

Tiger Watch

Annual Report 2024-25



Tiger Watch, Ranthambhore Road Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan- India 322001, ph: +91 9001507777 www.tigerwatch.net www.rajasthanbiodiversity.org



Contents

Message from the Chairman (8-9)

Message from the Secretary (10-11)

Fateh Singh rathore (12-13)

Valmik Thapar (14-15)

Fateh & Valmik (16-17)

Tiger Watch (18-19)

Landscape & Conservation Impact (20-21)

Mogya Edcation Program (22-31)

Bagh Pari (32-37)

Vanya Sakhi (38-43)

Digital Learning Program (44-55)

Bagh Mitra (56-69)

Tiger Monitoring (70-75)

Cattle Compensation (76-83)

Anti-poaching (84-87)

Other highlights (88-89)

Fateh Awards & memorial Lecture (99-107)

Rajasthan Biodiversity (108-111)

Science & Research (112-115)

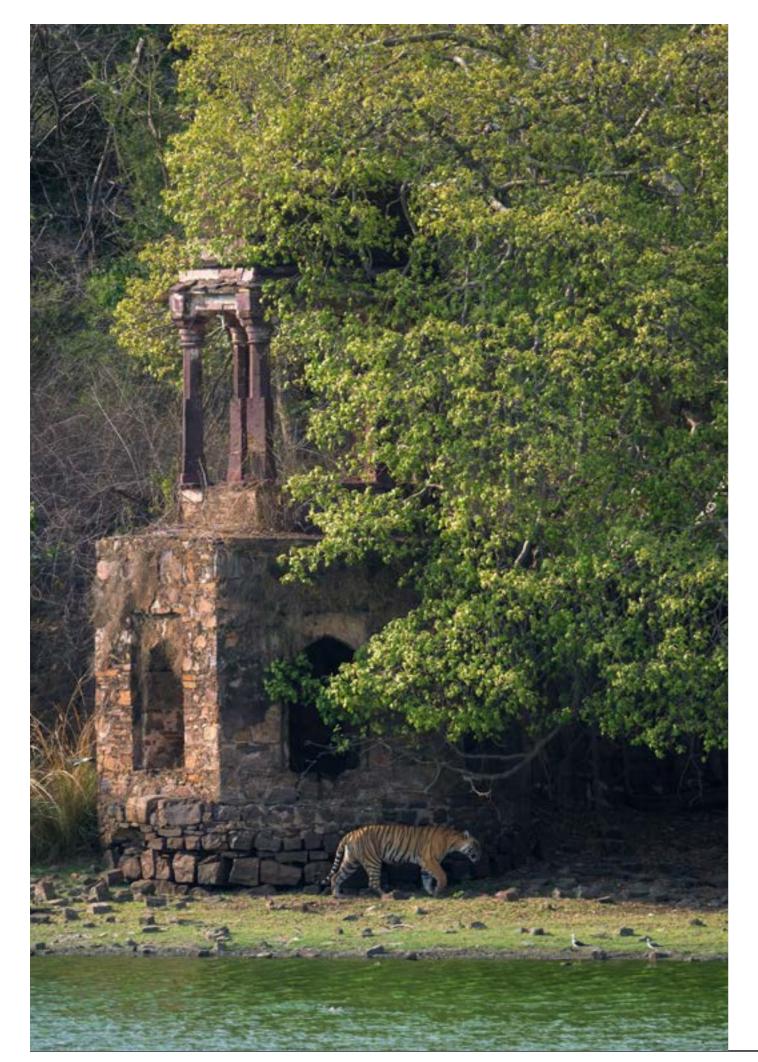
Board Member (116-119)

Field Team (120-121)

Main Supporters (122-125)

Supporters of TW (126-129)





Chairman's Note



This year brought with it a profound loss for India's wildlife community - the passing of Valmik Thapar, one of the country's most passionate tiger conservationists and a long-time supporter of Tiger Watch. His voice for the tiger was unflinching, his vision uncompromising, and his encouragement deeply meaningful to our work. We remember him not only as a champion of the wild but also as a friend who believed in the power of grassroots conservation. His legacy will remain a guiding force as we move forward.

When we look back at the journey of Tiger Watch, what stands out most is not just the resilience of the tiger, but the resilience of people who believed in its future. From Fateh Singh Rathore's pioneering vision in 1997 to the tireless commitment of our team today, Tiger Watch has always walked the fine balance between protecting wildlife and empowering communities.

This past year has been a reminder that conservation is not a solitary pursuit-it is a collective endeavor. Our Village Wildlife Volunteers, now spread across multiple tiger reserves, have become the unseen guardians of forests, filling critical gaps in protection and intelligence. Our Mogya Education Program, now two decades strong, continues to transform children's futures, offering classrooms where once there were snares. Initiatives like Baagh Pari and Vanya Sakhi are giving young girls the confidence and dignity they deserve, while our digital education program ensures rural children are not left behind in a rapidly changing world.

Scientific research and monitoring remain at the heart of our work. From securing recognition for the caracal in India's Species Recovery Program to expanding tiger monitoring across emerging reserves like Dholpur–Karauli, we continue to provide evidence that guides policy and strengthens protection. Each tiger tracked, each snare removed, each child enrolled in school is a thread in the larger fabric of conservation.

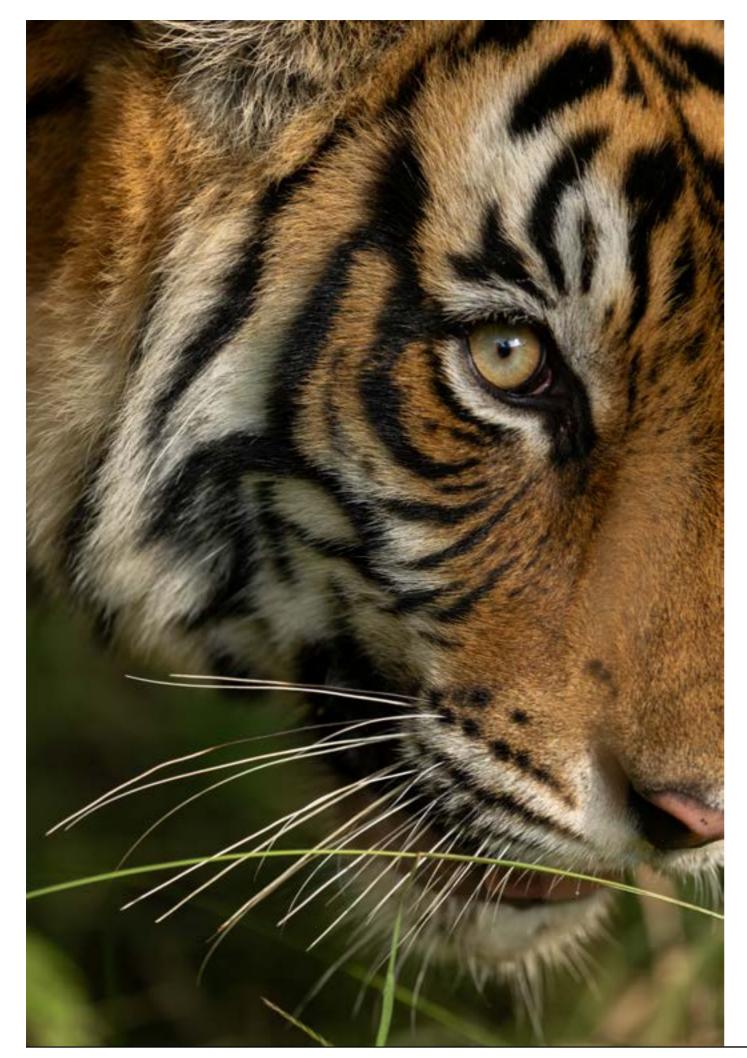
None of our efforts would have been possible without our partners and supporters—Süd-Chemie, SUJÁN, the Gutmann family, Petronet LNG, and many individual well-wishers who stood with us through challenges and change. Their trust in our grassroots model has allowed us to grow while staying rooted in the realities of Rajasthan's landscape.

As we look ahead, the responsibility before us is immense. Rajasthan's tiger landscape is expanding, with new reserves and corridors shaping the future of big cat survival. Our role is not just to monitor these changes, but to ensure that communities remain partners in this journey, not bystanders. For we firmly believe that conservation succeeds only when people and wildlife thrive together.

On behalf of Tiger Watch, I extend my gratitude to every supporter, colleague, volunteer, and community member who has walked this path with us. Together, we carry forward Fatehji's legacy-not as a memory of the past, but as a living commitment to the future. With hope and determination,

Yours Truly,

Iskander Lalljee



Secretary's Note

Dear Friends,

With the passing of Valmik Thapar, the tiger lost its most passionate champion. No position of authority ever stopped Valmik from speaking his mind. He fought fearlessly for the cause of the tiger and, through his many books, revealed to us with unmatched clarity the enchanting and thrilling world of this magnificent animal. I owe my own passion for tigers to Fatehji and Valmik; it was through their writings that the spark was lit in me, eventually leading to the formation of Tiger Watch in 1997.

Dharmendra has, for the first time, chronicled the various milestones of Tiger Watch. Our very first initiative—the Moghiya Program—preceded even the official registration of the NGO. It was supported by a generous grant of \$103,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, USA. Sadly, the relocation of the Moghiya community, as envisioned by Fatehji, could not materialize because the Forest Department failed to provide the promised land. Yet, we did not lose heart. Our second attempt in 2004–05 turned into a remarkable success. The photograph of Lakhan with his grandchildren is a moving reminder of how this program has flourished across three generations. Tiger Watch's conservation footprint has steadily expanded—from Ranthambhore National Park to Kela Devi Sanctuary, Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary, Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve, and even the Dholpur Tiger Reserve. This growing landscape is a living testament to the relentless work of Dharmendra, the Village Wildlife Volunteers (VWVs), and the Tiger Watch team in fulfilling Fatehji's dream of a Greater Ranthambhore.

Equally important is the social dimension of our work. In a world increasingly conscious of women's empowerment, our Bagh Pari program equips Moghiya girls with education and skills, while Vanya Sakhi builds confidence, livelihood opportunities, and self-reliance for girls from relocated families of the tiger reserve. These efforts bring a vital human dimension to tiger conservation and I thank CMAI, Verandah, Dhonk and Sud Chemie for making this happen.

Keeping pace with the times, we have also launched our Digital Education Program. What began modestly with the efforts of Divya Khandal, has, with the support of generous donors like Ms. Margot Raggett and Nina Rao, grown significantly. Thanks to Punit Lalbhai and Arvind Ltd., a digital van now travels to remote villages, taking technology-enabled education directly to the people.

Our understanding of Ranthambhore's tigers continues to grow through the beautiful photographs and films of Dharmendra and Valmik. Extraordinary sightings of Tigers in the beautiful settings of Ranthambhore have enthralled tourists throughout the year. The increase in the tiger numbers and the sightings have become possible because of combined effect of extensive monitoring by VWVs, the proactive cattle compensation program to reduce human—wildlife conflict, and, above all, the uncompromising anti-poaching efforts conducted by Tiger Watch that keep these magnificent animals safe. The details of these achievements are comprehensively documented in our Annual Report. Still, for these initiatives to succeed in the long run, we must nurture greater public awareness. Our Bagh Mitra program, generously supported by the Gutmanns, has spread the message of tiger conservation across every section of the local community.

The contributions of countless individuals are recognized each year at the Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture and Award Ceremony. This occasion not only honors Fatehji and John da, but also serves as a meaningful gathering for conservationists to celebrate collective achievements.

Finally, it is deeply heartening to witness the unwavering support we continue to receive from donors across India and the world. Such support, often unsolicited, reassures us that Tiger Watch is on the right path. I am profoundly grateful to our steadfast supporters—including Sud Chemie, Sujan & SNS Foundation, Petronet, Dieter and Liz Gutmann, and so many others—whose generosity sustains our mission. My sincere thanks also go to the trustees of Tiger Watch for their trust, guidance, and belief in the vision and decisions of the core team, which together have made Tiger Watch the success it is today.

Yours Truly,

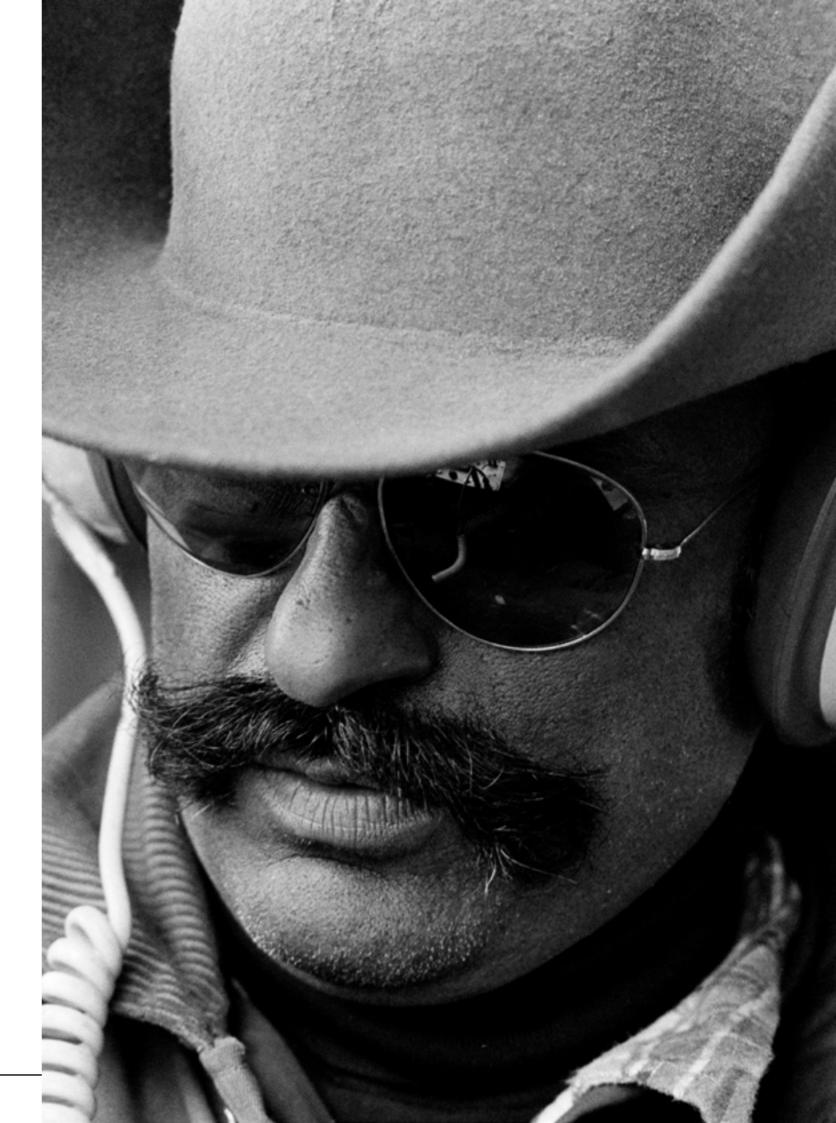
Ashutosh Mahadevia

Fateh Singh Rathore

(1938–2011)

Founder of Tiger Watch

Ranthambhore is the place that brought the tiger to the world's consciousness, and it was Fateh Ji who brought glory to Ranthambhore, shaping it into the celebrated Tiger Reserve it is today. He served as Ranthambhore's Field Director and later founded Tiger Watch. He firmly believed that saving the tiger was only possible by working with people. In a country of over a billion, his people-centric approach proved to be the one that truly worked.



Fateh Singh Ji in the 1970s.

Tiger Watch

Tribute to Valmik Thapar

(1952 - 2025)

This year, India lost one of its greatest champions of wildlife—Valmik Thapar.

