



Tiger Watch

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



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2023-24



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Chairman's Note

The year 2023-24 has been one of remarkable growth and progress for Tiger Watch. The unwavering dedication of our Village Wildlife Volunteers (VWVs) has been instrumental in effectively monitoring tiger populations, not only in the designated areas around Ranthambhore National Park, but also in the expanding tiger landscapes of Kailadevi, Sarmathura, and the newly declared Ramgarh-Vishdhari Tiger Reserve. Additionally, the tireless efforts of VWV's, has been pivotal in the successful reclamation of the Aravalli-Vindhyan Tiger landscape, by the majestic big cats.

Our educational initiatives have flourished, reaching new heights and impacting countless lives. The Dieter & Liz Gutmann Tiger Conservation Program has empowered over 12,000 students in villages surrounding Ranthambhore National Park and Sawai Mansingh Sanctuary, fostering a deep appreciation for wildlife and their habitats. The Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Awareness Program, generously supported by Petronet LNG Ltd., has further expanded our reach, engaging with local communities in Karauli and Bundi districts and nurturing a sense of environmental responsibility among the youth.

The Mogya Education and Baagh Pari Programs continue to transform lives, providing not only formal education but also vocational training to Mogya children. This holistic approach is key to breaking the cycle of poverty and creating sustainable livelihoods, ensuring a brighter future for both the community and the wildlife they share their land with.

We are immensely grateful to our partners, including Divya Khandal of Dhonk, Anjali Patel Mehta of Verandah, the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), and the Goa Institute of Management, for their invaluable support in empowering the Mogya community. Their contributions have been instrumental in providing essential resources and opportunities, fostering a sense of hope and possibility.

The Rajasthan Biodiversity Network has emerged as a powerful platform for consolidating conservation efforts across the state. By engaging dynamic individuals and promoting scientifically informed interventions, the network is playing a crucial role in safeguarding Rajasthan's rich biodiversity.

While we celebrate these successes, we also remember the loss of Former Head of Forests, Rajasthan Dr GV Reddy. He was one of the finest forest officers that the State of Rajasthan has ever known. His honesty and integrity were a shining example for everyone all over India working to save our natural world. His efforts, as its Deputy Field Director and later Field Director, in restoring Ranthambhore National Park and advancing conservation practices set benchmarks admired both nationally and internationally. He will never be forgotten.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our impact and addressing the evolving challenges facing wildlife conservation. The establishment of the Digital Literacy Center in Ramsinghpura, in collaboration with the Gram Panchayat and BTS Ltd., exemplifies our dedication to empowering local communities and creating sustainable solutions.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our board members, field and executive teams, donors, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to Tiger Watch's mission. Together, we are making a tangible difference in protecting the invaluable wildlife and natural heritage of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve and its surrounding regions.

With sincere appreciation,

Iskander Lalljee

Chairman

Tiger Watch

Secretary's Note



Dear Friends,

When Tiger Watch was founded Fatehji and I had a dream that while our primary focus would be on Ranthambhore, our dream was to spread this work to other parks across the country. Various challenges did not permit us to do this. Today however this amazing Tiger habitat in and around Ranthambhore has expanded dramatically with the concerted efforts of Tiger Watch and its team. The success has inspired the formation of the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve and Dholpur Karauli Tiger Reserve. Sariska has already benefited from the tigers that were translocated from Ranthambhore. So, in a way Fatehji's dream has been realized with Tiger Watch spreading its footprint in these four parks as well.

It is true that Fatehji protected RTR with an iron hand and the Moghya's faced his wrath incessantly but his people centric approach eventually led to the Moghya Rehab program and imbedded in it was the Moghya Education Program. This program has grown organically, starting with our efforts at the hostel and now adapted to the needs of the day with our teachers reaching out into villages to impart education to the Moghya's. What is of importance is that the Bagh Pari program has given impetus to the empowerment of girls and in the process, we have overcome restrictions and challenges to impart knowledge to the girls too. From the 182 students we have, 80 are girls.

It is extremely heartwarming to see that the activities of Tiger Watch are attracting Schools and Management Institute's and more people are joining & contributing to our conservation efforts.

TW has not only tackled poaching through the Moghya Rehab Program but through the Village Wildlife Volunteers (VWV) program has seriously addressed issues related to man animal conflict. Tiger Watch, by enrolling volunteers from various villages as wildlife volunteers has, introduced ambassadors of our cause into these villages. The vast monitoring done by these volunteers is reflecting in the steady growth of the Tiger Population. The painstaking work done by these volunteers has led to unprecedented collection of data that has thrown light on the poaching trends and what needs to be done to curtail it. The VWV program is so essential, that often the forest department too depends on its field services to resolve the many protection issues that they are facing. Astute management by Dharmendra has helped in making this program a grand success.

The Bagh Mitra Program funded by Petronet LNG is helping create a phenomenal awareness to a large number of schools of Rajasthan in Bundi & Karauli districts through mobile teams that cover many environmental topics. Through these children we are having a great impact on the villages and communities in and around Ranthambhore and Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserves. I am sure the wide reach of this program will engrain into the youth how important conservation is to the long-term survival of the habitat.

The Dieter & Liz Conservation program is also going a far in spreading the word of conservation. I must thank the Gutman's for their generous support to the conservation activities of Tiger Watch.

I am glad to see that besides all the good conservation work that Tiger Watch has been doing, through the Sustainable Environment Internship Program and Wildlife Conservation Training programs, we are building capacity into the system that is focused on conservation strategies.

Tiger Watch's other activities that include Teachers Training Programs, Painting, Quiz, Essay and Poetry competitions are all helping build environmental awareness.

Our latest and most recent program is the Digital Literary Program funded generously by BTS Strategy Alignment and Execution Pvt Ltd. A Digital Literacy Centre launched at Ramshingpura has been an instant success with totally 74 students from three different schools enrolling for the classes at this center. It will empower these students and launch them into the rapidly growing digital environment and help them build a better future.

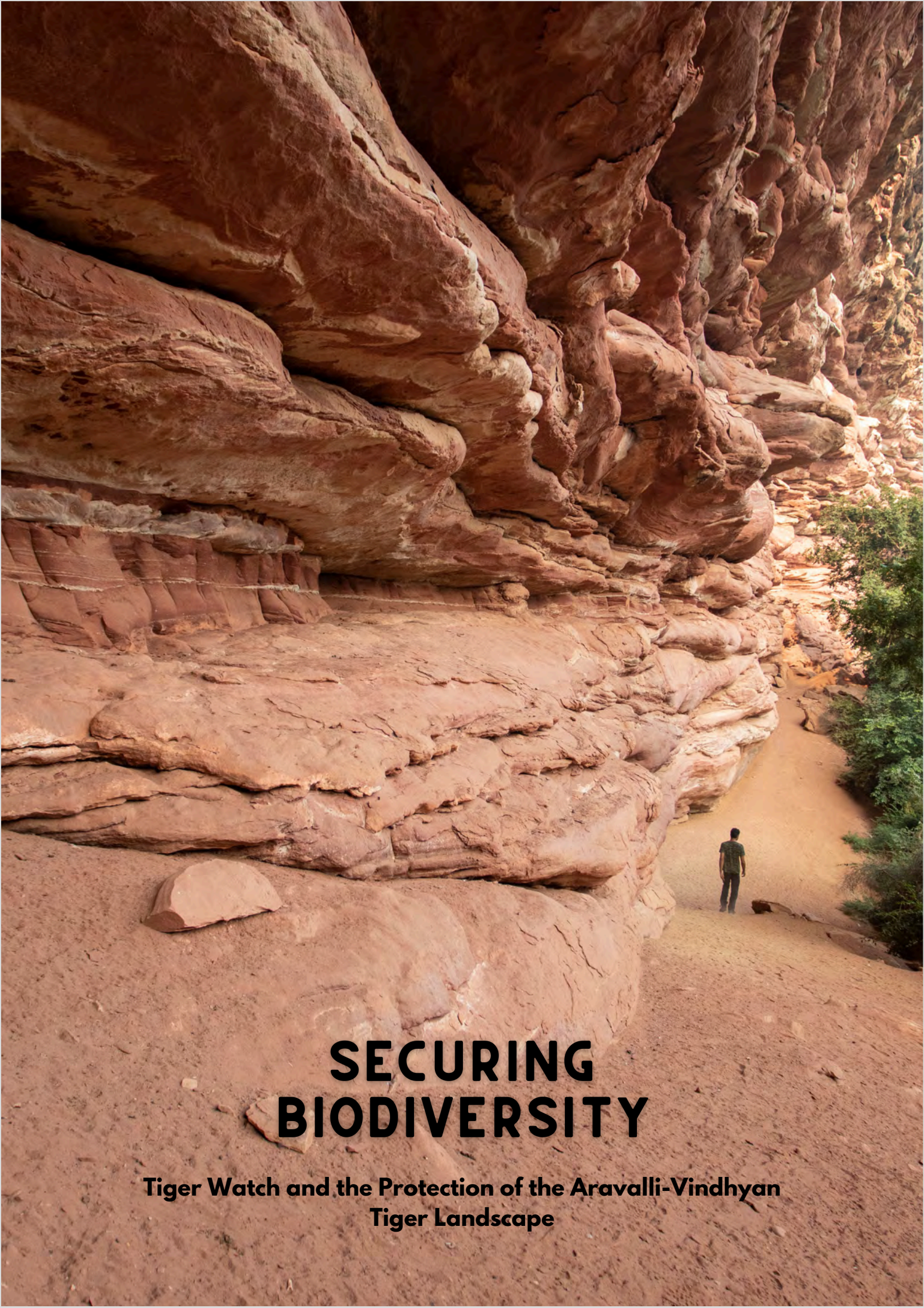
Passing away of Shri G.V. Reddy is a great loss for the world of conservation. Fatehji and I have had the opportunity to work very closely with him on many projects that Tiger Watch had embarked on and together we had come up with many unique public private programs. Heartfelt condolences to his family from all the members of Tiger Watch

My sincere thanks and gratitude to the many generous donors who have made all the Tiger Watch projects possible. I also take this opportunity to thank the forest department for their support. I am in gratitude to all of you who are the trustees of this amazing NGO, Tiger Watch and who have contributed in so many different ways to make the smooth running of the organization possible. I also wish to thank our CA Rinkesh Kunteta of Ajaykumar Vijayvergia & Associates for his prompt & timely accounting, auditing and filing of returns etc. Finally, a big thank you to Dharmendra for his dedicated work to make Tiger Watch a ROARING success.

Ashutosh Mahadevia

Secretary

Tiger Watch



SECURING BIODIVERSITY

**Tiger Watch and the Protection of the Aravalli-Vindhyan
Tiger Landscape**

Ranthambhore is one of the most popular tiger reserves in India. Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR) is located at the junction of the Aravalli and the Vindhyan hill ranges and this juxtaposition of hill ranges is perhaps the reason behind the uniquely rich bio-diversity of the Ranthambhore. “Project Tiger” was launched here in April 1973. It was one of the first nine parks to be designated a Tiger Reserve. This meant that the tiger’s habitat had to be managed efficiently to prevent further damage to the ecosystem and to facilitate the recovery of the ecosystem back to its inviolate natural state. The reserve is situated in the S-E part of Rajasthan and spreads over 4 districts viz. Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Bundi and Tonk . On the eastern side of the reserve is the Chambal river. In 2023, parts of the National Chambal Sanctuary were also included in the reserve. The Banas River divides the reserve into 2 parts. The N-E part of the Kailadevi WLS and the Southern part is formed by the Ranthambhore National Park and Sawai Mansingh WLS. The total area of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve is 1473.554sq.km, out of which 1113.364 sq. km. has been notified, as Critical Tiger Habitat. Apart from this, the remaining 360.19 sq. km of RTR is a de facto buffer area.

The concerted conservation efforts led by Tiger Watch in collaboration with the Rajasthan Forest Department have yielded remarkable results, significantly boosting the tiger population and expanding their habitat into nearby regions. This success has also led to a surge in tourism, inspiring neighbouring areas to proactively enhance their tiger conservation efforts. Elected officials, activists, stakeholders in the tourism industry, and dedicated forest officials came together to brainstorm and implement a comprehensive plan. Over the past three years, their collaborative efforts have resulted in doubling the expanse of protected tiger habitats along the entire stretch.

Over the past decade, significant strides have been taken in the formal establishment of the Mukandara Hill Tiger Reserve (MHTR) in Kota. In the last five years, substantial efforts have been diligently focused on the reintroduction and augmentation of the tiger population within this area.

Furthermore, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) recently declared the establishment of two additional tiger reserves, namely the Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) in Bundi and the Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve (DKTR). This significant development has had a profound impact on the connectivity and ecological harmony of the entire region, particularly concerning the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR).

In light of these developments, the RTR, MHTR, DKTR, and RVTR can now be rightfully considered as integral components of a larger and more expansive landscape known as the “Greater Ranthambhore” or the “Aravalli-Vindhyan Hills Tiger Landscape.” Which covers an expanse of 4000 sq. km. and if viewed from a historical perspective, the beginnings of the reclamation of the tigers historical range area in Rajasthan.



TIGER WATCH

Established in 1998, Tiger Watch is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to preserving wildlife in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve and its surrounding regions in Rajasthan, India. The organisation's inception was driven by the urgent need for support during the challenging times faced by Ranthambhore in the 1990s.

