WPAI NEWSLETTER

Issue 12, January 2024

Exploring and updating the emerging trends of photography



A big big thank you!

Wildlife Photography Association of India thanks all photographers and well-wishers for your contribution, support, and motivation behind the publication of the 12th Issue of WPAI Newsletter!!!

Wildlife Photography Association of India

WPAI Newsletter

January 2024

Chief Editor: Chitrangad Kumar

Editor: Sarabjit Kaur

Copyright owned by the publisher

Published by

Wildlife Photography Association of India

Postal Address -

B-54, Shashi Garden, Gali No.-9, Patparganj,

Delhi-110091 (India)

E-mail: wpaidelhi@gmail.com

Contact :- +91- 9971 4444 99

Cover Photo by - ELEPHANT WALK WITH LONG SHADOW - CH V S VIJAYA BHASKARA RAO - India

Contents

- Preface pp. 4
- Nand Gao Barsana Holi in 2000 by Chitrangad Kumar (pp 5-12)
- Santorini Photographer's Paradise by Prof. Biswatosh Sengupta and Mrinal K Bandyopadhyay & Dr. Abhoy Nath Ganguly (pp 13-24)
- Munnar a Paradise for Macro Photography Enthusiasts by Prasad Hamine (pp 25-31)
- Kenya Click by CH. V. S. Vijaya Bhaskara Rao (pp 32-36)
- My Journey of 100 plus days in the wilderness of Palamou Tiger Reserve By Mukul Mukherjee (pp 37-48)
- Condolence Maitreyee Banerjee (pp 49)
- Upcoming Salon / Circuit (pp 52)

Preface to the 12th Issue

Greetings of Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024!!!

WELCOME TO 2024! Embrace the opportunities, learn from challenges, and make this year a chapter filled with growth and achievements.

We are happy to enter in the 4th year of publishing WPAI newsletter. ! We strongly wish that the New Year takes away all the pains, sufferings, and failures of the last year and it brings to you new opportunities and exposure. We are very grateful to you because you have shown uncompromising support since our beginning. Just like our previous issues, this issue is enriched with scholarly and insightful articles related to the emerging trends of photography.

The Article "Nand Gaon Barsana Holi in 2000" is the photographs that I (Chitrangad Kumar) took on the slide film in the Year 2000. Every Year, thousands of devotees and tourists are attracted to the historical towns Nandgaon and Barsana to witness "Lathmaar Holi" the festival that honors the couple Radha and Krishna. Holi first starts in Nandgaon after giving calls to all villagers to come together to play Holi. Ladoomaar Holi is celebrated in the evening after playing with colors. The next day Laddu Holi is celebrated in Barsana in which Laddu is offered in worship. Nowadays, a lot of changes have arrived, and provisions have been made for laddus and other food items too. The festivities usually last for more than a week and end on Rang Panchami.

The article Santorini - Photographer's Paradise by Prof. Biswatosh Sen Gupta with assistance from Mrinal K Bandyopadhyay and Dr. Abhoy Nath Ganguly takes us on a mesmerising journey to beautiful beaches and Ruins of Ancient Thira. Santorini, a Greek island in the Aegean Sea, is renowned for its stunning, white-washed buildings and crystal-clear waters. They provide endless opportunities for photographers to capture the essence of Santorini. Whether it's a narrow alleyway with a glimpse of the sea in the background, or a panoramic view of the village of Oia, the white and blue color scheme of Santorini is a photographer's dream. Santorini's beaches such as Red Beach and Black Beach are a popular attraction, offering clear blue waters and unique rock formations which makes these beaches perfect for photography.

The next article Munnar, a Paradise for Macro Photography Enthusiasts by Prasad Hamin, is for photographers who are enthusiasts of MACRO Photography. In the outskirts of Munnar, he finds Raorchestes Uthman, a species of frog of the genus Raorchestes, which comprises more than 50 species of shrub frogs endemic to the Western Ghats. In his article, he explained about a variety of frogs such as the Juvenile false Malabar gliding frog, Raorchestes Jayaram, Raorchestes akroparallagi, The star of the night was the story tree frog (Ghatixalus asters), Sushil's bush frog (Raorchestes sushili) which are either found in Western Ghats Or Anamudi Shola National Park.

The article is a 'Kenya Click' by CH. V. S. VIJAYA BHASKAR Rao where he is convincing that a Masai Mara safari experience is one of the best ways to see wildlife. While the Wildlife viewing at almost any time of the year is superb, the Masai Mara is best visited during July and August. This is when millions of Zebras, Wildebeest, and Gazelle make their way north into the park from Serengeti crossing the Mara River in search of fresh grazing. In this river vast herds of animals on the move as well as thrilling kills by the big cats that pursue them, is one of the most exciting Masai Mara safari experiences you can have and it's no wonder great migration is at the top of most safari travelers' bucket lists.

The Article is about My journey of 100 plus days in the wilderness of Palamou Tiger Reserve by Mukul Mukherjee. The vast wilderness of the Palamou Tiger Reserve, with its dense forests and enigmatic inhabitants, has long been a treasure trove for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. It's a place where the boundaries between the human world and the wild blur, and where the thrill of discovery awaits those who dare to venture into its depths. His journey into PTR was carefully planned in three phases.

Thanking you Chitrangad Kumar (Chief Editor) WPAI Newsletter

Nand Gao Barsana Holi in 2000

By Chitrangad Kumar

These are the photographs I took on the slide film at that time. This is the result after copying slide film. Holi first Invocation starts in Nandgaon. Common man and eunuch worship together, dance and sing together. Ladoomaar Holi is celebrated in the evening after playing with colors.

After that, Laddu Holi is celebrated in Barsana in which Laddu is offered in worship. And they are the ones who plunders the Prasad from the roof of the temple.

Now a days, A lot of changes have arrived now, provisions have been made for ladoos and other food items too.

Raasleela takes place in the temple and Gulal is sprinkled along with Raasleela.



WAITING

COLORFUL GULAL

EUNUCH DANCING INSIDE TEMPLE



Issue 12, January 2024 WPAI Newsletter



SPRINKLING GULAL ON PEOPLE

PLAYING WITH GULAL



NANDGAON TEMPLE





MAHANT GOING FOR PRAYERS







THROWING COLORS









PEOPLE FARCING



MEN AD WOMEN



LADIES BEATING MEN



GULAL SELLER





PROTECTING FROM LATH

COLORFUL FACE

BOYS ENJOYING



STAIRS OF BARSANA MANDIR

STARTING OF LATHMAAR





GOING TOWARDS



PEOPLE IN TEMPLE PREMISES



RED GULAL IN AIR



PURCHASING GULAL



SPRIKLING GREEN COLOR







BOY HANDS IN AIR



TO CATCH PRASAD



WAITING FOR PRASAD



PRASAD CATCHING POSITION



PERFORMERS



CARRYING SHIELD



PREPARATION FOR LATHMAAR



COLORS IN CORRIDOR



PREPARATION FOR LATHMAAR



THROWING COLORS ON PEOPLE



THROWING WATER COLOR



FLYING GREEN COLOR



FLYING COLORS



WOMEN READY WITH LATH



GOING THROUGH FLYING COLORS



TAKING BLESSINGS

Santorini – Photographer's Paradise

By Prof. Biswatosh Sengupta,

With assistance from Mrinal K Bandyopadhyay & Dr. Abhoy Nath Ganguly,

Amongst the few world-famous tourist destinations, Santorini is the one most visited by people, ranked 22nd in the list. Santorini, also known as Thira, a stunning island of natural beauty and volcanic landscape, located in the southern part of Cyclades island group in Greece in Aegean Sea, is one of the most picturesque destinations in Greece, known for its iconic blue-domed churches, white-washed buildings, crystal clear water and breath-taking sunsets. From photographic point of view, Santorini is a dream destination. It is a photographer's paradise. With its unique landscapes, vibrant colors, and incredible light, this island offers endless opportunities for capturing stunning photographs. The island's unique topography, culture, and history have made it a popular destination both for photographers and tourists from around the world. In connection with a Photographic Workshop in Greece, organised by Mr. Ioannis Lykouris, Hon. Secretary-General of FIAP & Vice President of the Hellenic Photographic Society of Greece (HPS) we four PADians visited Greece.— the land of Aristotle, Socrates, Archimedes and Alexander the Great. Before joining the workshop, primarily our plan was to visit the Santorini Island, — famous for its volcanic rock, seascape and beautiful villages on the hilltops.