For five decades, he was a tireless and influential voice for conservation, especially for the tiger. Deeply inspired by the legendary Fateh Singh Rathore—whom he proudly called his guru—Thapar devoted his life to safeguarding tigers and the landscapes they inhabit.

His work transformed how India and the world perceived the tiger—not merely as a symbol of wilderness, but as a living, breathing being whose future is inseparable from the health of our rivers, forests, and communities.

Through more than 50 books, acclaimed documentaries, and countless lectures, he brought the magic of

Ranthambhore and India's wild places to millions of people.

Beyond his writings, Thapar played a pivotal role in shaping policy. He served on over 150 government committees on wildlife and the environment, including the Central Empowered Committee (CEC). He engaged policymakers, mentored students, and built a public conscience that recognized the tiger as a national treasure.

What set him apart was his rare ability to blend the rigor of a conservationist with the heart of a storyteller. His passing is an irreplaceable loss, but his legacy of knowledge, courage, and commitment will endure. Future generations of conservationists will walk the path he illuminated—ensuring that the roar of the tiger continues to echo through India's forests.

Valmik Thapar at the Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture and Conservation Awards



14 Tiger Watch

Two Souls, One Legacy

This year, two souls are together again. Fatch Singh Rathore and Valmik Thapar are bound by friendship and their shared love for tigers was a true powerhouse of energy in the fight to protect the wild. In their attitude, courage, and style, they often mirrored the very animal they devoted their lives to: the tiger. They lived like tigers fearless, dignified, and uncompromising. With Valmik Thapar's passing this year, he has rejoined his guru, Fatch Singh Rathore, and together their spirit lives on, watching over the forests and tigers they so passionately defended.



Valmik Thapar and Fateh Singh at Rajbagh Lake Chatri.

Tiger Watch

Tiger Watch

Founded in 1997 under the visionary leadership of Fateh Singh Rathore, with the support of his close friend Ashutosh Mahadevia, Tiger Watch is a grassroots conservation organization dedicated to protecting tigers and their habitats in Rajasthan. From the very beginning, Tiger Watch has believed that true conservation goes beyond safeguarding wildlife—it must also ensure the wellbeing of local communities. Over the years, the organization has pioneered a unique model that combines strong enforcement against poaching with community empowerment, serving as a vital bridge between forest authorities and the people who live closest to the wild.

Key Milestones

- 1997 Tiger Watch established under the guidance of Fateh Singh Rathore and Ashutosh Mahadevia.
- 1998 Initiated an insurance program for Forest Department frontline staff.
- 1998 Strengthened protection by providing vehicles, motorcycles, binoculars, training, and uniforms.
- 1999 Conducted the first photo-trapping survey in Ranthambhore in collaboration with Ullhas Karanth.
- 2000 Supported drought relief by supplying pumps and resources during a severe three-year drought.
- 2004 Detailed monitoring report of tigers and their territories supported by photographic evidence. Figure of 26 tigers in May 2004 was reiterated by the State Task Force chaired by Mr. V P Singh in May 2005.
- 2005–2006 Exposed and dismantled notorious poaching gangs in Ranthambhore.
- 2008 John Singh of Anokhi joined as Chairman, strengthening management and expanding community focused programs through his leadership and soft skills.
- 200+ poachers apprehended (till 2025) in collaboration with the Forest Department, Police, and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).
- Caracal conservation breakthrough Tiger Watch's research led to the Caracal being included in

India's official Species Recovery Program.

• Community-based tiger monitoring program launched under the guidance of Y.K. Sahu.

- 2015 Valmik Thapar began supporting this program, calling it his "soul project."
- 2017 Shri Iskander Lalljee joined as Chairman, streamlining financial constraints and expanding Tiger Watch's reach to Dholpur and Karauli.
- Ongoing Long-term tiger monitoring across Ranthambhore and the newly declared Dholpur– Karauli Tiger Reserve.

Community Outreach

- Mogya Education Program –Ten village centers providing education to children of the Mogya community.
- Currently, 200 students (including 80 girls) are enrolled; more than 500 children have already received

basic education. The program has been primarily supported by Sud Chemie.

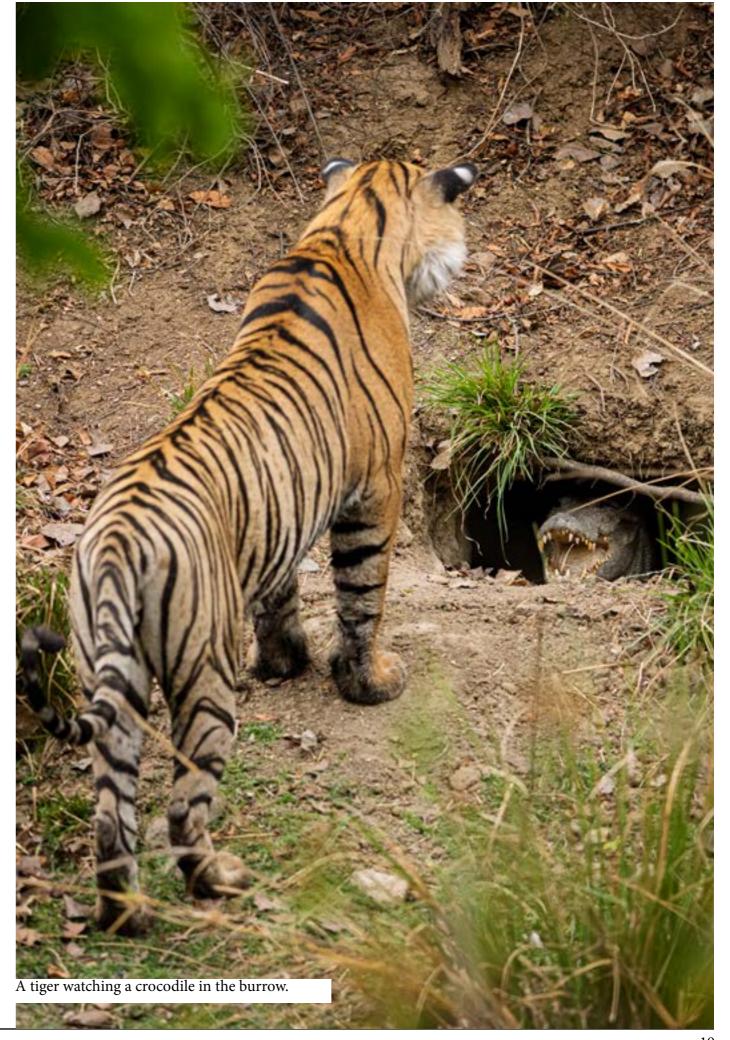
- Bagh Mitra Environmental Awareness Program (2021–present) – Initiated with the support of Dieter and
- Liz Gutmann, later scaled up with Petronet LNG. Today, more than 26,500 students across four

districts are engaged in wildlife awareness and conservation education.

- Bagh Pari & Vanya Sakhi Special initiatives to empower girls and women from vulnerable communities, supported by Anjali Patel, Sud Chemie, and Dhonk Craft.
- Digital Education Program Bringing technology-enabled learning to forest-edge villages with the support of BTP, Dhonk, Nina Rao, and Margot Raggett.

Scientific Impact

- Evidence-based monitoring of tigers across Rajasthan's reserves.
- Research-led advocacy that secured national recognition for the Caracal as a species requiring urgent recovery.
- Collaborative science contributing to government policy, conservation authorities, and international wildlife initiatives.
- "The survival of tigers depends not only on protecting forests, but also on empowering the people who live alongside them."
- Inspired by the vision of Fateh Singh Rathore



Landscape & Conservation Impact

A Living Landscape

The tiger landscape of eastern Rajasthan is one of the most unique and critical wildlife regions in India. Here, the Aravalli and Vindhyan hills converge, creating a mosaic of forests, rivers, ravines, and grasslands that support an astonishing diversity of life. At the heart of this landscape stands the tiger, but alongside it thrive the gharial, wolf, caracal, pangolin, four-horned antelope, and the Gangetic dolphin—each a vital part of this living ecosystem.

The extreme climatic conditions of the region make survival challenging for tigers. The habitat is slow to recover and highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

For Tiger Watch, headquartered in Sawai Madhopur, this entire region is home turf. Whether it is the legendary Ranthambhore, the new and promising Dholpur–Karauli Tiger Reserve, the vast stretches of Ramgarh Vishdhari, or the rewilding landscapes of Mukundara Hills, our work connects with them all, directly or indirectly. Together, these reserves now form the Aravalli–Vindhyan Tiger Landscape, covering nearly 6,000 sq. km. It is here that Rajasthan's tiger comeback story is being written.

Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR)

Ranthambhore is where it all began. Declared a Tiger Reserve in 1973 under Project Tiger, it has since become one of the world's most celebrated strongholds of the species. Spanning more than 1,700 sq. km across four districts, Ranthambhore is not just a forest—it is a symbol of India's conservation spirit and a renowned destination for tiger tourism.

Since 1997, Tiger Watch has played a supporting role here. While not directly engaged in tiger monitoring, we remain vigilant in reporting illegal activities and lending crucial support to the Forest Department. This quiet yet steady collaboration has

helped ensure that Ranthambhore's tigers continue to roam safely in their ancestral lands.

Dholpur–Karauli Tiger Reserve (DKTR): Our Spotlight

Among India's youngest tiger reserves, Dholpur–Karauli (DKTR), declared in 2023, is now the heart of our focus. We have been watching this landscape since 2015, when the first tiger moved in naturally. Since 2022, we have undertaken rigorous and continuous monitoring.

Spread across nearly 600 sq. km, DKTR today holds around eight tigers, all of which dispersed naturally from Ranthambhore and Kailadevi. Encouragingly, these tigers are breeding successfully, establishing DKTR as a new nucleus for big cat recovery. But DKTR's importance goes far beyond tigers. It shelters some of India's most threatened wildlife: the caracal, the elusive wolf, the secretive pangolin, the four-horned antelope, and the Gangetic dolphin in its Chambal stretch. Protecting this emerging landscape is crucial not only for the future of Rajasthan's tigers but also for the wider ecological network of India's semi-arid forests and river systems.

Ramgarh Vishdhari & Mukundara Hills

Further west, the Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) was declared in 2022. Spanning more than 1,500 sq. km, it strengthens the ecological link between Ranthambhore and Mukundara Hills, enabling tigers and other wildlife to move freely across the landscape. Here, Tiger Watch runs its Bagh Mitra Program, taking conservation awareness into classrooms and inspiring the next generation of guardians of the wild. The Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR), meanwhile, is a story of restoration. Spread over 1,100 sq. km, it has seen determined efforts to reintroduce tigers to its forests. Challenges remain, but every step forward brings Rajasthan closer to reclaiming lost ground for wildlife.

A Connected Landscape

When viewed together—Ranthambhore, Dholpur–Karauli, Ramgarh Vishdhari, and Mukundara Hills—these reserves are no longer isolated pockets of wilderness. They are evolving into a larger, connected ecosystem: a landscape where tigers can disperse, wolves can roam, and rivers like the

Chambal can continue to nurture gharials and dolphins.

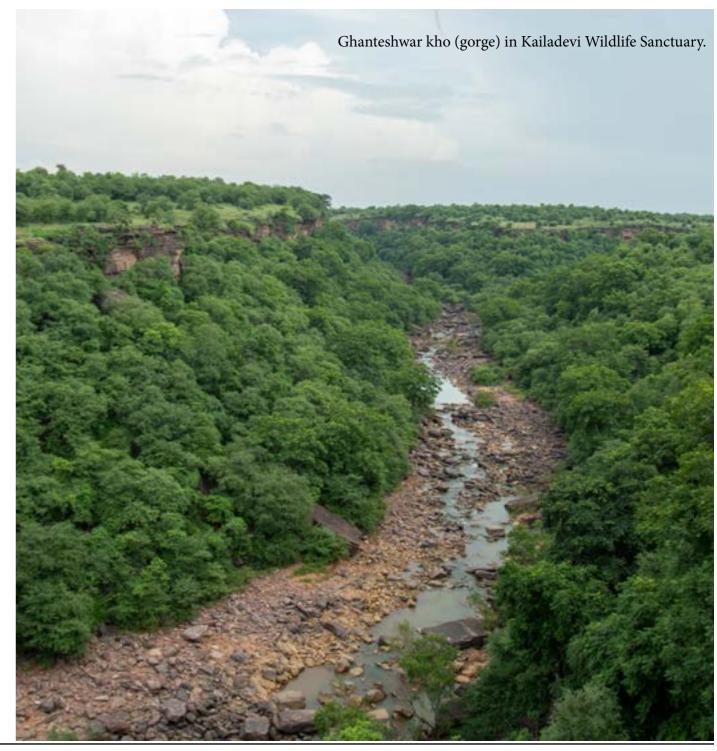
This transformation has not happened overnight. It is the result of years of collaboration between the Forest Department, conservationists, communities, and organizations like Tiger Watch. By combining field protection, science, and education, we are ensuring that this landscape is not just about surviving wildlife, but thriving wildlife.

Looking Ahead

As Rajasthan strengthens its network of tiger reserves, the Aravalli–Vindhyan Tiger Landscape

is reclaiming its historic identity. From a single stronghold in Ranthambhore, the tiger's range has now spread outward, supported by new reserves and connected corridors.

For Tiger Watch, this expanding canvas brings renewed responsibility: to keep a close watch on emerging reserves like DKTR, nurture awareness in RVTR, and stand beside the authorities in RTR and MHTR. Most of all, it means continuing to work as a bridge between people and wildlife, ensuring that the growth of tiger numbers goes hand in hand with the wellbeing of the communities who live alongside them.





Classrooms Instead of Crime

In the rugged villages on the edge of Ranthambhore, a quiet revolution is taking shape. The Mogya community—once traditionally linked with hunting—has long been marginalized, denied access to education, and stigmatized by history. In 2006, Tiger Watch launched the Mogya Education Program (MEP) with just nine children,

under the guidance of the legendary Fateh Singh Rathore. At that time, our chairman John Da reminded us: "This will be a long journey, and we must remain committed if we wish to achieve our goal."

Nearly two decades later, that vision has taken root. Today, more than 180 Mogya children study across 10 learning centers, guided by dedicated teachers from within their own community. Here, they

gain not only literacy but also lessons in hygiene, dignity, and hope. Many are the first in their families to step into formal schools; some have even progressed to colleges and vocational training. For Mogya families, MEP is more than education—it is transformation. In villages where the program thrives, poaching has dropped sharply. Wildlife traffickers now avoid these households, knowing that their children are walking a very different path.

Objectives of MEP

The Mogya Education Program is more than a classroom initiative—it is a reform model with clear, long-term goals:

- Empower Mogya youth by enabling them to stand shoulder to shoulder with their peers and gain acceptance in mainstream society.
- Provide quality education that opens pathways to employment, dignity, and opportunities in the wider economy.
- Foster social awareness within the community and bridge long-standing gaps of exclusion and discrimination.
- Reduce dependence on hunting and poaching by offering children a new identity and future through education.
- Drive generational change, ensuring that the impact of education cascades naturally to future generations, breaking cycles of marginalization and crime.

Adapting to Challenges

Since the onset of COVID-19, MEP has evolved into a flexible home-schooling model. Instead of children traveling far, six mobile teachers—travel to Mogya settlements, bringing education directly to doorsteps.

Current centers and villages include:

- Laxmipura
- Hindwad
- Halonda
- Kyarda Kalan
- Badi Ka Chhahara
- Kemlya & Rampuria
- Mui Khedli
- Roshanpura

This decentralized model has made education accessible even in the most remote or resistant households.

A Journey of 20 Years

In 2025, the Mogya Education Program (MEP) marks two decades of growth and progress. From a handful of children to a structured system reaching hundreds, MEP has evolved into one of India's most unique community-based conservation education initiatives.

