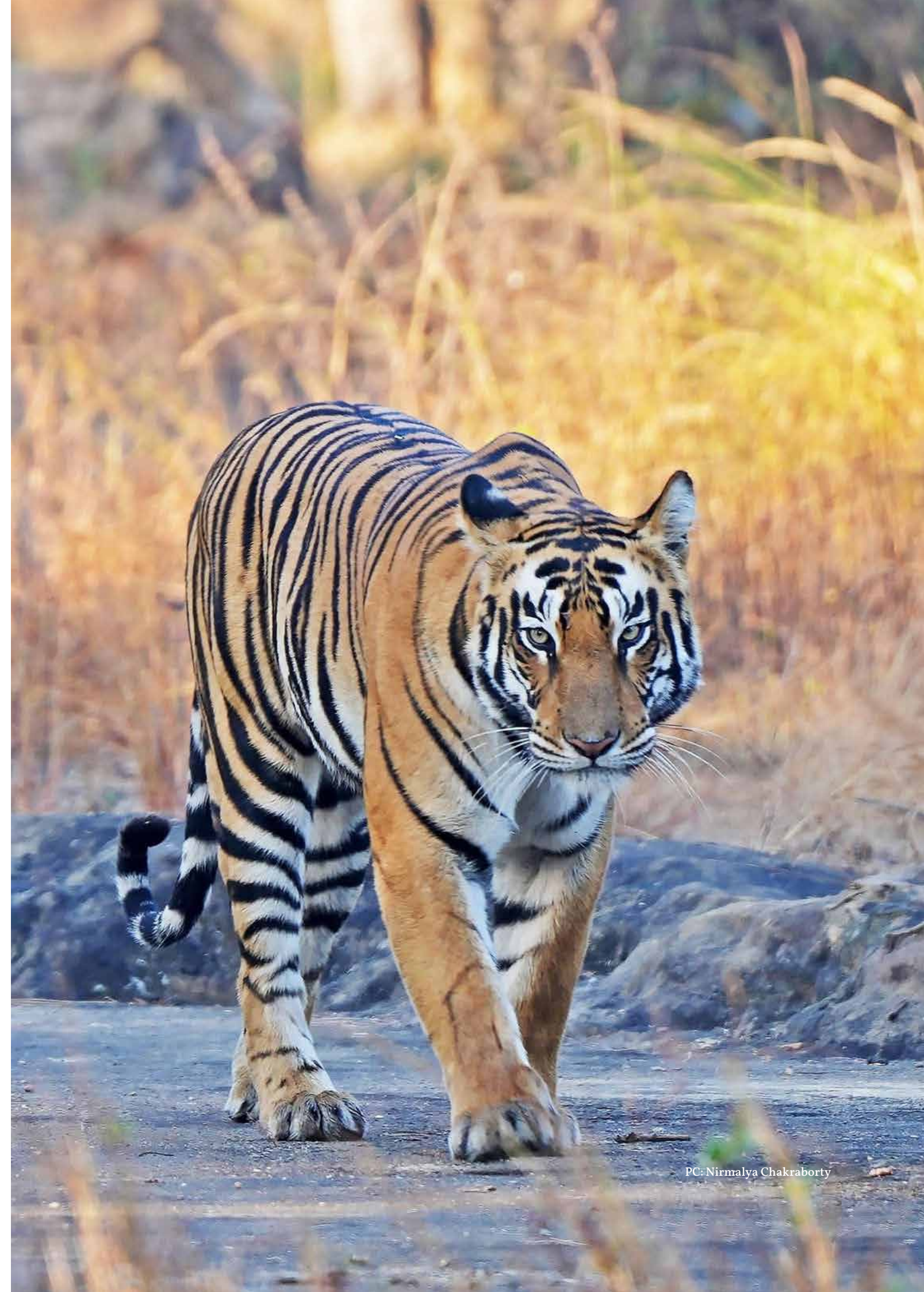
Art Competition Topic: "Save the Tiger"

Art Contest - No bar on art materials used. No digital manipulations allowed. The best ones will be displayed in Jungle Rhythms website and published in the magazine. Wild Storytelling: Any pen or pencil is acceptable for writing for this event.

The submissions have been huge and all works were top notch. Our judges found it very challenging and tough to make the selections and conclude on the final decision.

Jungle Rhythms wishes all our youth a very green future. 🌿





PC: Nirmalya Chakraborty