Dr. Ganguly, Mrinal and I left Kolkata for Delhi by the evening flight and spent the night there at a nearby hotel. Next morning we took Emirates flight from Delhi and reached Athens at 9 p.m. via Dubai. Keeping our heavy luggage at the airport we checked into a nearby hotel Holiday Inn with lighter bags containing cameras and essential utilities.

Next day we reached Athens airport to catch early morning flight of Rayan Airlines. In about an hour's time, we reached Santorini. We booked our bus ticket and went straight to the hotel Andreas at Kamari which was previously booked for next 3 days though booking.com.

After breakfast we went for a round to the nearest beach at Kamari.



Kamari Beach 4 - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



Alone - Biswatosh Sengupta



Sun Bath at Kamari beach - Biswatosh Sengupta



In Search Of – Abhoy nath Ganguly

Kamari Beach - Biswatosh Sengupta



Kamari Village from Mesa Vouno - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



Ruins of Ancient Thira - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay

Kamari is a seaside village, situated on the south eastern coast of Santorini, at the north foot of Mesa Vounomountain.

After a brisk stroll at the Kamari beach for a few hours we had our first Greek lunch in a nearby restaurant and booked a cab to visit ancient Thera on the top of MesaVouno mountain.

The cab however dropped us at particular point from where we had to walk to the top to visit the ruins. From the hilltop we enjoyed breath-taking views of Kamari village and Perissa. Thera was named after the ancient spartan leader Theras. The Doric Colonists from Sparta once created this city around 9th century BC.

From ancient Thera we went to Fira, the capital of Santorini, a city of white washed houses built on the edge of 400 metres high caldera. We explored this town on foot to explore White washed alley and finally visited the iconic three bells and blue dome.

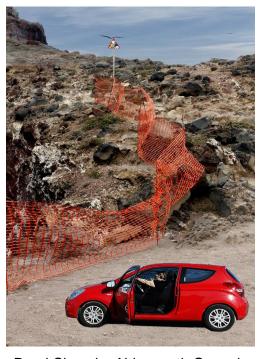


White washed alley at Fira - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



Three Bells At Fira - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay

Our next destination was Red beach where the blue waters and skies contrast against red lava rock cliffs. The beach is five minutes hike down the rocky shore.



Road Closed - Abhoy nath Ganguly



The Red Beach - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay

Due to drizzling and high wind we had to leave little earlier and on our way back we touched the local harbour Blycháda.



Harbour Blychada -Biswatosh Sengupta

where beautiful boats were parked. Due to circular shape of parking area this place is excellent for photography. Our first day trip ended with a sumptuous dinner at a road side restaurant after returning to Kamari.

The next day we had booking for boat ride to volcanic island, hot spring and the village of Oia.



Anchored Boat at Volcanic Island – Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



Boundless Journey - Abhoy nath Ganguly



Pebbles at Volcanic Island – Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



Stones formed of Lava – Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



The Monastry near Hot Spring - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay

The scheduled bus service first took us to portside at Athinios from where we boarded the boat and took our position on deck. The journey through the sea was remarkable and after about an hour we reached the volcanic island. The tour to this island requires separate ticket. Our guide managed everything and we started to walk an ascending path to the crater of the still active volcano and enjoying incredible sights. Our next halt was at the hot spring. The boat anchored at about 300M from shore. Some young enthusiasts and teenagers dived from the boat in cold water and swam towards the hot water. After about an hour we headed towards Oia. Our boat left us at the foothill and went to some other destination. We had our lunch and started to climb up. We preferred donkey ride to climb as against foot and reached the Oia village. Oia lies in the northern part of Caldera and about 12 Kilo meter away from Fira. Oia is famous for its authentic Cycladic beauty, white-washed houses, labyrinth-like alleys and amazing hotels, even though the beauty of its majical sunset is the first choice of the tourists. (number one thing in Oia is renowned for its magical sunset). We could take some spectacular shots on our way to sunset point. Here in Oia we met the aged Portuguese pianoaccordionplayer who once played in Orchestra Slavey. Hundreds of photographers including us gathered at the sunset point - the ruins of the Venetian Castle of Agios Nikolaos, right on the edge of the Caldera and above the Aegean sea, to observe the breath-taking sunset



Oia - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



Oia Architecture - Biswatosh Sengupta



Oia_Village - Biswatosh Sengupta



Sunset at Oia - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



OiaWindmill_at Sunset - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



Church - Biswatosh Sengupta

It was indeed a memorable sunset. Our second day journey ended in Oia and we were back to our Hotel in Kamari. At dinner we tried the famous volcano fish dish along with other normal dishes. On our way back we observed how a group of old ladies all dressed in white celebrated the birthday party of their friend chanting a Greek birthday song.

On third day went to Imerovigli village. Imerovigli is also known as balcony to the Aegean and is situated at the northern part of the island. It was built on the highest point on caldera cliffs and nearly 300 feet above sea level. The position of the village provides a magnificent view of the glittering Aegean Sea, the volcano and beautiful sunset. We explored this village on foot and took plenty of shots at various places. We went up to the clock tower and orthodox church.



The Clock Tower and Blue dome - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



The caldera at Imerovigli village – Abhoy nath Ganguly





Romantic View - Biswatosh Sengupta

At Rest (Perissa beach) - Biswatosh Sengupta

and then started to climb down through the passage full of shops on two sides. From Imerovigli we went by bus to Perissa. Perissa is a coastal village on the Greek island of Santorini. It's known for the Black Sand Beach, backed by restaurants and bars. Situated nearby, is the whitewashed Timiou Stavro church topped by distinctive blue domes. We spent 3 to 4 hours on this beach and utilised the beautiful light condition.



The Black beach at Perissa – Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay



Timiou Stavro church - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay

We returned to Kamari by evening bus. We had our dinner on our last night at Santorini where the restaurant owner offered us special red wine on his account. It was a nice hospitality gesture by a Santorini restaurant owner towards foreign guest. Our stay for three nights at Santorini was full of sweet memories. Apart from the beauty of the island the charming behaviour of the Island people are worth mentioning.

One of the most striking features of Santorini is its Caldera, a large volcanic crater that was formed over 3,600 years ago. The Caldera provides a stunning backdrop for photographs, with its steep cliffs and azure blue waters. Many photographers choose to capture the Caldera at sunrise or sunset, when the light is soft and the colors are at their most vibrant. The golden light of the sunrise or the warm tones of the sunset create a dramatic contrast against the deep blue sea and the white buildings of the island.

Another iconic feature of Santorini is its white-washed buildings, curved arches and blue-domed churches. These structures can be found all over the island, and they provide endless opportunities for photographers to capture the essence of Santorini. Whether it's a narrow alleyway with a glimpse of the sea in the background, or a panoramic view of the village of Oia, the white and blue color scheme of Santorini is a photographer's dream. The houses here have a distinctive look, with white-washed walls and curved arches. The narrow alleys and staircases that wind through the villages of Santorini

Santorini's beaches are popular attraction, offering clear blue waters and unique rock formations. Some of the most photogenic beaches on the island are Red Beach and Black Beach, both known for their volcanic sand and unique color palette. The contrast between the dark volcanic sand and the crystal-clear blue waters creates a stunning effect, making these beaches perfect for photography.