This journey has been made possible by the consistent support of Süd-Chemie India and the unwavering commitment of Mr. Iskander Lalljee, Chairman of Tiger Watch, whose belief in grassroots transformation has sustained the program year after year.

Impact Box: Pathways from Crime to Classroom

- Launched in 2006 with just 9 children
- Today reaching 180+ students across 10 centers
- 120+ Mogya children enrolled in government schools while continuing with MEP support classes
- 500+ lives transformed so far
- 70% transition rate into formal schools
- Achieved 50% gender balance
- 10+ students successfully mainstreamed into colleges and vocational programs
- Direct impact: Wildlife traffickers avoid families with MEP-enrolled children





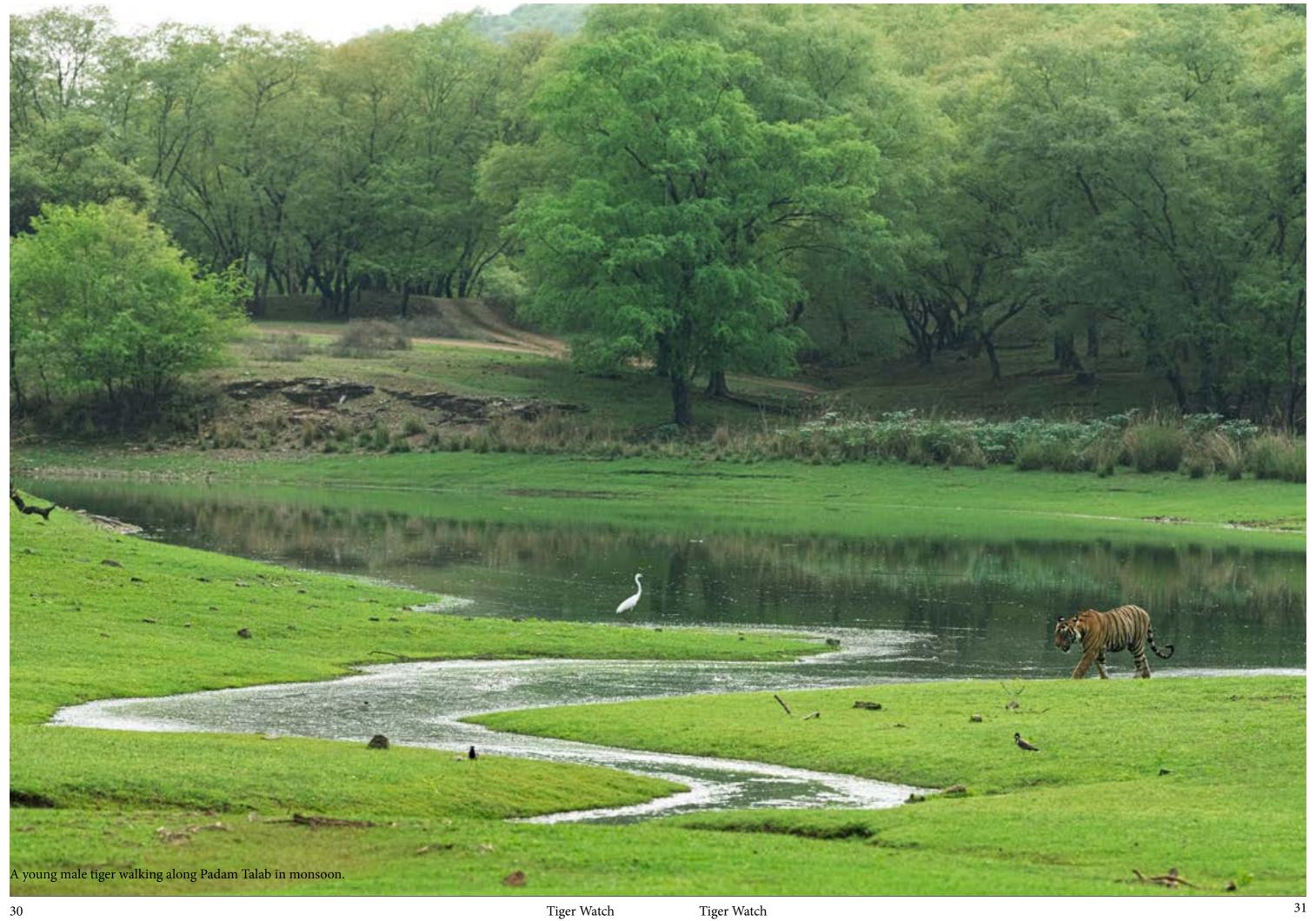
Two Mogya girls, students of class 7 and 5.







Mogya children at village schools, supported with books, clothes, and stationery.





Baagh Pari

(Empowering Mogya Girls Through Education & Skills)





For years, Mogya girls remained excluded from the Mogya Education Program. Deep-rooted cultural barriers made parents reluctant to send daughters away to hostels, leaving them without access to learning. In 2020, during the pandemic, everything changed—mobile teachers began visiting villages, and girls finally had the chance to learn at home. This breakthrough gave rise to Baagh Pari, an initiative founded by Anjali Patel Mehta, to ensure Mogya girls not only entered education but also stayed, thrived, and grew within it. Today, Baagh

Pari supports 80 girls across 10 villages, offering village-based teaching, essential materials, and identity-affirming care.

But Baagh Pari is more than education—it is empowerment. The initiative also provides vocational training, enabling Mogya girls to become financially independent and take charge of their own lives. Through Dhonk, a social enterprise that produces sustainable textiles and crafts by employing local women, Mogya girls are learning textile-making and craft skills that connect them

to meaningful livelihoods. This approach directly contributes to building a green economy in the Ranthambhore landscape, where conservation and sustainable development go hand in hand. In support of these efforts, the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) has donated 23 sewing machines, which have gone a long way in equipping Mogya girls with the tools to turn their skills into self-reliance and dignity. Baagh Pari is not just rewriting the story of Mogya girls—it is reshaping the future of their entire community.

Objectives of Baagh Pari

- 1. Ensure access to education for Mogya girls through home- and village-based learning models that overcome cultural barriers to schooling.
- 2. Promote gender equality by breaking longstanding restrictions that kept girls excluded from learning.
- 3. Provide vocational training and livelihood skills (such as textile-making and crafts) to enable girls to become financially independent and self-reliant.
- 4. Foster confidence and self-identity among Mogya girls, encouraging them to see themselves as leaders and contributors to their community.
- 5. Contribute to a green economy in the Ranthambhore landscape by linking girls' skills to sustainable, conservation-friendly enterprises.
- 6. Reduce the risk of future involvement in poaching by offering alternative opportunities and building dignity within the community.

Impact Box: Girls Who Roar for Change

- Launched in 2021
- 80 Mogya girls enrolled across 10 villages
- 6 mobile teachers trained in specialized workshops
- Support materials: stationery, books, classroom clothing
- Vocational training in crafts & textiles through Dhonk
- 23 sewing machines donated by CMAI
- Pathway to financial independence and sustainable livelihoods



THE CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



Mogya girls learning handicrafts at Dhonk, trained by Divya Khandal and team.









Vanya Sakhi

(Skills, Confidence, and Livelihoods for Girls from Relocated Families of the Tiger Reserve)

When families are relocated from forests, they often lose not only their homes but also their traditional sources of livelihood. For young girls, this displacement frequently leads to isolation and limited opportunities. Vanya Sakhi, launched in 2024 at Anandipura village, is working to change that.

The program trains 20 displaced girls and women in stitching, sewing, and crafts, with the support of Süd-Chemie India Pvt. Ltd. and Dhonk. By equipping them with practical skills, Vanya Sakhi provides dignity, income, and independence. For girls from relocated villages, every stitch becomes a step toward rebuilding their lives.

Objectives of Vanya Sakhi

- 1. Empower displaced girls and women from relocated forest families with practical, incomegenerating skills.
- 2. Provide vocational training in stitching, sewing, and craftwork that can lead to stable livelihoods and self-employment.
- 3. Enhance the economic resilience of relocated families, reducing dependence on forests for survival.
- 4. Promote dignity and confidence among young women, ensuring displacement does not translate into disempowerment.
- 5. Encourage community-based self-reliance by building local skill networks that support conservation-linked development.
- 6. Strengthen conservation outcomes by aligning livelihood opportunities with the goal of reducing human–wildlife conflict and forest dependency.

Impact Box: Stitching a Future Beyond

Displacement

- Launched in 2024 at Anandipura
- 20 girls and women enrolled from relocated families
- Skills imparted: stitching, sewing, and craft-making
- Supported by Süd-Chemie India Pvt. Ltd. & Dhonk













Digital Education Program

(Bridging the Digital Divide, One Village at a Time)







While we teach traditional handicrafts on one hand, in today's world digital literacy has become just as essential as reading and writing. Yet in the villages around Ranthambhore, most children grow up with little or no access to computers. To bridge this gap, Tiger Watch launched the Digital Education Program in 2024.

What began with just 8 computers in Ramsinghpura (with support from Divya Khandal through

BTP) has now expanded into three digital centers—Ramsinghpura, Jhiri (supported by Margot Raggett through her Remembering Wildlife book series), and Anandipura (with support from Nina Rao of Saving Wild Tigers)—along with a Mobile Digital Van, launched in August 2025 with support from Mr. Punit Lalbhai and the Arvind Foundation. Together, these initiatives are reaching nearly 500 students, teaching them essential computer skills.

The Digital Van

The Digital Van is the most dynamic part of the program. Equipped with 115 laptops, internet access, printers, and e-learning tools, it functions as a fully mobile classroom, bringing the digital world to children who had never even touched a keyboard before. Currently, the van covers five villages—Nayapura, Madhosinghpura, Khilchipur, Kutalpura, and Sherpur—reaching 74, 47, 77, 45, and 105 students respectively. Three one-hour sessions for Classes 7–10 are conducted daily, covering computer basics, internet use, cyber safety, and digital communication.

For these forest-edge communities, the Digital Van is more than a classroom—it is a moving gateway to opportunity, confidence, and self-reliance.

Objectives of the Digital Education Program

- 1.Provide rural children in forest-edge villages with access to modern education tools and digital learning.
- 2. Build technology confidence and digital literacy among first-generation learners, preparing them for higher education and future careers.

- 3. Create pathways to employment and self-reliance by equipping students with essential computer and internet skills.
- 4. Foster curiosity, self-learning, and problem-solving through e-learning tools and digital platforms.5. Bridge the digital divide between rural and urban students, ensuring equal opportunity in an increasingly digital world.

Impact Box: Digitally Empowering the Future

- Ramsinghpura (2024): 8 computers, 140+ students trained
- Jhiri (2025): 10 computers, 60 students
- Anandipura (2025): 8 computers, 42 students
- Digital Van (2025): 115 laptops, mobile class-rooms, covering 5 villages daily, reaching 350+students
- Total enrolled so far: 244 students in centers + 350 students via Digital Van = ~ 600 students and growing

Arvind Foundation provided a vehicles fitted with 115 Chromebooks for school training.





Digital Learning Centre at Jhiri-Dholpur



Digital Learning Centre at Ramsinghpura Sawai Madhopur







Operating

Computer **Training**

Educational Workshops Seminars

MONDAY - SATURDAY 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

SUNDAY CLOSED

Tiger Watch



Panchayat Sherpur



BTS Strategy Alignment and Executive Private Limited



Digital Learning Centre at Anandipura- Tonk







Bagh Mitra Program

(Tiger Conservation Awareness Program)

What does it take to raise a generation that protects what their ancestors feared or exploited? Rising anthropogenic pressure—grazing, fuelwood extraction, encroachment, litter, and rapid landuse change—threatens both Ranthambhore and Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserves. With limited awareness infrastructure in many forest-edge villages, communities often see tigers negatively, as symbols of risk rather than keystone species. Bagh Mitra was conceived to change this narrative—beginning with the youngest minds.

Program

Launched in 2020, the Bagh Mitra Program (BMP) is Tiger Watch's flagship conservation education initiative for high-conflict zones. By taking environmental education directly into classrooms—and out into the field through nature clubs and village activities—BMP connects children to their landscapes and prepares them to become active participants in conservation.

Support:

- Sawai Madhopur chapter under the Dieter & Liz Gutmann Tiger Conservation Program
- Bundi & Karauli chapters supported by Petronet LNG Ltd. (with thanks to Sh. Sundeep Bhutoria) Delivery Model:

Mobile teams of trained educators visiting government schools through the academic year

Infographic: Growing Roots of Conservation

- Started: 2020 | Chapters: 3
- Schools reached: 135 | Students engaged yearly: ~24,000
- Teaching team: 4 (Sawai Madhopur), 5 (Bundi & Karauli; ~75 schools directly)
- Core components: classroom modules; nature trails; storytelling and quizzes; art/essay/slogan contests; end-line assessments and awards "When a child learns the story of the tiger, the forest gains a friend for life."

Why It Matters

Anthropogenic pressure is the primary longterm threat to tigers and their habitat. Sensitising children living near tiger reserves is essential to reduce conflict, shift perceptions, and build a constituency for conservation. Bagh Mitra's approach—local teachers, local contexts, local examples—ensures content is relatable and actionoriented.

Curriculum (2024–25)

Geography of Ranthambhore & Ramgarh; Flora & Fauna; Why Save the Tiger? Snakebite Treatment & Awareness; Fauna in Agro-pastoral lands; Water Sources & Water Conservation; Avifauna module; Ecosystems & Ecosystem Services; Protecting the Forest.

Tiger Festival (Bagh Mela), interactive talks, visual presentations, Q&A circles, nature walks, village clean-ups, youth-led clubs, seasonal campaigns, and end-line tests

Activities (2024-25)

- Annual Drawing Competition: 6,000+ student entries from 135 schools; school and final-level awards
- Mandana Award art, culture, and conservation synergy

- Annual Quiz Competition: school-level quizzes across all chapters
- Bagh Mitra Clubs: ~70 active village clubs sustaining year-round green actions
- Kanha Matki Phod children led summer birdrelief initiative, maintained using household waste
- Clean-up Drives & Nature Walks: public-area plastic collection; guided walks on local flora/fauna
- Group Discussions: mammal & reptile diversity, snakebite prevention, forest value
- Awareness Rallies: conservation messaging
- Seedling Nurturing: seed collection and premonsoon nursery care
- Tiger Fairs (Bagh Mela) 14 Bagh Mela organised in different schools.
- Teachers' Workshop pedagogy, legacy dialogues, refresher modules
- Grass Documentation seasonal ecology & fodder cycles (community learning)
- Museum Visits contextualising biodiversity through exhibits
- Sawai Madhopur Foundation Day (Photo Exhibition) public-facing storytelling
- An Evening with Valmik film, history, and conservation discourse

Program Updates: 2024-25 Highlights

September 28 – Digital Leap in Classrooms Eight new projectors and curated visual presentations deployed.

Impact: higher attendance, better concept retention, and visibly greater student engagement. Acknowledgment: Gratitude to Dieter & Liz Gutmann for enabling this upgrade.

November 22 – An Evening with Valmik Thapar-film, history, and conservation discourse with one of India's foremost tiger experts.

At an event hosted by Sh. Valmik Thapar, Bagh Mitra & MEP teachers, VWVs, and staff attended a screening of "Charger" (filmed by Ms. Sanjana Kapoor), followed by a conservation talk and discussion. The session deepened historical context and field motivation.

December 10 – Mandana Art Final Finale at Dhonk Craft Centre with 29 finalists from 3,340 first-round entries (135 schools). Winners:

- 1st: Bindiya Mahawar ₹10,000 + certificate + shield
- 2nd: Mousami Bairwa & Preeti Potar ₹3,000 each + certificates

• 3rd: Suman Mahawar & Payal Bairwa – ₹2,000 each + certificates

Theme: Wildlife & Nature.

Lead Partner: Dhonk (Director Divya Khandal).