At the heart of Tiger Watch's formation was Mr. Fateh Singh Rathore, a passionate advocate for Ranthambhore's wildlife and natural heritage. Even after retiring from his role as Field Director of the tiger reserve, he remained deeply committed to the cause. With the invaluable support of fellow conservationists and friends like Mr. Ashutosh Mahadevia, Mr. Rishad Naoroji of Godrej, and Mr. Julio Ribeiro, the Police DG of Punjab, this NGO came into existence.

Tiger Watch has consistently been at the forefront of conservation in Ranthambhore. Our activities span a wide spectrum, including anti-poaching initiatives, wildlife monitoring, biodiversity research, community engagement, support to the forest department, and rehabilitation programs for the traditional hunting community known as the Mogyas. The organisation also plays a crucial role in providing compensation for cattle losses to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, setting a commendable example as an effective and efficient conservation unit.

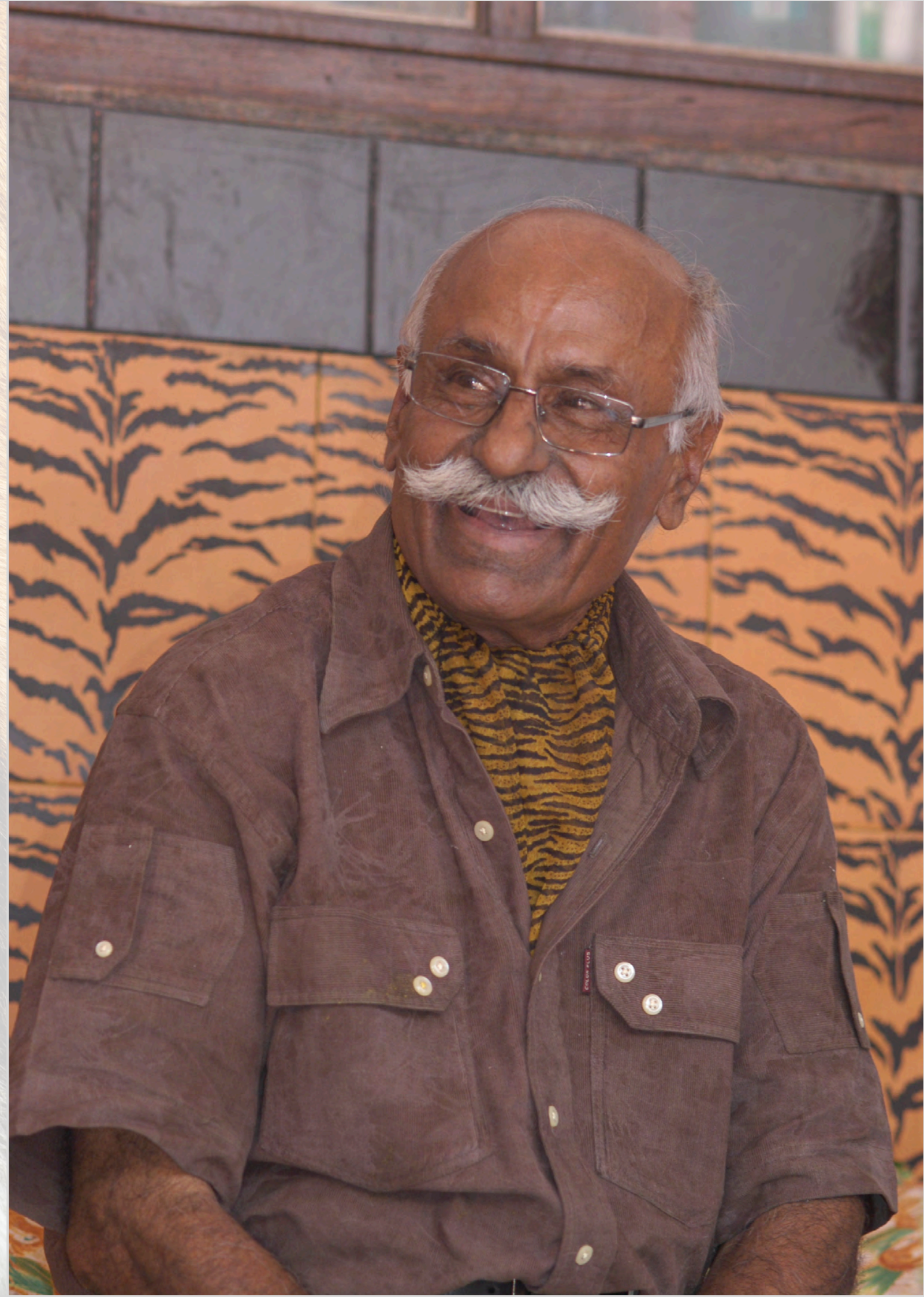
Through its unwavering dedication and collaborative spirit, Tiger Watch continues to make a significant impact on safeguarding the rich wildlife and natural heritage of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve and its surroundings.

FATEH SINGH RATHORE

(1938-2011)

(Founder)

Ranthambhore was the place that brought the tiger to the consciousness of the world as a result of Fateh Ji's efforts. Fateh Ji brought glory to Ranthambhore and made it the celebrated Tiger Reserve it is today. He served as Ranthambhore's Field Director and later founded Tiger Watch. He firmly believed in working with local communities to save the tiger and in a country that is 1 billion strong, his inclusive people-centric approach is the only one that worked.



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MOGYA EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tiger Watch with the core objective of the protection of wildlife in and around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR) since 1998, played an important role in the conservation of tiger in Ranthambhore. Since the very beginning Tiger Watch has been involved in anti-poaching. While doing this work, the need to tackle the long term involvement of the Mogya community in poaching was realized. Due to their semi-nomadic nature, formal education was almost unheard of among the Mogyas.

Formal education is the key to opening many doors and breaking free from poverty. Without education, it is difficult to live a life of dignity. Considering that education is a key instrument for social and economic change in society, Tiger Watch decided to educate the Mogyas for the future of wildlife and the community.

Tiger Watch started the Mogya Education Programme (MEP) in 2006. Most of the students in the program are first-generation learners. It was initially difficult to convince members of the Mogya community to enrol their students in the program. In the beginning, there were 9 students, there are now 182 students from the Mogya community in the program.

The objectives of this education program

- Sustain the younger generations of the Mogya community and help them stand toe to toe with their peers and be accepted in conventional society.
- Provide a quality education, which will lead to job opportunities in the mainstream for the community.
- Creating awareness within the community and bridging gaps.
- Guiding them away from their traditional hunting work, therefore weaning them off poaching by providing them with an education.
- Education is an integral part of the Tiger Watch Reform Program, as it would impact the next generations of the community organically after the first generation.

Education centres

Since the onset of COVID-19, we have shifted the program to a model of home-schooling where 6 teachers (a former Village Wildlife Volunteer) travel to village settlements to teach the Mogya students.

- Laxmipura
- Hindwad
- Halonda
- Ryada kalan
- Badi Ka Chhahara
- Kemlya _ Rampuria
- Mui Khedli
- Roshanpura

This programme has completed 19 years of growth and progress. We are consistently supported by Süd-Chemie India (Mr Iskander Lalljee who serves as our Chairman).

Key Statistics

- A total of 182 underprivileged Mogya community children study at the Tiger Watch Centers.
- Out of these, 120 children also attend regular schools.
- Prior to this program, only 20 children were registered in schools, who occasionally attend school.
- A total 7 teachers teach at different 8 centers.
- Among the students, there are 80 girls.
- It has been 19 years since initiating this program.

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BAAGH PARI

**Empowering Mogya girls through
education &
skill development**

In the past, we were often questioned on our inability to include girls from the Mogya traditional hunting tribe in the Mogya Education Program. In response, we cited socio-cultural reasons for the aversion of Mogya parents to the idea of their daughters being lodged in the then-program hostel.

There was simply no getting around this impasse at the time. However, once we shifted to a home schooling model with a team of 6 mobile teachers in 2020, it suddenly became possible to educate Mogya girl students and their male peers. It is a completely unprecedented but welcome development. No longer limited by hostel infrastructure, the overall number of students the program could accommodate naturally increased and now includes 80 Mogya girl students from 10 villages .

It was at this critical junction that Mrs Anjali Patel Mehta, founder of the sustainable luxury resort wear line Verandah and a member of Tiger Watch's board of directors, chose to launch and support Baagh Pari, a pioneering specialized initiative that seeks to consolidate and further encourage the recent gains being made in the education of Mogya girls.

At present, the initiative seeks to bolster the education of Mogya girls by providing specialised teacher training to our team of mobile teachers as well as by providing materials to Mogya girl students that significantly aid the learning process such as stationary, relevant reading material and appropriate clothing for a 'classroom' environment

- At present, the initiative seeks to bolster the education of Mogya girls by providing specialised teacher training to our team of 6 mobile teachers.
- The program currently covers 80 Mogya girl students in 10 villages.
- This initiative also provides Mogya girl students with materials that significantly aid the learning process, such as stationary, relevant reading material, and appropriate clothing for a 'classroom' environment.

- The initiative also provides vocational training to the Mogya girls, enabling them to be financially independent and thus empowered to take charge of their own lives. For example, through Dhonk, a social entrepreneurship endeavour that produces sustainable textiles and local crafts by employing local women, many Mogya girl students have been given vocational training in local textile-making. Such vocational training also directly contributes to the development of a 'green economy' in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve landscape.
- In furtherance of the above objective, companies like the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) have donated 23 sowing machines that have since gone a long way.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MOGYA EDUCATION & BAAGH PARI PROGRAMS

Collaboration with the Goa Institute of Management

Give Goa is a program run by the Goa Institute of Management to give back to society and the country through social work and research. Till 2023 this program focused solely on social work in and around Goa. From 2024, the institute decided to expand its reach nationally as well as internationally and restructured the program as “Service Learning and Rural Immersion”, wherein the institute sends its student ambassadors to various locations across the country such as Ranthambhore, Dholpur, Varanasi etc. in collaboration with different NGOs, working tirelessly to bring about change. The objective of this program is to teach future business leaders about problems and issues on the ground, CSR, develop a higher degree of empathy towards the populous and acclimatise themselves to real world issues and the challenges associated with them.

As a part of this initiative, it was a delight to have Group 22 deployed to Ranthambhore to collaborate with Tiger Watch to study and enhance our efforts with the Mogya traditional hunting tribe. Group 22 is comprised of: Vaibhav Sharma (coordinator) Kaustubh Singh, Tanmay Kumar, Shrijeet Shandilya Debayudh Roy, and Mihir Bagree. This group included members from varied backgrounds, ranging from an engineer, biology graduate, and English graduate, to a management graduate with diverse work experience and skill sets enabling them to operate efficiently on the ground and contribute effectively to our initiatives, from which we benefited tremendously as an organization.



Addition of Two Young Local Community Women to the Teaching Staff

This year, we are proud to celebrate the achievements of two extraordinary young women who have been engaged with us as teachers since this year: Ms. Lakshmi Mogya has been engaged with us as a teacher in the MEP and is herself a member of the Mogya community, showing how things are beginning to come full circle in the community and Ms. Meera Bairwa who has been a teacher with the Baagh Pari program and has been helping the program make great strides. Both were also felicitated at the 12th Fateh Singh Memorial Lecture & Wildlife Conservation Awards for their outstanding achievements.



Collaboration with Book Hive

Tiger Watch was privileged to welcome Aditi Aggarwal and Suparna Wadhwa, accompanied by their mothers, from Vasant Valley School and Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram, respectively. Their visit brought a refreshing wave of enthusiasm and insight to our programs.

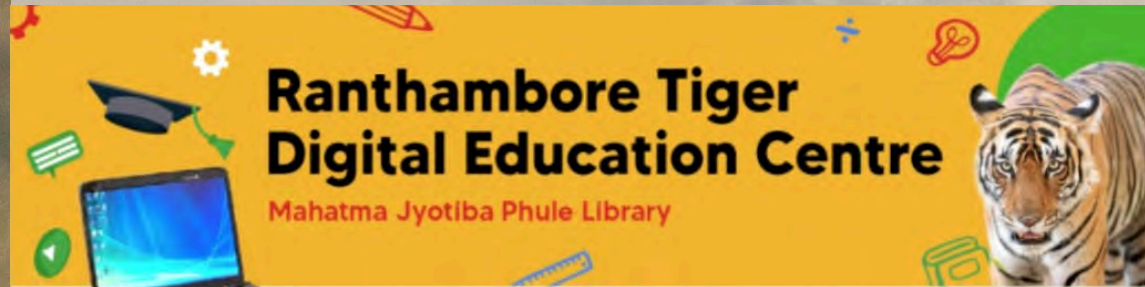
These young change-makers engaged constructively with the teachers of our Mogya Education and Baagh Pari programs, sharing valuable perspectives on teaching methodologies. Their firsthand experience as high school students allowed them to offer unique insights that will undoubtedly enhance both programs.

Further demonstrating their commitment, Aditi and Suparna led an enriching arts and crafts workshop for Baagh Pari students and teachers, fostering creativity and connection. Their active participation and passion exemplify the power of youth engagement in driving positive change.