A few more pictures from different places of Santorini will provide the pictorial scope from artist point of view.



I Love Santorini - Abhoy nath Ganguly



Composition - Biswatosh Sengupta



Eternal Beauty - Abhoy nath Ganguly



Beauty Is Born - Biswatosh Sengupta



The Dreamy Island - Mrinal K Bamdyopadhyay

Santorini is а photographer's paradise, with its stunning landscapes, unique architecture, and rich cultural history. The island's iconic caldera, white-washed buildings, black sand beaches, and breath-taking sunsets provide endless opportunities photographers the to capture essence of this magical destination. Whether you're a professional or photographer an amateur enthusiast, Santorini is a must-visit destination for anyone who loves photography. Santorini will leave you with memories and photographs that you'll cherish for a lifetime.

Munnar, a paradise for macro photography enthusiasts by Prasad Hamine



AACOVER

Munnar is a beautiful hill station in Kerala, known for its tea plantations, misty mountains and rich biodiversity. It is also a paradise for macro photography enthusiasts, has a variety of habitats, such as evergreen forests, grasslands, wetlands and rocky outcrops supporting rich herpetofauna. I had the opportunity to join a herping photography tour at Munnar, where I explored the fascinating world of frogs, lizards, snakes and other invertebrates. Here is my story of the three-day tour, which was both challenging and rewarding.

Day 1: Outskirts of Munnar

We started our tour in the evening, after checking in to our hotel and having a brief introduction session. Our guide took us to the outskirts of Munnar, where we walked along a stream and searched for the elusive amphibians.

Raorchestes uthamani is a species of frog of the genus Raorchestes, which comprises of more than 50 species of shrub frogs endemic to the Western Ghats. This frog is named after Uthaman, a forest guard who discovered it in 2001. It is a small frog, measuring about 2 cm in length, and has a bright yellow coloration with black spots. It is found only in the high elevation shola forests of Munnar and is critically endangered due to habitat loss and fragmentation.



gliding frog (Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus) is a species of tree frog that belongs to the genus Rhacophorus, which includes the famous flying frogs that can glide from tree to tree using their webbed feet. This frog is not a true gliding frog, but has some resemblance to the Malabar gliding frog (Rhacophorus malabaricus), hence the

name. The pattern on this

little one was superb and

attractive.

Malabar

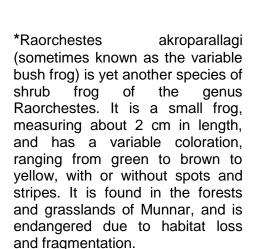
*Juvenile false

UTHA



JFMGF

*Raorchestes jayarami, also known as Jayaram's bush frog, is another species of shrub frog of the genus Raorchestes. It is named after K. C. Jayaram, an Indian herpetologist who described many new species of frogs from the Western Ghats. It is a small frog, measuring about 2.5 cm in length. I was fascinated by its camouflage and texture.



*The star of the night was the startree frog (Ghatixalus eved asterops), a rare and beautiful species that has star-like spots on its eves. The star-eyed tree frog (Nyctibatrachus kempholeyensis) is a species of frog that belongs to the genus Nyctibatrachus, which comprises of more than 30 species of night frog's endemic to the Western Ghats. It is a medium-sized frog, measuring about 4 cm in length, and has a brown coloration with dark spots and a white belly. It is found in the evergreen forests of the Western Ghats.



JAYAFR



VABUFR



STAREFR

*Sushil's bushfrog (Raorchestes sushili) is another species of shrub frog of the genus Raorchestes. It is named after Sushil Kumar Dutta, Indian herpetologist an contributed to the knowledge of amphibians of the Western Ghats. It is a small frog, measuring about 2 cm in length, and has a green coloration with black spots and a yellow belly. It is found in the shola forests and grasslands of Munnar and is endangered due to habitat loss and fragmentation. We found this frog on a leaf in the Anamudi Shola National Park, and I was charmed by its cute appearance and posture.



SUSHILFR

Day 2: Silent Valley

*As planned, we started our journey to Silent Valley, Munnar Eco tourism base camp. I was very excited, as this was the place where we could find the resplendent shrub frog (Raorchestes resplendens), one of the most colourful and endangered frogs in the world. This was the species that I was targeting the most. After a long drive, we reached the base camp and had a quick break. Then we headed to the forest, where we had to trek for about an hour to reach the spot where the frog was known to be seen.

The trek was not easy, as we had to cross slippery rocks, muddy paths and leech-infested areas. We also had to be careful of the wildlife around, such as wild elephants and snakes. But the thrill of the adventure kept us going. Finally, we reached the spot, where we saw a small patch of moss-covered rocks. Our guide pointed out a tiny frog sitting on the grass. It was the resplendent shrub frog, and it was even more beautiful than I had imagined. It had a bright orange body with black spots, and a yellow belly. It was a sight to behold. I quickly set up my camera and took several shots of this nature's beauty, trying to capture its colours and patterns.



RESFR

Day 3: Out skirts of Munnar

On the last day of our tour, we returned to the outskirts of Munnar in evening, where we explored a different area. We found some more amazing frogs, such as

*The Beddomixalus bijui, also known as the Kadalar swamp frog, is a species of frog that belongs to the genus Beddomixalus, which comprises of only two species of frog's endemic to the Western Ghats. It is a large frog, measuring about 10 cm in length, and has a brown coloration with dark spots and a yellowish belly. It is found in the montane wetlands marshes of Munnar and is endangered due to habitat loss and degradation. We found this frog in a swamp in the Mattupetty Dam area, and I was surprised by its size and habitat.



BEKFFR

*The Malabar gliding frog juvenile (Rhacophorus malabaricus) is a species of tree frog that belongs to the genus Rhacophorus, which includes the famous flying frogs that can glide from tree to tree using their webbed feet. It is a large frog, measuring about 10 cm in length, and has a green coloration with yellow and black markings. It is found in the evergreen forests of the Western Ghats and is vulnerable due to habitat loss and degradation.

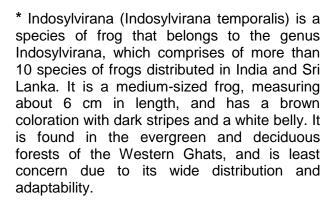


JMGFR

*The Malabar gliding frog (Rhacophorus malabaricus) is the adult form of the previous frog. It is a large frog, measuring about 10 cm in length, and has a green coloration with yellow and black markings. It is found in the evergreen forests of the Western Ghats and is vulnerable due to habitat loss and degradation. We found this frog on a leaf, and I was impressed by its size and webbing.



*The western tree frog juvenile (Polypedates maculatus) is a species of tree frog that belongs to the genus Polypedates, which comprises of more than 20 species of tree frogs distributed in Asia. It is a medium-sized frog, measuring about 5 cm in length, and has a brown coloration with dark spots and a white belly. It is found in the evergreen and deciduous forests of the Western Ghats, and is least concern due to its wide distribution and adaptability. We found this frog on a twig in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, and I was delighted by its curious expression and pose.





WETRFR



INDOFR



ANSPLZ

* The Annamalai spiny lizard (Salea anamallayana) is a species of lizard that belongs to the genus Salea, which comprises of only three species of lizards endemic to the Western Ghats. It is a small lizard, measuring about 7 inches. Found this little one beside the road while returning to vehicle.



LGPVSN

* large-scaled pit viper (Craspedocephalus macrolepis), a venomous snake that has a beautiful pattern on its scales.

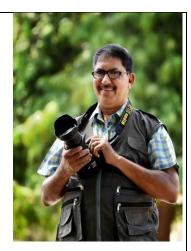
We had a great time photographing these amazing creatures and learning more about their ecology and behaviour. We also enjoyed the scenic views of the hills and the tea plantations, and the fresh air and the pleasant weather. It was a memorable experience, and I was glad that I planned this visit. I learned a lot about macro photography, and I was able to create some stunning images of the wildlife of Munnar. I would highly recommend this tour to anyone who loves nature and photography. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to witness the diversity and beauty of the macro world.