December 16, 2024 – Two teacher capacity building and training workshops, including oral histories with Ranthambhore's veteran custodians—Sh. Manohar Singh Shekhawat shared insights on Fateh Singh Rathore, Kailash Sankhala, V.D. Sharma—connecting pedagogy to legacy.
—connecting pedagogy to legacy.

"Kanha Matki Phod" (Summer Relief for Avifauna) 510 bird water-feeders installed across chapters; continued work during school breaks—rallies, plantation, seed collection, water access for fauna—showing Bagh Mitra's movement character.

How Bagh Mitra Changes Minds

- Knowledge → Empathy → Action: Students become informed messengers at home.
- Low-cost, High-reach Delivery: Mobile teams + school infrastructure = scale.
- Local Ownership: Nature Clubs and school-led events keep momentum between visits.
- Culture as a Vehicle: Mandana art, poetry, drama embed conservation in lived traditions.
- Continuous Capacity: Regular teacher trainings, curated digital content, and end-line evaluations ensure year-on-year improvement.

Acknowledgments

With gratitude to Dieter & Liz Gutmann (Sawai Madhopur) and Petronet LNG Ltd. (Karauli & Bundi) for steadfast support; and to Sh. Sundeep Bhutoria for enabling and championing the Bundi-Karauli chapters.



School events: lectures, quizzes, art, essays, and slogans on wildlife conservation.









Digital Leap in Classrooms

Eight new projectors and curated visual presentations deployed.

Impact: higher attendance, better concept retention, and visibly greater student engagement.

Wildlife awareness through public participation in Tiger Fair (Bagh Mela)

The "Bagh Mela" (Tiger Fair) is a dynamic community initiative designed to amplify tiger conservation awareness. Held at selected high secondary schools at the Panchayat level, it draws participation from students and residents of surrounding villages. The Mela is intentionally crafted to be interactive and informative, featuring a diverse range of activities that foster a deeper understanding of tiger conservation. These activities include:

- Wildlife and historical site photo exhibitions
- Wildlife quiz competitions
- Tiger-themed speeches, songs, and poetry
- Wildlife-related games and activities
- Animal sound mimicry contests
- Nature trails
- Interactive dialogues about tigers

This calendar year 14 such fairs were organised, with participation ranging between 300-500 in individual fairs

Seed collection, plant preparation from seeds, and monsoon plantations

During the monsoon, all of the Bagh Mitra teachers were tasked to develop a nursery of native plants in their backyard and develop at least 100 plants. A total of approximately 1000 plants were, thus, developed. Similarly, Children were encouraged to collect seeds and nurture them. Clubs actively nurtured seedlings to be planted during the monsoon season, contributing to green spaces and environmental conservation.

The teachers distributed 650 of the developed plants to the schools and students for planting.

Teacher sensitisation and herbarium preparation During the winter break, senior educators Dharm Singh, Banwari Lal, Naresh, and Rinku conducted online classes for newly joined teachers, focusing on the annual modules. Here, teachers met online



and discussed the modules. The interactive format encouraged knowledge-sharing and equipped teachers with practical insights to create engaging conservation lessons, fostering collective growth and reinforcing the program's mission.

Also, Dr. Dharmendra Khandal conducted a training session on the basics of sample preservation for creating a herbarium. Under the guidance of Dharm Singh and Praveen, a standardized format for data collection was developed to ensure consistency and accuracy. Teachers began their work by focusing on grasses found in their local areas, compiling an initial list

of 40 species identified by their regional names. This activity not only deepened the teachers' understanding of local flora but also laid the groundwork for further refinement, including scientific identification and classification, to create a comprehensive and educational resource.





A New Hindi Language Book on the Tiger: "Rajasthan ke Baghon ka Sansar"

Rajasthan ke Baghon ka Sansar is a unique conservation awareness book conceptualised by Dr. Dharmendra Khandal and compiled by Praveen Singh and Dharm Singh, with inputs from a draft text by Meenu Dhakad. Designed as a reference for teachers in environmental education programmes, the book is equally valuable for students, researchers, nature guides, and wildlife enthusiasts.

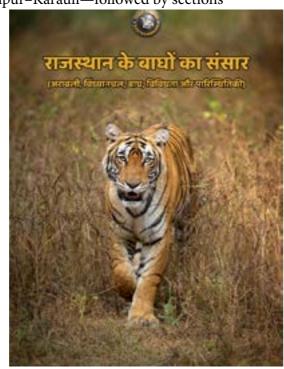
Spanning over 190 pages, the book explores the Aravali–Vindhyan landscape, home to some of Rajasthan's richest biodiversity. It begins with the tiger as a flagship species, explaining how its survival ensures the conservation of entire ecosystems. Readers are then introduced to the state's four major tiger reserves—Ranthambhore, Mukundra Hills, Ramgarh Vishdhari, and Dholpur–Karauli—followed by sections

on forests, floral diversity, and faunal life ranging from mammals and birds to reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

Beyond species accounts, the book makes ecology accessible on a large scale through simplified discussions in Hindi on animal behaviour, conservation biology, evolution, and taxonomy. It also connects global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and wildlife laws to local conservation challenges, including human–wildlife conflict.

Interwoven with scientific insights are cultural narratives and inspiring stories, such as the sacrifice of Amrita Devi Bishnoi at Khejarli, highlighting Rajasthan's deep-rooted environmental heritage.

Written in clear, engaging language, this book serves as both a scientific resource and a motivational guide, encouraging readers to appreciate and conserve Rajasthan's extraordinary natural world.





Mandana Art Competition

The grand finale of the Mandana Art Competition took place today at Ranthambhore, showcasing the exceptional talent of students from 135 government schools across Sawai Madhopur, Bundi, and Karauli districts. The event celebrated artistic excellence while raising awareness about conservation, with outstanding participants honored through cash prizes, certificates of appreciation, and shields.

Divya Khandal, Director of the Dhonk Craft Centre, emphasized that the competition was part of the Bagh Mitra program, a flagship initiative by Tiger Watch. This program engages communities near the National Park in tiger conservation while promoting and preserving the traditional Mandana art form. This year's theme, "Wildlife and Nature," inspired students to craft captivating artworks that conveyed meaningful messages about conservation.

Mandana art, a traditional folk painting style from Rajasthan, is renowned for its intricate geometric patterns, nature-inspired motifs, and cultural symbolism. Created using natural materials, it adorns walls and floors, symbolizing prosperity, heritage, and a deep connection to nature.

The competition began in November, with 3,340 students from 135 schools participating in the initial round. The final round, held at the Dhonk Craft Centre, featured 29 remarkable participants who displayed extraordinary creativity and skill.

Winners:

First Place: Bindiya Mahawar - ₹10,000, a certificate of appreciation, and a shield.

Second Place: Mousami Bairwa and Preeti Potar - ₹3,000 each and certificates of appreciation.

Third Place: Suman Mahawar and Payal Bairwa - ₹2,000 each and certificates of appreciation.

The awards were presented by Divya Khandal, who lauded the students' creativity and commitment to conservation. Program Coordinator Dharam Singh Gurjar and the Bagh Mitra teachers were also present, celebrating the young artists' achievements. The event was a vibrant testament to the transformative power of art in fostering environmental awareness and preserving cultural heritage.





Divya Khandal of Dhonk Craft Centre led a Mandana art competition under Tiger Watch's Bagh Mitra programme, where students created vibrant artworks on the theme 'Wildlife and Nature' to highlight conservation.





Tiger Monitoring Program

(Where Communities, Tourism, The Government, and NGOs Work Hand in Hand for Conservation)

In 2004, the dedicated fieldwork of the Tiger Watch team revealed the alarming decline of Ranthambhore's tiger population. What began as an urgent conservation effort has since grown into a pioneering program that today forms the backbone of tiger monitoring in eastern Rajasthan.

Nearly a decade later, in 2013, this work was formalized into the Village Wildlife Volunteers (VWV) Program, launched by Tiger Watch

in collaboration with the Rajasthan Forest Department, under the vision of Dr. Dharmendra Khandal and Mr. Y.K. Sahu, then Field Director of Ranthambhore.

Although known as "volunteers," these men and women receive modest honorariums. Tiger Watch continues to call them volunteers because their contribution goes far beyond the call of duty: they monitor man-eating tigers when required, collect

intelligence on dangerous poachers, and bring with them traditional ecological knowledge that cannot be easily measured—or compensated.

The program has been consistently supported by Jaisal Singh and Anjali Singh of SUJÁN, making it a unique example of an NGO, local communities, tourism businesses, and the government working hand-in-hand for conservation.

A Network of Guardians

From a handful of trackers in the early years, the program has expanded into a network of over 250 trained volunteers and auxiliary members (sahyogis), drawn largely from village youth and pastoral families living along the park's boundary. These wildlife trackers are not outsiders—they are locals with an intimate understanding of the terrain, weather, and wildlife movements. Equipped with smartphones, GPS devices, camera traps, motorcycles, and sometimes 4x4 vehicles, they monitor the forests day and night, often stepping in where formal systems cannot respond quickly. Today, the network not only keeps a vigilant eye on Ranthambhore but also extends concentrated efforts to the Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve, while assisting management in Mukundara Hills, Ramgarh Vishdhari, and any other landscapes in need of support. Their presence has been crucial in ensuring that tigers reclaim, survive, and safely navigate new territories.

How It Works

- A regional coordinator leads the overall monitoring program.
- VWVs typically monitor peripheral and buffer areas, stepping inside the core zone only at the request of the Forest Department.
- Volunteers are trained in:
- o Camera trapping
- o GPS logging
- o Sign and species identification
- o Real-time digital reporting

Daily workflow:

- o Every morning, VWVs check camera traps and send geotagged images via smartphones.
- o Photos are verified against Tiger Watch's tiger database.
- o Movements are mapped and relayed to coordinators and forest officials for timely action.

This real-time system ensures continuous

monitoring of dispersing tigers, early alerts on poaching threats, and quick response to human-wildlife conflict situations.

From Monitoring to Protection

What began as tiger tracking soon expanded:

- Poaching Intelligence: VWVs have repeatedly provided timely intelligence, helping the Forest Department avert poaching attempts.
- Human-Wildlife Conflict: Volunteers guide villagers through the compensation process for livestock/crop loss and assist in conflict management, reducing retaliation against wildlife.
- Straying Tigers: Our volunteers have tracked more than 10 dispersing tigers, including journeys over 235 km across state borders. Notable examples include the long-range wanderings of T98, T136, T-91 and T-56, monitored continuously for months.
- Biodiversity Records: VWVs have documented rare species like the elusive caracal, enriching natural history records for Rajasthan.
- Rescues: They have supported Forest Department operations in rescuing leopards and tigers that strayed into human settlements.

Most importantly, the VWV initiative has created a positive perception of conservation among local communities, transforming villagers from bystanders, or in some cases, from poachers, into active defenders of the forest.

Scale & Impact

- 2003: Monitoring begins amid declining tiger numbers
- 2013: VWV Program launched formally with Forest Department
- 250+ trained volunteers and sahyogis engaged
- 10+ dispersing tigers tracked (up to 235 km journeys)
- 4 Tiger Reserves supported (RTR, MHTR, RVTR, DKTR)
- Real-time data shared with forest officials via smartphones
- Countless poaching attempts averted through timely intelligence

The Larger Picture

When tigers step beyond the safety of the reserve, our work begins. By filling gaps in formal protection and ensuring continuous eyes on the landscape, the VWVs safeguard both wildlife and communities.

The success of this program has shown that the

health of a core forest depends on the strength of its buffer zone—and that conservation is most effective when it is community-driven, science-backed, and government-supported.

"When villagers become guardians of the forest, conservation becomes a shared responsibility."