We are immensely encouraged by their initiative and dedication. Their involvement serves as an inspiration to others, highlighting the vital role young individuals can play in shaping a brighter future for both education and conservation.



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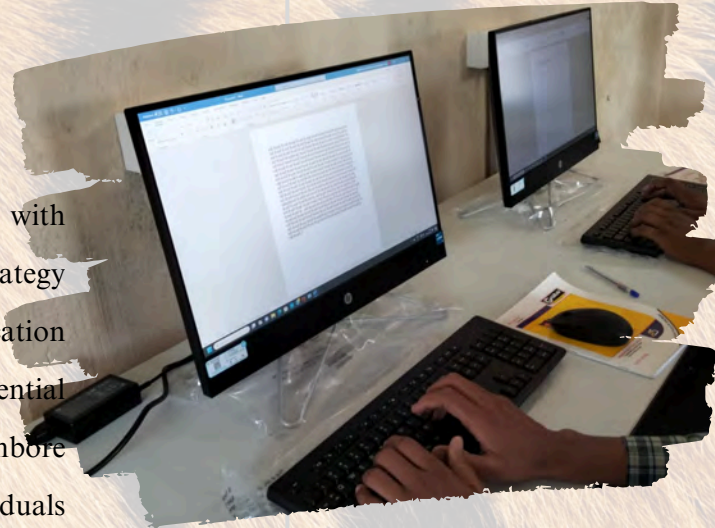
www.tigerwatch.net

Village Ramsinghpura,
Sawal Madhopur (Raj.)

SUPPORTED BY



In its ongoing efforts to empower local communities, Tiger Watch, in collaboration with the Gram Panchayat of Ramsinghpura and with the generous support of BTS Strategy Alignment and Execution Private Limited, has successfully established a Digital Education centre in Ramsinghpura. The center aims to bridge the digital divide by providing essential computer skills and advanced software training to the youth in and around Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. The primary objective is to enhance the employability of these individuals and open doors to new opportunities beyond traditional livelihoods. The center offers courses in basic computing, word processing, presentation skills, and accounting software, empowering students to adapt to the rapidly evolving digital landscape. The program not only focuses on technical skills but also fosters a deeper understanding of computers, enabling students to confidently navigate the digital world. By providing these essential skills, the center is playing a crucial role in shaping a brighter future for the youth of Ramsinghpura and contributing to the sustainable development of the region.



Centre began with 15 students from nearby Government school on August 1, 2024

4 Batches, are currently having one-hour-long classes and this process shall be completed in 3 months

74 Students from 3 different schools are enrolled for free at the Digital Education Centre

At the end, students will appear for an exam and successful students shall be given certificate of completion



A tiger with orange fur and black stripes is walking towards the camera on a dirt path. The path is surrounded by tall, dry grass and scattered trees in a savanna-like environment. The background is slightly blurred, showing more trees and a hazy horizon.

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S U J Á N

A dirt path winds through a savanna landscape. The path is flanked by tall, dry grass. In the background, there are scattered trees and a hazy horizon under a bright sky.

TIGER MONITORING

The Village Wildlife Volunteers

In 2013, Tiger Watch started an innovative program called the Village Wildlife Volunteers (VWV) in collaboration with the Forest Department of Rajasthan, with the assistance of various supporters.

The initiative was developed under the guidance of Mr. Y.K. Sahu, the former Field Director of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve and consistently supported by Jaisal Singh and Anjali Singh of Suján. It is a unique example of successful collaboration between the Forest Department and an NGO in the conservation of wildlife by taking local communities on board. A first for India. The Village Wildlife Volunteers are a vigilant task force constituted of local villagers living around the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, chiefly engaged in rearing livestock and agriculture. Tiger Watch has recruited up to 50 VWV from villages adjoining RTR. They monitor wildlife along with their day to day business. They also defend the forest and the wildlife around their villages. Tiger Watch financially remunerates these volunteers. Over the years VWV has established itself as a successful model for the efficient management of Tiger reserves. The Village Wildlife Volunteer Program is conducted in the forest around the critical tiger habitat of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. Since tigers have begun dispersing into adjoining Dholpur and Bundi districts (Dholpur Tiger Reserve and Ramgarh-Vishdari Tiger Reserve), they have worked in these areas too.



How it works

A contagious ambience of rush and excitement peaks every morning at 9 am. Camera trap images start pouring in from a network of cameras installed on the fringes of RTR. The VWV use smartphones to download photographs and send them using WhatsApp. Our staff identifies each and every tiger from photos after consulting our tiger image database. The location of every tiger is then marked on the map to keep track of its movements. The main intention behind this program was to monitor tiger and leopards movements outside RTR. Slowly the VWV also started providing information regarding poaching and other illegal activities like mining and logging in the forest. Due to timely intelligence provided by VWV, the forest department has successfully averted poaching multiple times. VWV have played a very important role in managing human-wildlife conflict situations. They have also come up with important natural history documentation like the brown sloth bear and the elusive small cat caracal. We have now expanded the scope of the VWV program. In addition to keeping a track of wildlife, we are following stray tigers to ensure their safety. For example, our team of skilled VWV trackers, have continuously tracked tigers T-91 and T-56 for more than 4 months when they had strayed on different occasions. It was observed that these tigers covered more than more than 150 km in distance from RTR. The VWV are playing an important role in creating a positive perception among villagers towards wildlife and the forest department. They assist their fellow villagers in receiving compensation for the loss of crops and livestock caused by wild animals. This has been very instrumental in reducing incidents of human-animal conflicts around RTR. The VWV have played a very important part in rescuing stray animals outside RTR, including Leopards and Tigers. The management of the 'buffer zone' is very important for a healthy core zone of any protected area and the VWV are effectively doing this job at RTR.

Selection & Training

Tiger Watch selects and trains all of the VWV. Most of them are villagers who live close to the park boundary and are from agrarian or pastoral communities. They are hired for a part-time commitment; therefore the volunteers continue to be engaged with their original respective occupations. The remuneration provided is not their main source of income, but very specific task based payment. If the individual VWV is not able to fulfil the role desired of him, remuneration is halted. New recruits are also selected by the VWV themselves. VWV with a good track record are elevated to coordinator posts where feasible. Coordinators monitor, train, and guide their teams of VWV to overcome challenges whilst working. Generally, one coordinator handles a team of 5-6 VWV. He also analyses the voluminous information they provide and makes sure it reaches the correct channel on time. Coordinators receive a fix monthly remuneration. The VWVs receive additional on the job training from senior VWVs, coordinators and the forest guards they associate with. They are taught to use camera traps, GPS, compasses, range finders, conduct line transects and collect ecological data, construction of POP pugmark casts, tracking tigers, etc. They are also trained in using the most modern communication devices, like smartphones. They are equipped with smartphones, OTG card readers (to transmit camera trap photos on WhatsApp), motorcycles and 4x4 vehicles for the more of efficient tracking of tigers. All the VWV are also provided with uniforms and shoes. The VWV also regularly visit the Tiger Watch head office, to discuss issues related their work. We also conduct bi-monthly meetings with the VWV coordinators to assess their work.



Intensive Monitoring of Tigers

Tigers tracked/monitored during this period:

- T-116 (DT-1)
- T-117 (DT-2)
- T-80
- T-117's cubs
- T-2303 (DT-6)

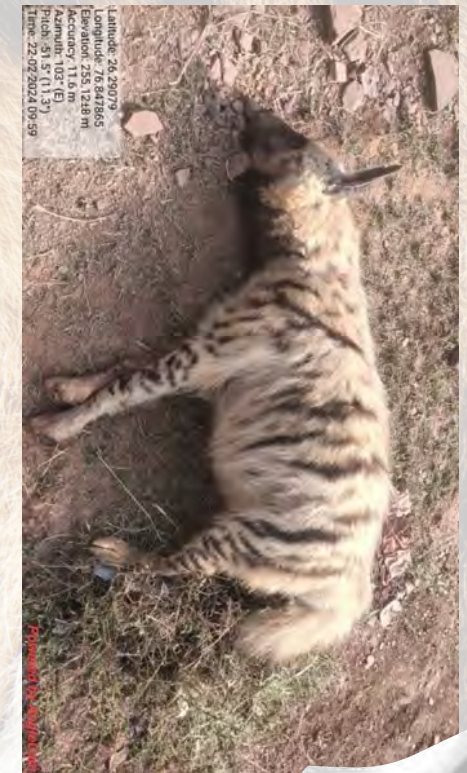


On 6/09/23, the village wildlife monitoring team lead by Hari Singh, searched for and discovered the two cubs of missing tigress T-79 at the Forest Department's request.

Discovery of Dead Wildlife



Date	Animal Found	Location
12/09/23	Leopard	Unda Pass Area Naka Kali Bhat
05/11/23	2 Peafowl	Near Gendapura School in Polghata Naka Area of Indragarh Range
08/12/23	Nilgai	Teliwala Area Of Devpura Naka
1/24	Leopard	Near The Madhopur Bhadoti Road, Bhidrka
17/1/2024	Leopard, Nilgai	Kharda Nala, Karanpur Range
1/24	Hyena	Near The Forest Department Wall Near A Village
12/2/2024 14/2/2024	2 Leopards, Civet	Near Kudka Khoh, Salar Danda
22/2/24	Hyena	Railadevi Area
15/5/24	Hyena	Baler Mal



Poaching Cases

Including timber and non-timber collection

Date	Incident	Location
25-10-2023	2 Mogya poachers were caught and 30 to 40 kg of jungle meat was recovered from them	Kyarda Kala Basti
24-10-2023	5 Mogya poachers were roaming with guns	Bajoli
Nov-23	3 Sahariya tribals were seen fishing with nets in Dantada Dah and 2 people were roaming around	Bherupura forest of Range Phalodi Naka Bodal
10-11-2023	3 poachers seen with gun, 2 hare skins recovered	Nainiya range near Baler Ghati Garh
16-12-2023	3 people extracting shatavari	Kyarda Chambal area Naka Bodal
24-12-2023	3-4 people were seen fishing	Banda Kustla area of Naka Kalibhat Mui
07-12-2023	Probable poachers reaming	Tipkan Plantation area of Kailadevi
21-12-2023	About 10 people were cutting banyan trees	Utgir Fort, Dhundha Nala area
26-12-2023	Barna trees were being cut	Ughena Pator village area of Dhundha and Utgir Fort area range Karanpur
27-12-2023	Wild boar poached by 2 Mogyas	Dom Kheda well in Kala Khet area
31-12-2023	Chopped wet wood of Dhonk was found	Naka Khoh Range of Nainiya near Marham Valley
13-12-2023	2 suspicious people were caught	Naka Jhiri Range Sarmathura in Jarela forest
01-02-2024	2 Mogya poachers were caught with a gun, knife, knife, gunpowder, pistol etc.	

02-01-2024	A dead nilgai was found with bullet wounds	Savta village, Kodra area
02-01-2024	Some people were fishing in the canal	Kishanpura area
04-01-2024	3 poachers shot a wild boar	near Barkuri drain
06-01-2024	A Mogya poached a wild boar	Karakhet
21-01-2024	20 tribal people of Madhya Pradesh were photo-trapped while taking out Shatavari	Ludwari Naka area
26-01-2024	5 tribals from Madhya Pradesh were seen with wild asparagus roots on the road	Near Daulatpur toll plaza
02-02-2024	People extracting guggul gum camera trapped	Mahadev nallah, Tagharotanya area
20-02-2024	Some Mogya people were cooking wild boar meat	Near Kara farm
24-02-2024	3 poachers killed a wild boar	Bad Peepal, Banas river area
12-03-2024	Saptan Mogya poached a wild boar	Near Kadakheth village
15-03-2024	Saptan Mogya and his wife poached a wild boar	Near Kadakheth village
25-03-2024	Saptan Mogya and some companions poached a wild boar	Near the Banas River in the Bhuripahari area
23-04-2024	2 armed Mogya poachers saw the VWV and ran away	Gaddi Domai plantation
25-04-2024	The Forest Department succeeded in seizing about 500 kg of Guggul due to intelligence by the VWV	Jaipur
19-05-2024	2 men on a motorcycle with a gun camera trapped	Katrahe, Gadi Domai plantation road
28-05-2024	3 poachers camera trapped and then arrested with sacks of 10-15 dead hares	Rejhoni block



Latitude: 26.434885
Longitude: 77.428662
Elevation: 150.0±100 m
Accuracy: 8.0 m
Time: 14-12-2023 09:19
Note: Jarela



Latitude: 26.541765
Longitude: 77.238963
Elevation: 285.0±55 m
Accuracy: 10.2 m
Time: 28-05-2024 23:58



Gola or Gunpowder Explosives

Date	Incident	Location
17/1/24	A Sheep's Mouth Exploded After Eating a Gola	Near Aml Dah
19/1/24	3 Golas Were Found Kept in The Fields of Bairavas	Kodra Area Of Savta Village.
7/2/24	A Cow Bit A Gola Which Exploded.	Nilmi Road, Tilak Nagar, Sawai Madhopur Area Behind the Hospital.
16/2/24	A Gola Was Discovered in The Mustard Field Near the Road.	Devpura Naka
17/2/24	Traces Of a Gola Were Found.	Chitara Area
2/3/24	While Picking Mustard in The Field in Hindwad, A Person's Hand Was Injured When a Gola Exploded.	Phalodi
22/3/24	A Gola Was Found on A Guava Farm.	Lahsoda To Khirkari Road.