Kenya Click

by CH. V. S. VIJAYA BHASKAR Rao

The Masai Mara National Reserve park is a paradise of Photographers and naturalists. Every Photographer must visit in their lifetime. We are eleven members who visited Kenya from Telugu States. Eight members are 60 to 78 years old including me. We enjoyed these 7 days on a national park trip. We saw all animals except tigers in this park. A Masai Mara safari experience is one of the best ways to see wildlife. While the Wildlife viewing at almost any time of the year is superb, the Masai Mara is best visited during the month of July and August but we missed it. This is when millions of Zebras, Wildebeest and Gazelle make their way north into the park from Serengeti crossing the Mara River in search of fresh grazing. In this river vast herds of animals on the move as well as thrilling kills by the big cats that pursue them, is one of the most exciting Masai Mara safari experiences you can have and it's no wonder great migration is at the top of most safari travelers' bucket lists.

Ch. V. S. Vijaya Bhaskara Rao, ARPS, EFIAP, PPSA, APSS, MFIP, Hon. FICS, Hon. EFMPA, Hon. FWG, Hon. CPE, Hon. PESGSPC, GPA.PESGSPC, Hon. FPMP, Hon. WPAI, Hon. FAPF, FIIPC, FSoF, IIPC Platinum, PSA ****. Retired Chief Photographer in The Hindu, Vijayawada of A. P in India.. Born in Putrela village, of Krishna District in A.P. I was educated in Putrela Z.P. High School. Later on I did my PG in Nagarjuna University and MCJ in Potti Sriramulu Telugu University, BFA Photography Osmania University. I have Received Honorary Doctorate in Journalism from Global Human Peace University. Then I joined Deccan chronicle and Andhra Bhoomi at Visakhapatnam in 1988. I worked in Indian Express and Andhra Prabha at Hyderabad and Vijayawada. I worked "THE HINDU" from 2000-2019 December 2019 in Vijayawada. Now I am a Guest Faculty in the Photography Department in Acharya Nagarjuna University of Andhra Pradesh in India.



I am a Freelance Photojournalist and president of Andhra Pradesh Photo Journalists Association. I bagged UNESCO Awards in 2002 Japan and 2017 China. One of my pictures was exhibited and published in a Royal Photographic Society book on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary in 2003. I received the PPSA (Photographic Society of America) 2020, HON.FICS (Honorary Fellow in Image Colleague Society) USA, HON.EFMPA, Honorary Excellence in Federation Multicultural Photographic Art (USA), EFIAP (Excellence in ARTISTE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DEL' ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE) FRANCE in 2012, ARPS (Associate in Royal Photographic Society) London in 2003, APSS (ASSOCIATE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE), SINGAPORE 2012, MFIP (MASTER OF FEDERATION OF INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY) Kolkata 2020, FIIPC (FELLOW OF INDIA INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COUNCIL) NEW DELHI 2013, FSOF (FELLOW OF SCHOOL OF FOTOTECHNIK) DELHI 2014 and PLATINUM GRADE EXHIBITOR IN INDIA INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COUNCIL, NEW DELHI in 2014. PSA****, Hon. PESGSPC, GPA.PESGSPC, Hon. FWPG, Hon. CPE, Hon. FPMP, Hon. FGNG, Hon. Hon. FAPF, Best Exhibitor SAP,

This sanctuary is located in Narok near Nairobi in Kenya Country. Situated in the South West of Kenya covering an area of 1510 square km, this park is a land of beatking visats abundant wildlife and endless plains. This sanctuary was established in 1961 as a wildlife sanctuary. Today this sanctuary is about 37,00,000 acres, with no fences between the park and the Serengeti park's nig brings wilderness across the borin Tanzania. Semi-nomadic tribe of pastoralists who have long inhabited the region and ward to describe this landscape Mara which means "spotted" is a reference to trees and bushes as well as the shadows of passing clouds that dot the plains.



GIRAFEE WITH SUNSET AT MASAI MARA NATIONAL PARK IN KENYA

In this sanctuary lives Lions, Elephants, Buffalos, Giraffes, Zebras, Cheetahs, Leopards, Hippos, Rainas, Hinas, Jakals, dears, Crocodiles and other animals ond over 450 species. An Africa special Secretary Bird is a special attraction in this park.

Apart from Wildlife the landscapes of Masai Mara are iconic. The classic of Africa backdrops are seemingly never ending savanna studded photogenic, Acacia trees are jaw dropping. Mainly travel in this sanctuary in 4 and 6 seater safari vehicles, hot balloons and Helicopters are fabulous.

Safari travelers have a wide variety of activities and experiences to choose from. Whether you take a high - flying hot air balloon adventure at sunrise in the sky or hit the road for 4x4 safari, a wide variety of activities and experiences to choose from.

Whether you take to the skies for high-flying hot balloons adventure at sunrise or hit the road for a 4X4 safari. The Masai Mara National Reserve & conservancies never existed. I am sure to leave the Masai Mara with unforgettable experiences and lifelong memories.



LION READY FOR HUNT



LIONS EAT KILL



LION WALK WITH KILL



LION REST UNDER A SMALL TREE AFTER EATING CATTLE





LION CUB PLAY WITH MOTHER

LIONS IN A PLAYFULL MOOD





LEOPARD OBSERVE ON A TREE

CHEETAWITH THEIR CUBS



CHEETAS IN A PLAYFULL MOOD





CHEETAHS READY FOR HUNT



CHEETAH JUMPS



AN ANTELORE DELIVERY



ELEPHANT WALK WITH LONG SHADOW

My journey of 100 plus days in the wilderness of Palamou Tiger Reserve

by Mukul Mukherjee

August in Pune had taken an unexpected turn when misfortune struck. While engrossed in my passion for macro photography at Baner Tekdi, I became the victim of a robbery. My camera, my mobile phone, and my cherished gold rings were all stolen, leaving me in a state of despair. However, amidst this ordeal, a silver lining emerged in the form of the Maharashtra Police from Chaturshinge Police Station. Their relentless efforts led to the capture of the robbers, and I was fortunate to recover my camera and mobile phone, though my gold rings remained missing.

Stuck in Pune until November 17th, I found myself navigating the intricacies of police stations, criminal courts, and even the Central Jail. It was a period of uncertainty and challenge, but it also served as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

During this time, I received an unexpected call that would change the course of my journey. It was from a friend of my father, who informed me that Shri. Rajiv Ranjan, the then PCCF Warden of the Wildlife Division of Jharkhand, was looking for me. His request was simple but captivating – he wanted me to capture the wilderness of the Palamou Tiger Reserve.

Setting off on a new adventure, I embarked on a drive back to Jharkhand, taking the long route to photograph some of India's most captivating landscapes, including Nalsarovar, Desert National Park, and Bharatpur. The call of the wild beckoned, and I found myself drawn to the heart of the Palamou Tiger Reserve in the peak of December.

Palamou Tiger Reserve: India's Best-Kept Wildlife Secret

You may not have heard much about PTR (Palamou Tiger Reserve), and that's not surprising, as it remains one of India's best-kept secrets in terms of wildlife beauty. As the only Tiger Reserve in Jharkhand, PTR retains its raw and untamed allure. Stretching across an expansive 1200 square kilometers, this reserve is a dense and unexplored wilderness. It boasts a unique history, having been declared one of the first nine tiger reserves in India under the renowned Project Tiger initiative in 1973. In those days, PTR was home to approximately 50 tigers, making it a vital part of India's conservation efforts.

What many people may not know is that PTR played a significant role in wildlife conservation history. The world's very first tiger census was conducted here in 1932, under the supervision of J.W. Nicholson, who was the DFO of PTR at the time.