Tigers Monitored

DKT - 01

DKT - 02

DKT2501F

DKT2502M

T - 2503

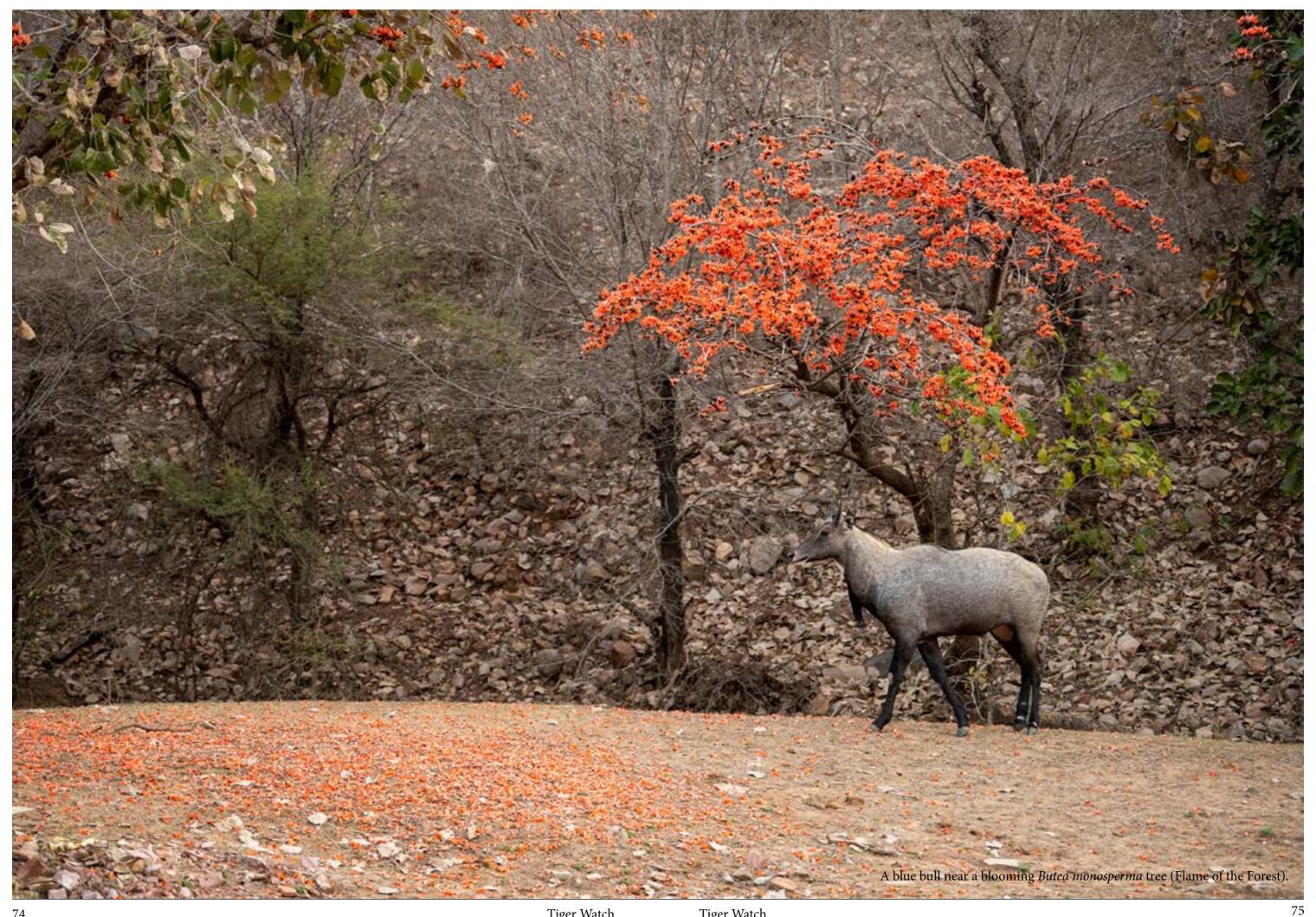
T - 2303

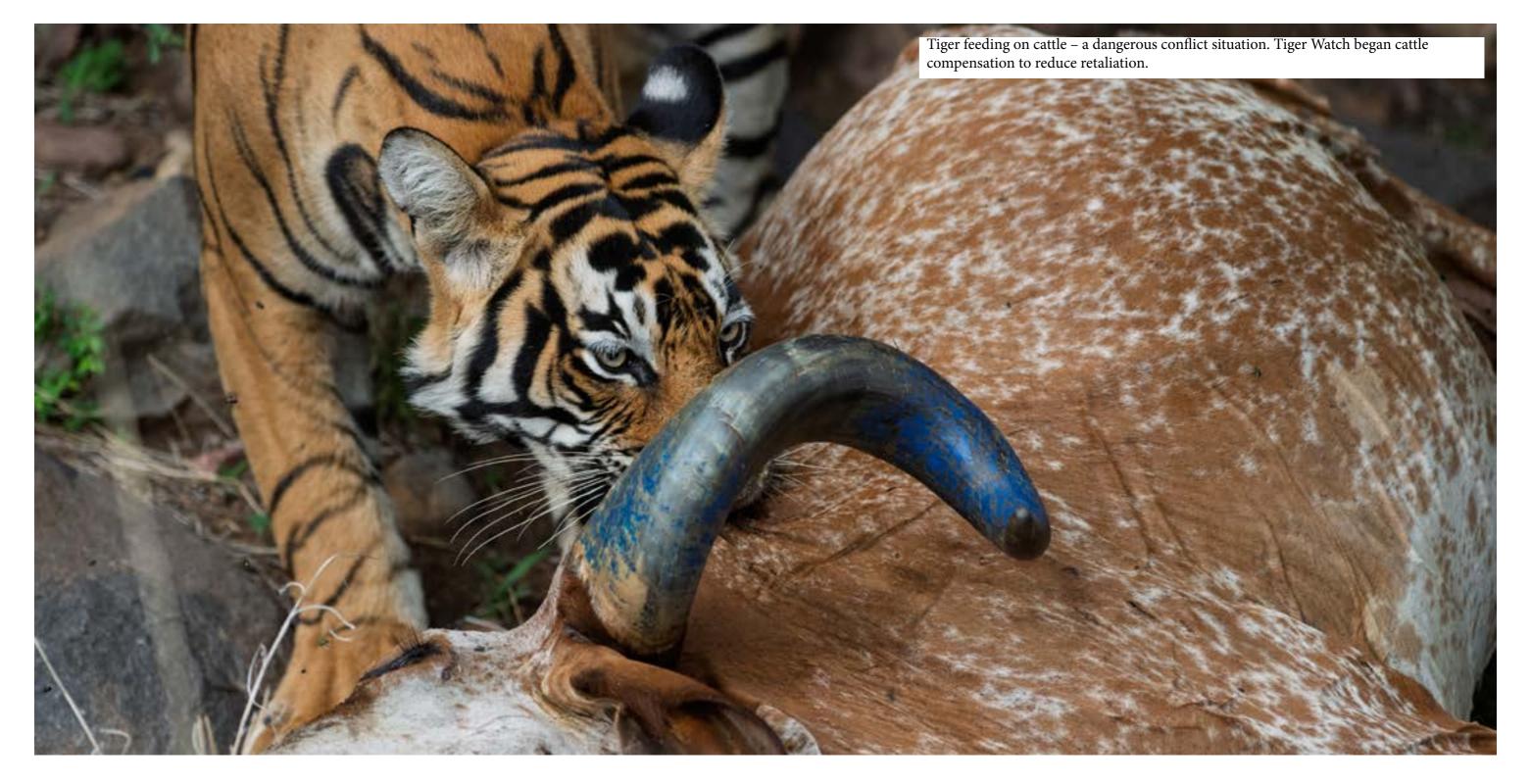




Young tiger attempting to rouse its tired mother for a hunt on a hot summer day.







Human–Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

(A Grassroots Solution: The Cattle Compensation Fund)





In tiger habitats where dense human populations share space with thriving wildlife, conflict is not an exception—it is inevitable. A tiger taking a buffalo or a leopard raiding a goat pen is more than just an economic loss. For forest-edge families, it is deeply emotional, disruptive, and potentially dangerous.

Conflict is hardest to manage where both people and predator densities are high. Here, quick yet thoughtful interventions are essential—not only to provide relief but also to prevent retaliation and ensure long-term coexistence.

In August 2024, Tiger Watch launched the Cattle Compensation Fund in the Dholpur–Karauli Tiger Reserve (DKTR) with support from Süd–Chemie India Pvt. Ltd. The idea was simple: while government compensation schemes exist, their processing can take months and involves complex paperwork. In DKTR, for instance, compensation has been pending for over a year. Families in crisis needed something different—a rapid, community-based solution.

Our Approach

Swiftly verify incidents through on-ground teams (VWVs), confirmed by the local sarpanch.

Provide immediate compensation for lost livestock.

Support the affected family, restoring faith in conservation.

Offer financial relief at half the governmentapproved rate, but ensure payment is made within 4 days of the loss.

By March 2025, with support from Abercrombie & Kent India, the program expanded to the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary, one of Rajasthan's most sensitive conflict zones. Together with Süd-Chemie WIndia Pvt. Ltd., which continues to support the Dholpur program, the fund is steadily building trust between local communities, Tiger Watch, and the Forest Department.

Now, within just 2–3 days of a verified loss, families receive compensation—not just financial help, but the assurance that they are not alone when the wild crosses into their lives.

W

Why It Matters

Prevents revenge killings of big cats.

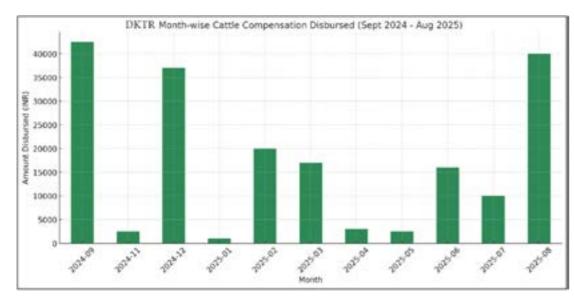
Builds trust and empathy by responding quickly to community needs.

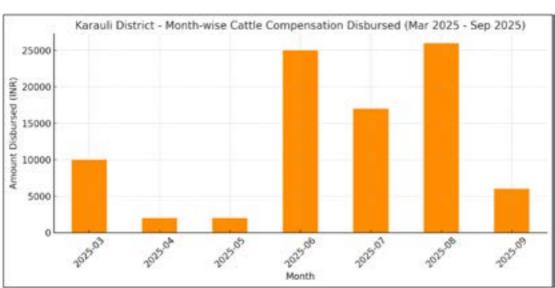
Strengthens forest staff and VWVs with better tools and training.

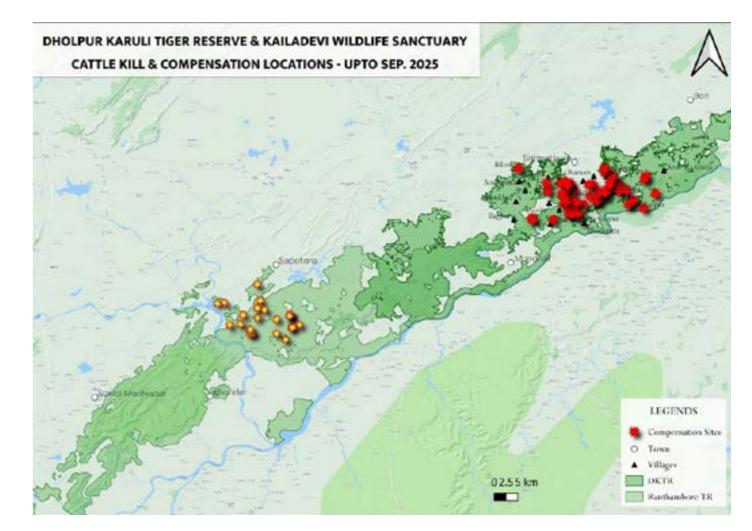
Promotes humane, science-based rescue methods.

Reduces pressure on understaffed, under-equipped government teams.

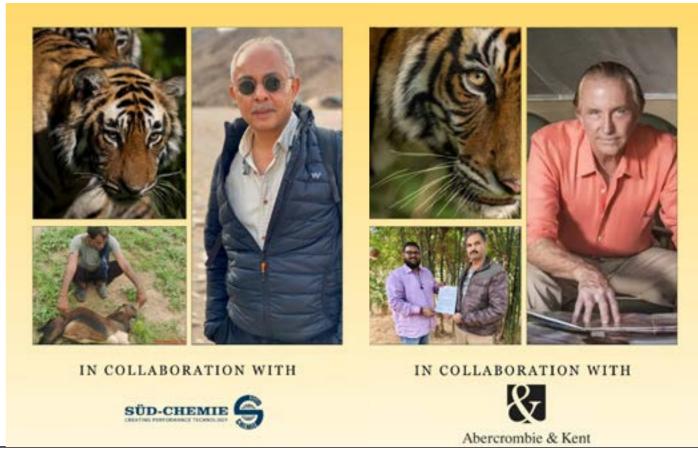
"Every buffalo compensated, every tiger tracked, and every rescue done safely is a step towards coexistence."







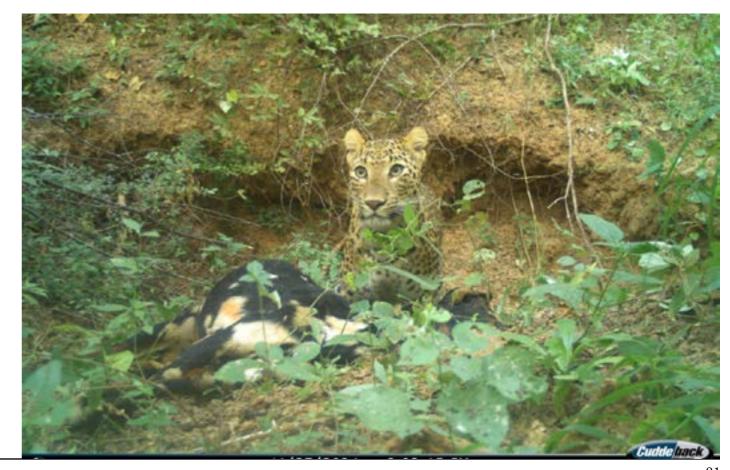
Supported by







Government cattle compensation is slow; Tiger Watch provides timely support within 30–40 days.







Anti-Poaching Operations

SUJÁN

Tiger Watch has been at the forefront of antipoaching efforts in Rajasthan, working tirelessly to protect big cats and other wildlife. The first coordinated anti-poaching operation was conducted in 2005 with the support of the Forest Department. Later that same year, several operations were carried out in collaboration with the Rajasthan Police Department. The scale and urgency of these actions were captured in the BBC-sponsored film The Hunted and Sachin Rai's documentary Curbing the Crisis. Without timely intervention, Rajasthan may well have lost its entire tiger population. Fateh Singh Rathore often praised the decisive leadership and coordination of officers Mr. Ajit Singh, IPS; Mr. Alok Vasisth, IPS; and Mr. Samir Singh, IPS. In recognition of these efforts, IUCN formally felicitated them.

Since then, Tiger Watch has built and expanded a strong intelligence network in the region. Over the

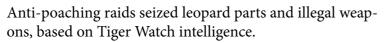
years, it has become instrumental in the arrest of over 200 poachers, the seizure of 40 big cat body parts, and the recovery of more than 60 illegal firearms.

Recent Operations (2025)

• Operation 1 – Seizure of 5 leopard body parts; 6 poachers arrested so far, with more suspects wanted in collaboration with the Special Task Force (STF) of Madhya Pradesh.

- Operation 2 Seizure of 1 leopard skin; 2 poachers arrested in a joint operation with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).
- Operation 3 Arrest of 4 poachers with sambar deer antlers, conducted with support from the Madhya Pradesh STF.

Tiger Watch field team member Vakil Mohammad played a very significant role in the raids this year.







Other Highlights

1. School Development Support

Tiger Watch extended financial assistance to Sherpur School, enabling much-needed repairs and improvements to their infrastructure. This support ensured that children in the village could study in a safe and better learning environment. Beyond Sherpur, Tiger Watch's commitment to education has remained steadfast, with continued investments in infrastructure, classroom facilities, and learning resources.

2. Health & Welfare for Mogya Families

Recognizing the hardships faced by marginalized Mogya families, Tiger Watch provided direct medicinal support to several households, including those of Ramvtar Mogya, Lakhan Mogya, Prem Bai Mogya, Hari Mogya, Guddi Mogya, and Rajmal Mogya. These interventions not only addressed immediate healthcare needs but also underscored our ongoing efforts to support the wellbeing of vulnerable communities living around the tiger reserve.

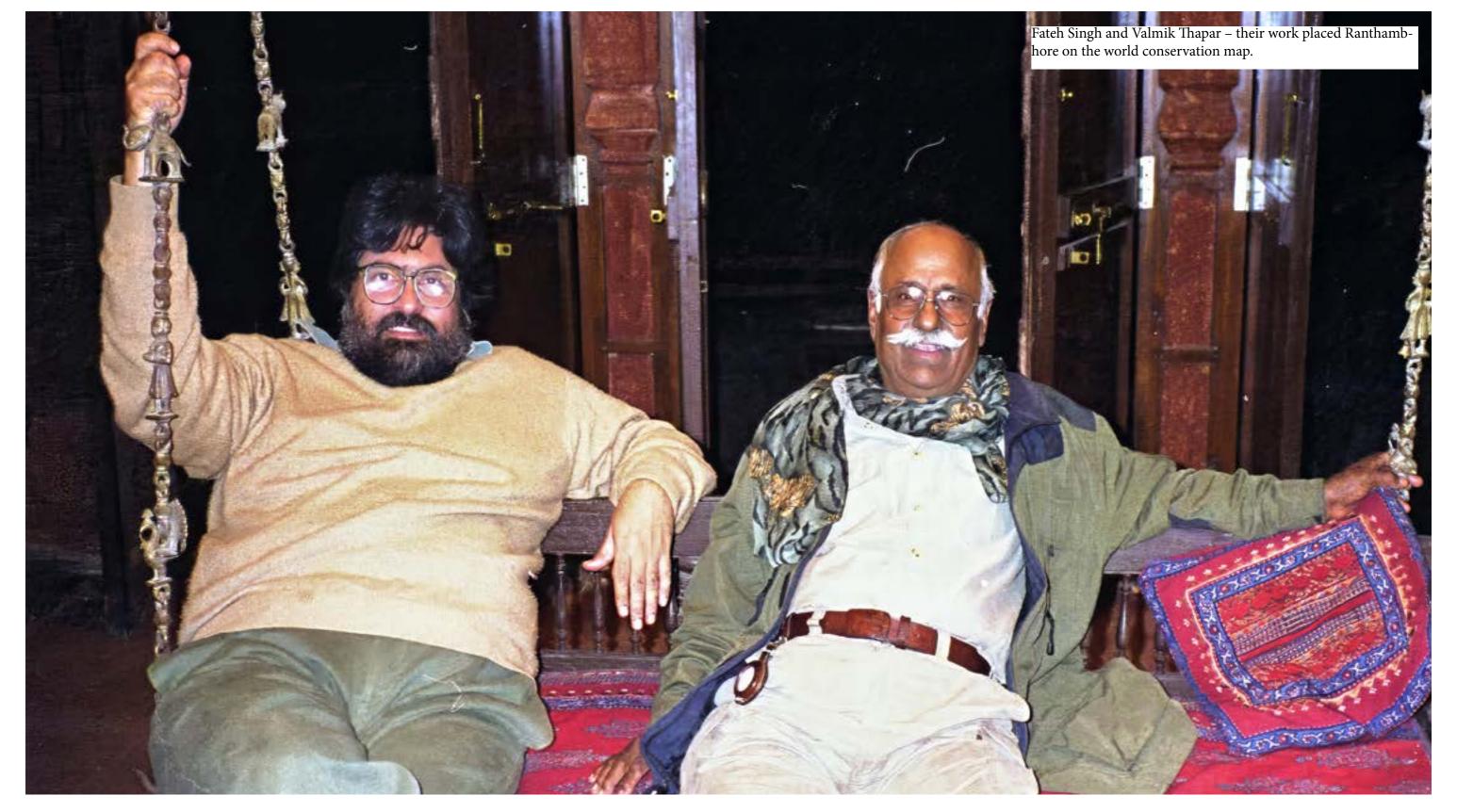
3. Recognition for Educational Contributions

The District Collector Sh. Kanaram formally felicitated Tiger Watch for its role in strengthening education in the region. The organization was acknowledged for supporting 20 schools through infrastructure upgrades and the development of libraries. This recognition reflects Tiger Watch's long-term vision of community empowerment—ensuring that conservation and education go hand in hand for a sustainable future.