Wire Snares/ Traps

Date	Incident	Location
11/23	2 men were seen putting snares in porcupine burrows. One man was caught.	Dholpur
21/1/24	2 snares found in mustard field	On the way to Chanada near Kwalji Dongri
9/5/24	A wooden trap was discovered.	Jakhoda Khet



अक्षांश: 25.801536
देशान्तर: 76.385048
उन्नयन: 262.64±14 m
सटीकता: 2.4 m

Illegal Mining

Date	Incident	Location
20/11/2023	Heavy mining pressure. Report resulted in field visit by P Kathirvel, Sh. T Mohan Raj and Sh. Anil Yadav and other forest staff on 30/11/23.	Bhedeka Nala, Gadi plantation
13/12/23	Mining in 8 different localities. Ranger and staff destroyed mined stones.	Bhedeka Nala, Salar danda
25/5/24	Soil was being excavated with JCB machine and tractor.	Near Kundli river in Aawand area.





BAGH MITRA TIGER CONSERVATION AWARENESS PROGRAM

**in Schools of Rajasthan in Bundi & Karauli Districts with
the help of Petronet LNG Limited**



Increasing anthropogenic pressure on Ranthambhore and Ramgarh Tiger Reserves and limited awareness facilities called for us to sensitise the younger generation of the communities in the area. Anthropogenic pressure is the primary long-term threat to tigers and their habitat. Villagers living near tigers tend to view them negatively.

Connecting the aforesaid children to their location and context meaningfully and preparing them to act and participate in future wildlife conservation interventions is of the utmost importance for the long-term well-being of both the Ranthambhore and Ramgarh Tiger Reserves.

Tiger Watch aims to reduce human-tiger conflict by working with school-going students of Sawai Madhopur, Bundi, and Karauli districts in the heart of tiger habitat in Ranthambhore and Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserves through the Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Awareness Program. The program in the schools of Bundi and Karauli districts is supported by Petronet LNG Ltd. These chapters of this program were also made possible by Sh. Sundeep Bhutoria .

The program is designed to dispatch mobile teams of teachers to cover environmental topics in village schools, covering different components essential for raising awareness among the youth both inside and outside the classroom.

The program has completed one year in the Bundi and Karauli districts as a separate chapter and employs a total of 5 teachers and directly impacts 75 schools in these two districts cumulatively.

Subjects taught in 2023-24

- Geography of Ranthambhore and Ramgarh Tiger Reserves
- Flora of Tiger Reserves
- Fauna of Tiger Reserves
- Why should we save the tiger?
- Snakebite Treatment & Awareness
- Fauna in local Agricultural & Pasturelands
- Water Sources in Ranthambhore & Ramgarh

- Water Conservation
- Combatting Air Pollution
- Plant Biology
- Animal Biology
- Concentrated Module on Avifauna (Birds)
- What is an ecosystem?
- Ecosystem Services
- Protecting the Forest



Activities during 2023-24

Activity	Description
Annual Drawing Competition	Above 6000 students participated from 135 schools, winners were awarded cash prize.
Annual Quiz Competition	Quizzes were organized in all the 135 schools and prizes distributed to students at school level.
Bagh Mitra Nature Clubs	During the vacations BMP teachers formed nature care clubs in each of the villages visited by them, around 70 such clubs are working
Bird Watching	Excursions to diverse environments to learn about birds and maintain water-feeders
Installation of Bird Water Feeder	The Bagh Mitra Nature Clubs installed around 1000 water feeders during the summer and maintained them all without any financial investment with the waste at home.
Clean-up Drives	Organized around public gathering areas to collect and dispose of plastic waste
Nature Walks	Walks in nearby forests, discussing birds and native flora
Group Discussions	Focused on mammal and reptile diversity, snakebite prevention, and the importance of forests
Awareness Rallies	Rallies through villages to raise awareness about conservation
Sunrise Yoga Sessions	Held in schools and clubs, promoting yoga and mindfulness
Seedling Nurturing	Cultivating young plants from seeds for monsoon planting
Informal Educational Sessions	Interactive learning on topics like mammal diversity, snake identification



**THE
DIETER & LIZ GUTMANN
TIGER CONSERVATION
PROGRAM**



supported by



Deter and Liz Gutmann are a remarkable couple who have built their relationship in Ranthambhore in the past 19 years. They have lived their lives with honesty. They have explored nearly half the world and have embraced many different cultures. Their love for Ranthambhore is genuine, and they have brought holistic change to many.

More recently, they have dedicated their hard-earned wealth, earned through honest means, to the betterment of the Earth. They have decided to contribute to Tiger Watch every year, ensuring that the funds are used for conservation and community welfare.

This work is continuously proving beneficial for both society and wildlife. It has resulted in the dissemination of wildlife conservation knowledge to several children, contributing to the progress of wildlife conservation. Additionally, they have assisted the marginalized Mogya community by providing education, employment opportunities, and a better life.

The result was there for all to see, the tiger population rebounded to the highest it has ever been recorded, and today tigers are beginning to naturally repopulate areas outside Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve such as in Dholpur district.

Yet, there were still gaps that needed addressing, and the idea of an all encompassing program came about and the Gutmanns readily rose to the occasion.



Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Awareness Program (Sawai Madhopur)

The long-term health of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve is critically linked to mitigating negative human impacts. Our Dieter & Liz Gutmann Tiger Conservation Program focuses on a key pillar: sensitizing and empowering local communities to become future conservation stewards.

Strategic Focus:

Recognizing that anthropogenic pressure is the most significant long-term challenge to the tiger and its ecosystem, we target 65 villages surrounding the reserve. Our approach is multifaceted:

- **Prioritization:** Villages are assessed based on their degree of impact, allowing us to tailor interventions effectively.
- **Education:** Development of specialized awareness materials and training of a mobile teacher team ensures relevant conservation education reaches village schools.
- **Communication:** Unprecedented communication of the tiger's ecological significance is crucial for fostering mass understanding and support.

Implementation:

A dedicated mobile team of 4 teachers and a coordinator executes this ambitious program.

Outcome:

By fostering a deep connection between local children and their environment, we empower them to participate in future conservation efforts. This proactive strategy lays the foundation for the sustainable coexistence of humans and wildlife in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR

Teacher Training Workshop & Annual Mandana Painting Competition

From November 27th to December 1st, 2023, our Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Awareness Program teachers participated in their second annual training workshop at Dhonk Café. The workshop, led by Dr. Dharmendra Khandal and Praveen Kumar, encompassed both theoretical and practical aspects of conservation education.

Teachers engaged in revisions, testing on subject material and classroom methodologies, and received training on conducting effective guided nature walks. A visit to Ranthambhore National Park deepened their understanding of local biodiversity, equipping them to communicate its relevance to students from surrounding communities.

Key topics emphasized included:

- Objectives of the Bagh Mitra Program and the crucial role of teachers in their fulfillment.
- The importance of tigers and the challenges faced by villagers living near protected areas.
- Different types of ecosystems and the invaluable services they provide.

Celebrating Student Creativity and Conservation

The workshop culminated in the final day of the annual Mandana painting competition, showcasing the artistic talents of 6050 students from the Bagh Mitra Program. We were honored to have Sh. P. Kathirvel, CCF(IFS) & Field Director of Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, and Sh. Jailabdeen A. of the Gharial Ecology Project, who graciously felicitated the winners and expressed their encouragement for the program.



Expanding Conservation Reach

The Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Awareness Program represents our pioneering mass outreach initiative. With dedicated mobile teachers providing comprehensive environmental education throughout the academic year in villages bordering tiger reserves, we're fostering a generation of conservation-minded individuals. The Sawai Madhopur chapter of this program receives ongoing support from the Dieter & Liz Gutmann Tiger Conservation Program, enabling us to achieve significant impact in safeguarding our natural heritage.

Large Scale Annual Quiz

During the third week of January 2024, our dedicated team of educators spearheaded an annual environmental awareness quiz in all the 60 Sawai Madhopur schools involved in the Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Awareness Program.

Student participation was enthusiastic, with 30-50 students per school actively engaging in the quiz. The top three scorers from each school received recognition in the form of a school bag, notebook, and pen, fostering a sense of accomplishment and encouraging further interest in environmental conservation.

Grand Essay and Poetry Competition for Grade 6-9 students in participating schools

In February and March, our dedicated team of teachers successfully organized an Essay and Poetry Competition for students in grades 6-9 across all three chapter areas (Karauli, Bundi, and Sawai Madhopur) of The Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Awareness Program. With an impressive participation of 6,000 students, the competition fostered creativity and awareness about tiger conservation. School-level winners were honoured with prizes by their principals, with our team present to celebrate their achievements.

This initiative not only nurtured young talent but also strengthened the impact of The Bagh Mitra program by engaging students and schools in a meaningful way.



Formation of 'Bagh Mitra Nature Clubs' in the villages participating in Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Program

During the summer break, our Bagh Mitra Tiger Conservation Awareness Program educators launched a unique initiative to keep students actively engaged in conservation efforts. By establishing "Bagh Mitra Nature Clubs" in each village, we empower students to become leaders in their communities.

These youth-led clubs, each with a designated student head and convener, focus on raising environmental awareness and promoting local biodiversity through various activities. This season's focus is on installing bird water feeders in strategic locations throughout their villages.

By selecting enthusiastic students to spearhead these endeavors, we cultivate a sense of ownership and responsibility. As of April, an impressive 70 clubs have been formed across our three chapters, engaging over 800 students.

It's also heartening to see adults, including student guardians, actively participating and demonstrating a keen interest in these activities. This intergenerational involvement strengthens community bonds and fosters a shared commitment to conservation.



**SUSTAINABLE
ENVIRONMENT
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**



In May 2024, a group of 13 dedicated students from the Jaipur chapter of Students for Development participated in a specialized training program at Tiger Watch. The program focused on the fundamentals of wildlife conservation, with a particular emphasis on strategies to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

Through hands-on activities and interactive sessions, the students gained a comprehensive understanding of the history of wildlife conservation in India. They explored the on-the-ground operations of Tiger Watch programs in the Ranthambhore landscape, interacted with reformed poachers and members of local communities, and acquired critical skills in snakebite management.

This immersive experience equipped the students with valuable knowledge and practical skills, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to wildlife conservation efforts.



Scientific Research & Monitoring

Tiger Watch continues to lead pioneering research in the Ranthambhore landscape, producing over 60 studies that illuminate previously uncharted territories and expand the frontiers of wildlife conservation. Our focus on endangered and vulnerable species, such as the caracal, gharial, and grey wolf, has yielded critical insights that directly inform both our conservation interventions and national policies.

Policy Impact:

Our research has proven instrumental in shaping conservation policy. Notably, the reclassification of the caracal as an endangered species in India in 2021 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change was directly influenced by our distribution study.

Climate Change Monitoring:

This year, we initiated a crucial focus on monitoring climate change and species success through the study of bats and vultures. These species serve as vital ecological indicators, offering real-time data on environmental shifts. Bats' behaviors reflect changes in climate and prey availability, while vultures, as scavengers, monitor ecosystem health and reveal climate-induced changes in food sources and habitats.

Significance:

Understanding the responses of these species to climate-related stressors empowers scientists to assess the broader impact of climate change on wildlife and ecosystems. Furthermore, their conservation contributes to maintaining biodiversity and essential ecosystem functions, bolstering climate resilience. Studying bats and vultures serves as a tangible way to gauge the effects of climate change on the natural world, providing invaluable insights for future conservation strategies.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR

Historical and contemporary perpetuation of assumed occurrence reports of two species of bats in Rajasthan, India

in Journal of Threatened Taxa

Hesperoptenus tickelli (Blyth, 1851) and *Rhinopoma muscatellum* Thomas, 1903 have been reported to occur in Rajasthan. Yet, there has been no empirical evidence of the occurrence of these bat species in the state. A comprehensive literature review reveals that the inclusion of these bats in accounts of chiropteran species in Rajasthan is due to the historical and contemporary perpetuation of assumed occurrence reports.

Caracal: An Intimate History of a Mysterious Cat

Dieter and Liz Gutmann also provided a significant contribution to this seminal text. This first-of-its-kind book extensively delves into the biology of the caracal and explores its history and natural history in India. Drawing from a comprehensive array of historical and contemporary sources spanning various regions globally, it meticulously examines every facet, comparing and contrasting them with insights from Indian researchers, biologists, poachers, erstwhile hunters, and naturalists. This holistic approach enriches our understanding of the caracal and sheds light on the dynamic interactions between human society and this enigmatic species, which in India is only confirmed by us to occur in the Ranthambhore landscape and Kutch in Gujarat. Thus the importance of this landscape to the long-term survival of this species in India cannot be overstated.