My journey from misfortune in Pune to the untamed wilderness of PTR was a testament to the unpredictability of life's twists and turns. It reminded me that even in the face of adversity, there are opportunities for new beginnings and thrilling adventures. As I set out to capture the beauty and majesty of the Palamou Tiger Reserve, I couldn't help but feel a sense of wonder and gratitude for the unexpected turn my life had taken.

Capturing Wildlife and Wilderness

The vast wilderness of the Palamou Tiger Reserve, with its dense forests and enigmatic inhabitants, has long been a treasure trove for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. It's a place where the boundaries between the human world and the wild blur, and where the thrill of discovery awaits those who dare to venture into its depths.

My journey to Palamou Tiger Reserve (PTR) was nothing short of extraordinary, marking one of the most unique projects I've undertaken in my life. With special permission to navigate my vehicle within the forest at any time, my days and nights were spent immersed in the heart of this untamed wilderness. I often slept inside my car or pitched my tent on a tower, and even the nighttime patrolling took place in my trusty vehicle.

Armed with three camera bodies, each mounted with different lenses - one for macro, one medium-sized telephoto, and the other a super-telephoto lens - I also introduced an advanced piece of technology into my toolkit: a DSLR Trap Camera equipped with a Passive Infrared Sensor (PIR). This sophisticated setup relied on thermal radiation to detect the subtlest movements of wildlife. When triggered, it activated flashguns, illuminating the nocturnal world and allowing me to capture those elusive shots.

My journey into PTR was carefully planned in three phases. The first phase unfolded during the harsh winter days of December, when I spent approximately 20 days exploring and understanding the landscapes of Betla National Park in the North Division and the Wolf Sanctuary of Mahuadanr in the South Division of PTR.

Betla National Park

Starting my adventure at Betla National Park, I found myself surrounded by a mixed forest that teemed with exquisite floral diversity. The park was a testament to conservation efforts, with meticulous monitoring and maintenance evident throughout. It featured beautiful grasslands and pristine water bodies that served as vital habitats for numerous herbivores, including majestic elephants, imposing Indian Gaurs, and elegant Spotted Deer.

These creatures were abundant, and I had the privilege of capturing their grace and grandeur through my lens. As the park was accessible to me even during the nighttime, I ventured into creating stunning portraits of the elusive golden jackal, using torchlight to accentuate their unique features.



During the golden hour, which occurs shortly after sunrise and before sunset, the sun is low on the horizon, and its light has to pass through more of the Earth's atmosphere. This scattering of shorter wavelengths results in the warm, golden tones that photographers often seek.



In the dense wilderness of Palamou Tiger Reserve (PTR), an urgent need arose within the wildlife division – the necessity for footage of the magnificent Indian Gaurs that called this untamed landscape home. This was a challenge I willingly embraced during my third visit to PTR, and the journey to capture these majestic creatures was an adventure like no other.

Planning my visit strategically, I chose a time when the park was declared closed for tourism. This provided me with a golden opportunity to explore the reserve at my leisure and set up my DSLR Trap Camera without hindrance or disturbance. Among the few vehicles allowed to enter the park during this period, my car was the lone presence, aside from the forest department's official vehicles.

Indian Gaur: The Elusive Giants of Betla



The quest to locate the Indian Gaurs was not a simple one. It demanded patience, dedication, and extensive exploration. I ventured into the Chhipadohar range, scouring the dense forests in search of these elusive giants. However, it was at Betla that I finally had my breakthrough.

Stay tuned for the next phase of my adventure, as I delve deeper into the South Division of PTR and share more stories of my encounters with the wildlife that calls this pristine reserve home.

Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary: Exploring the Enigmatic

As my journey through Palamou Tiger Reserve (PTR) continued, I embarked on a thrilling new chapter by visiting the Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary, a place of unique significance as the only declared Wolf sanctuary in all of Asia. This leg of my adventure introduced me to the captivating world of the Indian grey wolves.

My base for this exploration was the Sarna D village, where I found lodging in a Forest Rest House. Located approximately 75 kilometers from Betla National Park, the journey to Sarna D took me through a mesmerizing route that passed through Garu, Maromar, Baresanr, and Akshi, all within the buffer zone of PTR. The drive itself was a revelation, revealing the untouched beauty of Jharkhand that I had never before imagined.

My primary objective was to capture the essence of the Indian Grey Wolf, an elusive and mysterious species that calls the Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary home. With each night, I ventured into the forest in pursuit of these enigmatic creatures.

Encounters in the Moonlight: The Mottled Wood Owl



One unforgettable night, as we were making our way back to the Forest Rest House through the quiet village of Sarna D, we were greeted by sudden, unexpected movement. Initially, we assumed it might be a young village boy taking a late-night stroll, but it was almost midnight, and the chill in the air was palpable. To our amazement, we had encountered a magnificent Mottled Wood Owl.

This remarkable bird, with its intricate plumage and imposing size, was a sight to behold. It was my first encounter with a Mottled Wood Owl, and the experience left an indelible mark on my memory. Owls, like the rodents they hunt, are predominantly active at night, and it appeared that this owl was on the prowl for its nocturnal prey, likely near the muddy houses that dotted the village road.

This chance encounter with the Mottled Wood Owl served as a reminder of the vibrant and diverse ecosystems that thrive within and around the Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary. It was a testament to the mysteries and surprises that nature has in store for those willing to venture into the heart of the wilderness.

The Indian Grey Wolves of Mahuadanr: A Tale of Resilience

As I continued my exploration of the Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary, I couldn't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to witness not only the Indian Grey Wolves but also the myriad other creatures that call this sanctuary home. Jharkhand's natural beauty, as I had come to discover, was a treasure trove of surprises waiting to be uncovered with each passing night.

My quest to capture the essence of the Indian Grey Wolves within the rugged landscape of the Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary continued relentlessly. Although I had spent nearly ten days within this untamed wilderness during my initial visit, I had been unsuccessful in capturing these elusive creatures with my trap camera. Nevertheless, luck favored me, allowing me at least to witness them during the early morning hours, even if capturing their image in the dim light proved challenging.

Determined and undeterred, I knew I had to return to the Wolf Sanctuary in February for another opportunity to document the Indian Grey Wolves. This time, a call from Shri. Mukesh Kumar, then the DFO of the South Division of Palamou Tiger Reserve, provided the much-needed impetus.

The days were long, and the work was arduous as we embarked on an intense mission to track these remarkable animals. Each passing day seemed to echo with a sense of uncertainty, as we remained unsuccessful in our pursuit, with nothing tangible coming into our hands.

However, our determination and perseverance ultimately led to a breakthrough. We decided to search for their den, believing it could be the key to capturing these elusive wolves. Carefully, we deployed the Camera Trap near the den, setting up our equipment with bated breath and hopeful anticipation.

The moment of triumph arrived when the camera trap revealed its treasure – images of the adult wolf, the proud mother, and her adorable offspring. It was a moment of sheer exhilaration and fulfillment, the culmination of weeks of hard work and unwavering dedication.

Capturing these images was not merely about photography; it was about unveiling the secrets of a species that had long thrived in the shadows of the Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary. It was a testament to the power of collaboration, as we worked tirelessly with the forest department to track, protect, and document these remarkable creatures.

The Indian Grey Wolves of Mahuadanr serve as a symbol of resilience and adaptability, thriving amidst challenging terrain and an ever-changing world. My journey to capture their essence was a testament to the beauty and mystery of nature, and it underscored the importance of conservation efforts to safeguard such incredible species.

As I reflect on my experiences in the Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary, I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of witnessing the Indian Grey Wolves in their natural habitat. It is a reminder that our world is home to countless wonders, waiting to be discovered by those willing to venture into the wild and embrace the mysteries it holds.