District Collector Sh. Kanaram felicitates Tiger Watch for empowering 20 schools with infrastructure and libraries, reinforcing the link between education and conservation. Dharmraj Gurjar and Nirmal Chaudhary received the award.







13th Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture & Awards Ceremony -2025

Date: March 1, 2025 Venue: Fateh Public School, Sawai Madhopur Organized by: Tiger Watch

The 13th edition of the Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture & Awards Ceremony was a memorable day of tribute, reflection, and recognition—celebrating the spirit of conservation and honoring those who continue to carry forward the legacy of Fateh Singh Rathore. The program opened with the enchanting story of Rajasthan's Demoiselle Cranes, accompanied by a soulful rendition of the folk song "Kurjaan." The song, which personifies the graceful Demoiselle Crane, beautifully showcased the deep cultural bond between communities and wildlife in Rajasthan, reminding the audience of the harmony that has long existed between people and nature.

The highlight of the evening was the Memorial Lecture, delivered by Shri Sunil Limaye, former PCCF & CWLW of Maharashtra and current Member of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC). In his lecture titled "Wildlife and Coexistence", Shri Limaye emphasized the urgent need to respect wildlife spaces to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Drawing from his extensive experience in managing Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Tadoba Tiger Reserve, he illustrated both the challenges and the successes of coexistence. The lecture concluded with an evocative clip from "Jina Isi Ka Naam Hai," leaving the audience deeply moved. A lively interactive Q&A session followed, where participants engaged with Shri Limaye on pressing issues of conservation, ensuring the session was both enriching and inspiring.

The ceremony also marked the launch of two important books:

- Buffer Zone by Mriduta Sharma A work of fiction inspired by the poaching incidents of Sariska and other pressing challenges faced by the reserve.
- Rajasthan ke Baghon ka Sansar by Praveen Singh, Meenu Dhakad, Dharmsingh Gurjar, and Dr. Dharmendra Khandal – A collaborative work exploring the rich world of Rajasthan's gardens and their ecological and cultural significance. The book was formally launched by Shri Arijit Banerjee and Mr. Dieter Gutmann, adding a special moment of recognition to the evening.

The 13th edition not only honored outstanding contributions in the field of conservation but also carried forward Fateh Singh Rathore's vision of blending community, culture, and wildlife into a single shared heritage.

Award Highlights 2025

This year's awards celebrated the tireless efforts of conservationists, journalists, forest guards, and grassroots heroes whose unwavering dedication continues to safeguard India's wildlife and ecosystems. From frontline protectors in tiger reserves to citizen activists rescuing birds and documenting conservation stories, each awardee represents the spirit of resilience, courage, and service to nature.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI) – ₹1,00,000

For over three decades, the Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI), under the leadership of Shri Harshvardhan, has been a cornerstone of wildlife conservation and activism in Rajasthan. The society has made significant contributions, particularly in the conservation of birds and their habitats. TWSI has not only advocated for policy changes and stronger protection measures but has also been instrumental in creating awareness at the grassroots level. Its campaigns to safeguard wetlands, protect migratory birds, and involve local communities in conservation stand as a model for long-term, sustainable conservation efforts in India.

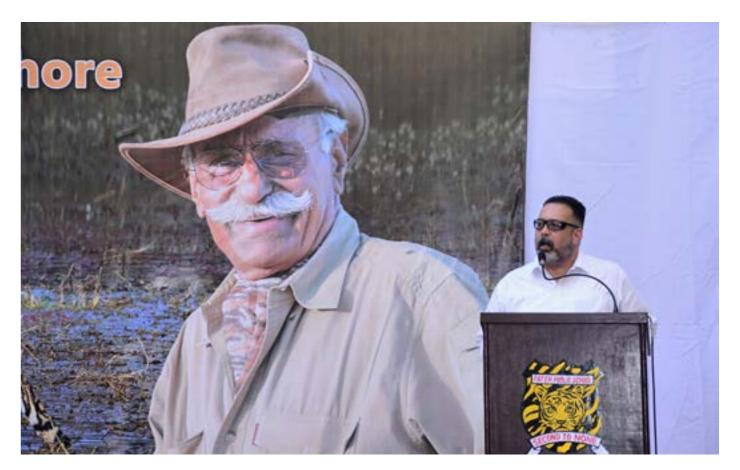
Wildlife Conservation Awards

1. Lakhan Gurjar, Tiger Tracker, Kailadevi, Karauli – ₹31,000

Lakhan Gurjar has been a tireless Tiger Tracker in Kailadevi, Karauli, where he played an important role in monitoring the tigers of the Dholpur–Karauli Tiger Reserve (DKTR). His work goes beyond patrolling—he has been a bridge between the forest department and local communities, helping to reduce conflict and foster coexistence. At a time when the formation of the tiger reserve caused unrest among villagers, Lakhan's patient engagement and positive influence helped pacify local sentiments and guide them toward conservation. His contribution has been crucial in ensuring the safety of tigers and the acceptance of conservation measures by the community.

2. Bheem Singh Choudhary, Forest Guard, Ranthambhore TR – ₹21,000

As a dedicated Forest Guard in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, Bheem Singh Choudhary has played a critical role in the relocation of villages from inside the reserve—a challenging but necessary step for both wildlife conservation and community welfare. His persistence and ability to build trust with villagers made this sensitive process smoother, ensuring fair rehabilitation while opening up vital habitats for tigers and other wildlife. His work embodies the often unseen but vital contributions of frontline staff who make conservation possible in the field.



Mr. Sunil Limaye delivering the Fateh Singh Memorial Lecture on human-wildlife conflict.



Harshvardhan with his daughters, Ms. Mamta and Ms. Mohita, attending the Fateh Singh Rathore Award function, where their established NGO TWSI received the Lifetime Service Award.

3. Harvinder Singh Gurjar, Assistant Forester, Dholpur–Karauli TR – ₹21,000

Known among his peers as a vigilant and courageous officer, Harvinder Singh Gurjar has been instrumental in tackling poaching threats in DKTR. His proactive intelligence gathering, strict enforcement, and ability to coordinate with local informants have led to the prevention of several poaching incidents. As an Assistant Forester, Harvinder exemplifies dedication and integrity, ensuring that the growing tiger population in the reserve has a safe future.

4. Master Piyush & Master Chirag, Young Wildlife Enthusiasts, Khichan, Jodhpur – ₹5,000 each

At a young age, Piyush and Chirag have shown extraordinary compassion and courage by actively participating in the rescue of Demoiselle Cranes in Khichan, Jodhpur—a site globally famous for hosting thousands of migratory birds every winter. Their efforts include assisting in the safe release of injured or distressed cranes, spreading awareness among villagers, and setting an inspiring example for their peers. Their recognition demonstrates that conservation is not bound by age, and that the passion of children can become a powerful force for protecting nature.

People and Nature - Services to Wildlife Awards

6. Mr. Bhagirath Singh, Veterinarian, Jodhpur – ₹21,000

A highly respected veterinarian from Jodhpur, Mr. Bhagirath Singh has dedicated his career to treating and saving countless wild animals. Whether it is rescuing injured birds from urban conflicts, attending to leopards and other wild species caught in human-wildlife conflict, or supporting rescue operations in emergencies, Bhagirath has always been on the frontline. His expertise has not only saved individual animals but has also strengthened the trust between local communities and conservation authorities, making him a key figure in Rajasthan's wildlife care network.

7. Dr. Chaman Singh Chauhan, Wildlife Activist, Udaipur – ₹21,000

A true grassroots conservationist, Dr. Chaman Singh Chauhan has been actively involved in wildlife rescue and awareness activities across Udaipur. Over the years, he has rescued hundreds of snakes, birds, and small mammals from conflict situations, often risking his own safety. Beyond rescues, he has conducted awareness programs in schools and communities, teaching people about coexistence and the ecological importance of species often misunderstood or feared. His work has inspired a new generation of citizen activists in southern Rajasthan.

8. Mr. Zuber Khan, Journalist, Kota – ₹21,000

A fearless journalist from Kota, Mr. Zuber Khan is widely respected for his hard-hitting reportage on environmental and wildlife issues. His investigative stories have shed light on illegal activities, deforestation, and threats to biodiversity, often bringing accountability to both local authorities and industries. By giving space to under-reported conservation stories, Zuber has helped mobilize public opinion in favor of stronger protections for wildlife and habitats in the Hadoti region. His pen has become a weapon for truth and conservation.

9. Dr. Kamlesh Sharma, Journalist, Photographer & Conservation Advocate, Dungarpur – ₹21,000

For more than 25 years, Dr. Kamlesh Sharma has been a dedicated voice for conservation through his multifaceted roles as a journalist, photographer, and grassroots advocate. His photography has brought rare glimpses of Rajasthan's biodiversity to the public eye, while his articles have consistently highlighted both the challenges and successes of conservation in tribal regions. Dr. Sharma has personally rescued endangered species such as the Black-headed Ibis, documented sensitive habitats, and initiated community events such as bird festivals in Dungarpur to celebrate and protect avian life. Currently serving as a Public Relations Officer, he continues to use his platform to blend policy advocacy, citizen engagement, and visual storytelling. His recognition this year is especially poignant, honoring a lifetime of service where journalism meets activism in defense of wildlife.

Distinguished Guests

The ceremony was attended by leading conservationists and officials including:

- Sh. Arijit Banerjee, HoFF, Rajasthan
- Sh. Sunil Limaye, environmentalist & keynote speaker
- Sh. Anoop K. Raghavan, Field Director, Ranthambhore TR
- Dr. Satish Sharma, environmental scientist

- Harshvardhan, bird and wildlife conservation expert
- Mr. & Mrs. Dieter Gutmann, long-time supporters of Tiger Watch
- Senior media professionals, students, and local community members

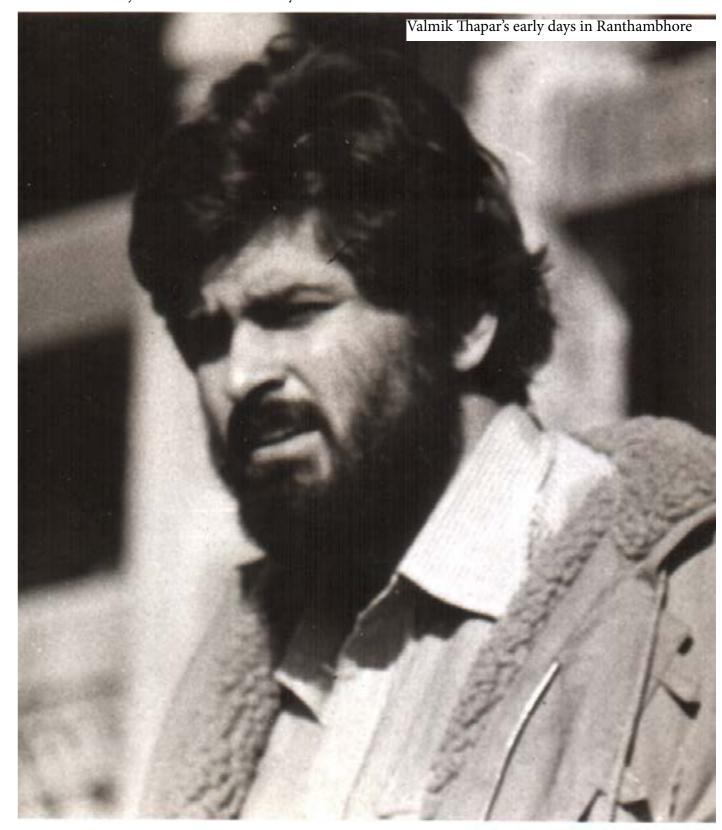
More Than a Ceremony

The Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture & Awards are not just an annual event. They are a

living reminder of Fatehji's legacy and a platform where unsung conservation heroes are celebrated alongside thought leaders.

From forest guards risking their lives on the ground, to journalists amplifying wildlife voices, to communities redefining coexistence—the awards reaffirm that conservation is a collective journey.

"When we honour those who protect the wild, we honour the wild itself."





Chairman of TWSI Shri Anand Mishra receiving award on behalf of TWSI from Usha Rathore and Iskander Lalljee.



Tiger Watch supporter Dieter Gutmann, Liz Gutmann, Chirman -Tiger Watch Iskander Lalljee, and Former Ex Hon. Wildlife Warden Balendu Singh at the award function.



Former Chief Secretary S. Ahmed, Dr. Ajay Khurana, Sunil Limaye, and Mrs. Limaye attending the function.



Field Director Anoop K. R, Dr. Govardhan Singh Rathore, Puneet Lalbhai, and Kishore Singh (Fateh's brother) attending.



Senior Govt. PRO Kamlesh Sharma receiving award from Sanjeev Sharma, DCF, Ramgarh Vishdhari TR.



Iskander Lalljee and Padmini Singh Rathore felicitating Sunil Limaye after his lecture.



Dieter Gutmann and Arijit Banerjee- HoFF releasing Tiger Watch's student awareness book.



Forest Guard Mr. Harvinder Singh Gujjar felicitated by Sunil Limaye.



Forest Guard Bhim Singh Jat felicitated by Daulat Singh Shaktawat, former ACF.



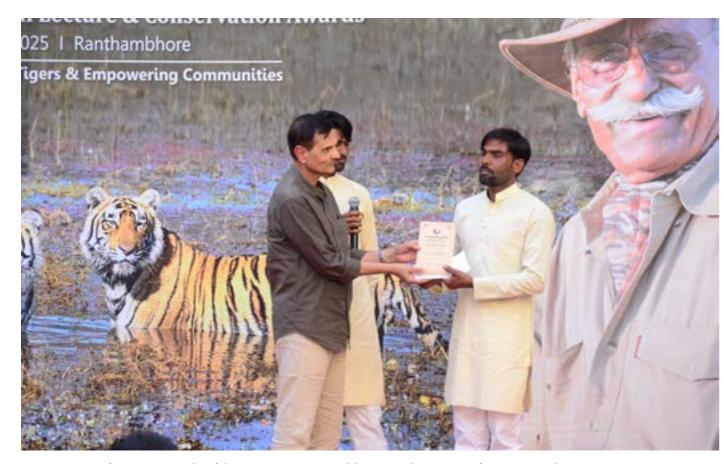
Bhuvnesh Suthar honoring Udaipur conservationist Chaman Singh, renowned snake rescuer.



Mriduta Sharma's book *Buffer Zone* introduced by Dharmendra Khandal.



Anjali Patel Mehta, Tiger Watch board member, gifting handicraft kits to Mogya girls of Bagh Pari program



Former FD of RTR Y.K. Sahu felicitating VWV- Lakhan Singh Gurjar of Tiger Watch.