The book has been received positively by the Indian media and scientific community. See our section on publications and media for a comprehensive list of reviews and articles on the book.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRAINING



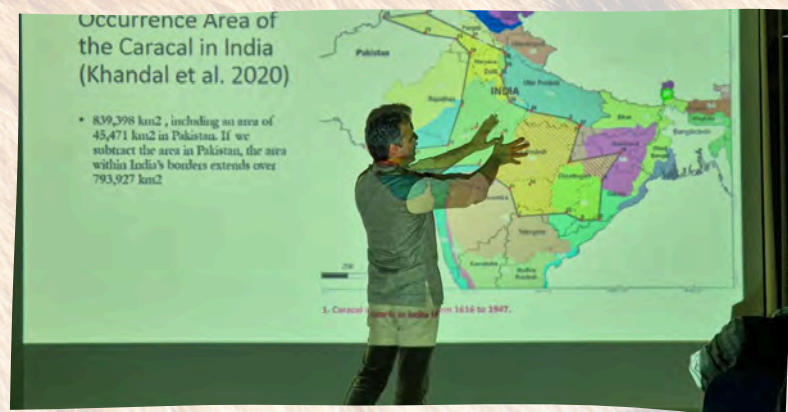
supported by



In partnership with the Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History, Tiger Watch conducted an intensive week-long wildlife conservation training program from February 25th to March 2nd, 2024. Thirty participants, including college and university students, independent researchers, and scholars from across Rajasthan, were selected for this transformative experience.

The program's primary goal was to instill a deep understanding of the critical importance of wildlife conservation and its impact on ecosystems. Participants gained invaluable field exposure, acquiring essential skills for pursuing careers in conservation. The program also fostered valuable networking opportunities with established conservation leaders, inspiring and motivating the next generation of conservationists.

By fostering a sense of responsibility and dedication towards wildlife protection, this program empowered these young individuals to become advocates for the preservation of Rajasthan's rich biodiversity.



RAJASTHAN BIODIVERSITY

supported by



Golcha Group



Tiger Watch has incrementally worked towards building a pan-Rajasthan approach towards wildlife conservation and has recognized the need for a, 'Rajasthan Biodiversity Network'.

With the support of Abhimanyu Golcha and the Golcha Foundation, the network seeks to consolidate ongoing conservation efforts for key umbrella species across fragile landscapes in the state of Rajasthan and thus seeks to engage the most dynamic individuals for the purpose.

Activity

Conservation

Consolidating key conservation efforts in the state of Rajasthan is the primary raison d'être for the Rajasthan Biodiversity Network. There are multiple conservation efforts being led across the state from those focused on the Tiger in Ranthambhore to the perilously close to extinction, Great Indian Bustard in the Desert National Park. All are of equal importance to their ecosystems and all credible efforts to conserve them will be made a part of a broader narrative.

Exploration

The implication of focusing on umbrella species is that a multitude of ecosystems across fragile landscapes will be protected. This will include pioneering and groundbreaking research expeditions across landscapes in Rajasthan. Any conservation interventions emanating from the network will be the most scientifically informed to date

Awareness

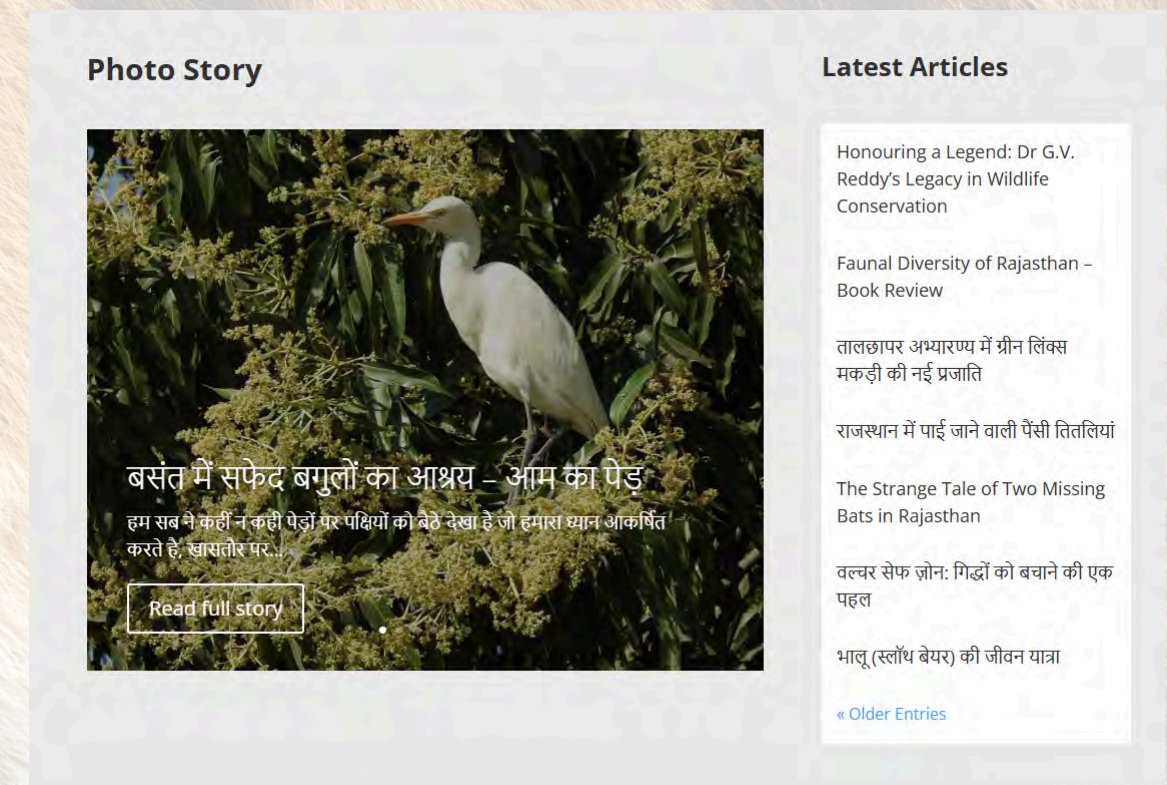
Awareness is the 3rd pillar of the network. All the network's findings are available on an online portal. The network is also accessible to the general public to constructively engage with via the portal. The network will be the MOST credible source of information on all matters relevant to Rajasthan's biodiversity

Update

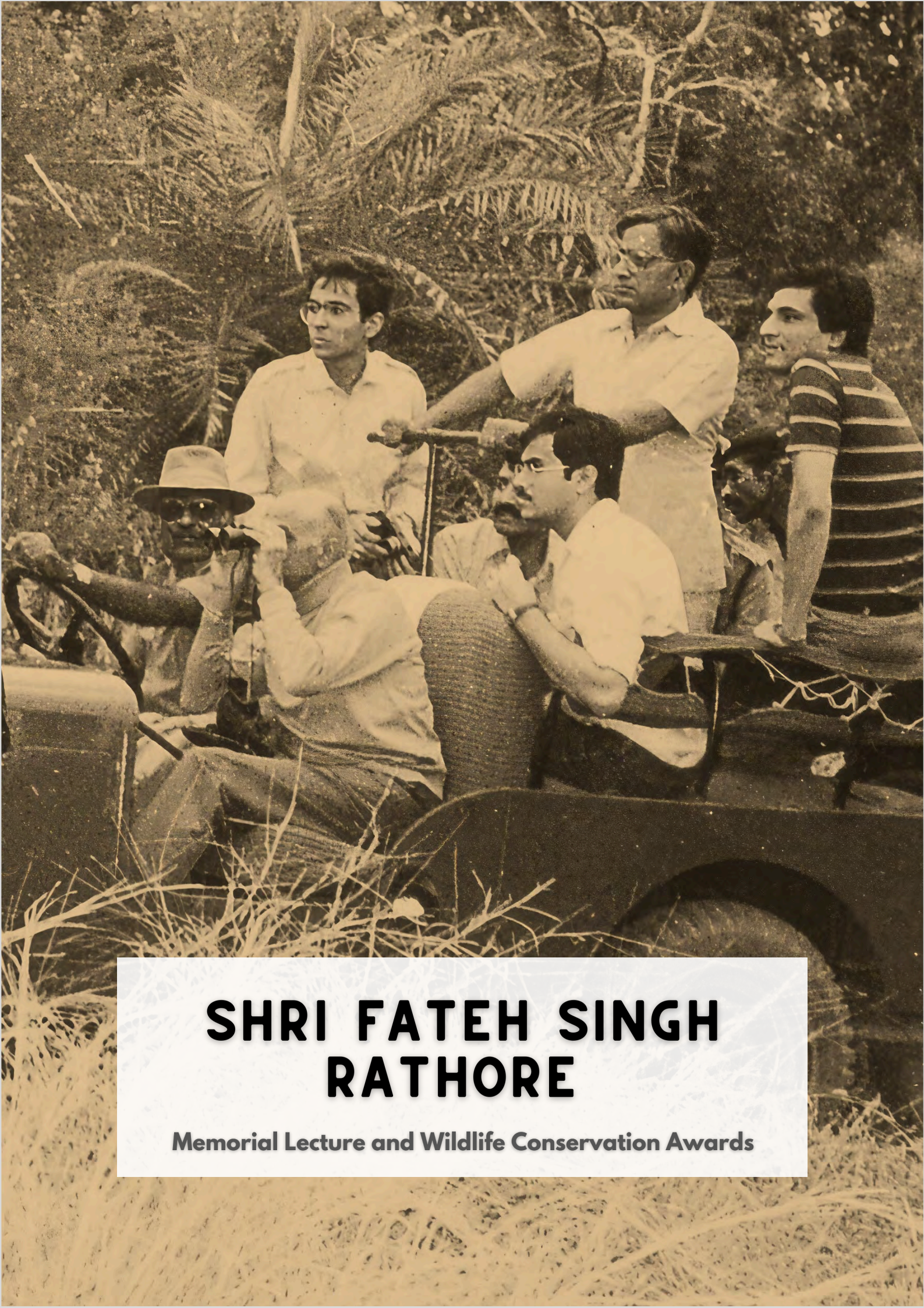
The network's website has made very significant strides towards becoming the most credible source of information on all matters relevant to the biodiversity of the state of Rajasthan. To date, we have published 251 articles by 48 authors. The articles encompass a broad range of categories such as species, landscapes, conservation, and even ecological history.

Authorship has also been varied and has included eminent individuals from multiple backgrounds, such as veteran forest officer, Sh. Gobind Sagar Bharadwaj. Rather encouragingly, we have also seen some young student authors contribute from the state of Rajasthan this year.

Readership has been steadily increasing, and there is also positive feedback from outside the state of Rajasthan



The screenshot displays the website's interface. On the left, under the heading "Photo Story", there is a photograph of a white egret perched on a tree branch. Below the photo, the text reads: "बसंत में सफेद बगुलों का आश्रय - आम का पेड़" (In spring, the shelter of white egrets - the fig tree). A "Read full story" button is visible below the text. On the right, under the heading "Latest Articles", a list of articles is shown, including "Honouring a Legend: Dr G.V. Reddy's Legacy in Wildlife Conservation", "Faunal Diversity of Rajasthan - Book Review", "तालछापर अभ्यारण्य में ग्रीन लिक्स मकड़ी की नई प्रजाति" (New species of green lichen spider in Talchhapar Sanctuary), "राजस्थान में पाई जाने वाली पैंसी तितलियां" (Pansy butterflies found in Rajasthan), "The Strange Tale of Two Missing Bats in Rajasthan", "वल्चर सेफ ज़ोन: गिद्धों को बचाने की एक पहल" (Vulture safe zone: A first step to save vultures), and "भालू (स्लोथ बेयर) की जीवन यात्रा" (Journey of a sloth bear). An "Older Entries" link is at the bottom of the list.



**SHRI FATEH SINGH
RATHORE**
Memorial Lecture and Wildlife Conservation Awards

12th Annual Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture and Wildlife Conservation Awards

The 12th annual Shri Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture and Wildlife Conservation Awards was organised on Friday, March 1st, 2024, at the Fateh Public School, Sawai Madhopur.

Our late founder, Shri Fateh Singh Rathore, whose dedication to tiger conservation, mainly his focus on partnerships with local communities at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, left an enduring legacy. The Fateh Singh Rathore Memorial Lecture and Wildlife Conservation Awards serve as a powerful tribute to his work. As you already know, the award ceremony was initiated by Fateh Ji himself in 2006, Tiger Watch carries his legacy forward posthumously by honouring people for their contributions in saving and protecting the wildlife of the state.

This year, for the 12th iteration of the event, we were honoured to be joined by Shri P. Kathirvel, and Dr Vidya Athreya as guest speakers. Shri Kathirvel is an IFS officer from 2004 Batch and was recently transferred from the post of CCF & Field Director, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to CCF, Bharatpur Division, due to his transformational decisions and actions prioritizing wildlife conservation. Our second guest speaker Dr. Vidhya Athreya is a scientist and conservationist par excellence whose contributions have been invaluable.

Special guests included Sh. Valmik Thapar, India's foremost tiger conservationist, Sh. Arijit Banerjee, IFS, PCCF; Sh. Kishor Rithe, Director, BNHS; Dr Varad Giri, Head Scientist, Reliance Foundation; Sh Ravi Singh, CEO and Secretary General, WWF-India; Sh Anoop KR, IFS, CCF, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, and Sh Ramanand Bhakar, DFO, Sawai Madhopur, Sh Pramod Dhakad, DCF Tourism, Mr. & Mrs. Dieter Gutmann, Sh Ashutosh Mahadevia.

This year Tiger Watch had organised a special photography competition titled "Capturing the Spirit of Ranthambhore" in memory of world-renowned wildlife photographer Sh Aditya 'Dicky' Singh. The competition was open to the photographers of Sawai Madhopur and Karauli districts.