With only 10 days at my disposal, I had a birding trip to Chopta, Uttarakhand, looming on the horizon. Time was of the essence as I embarked on a mission to capture the Indian Grey Wolves in action.

The clock was ticking, and the pressure was on. I knew that the window of opportunity was limited, and my heart was divided between the captivating world of the wolves and the avian wonders awaiting me in Chopta.

With this triumphant achievement in hand, I bid farewell to the Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary, knowing that my journey had been a remarkable one. I left with a heart filled with gratitude for the privilege of witnessing the Indian Grey Wolves and capturing their story.

A Lifetime Journey

As the summer sun blazed relentlessly, I embarked on the most extensive and immersive phase of my journey into the wilderness. By the end of June, I found myself spending an astonishing 90 consecutive days in the heart of nature. This time marked a significant shift, as not only was I documenting the wilderness, but I also had the honor of serving as a Wildlife Consultant to the Palamou Tiger Reserve. My journey began from the Maromar Range, where I initiated Vulture awareness camps in local schools and villages. For nearly five days, I engaged with communities, raising awareness about the critical need to conserve these majestic birds. Simultaneously, I set up my camera near a water stream in the evenings, where I made fascinating observations of the myriad of fauna drawn to this vital water source. This particular location was situated conveniently alongside the road, not far from the Forest Rest House. It quickly revealed itself as a hub of wildlife activity, and I eagerly documented its many visitors. Among them were the bats, which had formed colonies beneath a nearby bridge. These night-time flyers gracefully surfed above the water, creating a mesmerizing spectacle in the moonlight.





To my delight, I also had the privilege of spotting the elusive Brown Wood Owl, a sighting that filled me with awe and wonder. It served as a testament to the rich avian diversity that thrives within the boundaries of the Palamou Tiger Reserve.



While I reveled in these encounters, I was also acutely aware of the regular visits by the magnificent elephants. Each day, these gentle giants would make their presence known, a reminder of the delicate balance between human existence and the wild.

My days in Palamou were not only about photography and documentation but also about fostering a deeper connection between the local communities and the rich biodiversity that surrounds them. Through the Vulture awareness camps and my work as a Wildlife Consultant, I aimed to instill a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards this unique and fragile ecosystem.

As I continued my 90-day sojourn in the wilderness, I couldn't help but marvel at the intricate tapestry of life that unfolded before me. Each day brought new revelations, each night a symphony of sounds, and each encounter a profound reminder of the beauty and fragility of the natural world.

My journey was far from over, and the wilderness still held many secrets waiting to be uncovered.



During my extensive 90-day sojourn in the wilderness of Palamou Tiger Reserve, I had the privilege of observing and learning from the majestic elephants that call this pristine landscape home. Among the many lessons gleaned from these magnificent creatures, one remarkable insight stood out—the elephants' profound intelligence and their unique way of ensuring access to clean, fresh water.

One particular behavior of these elephants left an indelible impression on me. It was their refusal to drink stale or stagnant water. Instead, they demonstrated an incredible ability to source and create their own clean water supply.

When in need of refreshment, elephants would use their powerful trunks and massive feet to dig small holes in the ground near water sources. These holes, which they created by stamping their feet and skillfully manipulating their trunks, served as nature's wells. The elephants would then patiently wait for the clean groundwater to seep into these holes, creating a fresh, clean pool of water to quench their thirst.

This behavior had a ripple effect on the ecosystem. The water holes created by the elephants not only provided them with pristine drinking water but also became a vital resource for other smaller animals in the vicinity.

The elephants of Palamou had illuminated the path towards coexistence and harmony within this unique wilderness, where every drop of water is a lifeline, and every creature, a part of the delicate balance of life.

In search of Leopards, Hyenas, and the Sloth Bear

With the Vulture awareness program concluded, my journey led me to the Mahuadanr Forest Rest House, where I established my base for an eventful month. It was here that I embarked on a thrilling expedition, one that would test my perseverance and lead me to the heart of the wilderness.

My journey began on a hill near Chutiya Village, a remote settlement nestled approximately 12 kilometers from the Mahuadanr range office. As evening descended upon us, we would set out from Chutiya Village, making our way up the hill to our destination. The objective was to deploy a trap camera on the hill's summit, where we had observed the telltale signs of some of the reserve's elusive inhabitants—Leopards, Hyenas, and the enigmatic Sloth Bear.

Climbing up the hill was no easy feat; the ascent left us breathless, consuming nearly two hours of our time. However, the promise of capturing glimpses of the reserve's elusive predators spurred us onward. With the trap camera carefully positioned, we descended the hill, always mindful of the treacherous terrain.

The following mornings marked a challenging routine. At 6 AM, we undertook the demanding task of dismantling the camera system and making our descent from the hilltop. This routine, while physically demanding, was a labor of love, driven by our unwavering dedication to capturing the elusive wildlife of the region.

Our efforts bore fruit over the course of ten days. The trap camera recorded the presence of leopards and hyenas, providing valuable insights into their behavior and movements within the wilderness. These remarkable images were a testament to our perseverance and our commitment to unraveling the secrets of the forest's elusive predators.



Yet, one enigmatic resident continued to elude us—the Sloth Bear. Despite our diligent efforts, the bear's exceptional sense of smell, finely attuned to the faintest traces of human presence, thwarted our attempts. In one instance, the bear's curiosity led it to furiously scratch the earth around the camera, leaving behind an indelible mark of its presence before returning to its original route.

As we continued our quest to capture the elusive Sloth Bear on camera, we marveled at the resilience of these remarkable creatures. The forests of Mahuadanr were a realm of secrets and mysteries, and each day held the promise of a new discovery.

Our temporary stay in the pristine village of Hadibar, perched atop the hill, provided a unique glimpse into a simpler way of life, where solar electricity was the only source of power. It was a reminder of the harmony that can exist between humans and nature when we embrace sustainability and coexistence. The journey was far from over, and the Sloth Bear remained a tantalizing enigma. But our resolve was unwavering, and we knew that the wild had many more secrets to reveal as we continued to explore the untamed beauty of Mahuadanr.

Coexistence in the Wilderness

In the heart of Mahuadanr, where the wilderness thrives and the forest canopy embraces all life, there exists a unique challenge and a testament to the delicate balance of coexistence. Here, the density of leopard populations is exceptionally high, a fact that both captivates and concerns the local villagers.

For the people of this region, their cattle and domestic animals often bear the brunt of this remarkable yet elusive predator. Nearly every week, the villagers experience the harsh reality of living in proximity to these magnificent creatures, as their livestock become prey to the leopard's stealthy hunt.

Situated in the buffer zone of the forest, this area lies at the intersection of human settlements and the untamed wilderness. As such, the forest department assumes the responsibility of mitigating the impact of leopard encounters on the villagers. To achieve this, they implement an allowance program aimed at compensating villagers for the loss of their domestic animals.

This essential initiative ensures that the communities residing in the vicinity of the forest receive fair compensation for their losses. When a goat or sheep falls victim to a leopard, the forest department provides an allowance of approximately 3000 rupees, while the loss of a cattle is compensated with around 15000 rupees.

These allowances not only provide financial support to the affected families but also play a crucial role in promoting wildlife conservation beyond the core zones of the reserve. By addressing the economic concerns of the villagers and mitigating the human-wildlife conflict, these allowances encourage peaceful coexistence between people and the rich biodiversity that surrounds them.

In essence, this program exemplifies the shared responsibility for conservation that extends beyond the boundaries of the reserve. It underscores the forest department's commitment to safeguarding not only the wildlife within the core zones but also the well-being of the communities living on the edge of the forest.

The villagers of Mahuadanr have learned to adapt to the rhythms of nature, where encounters with leopards are a part of their daily lives. Through this allowance program, they find a measure of solace in the face of adversity, and a renewed sense of harmony with the wild.