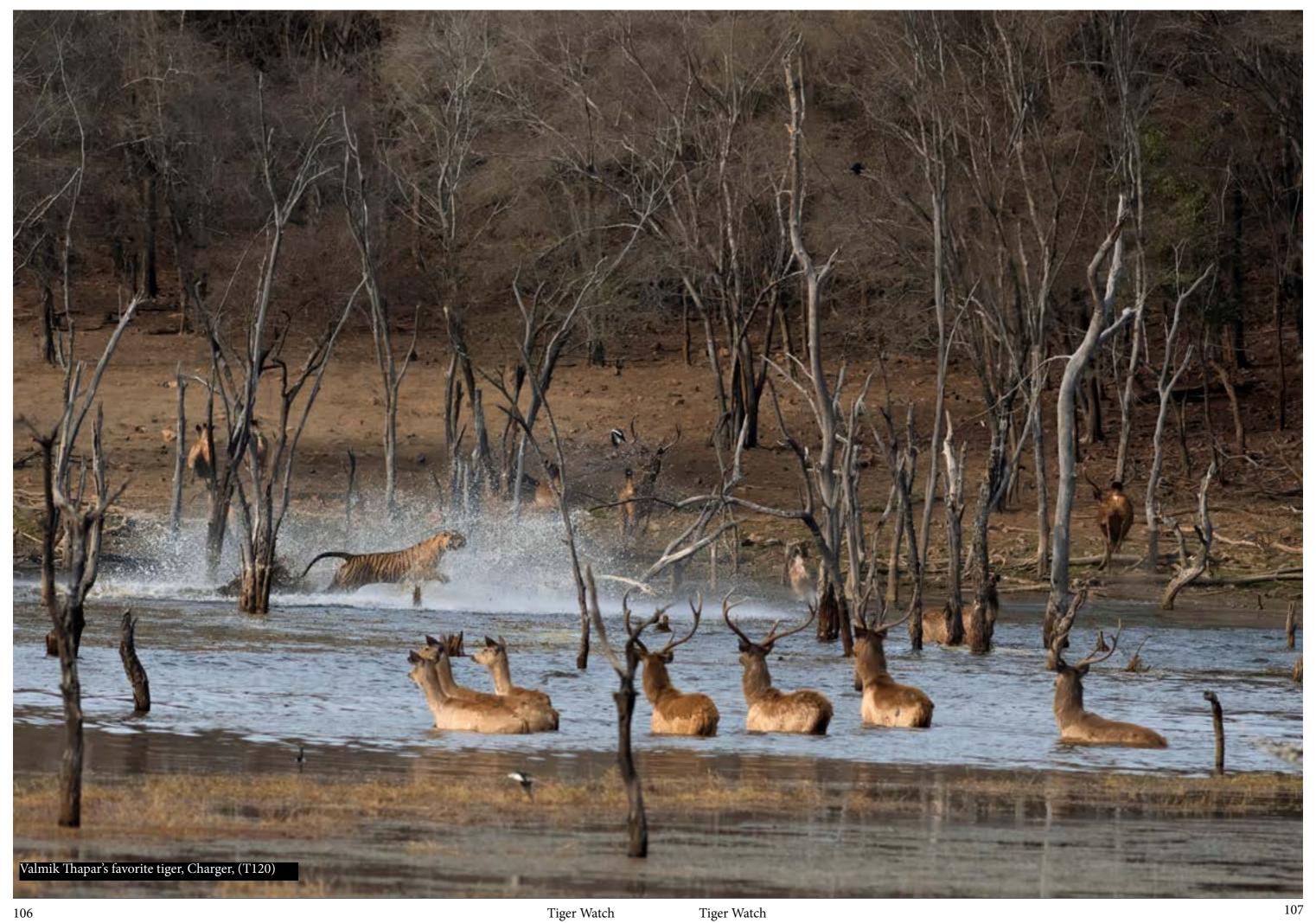
Young boys Master Piyush & Master Chirag receiving awards for rescuing demoiselle cranes.

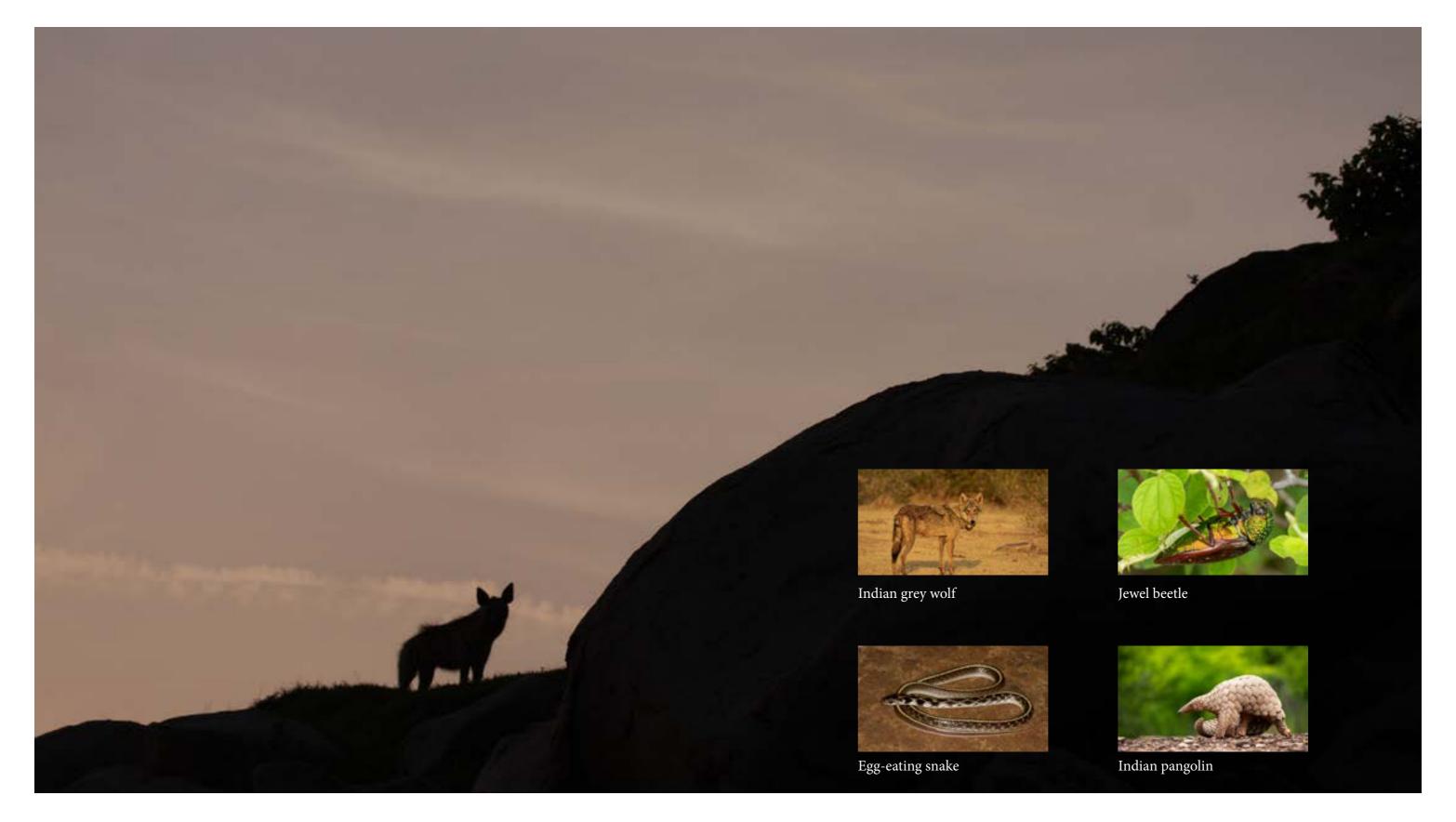


Field Director of RTR- Anoop K.R. felicitating Dr. Bhagirath Soni of Jodhpur for animal rescue and treatment services.



Fateh Singh's old friend sharing memories at the event.





Rajasthan Biodiversity Network

(Towards a Pan-Rajasthan Approach)



Over the years, Tiger Watch has steadily expanded its work beyond tiger reserves to embrace a pan-Rajasthan perspective on biodiversity conservation. Recognizing the extraordinary variety of fragile landscapes—from the desert dunes of Jaisalmer to the forests of Hadoti—the organization launched the Rajasthan Biodiversity Network (RBN) with support from Abhimanyu Golcha through the Golcha Foundation.

RBN is envisioned as a state-wide collaborative platform that consolidates conservation efforts, encourages pioneering research, and connects dynamic individuals committed to safeguarding Rajasthan's ecological heritage. In its first phase, the network's key focus has been to document and spread awareness about the state's rich biological diversity.

Exploration: Science in Action

Every year, RBN organizes field expeditions across Rajasthan to explore and document species. This year, under the leadership of Vivek Sharma, a scorpion survey recorded 50% of all known scorpion its credibility and value as a reference source. species of Rajasthan, a landmark achievement in species exploration.

Awareness: Sharing Knowledge Widely

Awareness forms another pillar of RBN. The network's online portal - www.rajasthanbiodiversity.

- has emerged as a credible, accessible, and dynamic and fresh perspectives. repository of knowledge on the state's biodiversity.

By publishing regular articles, scientific insights, and historical ecological notes, the portal enables scientists, students, conservationists, and the public to constructively engage with Rajasthan's natural wealth. Over time, RBN has established itself as the most trusted source of biodiversity knowledge for the state.

In the past year, RBN has reached several milestones:

Content Expansion:

Published 251 articles by 48 authors, covering themes such as species ecology, landscape features, conservation strategies, and ecological history.

New Publications & Research:

Floral Diversity of Ramgarh Crater (scientific floristic paper)

Rajasthan ke Baghon Ka Sansar – a Hindi resource for teachers, students, and guides.

Analysis of Rajasthan's Climate Change Report

Documentation of Common Grasses of Hadoti

Behavioural study on the butterfly Belenois aurota (Pioneer)

New contributions on tiger ecology and behaviour

Authorship Diversity:

Contributions include veteran forest officers and an emerging wave of young student authors from Rajasthan, reflecting the network's inclusive and collaborative approach.

Growing Readership:

With over 338,000 total impressions, the portal continues to attract readers from Rajasthan and beyond, consistently receiving positive feedback on

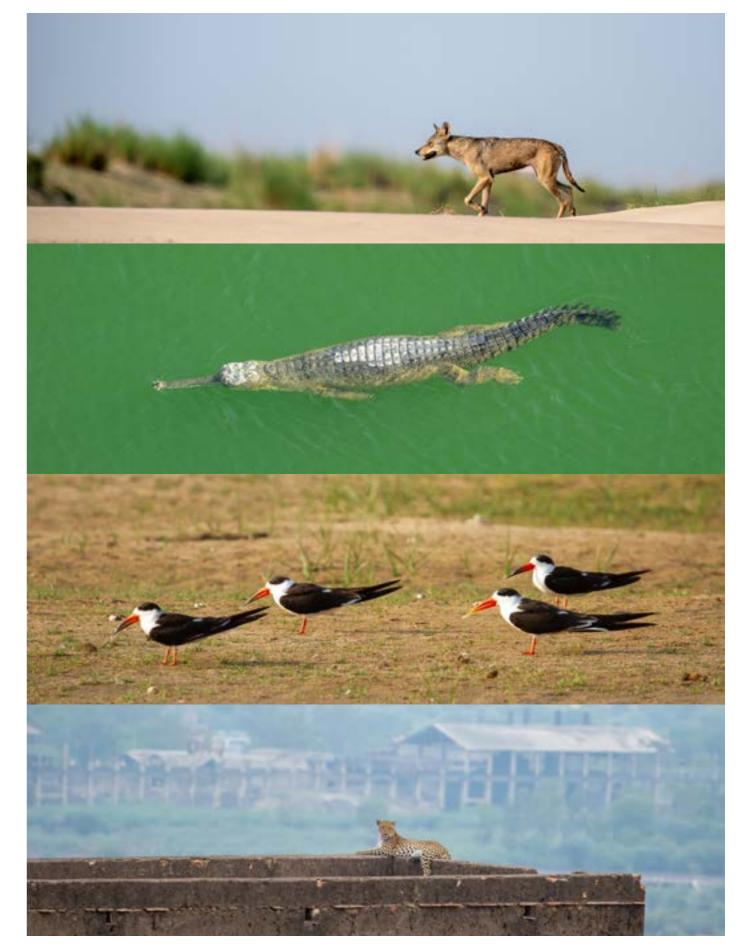
Looking Ahead

In the coming year, RBN will continue to strengthen its role as Rajasthan's biodiversity knowledge hub. Priority initiatives will include:

Student Writing Programs to nurture local talent

Interactive Resources such as maps, infographics, and visual archives to make biodiversity information more engaging and accessible.

By uniting conservation, exploration, and awareness, the Rajasthan Biodiversity Network is shaping a new model of ecological citizenship in India's largest state



A grey wolf on Banas river sand, a gharial swimming in the Chambal, skimmer birds nesting by the Banas, and a leopard resting on a building with a cement factory in the background. (From top to bottom)



Scientific Research & Surveys





Scientific Research & Monitoring

Tiger Watch has long been at the forefront of scientific inquiry in the Ranthambhore landscape, advancing knowledge that directly strengthens conservation on the ground. Over the years, our team has produced more than 60 studies that shed light on species and ecological dynamics previously underexplored, helping expand the frontiers of wildlife research in India.

Our work has been particularly focused on endangered and vulnerable species such as the caracal, gharial, and grey wolf. These studies not only document their distribution and ecology but also provide the evidence base needed to influence policy decisions and guide site-level interventions.

Policy Impact

A milestone achievement came in 2021, when the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change reclassified the caracal as an endangered species in India. This recognition was directly influenced by Tiger Watch's distribution study, underscoring how research can translate into tangible conservation outcomes at the national level.

Recent Studies & Monitoring Initiatives (2024–25) This year, Tiger Watch expanded its research footprint across multiple taxa and conservation concerns:

- Chiropterophagy in Snakes Our paper Ecological Interplay: Chiropterophagy documented snake predation on bats, contributing new insights into predator–prey interactions.
- Pan-Rajasthan Vulture Survey (Gyps bengalensis): A state-level assessment of the endangered White-rumped Vulture, mapping distribution and population health.
- Monitoring of Vulture-Safe Drugs: Surveyed the availability and use of veterinary drugs in rural

Rajasthan to assess risks to scavenger species.

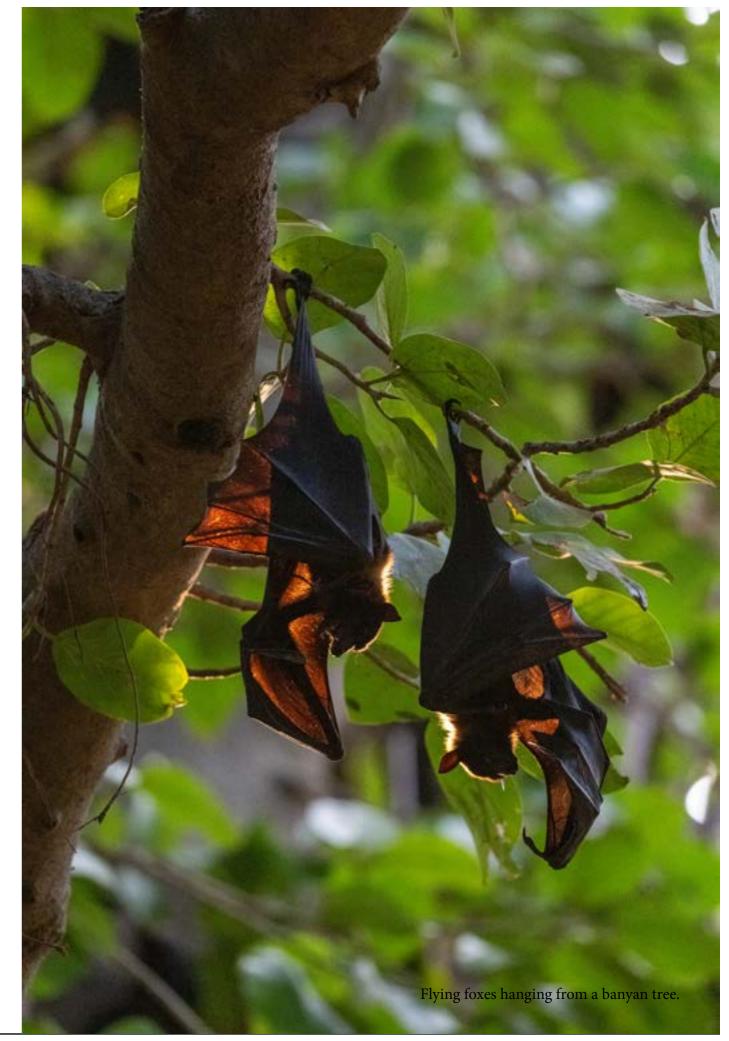
- Snake Diversity of Rajasthan: Ongoing work to document snake species across habitats, with a focus on underreported taxa.
- Threatened Flora Documentation: Continued field observations and records of rare and declining plant species across Rajasthan's fragile landscapes.