Tiger Watch received numerous entries from approximately 20 photographers, 25 entries were put on exhibition in the school premises for the attendants of the ceremony. The winners were selected by an esteemed jury which included Sh. Valmik Thapar, Dr. Dharmendra Khandal, and the promising young wildlife enthusiast Sh. Yudhveer Singh.

The ceremony began with Sh. Valmik Thapar, Sh. Ravi Singh and Dr. Goverdhan Singh Rathore introducing and remembering Fateh Ji. And before beginning the award ceremony, a two-minute silence was observed in memory and honour of Sh. Aditya Singh, Sh. V.D. Sharma and Sh. K.M. Chinnappa . Thereafter, awardees from across the length and breadth of Rajasthan were presented with mementos and honorariums.



Lifetime Service Awards

The prestigious Fateh Singh Rathore “Services to Wildlife” Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 was presented to Sh. Surat Singh Poonia by Sh. Goverdhan Singh Rathore, in recognition of his efforts towards the study and conservation of blackbucks and birds in western Rajasthan. The awards included a memento and an honorarium of 1 lakh Indian rupees.



SURAT SINGH POONIA
AWARDED BY
SH GOVARDHAN SINGH
RATHORE

DR. MADHU BHATNAGAR
AWARDED BY
SH. ASHUTOSH
MAHADEVIA



Dr. Madhu Bhatnagar was presented with the Fateh Singh Rathore “Bagh Mitra” Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 by Sh. Ashutosh Mahadevia, in recognition of her efforts towards environmental awareness and passing on the spirit of conservation to her students.

People and Nature Awards



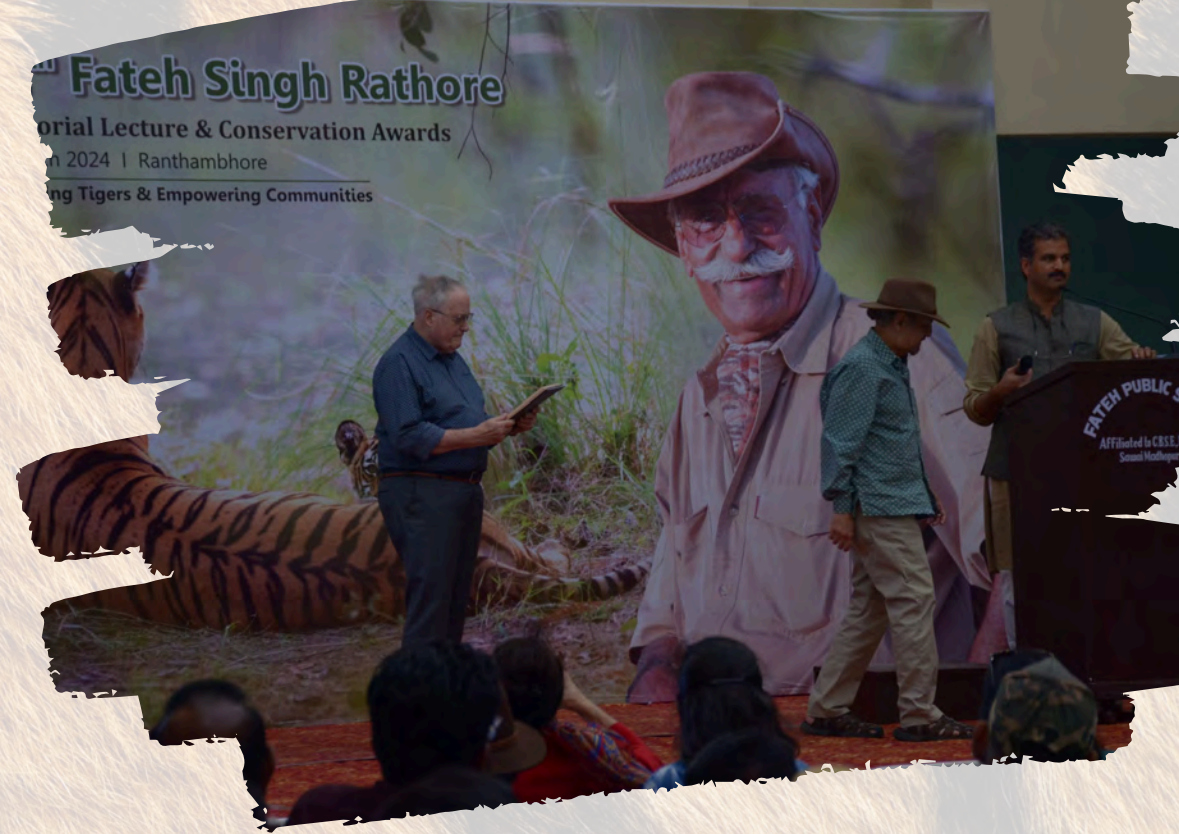
NIRMAL TIWARI
AWARDED BY
SH ANOOP KR

The Fateh Singh Rathore “Services to Wildlife” Journalism Award 2024 was presented to Sh. Nirmal Tiwari by Sh. Anoop KR, in recognition of his efforts towards wildlife conservation and awareness through journalism. The awards included a memento and an honorarium of 25,000 Indian rupees.

Mr. Warren Pereira was presented the with the Fateh Singh Rathore “Services to Wildlife” People and Nature Award 2024 by Sh. Arijit Banerjee, in recognition of his wildlife conservation and awareness efforts through films and documentaries.



WARREN PEREIRA
AWARDED BY
SH ARIJIT BANERJEE



MR. DIETER
GUTMANN
AWARDED BY
SH. ASHUTOSH
MAHADEVIA

Mr. Dieter Gutmann was presented with the Fateh Singh Rathore “Services to Wildlife” People and Nature Award 2024 by Sh Ashutosh Mahadevia, in recognition of his wildlife conservation and awareness efforts by supporting community empowerment and rehabilitation activities in and around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.

Sh. Seva Ram Mali was presented with the Fateh Singh Rathore “Services to Wildlife” People and Nature Award 2024 by Dr Vidya Athreya, in recognition of his conservation efforts towards Demoiselle cranes. The awards included a memento and an honorarium of 20,000 Indian rupees



SEVARAM MALI
AWARDED BY
DR VIDYA ATHREYA

Wildlife Conservation Awards

Tiger Watch also awards individuals from the forest department for their contributions towards the wildlife conservation. This year two assistant foresters from Jaipur and Kota division were selected for the award.

Recognising the efforts our village wildlife volunteers make to safeguard the wildlife of Ranthambhore Tiger reserve, we awarded five of our dedicated and hardworking volunteers- Bihari Singh, Lakhan Singh, Malkhan Singh, Rakesh Jarila, and Hari Singh. The award included a certificate of appreciation along with an honorarium of 5000 Indian Rupees.

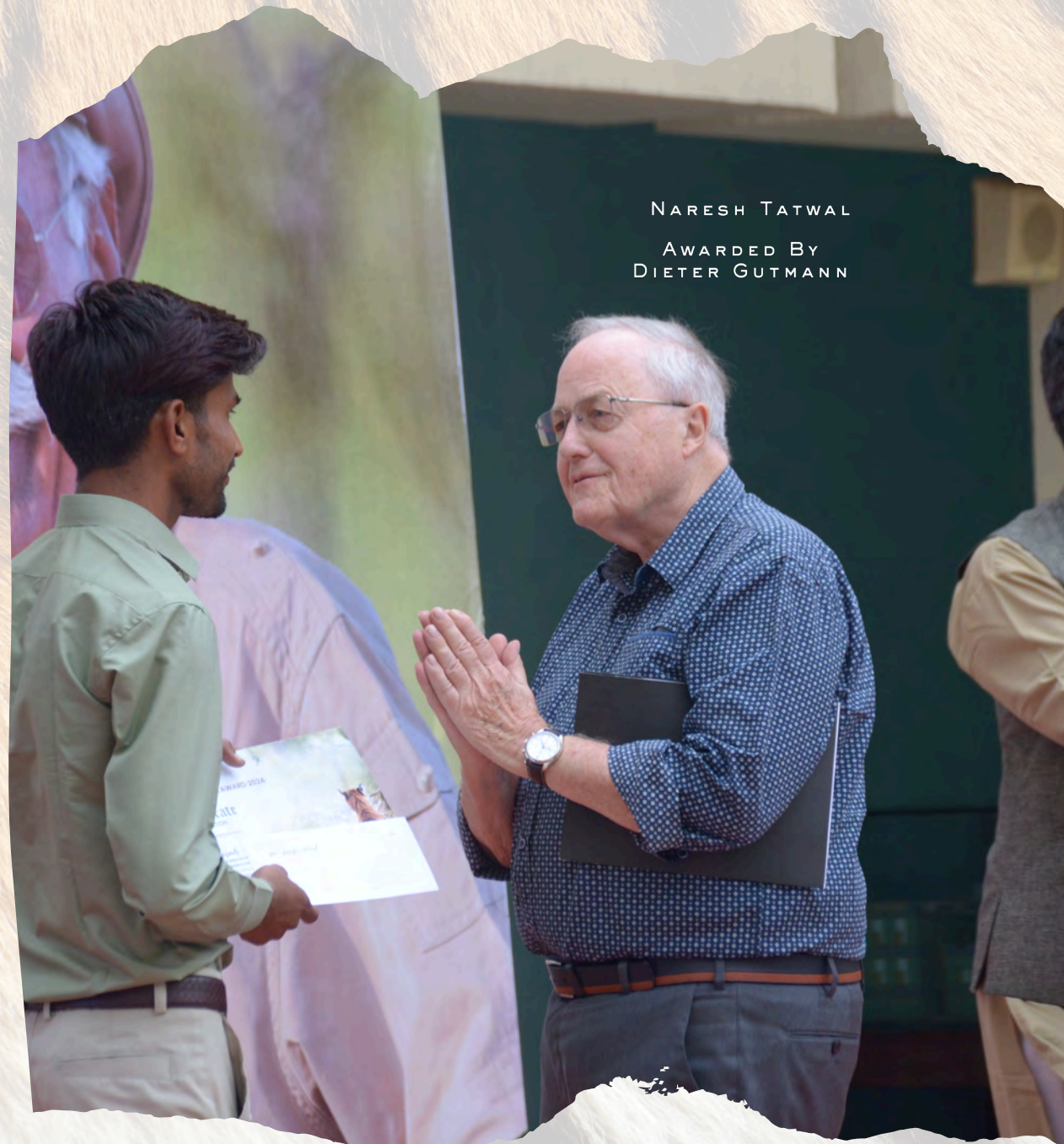
Sh. Rajaram Meena, assistant forester, was presented the Fateh Singh Rathore 'Wildlife Conservation Award 2024' by Sh Ravi Singh, for his varied and commendable efforts towards the conservation of wildlife in Jaipur division. The award included a memento and an honorarium of 20,000 Indian Rupees

Sh. Manoj Sharma, assistant forester, was presented the Fateh Singh Rathore 'Wildlife Conservation Award 2024' by Sh Tapeshwar Singh Bhati, for his varied and commendable efforts towards the conservation of wildlife in Kota division. The award included a memento and an honorarium of 20,000 Indian Rupees.



LAKHAN, BIHARI, HARI SINGH, RAKESH, MALKHAN
AWARDED BY
SH P. KATHIRVEL

Similarly, the Bagh Mitra Education Program's outstanding teacher Sh. Naresh Tatwal, the Mogya Education Program's teachers Sh. Meethalal Gurjar, and Ms. Laxmi Mogya and Bagh Pari program's teacher Ms. Meera Bairwa were appreciated for their efforts in educating and empowering their students. The award included a certificate of appreciation along with an honorarium of 5000 Indian Rupees for each of the four teachers.



NARESH TATWAL
AWARDED BY
DIETER GUTMANN



MEETHALAL GURJAR
AWARDED BY
MADHU
BHATNAGAR JI



MEERA BAIRWA
AWARDED BY
DR VARAD &
KSHAMTA GAIKWAD



LAKSHMI MOGYA
AWARDED BY
MS RATNA
MALHOTRA

Photography Competition Awards

The best entry in the photography competition was deemed to be a photograph in which a leopard was photographed feeding on a fruit bat. The photograph was taken by Sh Om Prakash Meena, a driver in the office of the Field Director, Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.



The second prize was awarded to Sh Vijay Kumawat, a nature guide in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. He captured a tiger and a sloth bear in one frame.

The third prize went to Vivek Bhargava, also a nature guide in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. He had captured a tiger feeding on a leopard.