As I continued to document the remarkable stories of Mahuadanr, I marveled at the intricate dance of coexistence unfolding before me. It was a reminder that in the tapestry of life, every thread, no matter how delicate, has its place, and every creature, its role to play.



The Ingenious Sloth Bear and the Jackfruit Tree

Undaunted, the quest led to Chero, near the Chhattisgarh border, where a villager's house stood amidst jackfruit and Jamun trees. Here, the team observed the bear's nocturnal visits, feeding on ripe jackfruits. Setting up the DSLR Trap Camera near a ripped jackfruit, we hoped for a shot of the elusive creature. However, an unexpected guest, a rat, triggered the camera repeatedly, prompting the bear to choose a different jackfruit tree, eluding their lens.

The turning point came near the Banesar range office in Chetma village when a villager tipped off the Forester about a solitary, fully flowering jackfruit tree in his backyard, a tree the bear frequented. However, the villager confessed to bursting crackers every evening to deter the bear. I requested him to abstain from this practice, understanding that it might deter the bear from visiting even at late hours.

Undeterred by previous setbacks, I set up the DSLR Trap Camera near the alluring jackfruit tree once more. Patiently, they waited for the bear to arrive. As night descended, the bear, unaware of the human's presence, made its way to the tree. The DSLR Trap Camera, with its PIR sensor, captured the bear's gracefully illuminated by the flashguns.





In the wild, the boundaries between success and failure are often blurred, and each challenge encountered is an opportunity to learn and adapt. The journey to capture the elusive Sloth bear against the backdrop of the jackfruit tree in Palamou Tiger Reserve is a testament to my hard work, patience, perseverance, and dedication.

Tenu Grassland: A Serene Oasis in Palamou's Heart

In the heart of the Baresanr Range in Palamou, a hidden gem lies nestled amidst the wilderness—a small lake that serves as a lifeline for the region's wildlife. Words alone cannot capture the picturesque beauty of this serene oasis, known as Tenu Grassland.

As I ventured deeper into the heart of Palamou, I stumbled upon this natural wonder, a true testament to the breathtaking diversity and splendor of the region. Surrounded by rolling hills on all sides, the lake is cradled by a lush sal forest, which blankets the landscape like a protective bed sheet. The Tenu Grassland is a place where time seems to stand still, and the hustle and bustle of the modern world fades into the background.

It is a sanctuary for both the creatures that inhabit it and the fortunate few who have the privilege to witness its beauty. For days on end, I had the unique opportunity to immerse myself in this tranquil

setting, setting up my tent on a tower that overlooked the lake. From this vantage point, I became a silent observer of the daily rhythms of life that unfolded around me. The lake itself is a lifeline for the region's wildlife. It provides a source of freshwater in an otherwise arid landscape, attracting a myriad of species, from elephants quenching their thirst to a dazzling array of avian visitors.

It is a place where predators and prey alike gather, their actions reflecting the intricate balance of nature. The sight of a herd of elephants ambling to the water's edge, their majestic presence mirrored in the lake's placid surface, is a memory that will forever remain etched in my mind. The avian residents of Tenu Grassland painted the skies with vibrant plumage, creating a symphony of colors and melodies that celebrated the rich biodiversity of the region.

But it was not only the wildlife that left a mark on me. It was the profound sense of tranquility and harmony that enveloped this oasis, a reminder that amidst the wild and unpredictable, there exists a place of serenity and balance.

As I gazed out from my tent on the tower, I couldn't help but feel a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to bear witness to the hidden wonders of Palamou. Tenu Grassland was not just a location; it was a sanctuary of the soul, where the boundaries between observer and observed blurred, and the true essence of the wild revealed itself.

In the heart of this verdant oasis, I discovered that sometimes, the most profound moments are found in the simplest of places—a small lake in a sprawling forest, where life's intricate tapestry is woven with the threads of time, nature, and the unspoken language of the wild.



It is a reminder that the wild continues to hold its mysteries close, and those who seek to unveil them must be willing to embrace the challenges and surprises it offers. In the end, it is not just the photograph captured but the journey itself that is a priceless treasure for those who venture into the heart of the wild.

Empowering Palamou's Guardians

As I concluded my unforgettable journey through Palamou Tiger Reserve, I had the honor of being part of a transformative initiative—an Eco-Tourism Guide Training Program tailored for the villagers and skilled wildlife trackers of the region. This program was a beacon of hope, designed to empower local communities with the knowledge and skills needed to earn a sustainable livelihood while contributing to wildlife conservation.

Eco-tourism had emerged as a powerful tool for fostering economic growth in regions like Palamou while preserving the pristine natural environment. The forest department, in collaboration with conservation organizations and local communities, recognized the potential of eco-tourism to create a win-win situation for both people and wildlife.

The training program aimed to harness the deep understanding and tracking abilities of the local villagers and trackers, turning them into skilled eco-tourism guides. These individuals, who had spent their lives in close proximity to the forest, possessed an intimate knowledge of its secrets, from identifying animal tracks to understanding the behaviors of the elusive residents of Palamou.

Over the course of five intensive days, participants in the program underwent rigorous training that covered a wide range of topics. Spanning five enriching days, the Guide Training Program was a comprehensive journey into the heart of ecological knowledge.

Evolution of Life on Earth

Ecosystem and Biodiversity

Floral Diversity and Faunal Diversity

Introduction to Insect Diversity

Introduction to Amphibians and Reptiles

Introduction to Birds Diversity

Brief About Mamology

Understanding the importance of camera trapping, trainees embarked on hands-on sessions, mastering the art of capturing the reserve's elusive inhabitants on camera. This valuable skill would enable them to monitor wildlife while minimizing disturbance.

Palamou's Eco-Tourism Guide Training Program was more than an initiative; it was a beacon of hope. It illuminated the path to a sustainable and harmonious future, one where the treasures of the wild endure for generations, and where the wilderness and its inhabitants thrive alongside the communities that call it home.

Photographic Association of Dum Dum

Biswatosh Sengupta, Secretary, PAD

"Ache Dukha Ache Mritu, Biraha dahan Lage

Tabuo Shanti, Tabu Ananda , Tabu Ananta Jage" - Tagore

We are shocked to learn that our beloved student . Maitreyee Banerjee is no more. She passed away on Thursday the 12th October 2023 at the age of 59

She joined PAD as students in November 2019, passed the Certificate Course in Photography after pandemic in 2022 and pursuing Diploma till death. She was deeply associated with the photographic activities for a long time and had number of awards and acceptances in National and International Salons. She was awarded AFIAP, EFIP and, QPSA distinctions and Hon. PESGSPC honour for her works. She also acted as a Jury member for FIP's Women's Empowerment competition.

She was ever smiling, soft spoken with a very pleasant personality. In her death PAD lost a prospective Photo Artist, India lost a creative photo artist with distinctive imagination whose contribution for the promotion and propagation of Photography is worth mentioning.

We the students & members of PAD deeply mourn the sudden & untimely demise of Maitreyee . We have no word to express our deep sorrow and to console her husband, daughters, grandson, and other members of the bereaved family. We can only pray to the Almighty to give them strength to bear this unbearable loss. We also pray to the Supreme God to lead us "from unreal to the Real, from darkness to Light, from death to Eternity". May her soul rest in peace!



— IS ALL ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY AND EXPOSURE IT DESERVES —



WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

WPAI is an International Photography Society, whose aim is to encourage an appreciation of photography and to offer a platform for Interested Candidates - Amateurs as well as Professional -through participating in International Exhibitions conducted by WPAI and show their work worldwide.

Acceptances and Awards accumulated from WPAI and who take part in the exhibitions of WPAI patronage; everyone no matter amateur or a professional are credited towards the WPAI and affiliated Distinction such as B.WPAI, S.WPAI, G.WPAI, P.WAPI & U.WPAI.