Why It Matters

Studying bats and vultures allows scientists to measure the ripple effects of climate change across entire ecosystems. Their responses highlight not just the challenges species face, but also the resilience strategies ecosystems may develop. Importantly, conserving these indicator species supports biodiversity at large, safeguarding the functions—such as pollination, pest control, and carrion recycling—that keep ecosystems stable and climate-resilient.

This approach ensures that Tiger Watch's research continues to bridge the gap between science, conservation practice, and policy, equipping Rajasthan—and India—with the insights needed to plan for a rapidly changing future.





Board Members

(Honorary)

Iskander Lalljee

Chairman

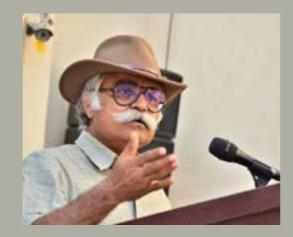
A thorough gentleman who firmly believes in giving back to the planet and humanity. Fondly referred to as Isky Sir, he is the main financial supporter of the organization and has played a pivotal role in shaping the Mogya Education Programme. He is based out of Gurugram but keenly monitors operations on the ground.



Dr. Goverdhan Singh Rathore

Vice-Chairman

An artist by heart, a medical practitioner by training and a conservationist by passion, he is the founder of the largest non-government organization of the district called the Prakartik Society, which employs 200 people. A state of art hospital and school are two examples of his exemplary work. He is a leading philanthropist in the area, who has received several international and national level awards while he also successfully runs a boutique hotel – Khemvillas at Ranthambore.



Ashutosh Mahadevia

Secretary

He is the main founder of Tiger Watch, Fateh ji used to say that he actually made Tiger Watch materialise and created a board for this organisation. He is a businessman based in Mumbai, but his heart is always in Ranthambhore. He single handedly raises funds, supports and manages the administrative work for the organisation.



Soonoo B. Tararporewala

Treasurer

Retired from the British Council Library, Soonoo Taraporewala is a regular visitor to Ranthambhore for the last 30 years. She has written a biography on the life of Fateh Singh Rathore and followed his passion as a disciple of the wild. Her bond with Ranthambore continues to blossom and she has always stood by Tiger Watch's side, both in times of strength and crisis.



Sachin Rai

Joint Secretary

One of the finest photographers in the country. Sachin Rai is engaged in the business of travel. Also a multimedia expert, he has tuned in with his expertise several times be it for making films, our website, and documents.



Rishad Naoroji

Member

Rishad Naoroji was not only a friend and supporter of Fateh Singhji, but also a guide to propagate and support species other than Tigers, especially raptors.



Dr. Ajay Veer Khurana

Membe

Ajay is a surgeon of fine repute. Based in Jaipur, he advocates for Tiger Watch in the political and bureaucratic corridors of Rajasthan, thus ensuring positive manoeuvring and image building for Tiger Watch.



Anjali Patel Mehta

Member

Former Investment Banker at Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank and mother of two, Anjali Patel Mehta began her creative journey in 2012 when she founded her ready-to-wear label, Studio Verandah. A chance encounter with the tiger T-91 in the Ranthambhore National Park inspired her to start a collection themed around this most interesting of tigers. The collection was the first of its kind and brought the nuances surrounding tigers in Ranthambhore and the new realities of wildlife conservation to a whole new audience. Anjali has founded and consistently supported Baagh Pari, a pioneering and a first of its kind specialised initiative to empower Mogya girls.



Punit Lalbhai

Member

Executive Director of Arvind ltd., Punit is no stranger to Ranthambhore nor wildlife conservation. As a young prodigious lad of 17, and with the encouragement of our late founder Fateh Singh Rathore, Punit participated in Ranthambhore's first ever camera trap based tiger census in 1999 under the supervision of Dr. Ullas Karanth. Punit spearheads initiatives in sustainability and strongly supports Tiger Watch's initiatives in community based conservation.



Abhimanyu Golcha

Member

Abhimanyu Golcha has been the Director of the Golcha Group since 1994. In this capacity, he leads a group of Industries engaged in mining, cosmetics, cinemas and banking. A wildlife and nature lover and outdoor enthusiast with a soft spot for wildlife photography art, and local indigenous cultures, his love for Ranthambhore and his support for Tiger Watch led initiatives, came about very naturally. Abhimanyu has founded and consistently supported Rajasthan Biodiversity, an online portal focusing on pan-Rajasthan conservation issues, allowing for the development of a consolidated approach to wildlife conservation in the state for the very first time.



Ishan Dhar

Member

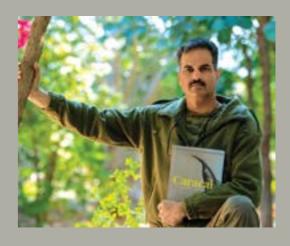
Ishan Dhar became associated with Tiger Watch when Tiger Watch's tiger monitoring team first expanded in 2015 and has actively participated in Tiger Watch interventions ever since. Since April 2021, he has looked after the organisation's research, development and communications. He has also served on Tiger Watch's Board of Directors since 2017. The youngest individual to do so. He has co-authored two books and multiple research articles in journals and the electronic and print media. Ishan is also a Net Zero fellow, an exclusive program for 100 emerging Indian political and public leaders curated by the School of Policy & Governance.



Dr Dharmendra Khandal

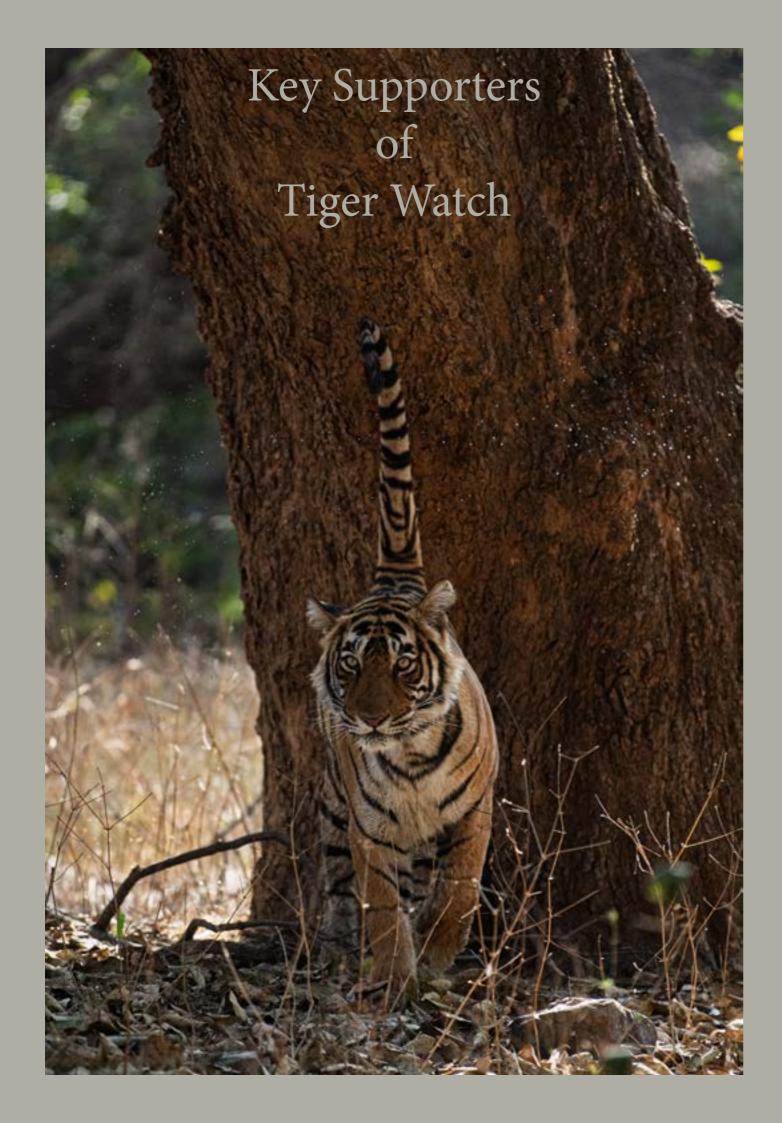
Member

Dr Dharmendra Khandal has been a conservation biologist with Tiger Watch since 2003 and has led the organisation as executive director since 2011. His work with Tiger Watch has involved proactive anti-poaching, wildlife monitoring and conservation research. He has forged new frontiers in community-based conservation through his interventions in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve and beyond.











Dieter Gutmann and Liz Gutmann

This remarkable German couple has been associated with Tiger Watch since 2007. What began as a tourist visit has grown into one of our most valuable partnerships. Dieter, a versatile individual who has travelled to more than 150 countries, brings immense knowledge of geography, economics, and conservation, and is also deeply engaged in wildlife protection efforts in Africa. Thanks to their dedicated support, Tiger Watch has been able to strengthen community programmes, anti-poaching operations, and wildlife monitoring. The couple personally visits every year, guiding our work and inspiring us to think bigger. Dieter also maintains close personal ties with Mogya families, directly supporting their well-being, while also contributing to educational institutions in Sawai Madhopur.



Iskander Lalljee and family

As Chairman of Tiger Watch, Iskander Lalljee has been one of our strongest pillars of support. Through his company, Süd-Chemie, and its CSR initiatives, he has backed vital programmes such as the *Mogya Education Programme, Vanya Sakhi*, and several other community-focused projects. He takes a deep and active interest in the smooth functioning of the organization and consistently encourages us to work in close coordination with the Forest Department and government agencies, while also embracing innovation. His steadfast commitment to transparency, truth, and strong partnerships has been central to Tiger Watch's growth and long-term credibility.



Jaisal Singh and Anjali Singh

While successfully managing their hospitality company Suján Sher Bagh, Jaisal and Anjali Singh have always kept their hearts firmly in conservation. Since 2017, they have been continuous supporters of Tiger Watch, particularly in anti-poaching, tiger monitoring, wildlife rescue, and training. As members of Valmik Thapar's family, their bond with Ranthambhore is both personal and profound. They have been among the leading financial supporters from the region, enabling us to mobilize resources, infrastructure, and encouragement at every stage. Their commitment to innovative conservation ideas has inspired us to aim higher and achieve more. Additionally, their CSR initiatives through the SNS Foundation have significantly strengthened Tiger Watch's work in many meaningful ways.

Supporters of Tiger Watch

Name of Donor Amount of donation

(from 1st April 2024 30th March 2025 in Indian rupees)

| 1. | Sud Chemie | e India | Pvt L | td facilita | ted by I | sky Sir | |
|----|------------|---------|-------|-------------|----------|---------|--|
| | | | | | | | |

2. Sujan and SNS foundation facilitated by Jaisal Singh & Anjal Singh

and a vehicle

3. Mr. Dieter Erich Gutmann

4. Petronet LNG Limited facilitated by Sundeep Bhutoria

5. Remembering Wildlife facilitated by Ms. Margot Raggett

6. Saving Wild Tigers facilitated by Nina Rao

7. Golcha Foundation facilitated by Abhimanyu Golcha

8. Abercrombie & Kent India Private LTD facilitated by Upamanyu Raju & Divya Khandal

9. Studio APM Private Limited facilitated by Anjali Patel Mehta

3500000

Salary of VWV team

- Jimny (3500000)

2684800

1215000

1298475 1053904

1000000

600000

350000

Name of Donor **Amount of donation** Prabha Khaitan Foundation facilitated by Sundeep Bhutoria 260000 Ranthambhore Wildlife Alliance Pvt Ltd facilitated by Usha & Goverdhan Rathore 150000 12. Sevaram Radhrani 100006 Mr. Mike Birkhead facilitated by Valmik Thapar 101332 14. Mr. Anip Shanker 80000 Mr. Irfan Andreas Quader 33000 16. Mr. Vishpi Homi Unwala 15000 17. Mr. Navaj Pathak 10000 Mr. Dan & Pat Wright / Ranthambhore Tour Travels 8000 The Ranthambhore Bagh 5000 Mr. Gangadhar Gavasi 333

Arvind

FOUNDATION



















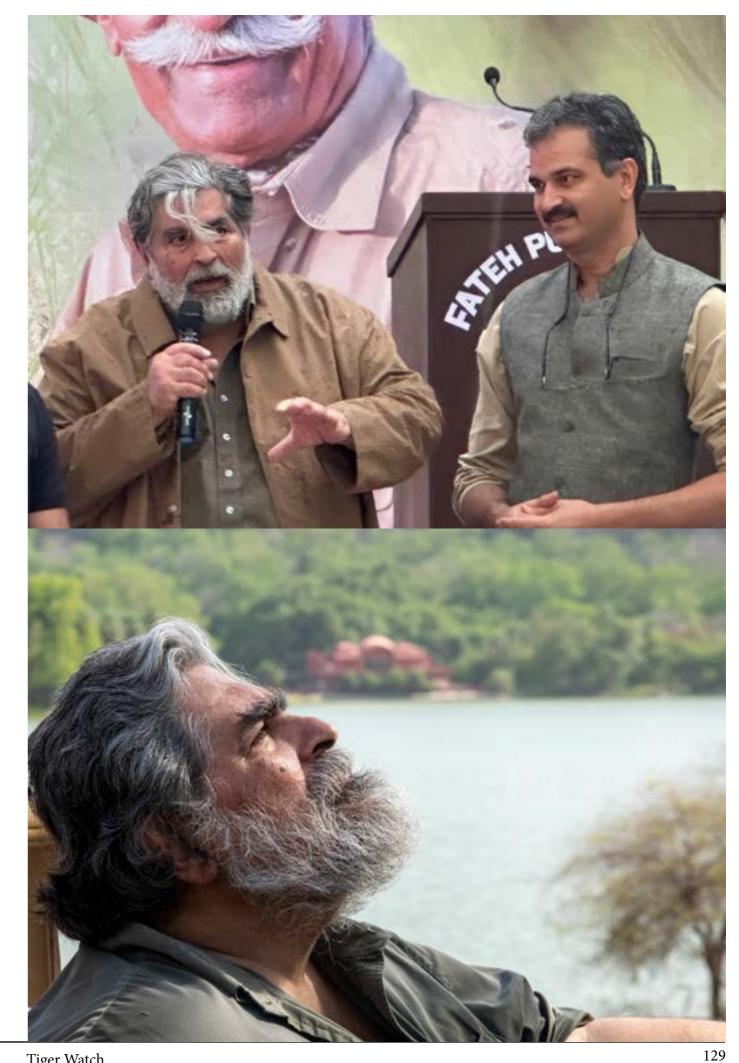




Two young tiger brothers running playful

12464850 (+ support)







Valmik Thapar dedicated his life to ensuring that the tiger's place in India's forests was never forgotten. Through his work, he turned concern into action and silence into awareness. The landscapes he fought for will always carry his imprint.

Tiger Watch