Fateh Singh Rathore, Wildlife Conservation Awards - 2024

#	Recipient Name(s)	Position/Contribution	Award	Award Money (₹)
1	Mr. Surat Singh Poonia	Forest Officer, Blackbuck Conservationist	Services to Wildlife, Lifetime Achievement Award	100,000
2	Dr. Madhu Bhatnagar	Environmental Educator	Bagh Mitra, Lifetime Achievement Award	-
3	Mr. Nirmal Tiwari	Environmental Journalist	Services to Wildlife Award	25,000
4	Mr. Warren Pereira	Filmmaker	Services to Wildlife, People & Nature Award	-
5	Mr. Dieter Gutmann	Wildlife Conservationist, Philanthropist	Services to Wildlife, People & Nature Award	-
6	Mr. Seva Ram Mali	Demoiselle Crane Conservationist	Services to Wildlife Award	20,000
7	Mr. Rajaram Meena	Asst. Forester, Jaipur	Wildlife Conservation Award	20,000
8	Mr. Manoj Sharma	Asst. Forester, Kota	Wildlife Conservation Award	20,000
9	Mr. Bihari Gurjar	Village Wildlife Volunteer	Wildlife Conservation Award	5,000
10	Mr. Lakhan Singh	Village Wildlife Volunteer	Wildlife Conservation Award	5,000
11	Mr. Rakesh Jarila	Village Wildlife Volunteer	Wildlife Conservation Award	5,000
12	Mr. Hari Singh	Village Wildlife Volunteer	Wildlife Conservation Award	5,000
13	Mr. Naresh Tatwal	Bagh Mitra Teacher	Bagh Mitra Award	5,000
14	Mr. Meethalal Gurjar	Mogya Education Program	Bagh Mitra Award	5,000
15	Ms. Laxmi Mogya	Mogya Education Program	Bagh Mitra Award	5,000
16	Ms. Meera Bairwa	Baagh Pari Teacher	Bagh Mitra Award	5,000

Lectures and Talks at the Event

Sh. P Kathirvel

Sh Kathirvel shared his experiences of managing a tiger reserve and his past experiences of working in the government system.



Mr. Dieter Gutmann

Mr Gutmann has been supporting different Tiger Watch programs as well as conservation activities in different countries. Mr Gutmann shared his travel experiences from different countries. He also talked about sustainably managing wildlife and tourism.



Mr. Warren Pereira

Warren Pereira is a creatively driven, and award-winning filmmaker whose work has garnered the industry's top accolades, including the Cannes Gold Lion, and has been showcased at top international film festivals. After receiving the Fateh Singh Rathore "Services to Woldlife" award, Mr Pereira was invited for a talk, where he shared his experiences and talked about the documentaries.



Dr. Madhu Bhatnagar

Madhu Bhatnagar is a teacher at The Shri Ram School and is known for her dedication to environmental education. She was also a supporter of Tiger Watch in its initial days. She shared her experiences of developing the school's environmental policy and many other initiatives to promote sustainability, including student-run campaigns and one of the first rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in India.

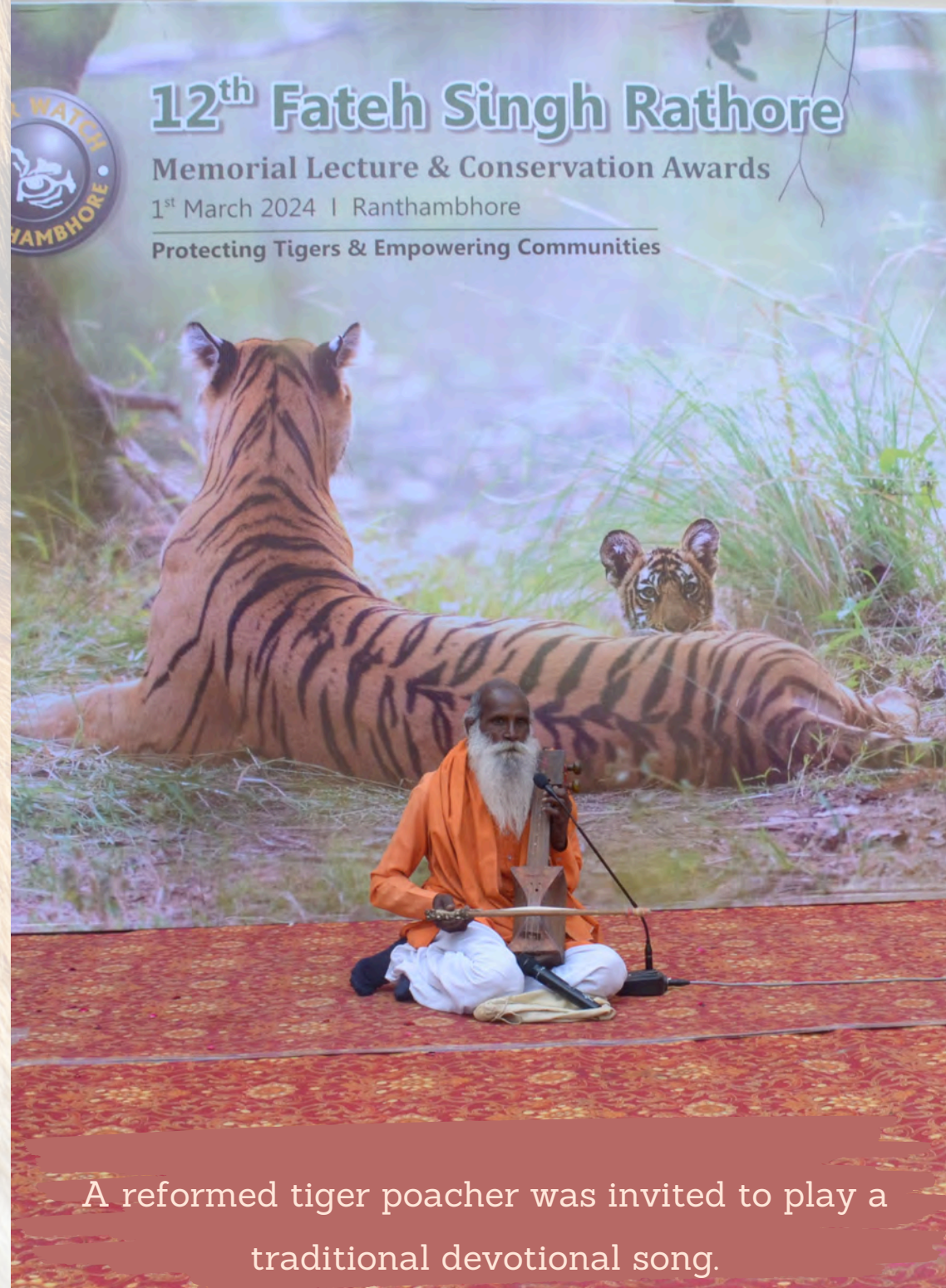


Screening of short film on Tiger Watch

A introductory movie on the programs run by Tiger Watch was screened at the ceremony. The movie is produced by Warren Pereira and features Ishan Dhar.



Musical performance by Rajmal Mogya



A reformed tiger poacher was invited to play a traditional devotional song.

Launch of the Book

Caracal:

An Intimate History of a Mysterious Cat

The award ceremony ended with the launch of the book, *Caracal: An Intimate History of a Mysterious Cat*, co-authored by Dr Dharmendra Khandal and Ishan Dhar.



**PUBLICATIONS
AND MEDIA**



Book:

Caracal: An Intimate History of a Mysterious Cat by Dharmendra Khandal and Ishan Dhar

The Caracal *Caracal caracal* (Schreber, 1776) is one of the world's most extensively distributed small wild cats ranging from Southern Africa to Central India. Through most of its range, the Caracal is known for its distinctive large black ears with long tufts erupting at the tips. This iconic trait is emphasised in the vernacular name 'Caracal', which originates from the Turkic *Karakulak*, directly translating to 'Black Ear'. In India, the easternmost extent of its occurrence the Caracal is known by the Persian *Siyah-Gosh*, which has the same meaning. Despite this conspicuous marker of identification for centuries, the precise purpose of the tufts remains unclear to biologists.

The Caracal is also the only small wild cat with a unique intimate history with humans, especially in parts of Eurasia, where it became the only other species of cat beside the cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* to be deployed by nobility on the hunt as a coursing animal. In India, the Caracal was extensively used as a coursing animal from at least the 14th century until the dawn of Indian independence. Simultaneously, many naturalists elaborated on the Caracal's 'rarity' in the wild in India since at least 1671 and continue to do so today.

Despite this long history and recent reactions to the first quantification of the Caracal's extensive putative range loss in India by the authors in 2020, the Caracal remains one of India's most mysterious cats, with very little knowledge of its biology, ecology, history, and distribution. Indeed, it remains a beguiling enigma for most, with the jungle cat (*Felis chaus*) often being misidentified as the Caracal.

The authors' research in 2020 confirmed that the species is now only reported to occur in the Ranthambhore landscape in Rajasthan and in Kutch, Gujarat. Thus the importance of this landscape to the long-term survival of this species in India cannot be overstated.

The authors of the book seek to begin addressing this paucity of knowledge by presenting the most comprehensive work on the Caracal in India to date, in the sincere hope that it will aid the efforts of scientists, historians, and conservationists alike who are beginning to take an active interest in the conservation of this enigmatic species

We are grateful to the following donors who generously contributed to the publication of this book:

- Abhimanyu Alsisar (with Meera & Kamakhya)
- Abhimanyu Golcha
- Abhinav and Nita Dhar
- Amrit Kaur Singh
- Anjali Patel Mehta
- Anjali Singh
- Astral Foundation (Kairav Engineer)
- Balendu Singh
- Bhuvnesh Suthar (SAMARPAN)
- Dieter & Liz Gutmann
- Felis Creations (Sandesh Kadur)
- Goverdhan Singh Rathore
- Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat
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- Toby Sinclair

Book Reviews and Related Coverage in the Press

Trailing the Caracal

A tribute to the mysterious cat, covering the minutiae of its life

Ranjit Lal

THE CARACAL, with its hauntingly beautiful eyes and pointed charcoal fringed ears, is perhaps the most mysterious, elusive and rare of wild felines found in India, today confined to semi-desert areas like Ranthambore and Kutch. But it's abundant in Africa and West Asia, to the extent it has been hunted as vermin in some places. This tawny, red-gold cat with its impressive leaping ability has always had a long and enduring relationship with us.

The Caracal is a magnificently illustrated tribute to this mysterious cat, covering in minutest detail every aspect of its life, relying on the authors' own experiences as well as the large numbers of researchers (most working out of Africa) – biologists, historians, forest officials, conservationists, villagers, et al – who have come under its spell or simply encountered it. Sadly, very little original research has emerged from India – where it has a precarious existence. But the amount of detailed information the authors have unearthed and presented is truly staggering, especially given the fact that they have sourced information from all of the caracal's territories.

Authors Dharmendra Khandal and Ishan Dhar are associated with Tiger Watch, based out of Ranthambore – one of the caracal's last strongholds – and are involved in research and community-based wildlife conservation. The book is sorted in three parts: Biology and Ecology, History, and Distribution in India. The first dis-



THE CARACAL
BY DHARMENDRA
KHANDAL, ISHAN
DHAR
Tiger Watch
339 pages
£3,850

sects the caracal bone by bone, hair by hair, body part by body part, all bolstered by photographs and line drawings. The language is scientific – which ought to be familiar to zoology students and academicians studying those subjects, but which may be a struggle for the layman. But if there is anything you want to know about the animal, and its habits: what and how it hunts, how it lives etc. the information is there for the taking.

The caracal has an ancient relationship with humanity stretching back to prehistoric

times, both abroad and in India. The animal has been

Indian Express 9 June 2024

times, both abroad and in India. The animal has been used (usually alongside the cheetah) for coursing by the nobility and royalty; for chasing and bringing down hares, birds (even the Great Indian Bustard), spotted deer, and blackbuck. It was also hunted for its pelt and because it was thought to be a pest in India and throughout its realm. In India, it now gets full protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, though there have been instances of poaching.

Always an enigma, the caracal appears in wall art, paintings, stories, mythology, religion and legends throughout its realm. The reproductions – whether of cave art, miniatures, sketches (with all due credits given) – are superb and have been given a generous amount of space in the book. The authors have even gone to the extent of displaying an 'album' of postage stamps, featuring the animal from countries as diverse as the Republic of Burundi, Israel, Kenya and, of course, India signifying its mesmerising hold on people.

The authors have provided details of sightings from various parts of India, going back as far as records hold, with the help of maps. Its distribution in India is patchy – the animal is not easily seen – and your best chances would be in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and in Kutch.

This book, with its stunning cover, needs to be in every library: the ordinary reader – unless obsessed by the animal – may find it a bit too scholarly and in-depth to tackle. But, at the same time, it could ignite a spark of interest in this elusive, relatively unknown, very beautiful wild cat – and who knows where that may lead to? After all, the siyagosh, which is one of its Persian monikers, may still have several secrets that it has yet to reveal to us. All you need to do is to look into its eyes.

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and birdwatcher

'Caracal: The mystery cat

A redolently illustrated, rigorously scientific, and richly historical book tells the story of one of India's most elusive cats.'

Divya Bandhi for Frontline



Review of Caracal: An Intimate History of a Mysterious Cat by Dharmendra Khandal and Ishan Dhar

Caracal: An Intimate History of a Mysterious Cat by Dharmendra Khandal and Ishan Dhar. The redolently illustrated, rigorously scientific, and richly historical book tells the story of one of India's most elusive cats.

Frontline / Jun 12



'The book is a compelling natural history read on a frustratingly rare-to-spot cat'

- Ananda Banerjee for The Hindu: Businessline

'Now that I finally have the book before me, it is a revelation! Every page is an unprecedented treasure trove of information.'