For information on membership and other services of WPAI contact:

B-54, Shashi Garden, Gali No. 9, Patparganj, Delhi - 110091 (India)

Mobile No. +91 9971 4444 99 | Email. wpaidelhi@gmail.com | Website. www.wpaidelhi.com

Join WPAI

Online WPAI Membership

https://www.wpaidelhi.com/application-form-for-new-membership-renewal-of-membership/

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

HY AS	202
2	
	ON
7	
	PHY AS

IS ALL ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY AND EXPOSURE IT DESERVES

Regd. Office: B-54, Shashi Garden, Patparganj, Delhi-110091, India Tel: +91 11 2275 4608, +91 9971444499

APPLICATION FORM FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP/ RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

FILL THE FORM IN BLOCK LETTERS	IM / IMS / OM / OLM / LM / LMS NO:			
SURNAME:	NAME:			
ADDRESS:				
PINCODE:	STATE:	STATE:		
COUNTRY:	NATIONA	NATIONALITY:		
TELEPHONE:	MOBILE:	MOBILE:		
DATE OF BIRTH:	OCCUPAT	OCCUPATION:		
E-MAIL:	WEBSITE:	WEBSITE:		
PHOTOGRAPHIC HONOURS (If Any):				
MAIN INTEREST IN (Branches of Photography):				
AMOUNT SENT BY DRAFT/NEFT/PayPal Rs./US\$:	NO:	DATED:		
INTRODUCED BY:		MEMBERSHIP NO:		
DATE: / /		SIGNATURE OF THE APPLICANT		

SL. NO.	<u>CATEGORIES</u>	INDIA (INR)	OVERSEAS (USD\$)
Α	Individual Member	800	15
В	Individual Member with Spouse	1200	25
С	Organizational Member (Yearly) Photographic Federations, Clubs, Societies, Association etc	1000	20
D	Life Member Individual	3500	75
E	Life Member with Spouse	4000	125
F	Organizational Member (Life)	4000	100
G	Life Member Individual (Senior Citizen) above 60 years	3000	100

Applicants Please Note:

- i Send two recent P.P size Photographs for Membership Card.
- ii If you want to acquire the WPAI badge, kindly include Rs. 25/- in the draft alongwith the fee.
- iii Outstation and Local Cheques are not accepted under any circumstances.
- iv Without the Receipt of Enrollment Fee, Membership stands null & void.
- Individual Membership is valid from 1st Jan to 31st Dec for every calendar year.

BANK: YES BANK LTD | ACCOUNT NO: 04499460000923 | IFSC CODE: YESB0000449
*MEMBERSHIP FEE TO BE PAID BY BANK DRAFT/MULTI CITY CHECK IN FAVOUR OF

"WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION OF INDIA"

UPCOMING SALONS / CIRCUITS

UJJIVAN CIRCUIT 2024 (International Digital Circuit)

Closing Date: 29th January 2024

Recognition no.: - PSA 2024-1012, WPAI 2024/001-003 & PPC 001-003/2024

8 Sections - Monochrome (PIDM), Monochrome - Theme - City Life (PID), Color (PIDC), Color - Theme - People

(PIDC), Nature (ND), Wildlife (ND), Photojournalism (PJD) and Photo Travel (PTD)

Website: https://panchkulacamera club.com/

NEW IMAGES CIRCUIT 2023 (International Digital Circuit)

Closing Date: 21st February 2024

Recognition no.: - PSA 2024-1065, WPAI 004-006 & NIC 001-003/2024

6 Sections - Monochrome (PIDM), Color (PIDC), Nature (ND), Wildlife (ND), Photojournalism (PJD) and Photo

Travel (PTD)

Website: https://newimageclub.org

PICTURE PERFECT CIRCUIT 2024 (International Digital Circuit)

Closing Date: 4th March 2024

Recognition no.: - PSA 2024-1028, WPAI 2024/007-009 & JCM 001-003/2024

8 Sections – Monochrome (PIDM), Monochrome – Theme - City Life (PID), Color (PIDC), Color – Theme - People

(PIDC), Nature (ND), Wildlife (ND), Photojournalism (PJD) and Photo Travel (PTD)

Website: https://jcmcircuits.com/

WPAI CIRCUIT 2024 (International Digital Circuit)

Closing Date: 1st April 2024

Recognition no.: - PSA 2024-1047 & WPAI 2023/008-010

6 Sections – Monochrome (PIDM), Color (PIDC), Nature (ND), Wildlife (ND), Photojournalism (PJD) and Photo Travel

(PTD)

Website: https://wpaidelhi.com/

DEWAS CIRCUIT 2024 (International Digital Circuit)

Closing Date: 22nd April 2024

Recognition no. : - PSA 2024-1048, WPAI 2024/011-013 & KKPC 001-003/2024

8 Sections – Monochrome (PIDM), Monochrome – Theme - City Life (PID), Color (PIDC), Color – Theme - People

(PIDC), Nature (ND), Wildlife (ND), Photojournalism (PJD) and Photo Travel (PTD)

Website: https://kalakumbhdewas.com/

JCM CIRCUIT 2024 (DIGITAL & PRINT)

Closing Date: 30th May 2024

Recognition no.: - FIP/2024/022-023-024, FIAP 2024/159-161, WPAI- 2024/014-016, JCM- 004-006/2024

4 Sections – Digital - Monochrome (PIDM), Color (PIDC), Print – Monochrome (PPM) & Color (CP)

Website: https://jcmcircuits.com/

Requirements for Articles Submitted to WPAI Newsletter

WPAI Newsletter Timetable

July Edition - Closing date for articles 31st May October Edition - Closing date for articles 31st August January Edition - Closing date for articles 30th November April Edition - Closing date for articles 28th February

*Please send your articles as early as possible to help us ensure WPAI Newsletter goes out on time.

Criteria for Articles

Try to keep articles to less than 1500 words.

Article must be typed in English language and provided in an electronic document that can be opened in Microsoft word.

Do not send the articles in PDF format!

Photos for Inclusion With Your Article

Maximum of 15 photos.

Must be 1024px on longest dimension, at 96ppi, regardless of photo orientation.

A list of the image files must be provided with any applicable text that is to accompany each image, eg who and what is shown in photo. This list can either be at the bottom of the article or provided in a separate document.

Images must be of a good quality and edited for best presentation, eg colour, cropping etc.

If the position or order of the photos in your article is important, please put the file name in red text in your article and we will endeavour to place it there. Depending on page layout, be aware it may not always be possible to place the photo exactly where you would like it.

- ** Please understand that the images you send may not always all be included. Space, layout, suitability for all readers and quality will be considered.
- ** Articles for the "Recommendations From a Local Photographer" mini article section are to be a maximum of 400 words and two photos.

Submission of Articles

If possible, please send all articles and accompanying images via WeTransfer or a similar file transfer system to the Editor of WPAI Newsletter Service.

Direct the file transfer to email address: officewpaidelhi@gmail.com / wpaidelhi@gmail.com

Please do not email photos unless instructed to do so by the WPAI Newsletter Editor

Permissions

It is a requirement that those submitting articles have acquired the necessary permissions to publish the images they are submitting to WPAI Newsletter. Authors of articles must ensure that the material they provide does not breach the copyright of any other party.

Regulations

All those submitting items to WPAI Newsletter for possible publication must ensure they have read the Regulation for Publishing Articles in WPAI Newsletter. All articles submitted for possible publication must be accompanied by a "WPAI Newsletter Author's Agreement" form that has to be filled and signed by the author of the article. These documents are available on the WPAI website at: www.wpaidelhi.com

Planning to run a Photography Contest?

Do you need to make a website to receive entries?

Do you need world class judging software?

Contact us for a complete solution!

+91-9250055880 info@stintsolution.com



A Product from Stint Global India Private Limited - A Google Partner Agency

www.stintsolution.com

F26, Himalayan Appartment, Sector-2 Rohini, Delhi-110085, INDIA