- Phirendra Devarshi in Hornbill

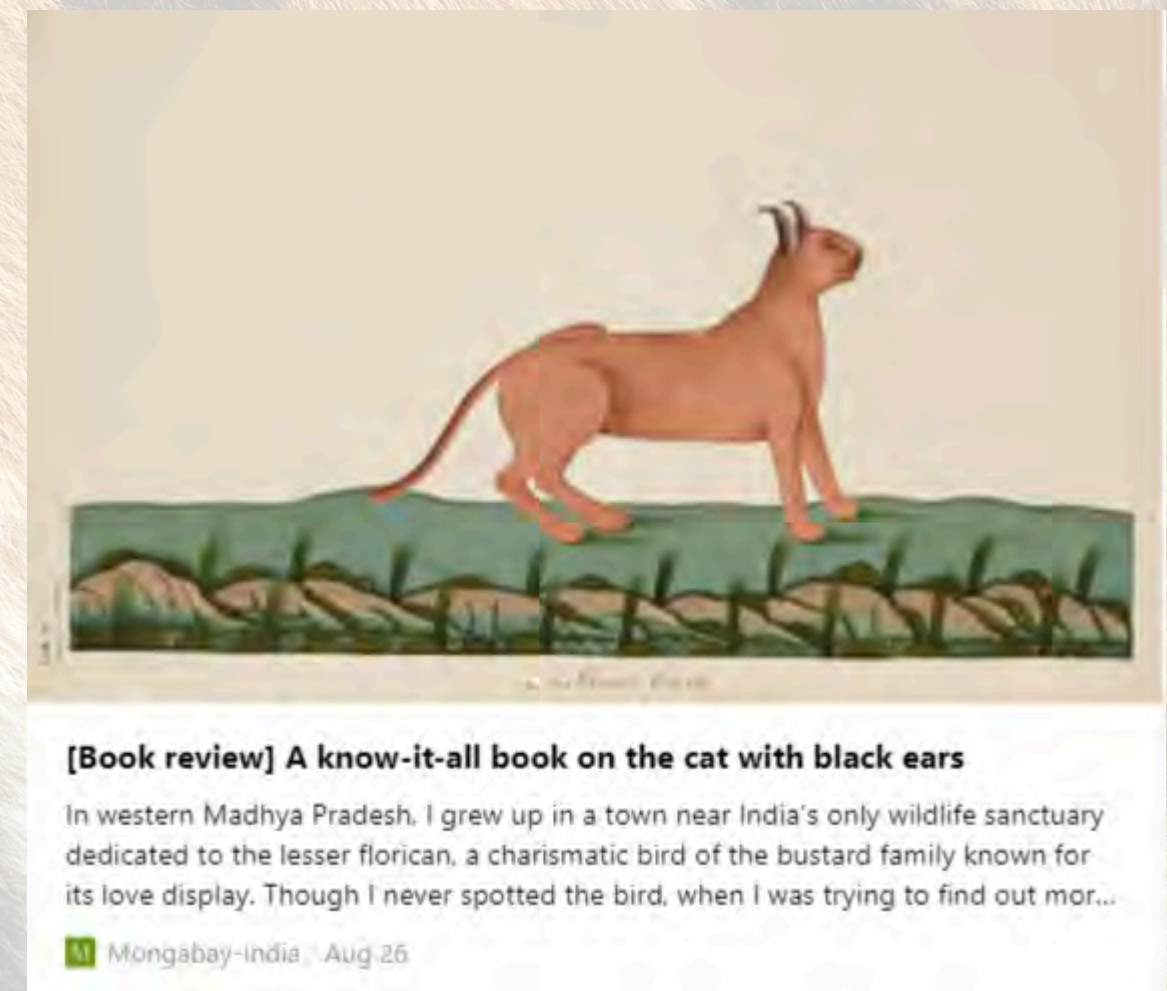
'Caracal receives conservation niche: a new book on this least known cat by

Dharmendra Khandal and Ishan Dhar'

- Harsh Vardhan in Conservation Times

'A know-it-all book on the cat with black ears'

- Shailesh Srivastava for Mongabay





Protect India's scrublands to save the caracal: Dharmendra Khandal & Ishan Dhar

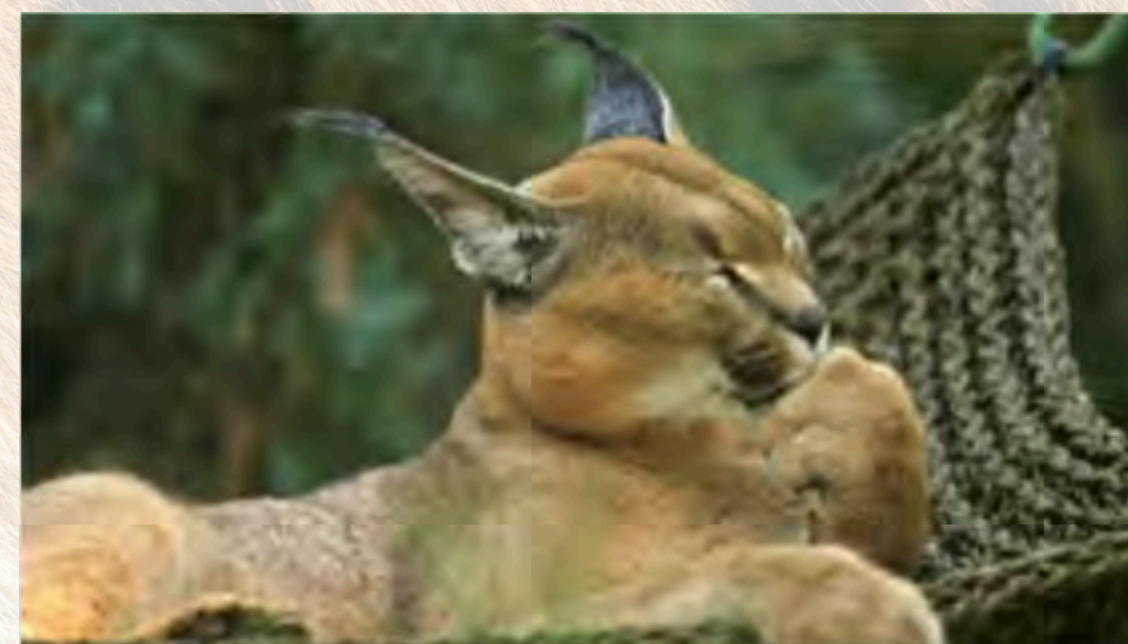
A caracal. Photo: iStock India brought cheetahs from Africa (Namibia and South Africa) in September 2022 and February 2023 to right the wrong of losing one of i

Down To Earth / Mar 30

'Protect India's scrublands to save the caracal: Dharmendra Khandal & Ishan Dhar
Down To Earth speaks to Dharmendra Khandal and Ishan Dhar of Tiger Watch about their new book on the caracal'
- *Interview with Rajat Ghai for Down to Earth*

"Akbar was obsessed with Caracal. Ain-i-Akbari featured extensive text of the cat In 'Caracal', Dharmendra Khandal and Ishan Dhar have widely research the small wild cat and tracked its history in India"

- *The Print*



Akbar was obsessed with Caracal. Ain-i-Akbari featured extensive text of the cat

In 'Caracal', Dharmendra Khandal and Ishan Dhar have widely research the small wild cat and tracked its history in India.

theprint / Apr 3

Other Press with Inputs by Tiger Watch Staff

‘ My Tiger Family review – no matter how many times you see them, these precious beasts always blow you away’
– *The Guardian- UK*



My Tiger Family review – no matter how many times you see them, these precious beasts always blow you away

Film-maker Valmik Thapar's love letter to a tiger clan in India has been 50 years in the making. You'll be left agog at this tale of obsession, survival – and poachers out for blood

 inkl / Aug 13



Experts divided over Caracal breeding plan in Jaipur | Jaipur News - Times of India

Wildlife experts are divided over the proposal to introduce caracal from Africa and Israel for conservation breeding in Sariska Tiger Reserve. The debate revolves around the potential impact on the existing Indian subspecies and the ecological...

 The Times of India

‘Cat Scan: Experts divided over Caracal breeding plan’
– *Times of India*



Scientific Publication



A dog-eat-dog world: predation and resource acquisition by free-ranging do...

Free ranging-dogs are being recognized as a potential threat for native wildlife around the globe. They interact with native wildlife at...

tandfonline.com

Free ranging-dogs are being recognized as a potential threat for native wildlife around the globe. They interact with native wildlife at multiple levels, ranging from predation, competition, acting as a reservoir for diseases and hybridization with the native carnivores. We have recorded cases that focus on interactions of dogs with wildlife in and around Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve (RTR). Between 2017–2020, we collected data on free-ranging dogs interacting with native wildlife of RTR. We classified the interactions into two categories: resource acquisition and predation. Based on our results we propose that dogs in rural settings around wildlife reserves can cause more resource competition for the existing carnivore scavenging guild resulting in reduced biomass consumption for the native scavengers. When present in large numbers, they can have a negative interaction with native wildlife through predation and harassment. To understand how dogs can pose threats to the native wildlife, there is a need for an extensive study on the ecology of dogs around wildlife reserves, pertaining to their feeding ecology and their raging behaviour.



DR. G.V. REDDY

TFS (1960-2024)

In Memoriam: Dr. G.V. Reddy

It is with profound sadness that we reflect upon the passing of Dr. G.V. Reddy earlier this year. The loss of this stalwart in wildlife conservation, whose contributions to both Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve and Tiger Watch remain deeply ingrained in our collective memory, is felt keenly.

Dr. Reddy's three decades of dedicated service to Rajasthan's wildlife stand as a testament to his enduring commitment. From his early role as DFO of Banswara to his impactful leadership as Chief Wildlife Warden of Rajasthan and ultimately as Head of Forest Forces (HOFF), his career exemplifies unwavering integrity and an unwavering dedication to conservation.

His work in restoring Ranthambhore National Park during his tenure, alongside his tireless efforts to advance wildlife conservation practices, established standards admired both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Reddy's legacy extends far beyond his professional accomplishments. His passion for wildlife and deep understanding of ecosystems inspired all those who were privileged to collaborate with him. His absence is felt profoundly, not only by his colleagues but by everyone who recognized his vision for sustainable wildlife management.

Tiger Watch's Tribute

Tiger Watch was honored to support the event organized at the Deputy Director's office in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve to commemorate Dr. Reddy's life and work. The banner picture, capturing the essence of this gathering, serves as a visual reminder of his impact.

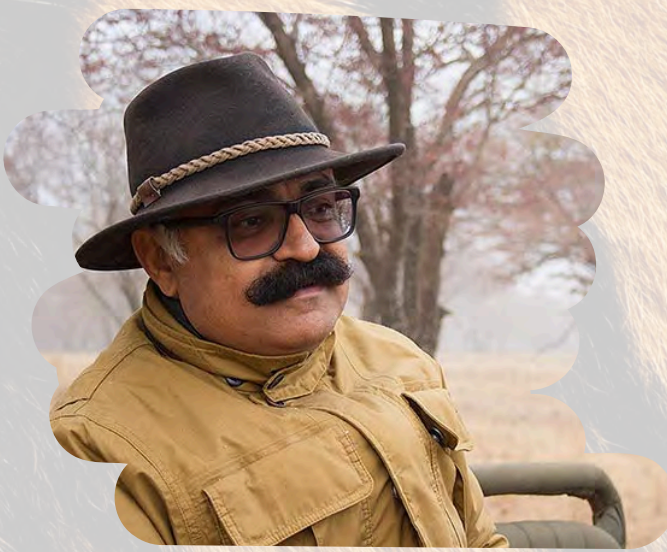
Dr. Dharmendra Khandal's heartfelt sharing of his experiences with Dr. G.V. Reddy during this event underscored the deep respect and admiration held for this remarkable individual.

As we bid farewell to Dr. G.V. Reddy, let us carry his legacy forward by upholding his ideals of wildlife conservation and ethical governance. May his memory serve as a constant source of inspiration in our ongoing efforts to protect and preserve the natural world.

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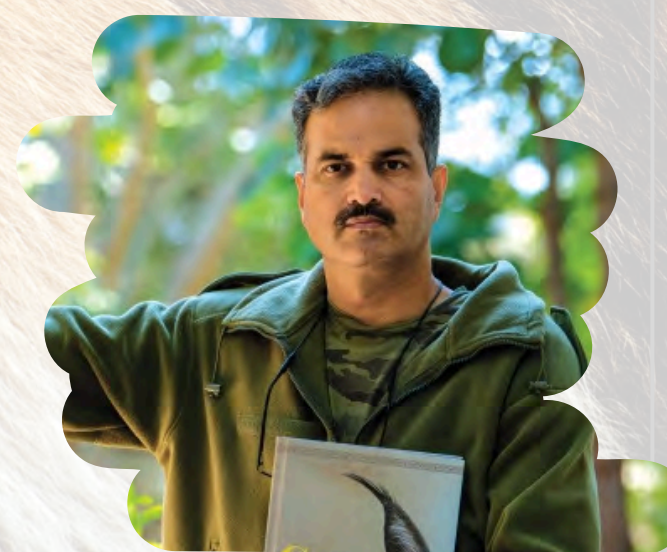
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27	Mr. Valmik Thapar	30000
28	BTS Strategy Alignment Executive	829000
	Total	1,01,27,709





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