

ZSI E-News

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from the Director's Desk

I am delighted to present the 66th edition of monthly E-News of the Zoological Survey of India, showcasing the numerous scientific accomplishments, records, and events achieved by the dedicated scientists and staff of this esteemed organization, which has a rich history spanning 109 years. This issue highlights our efforts in surveys, exploration, faunal discoveries, research achievements, capacity-building initiatives, Mission LiFE, and detailed events and activities of the Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 in commemoration of 109th ZSI foundation day, all aimed at informing our esteemed readership. I take great pride in acknowledging the collaborative efforts that have played a crucial role in the success of this publication.

The domains of science and its achievements continuously transform our world in remarkable manners. Our objective is to provide you with the latest discoveries, rigorous field survey investigations, pioneering innovations, conservation initiatives, taxonomic research, and status assessment surveys conducted by the scientists of the Zoological Survey of India.

The Zoological Survey of India hosted the Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 to celebrate its 109th Foundation Day. This event served as a prominent platform for esteemed experts in animal taxonomy, classification, ecology, behavioral studies, biodiversity, and conservation, as well as researchers committed to biodiversity preservation. The summit, organized by the Zoological Survey of India, included discussions on innovative techniques such as DNA analysis and computer-assisted tools designed to improve species identification and clarify their evolutionary relationships, along with contemporary conservation efforts both in India and globally. The program featured two special lectures and 17 lead lectures presented by renowned scientists and wildlife managers. Over the course of three days, from 1st to 3rd July 2024, a total of 465 participants from 23 universities, 29 colleges, and 24 research institutions across 20 states and union territories of India took part in the technical sessions. Participants delivered 36 oral presentations and 106 poster presentations. The discussions focused on challenges such as the presence of cryptic species groups and methods for integrating various data types to enhance the accuracy of species classification. The summit highlighted the critical role of taxonomy in shaping effective conservation strategies and raising public awareness. Ultimately, it fostered a collaborative atmosphere aimed at influencing the future of animal classification in light of changing environmental and technological contexts. Ms. Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, graced the valedictory session of ATS 2024 as the Chief Guest. Dr. A.A. Mao, the Director of the Botanical Survey of India, graced the event as the Guest of Honour. Certificates, medals, and trophies were presented to the victorious participants of ATS 2024 by Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India, and Dr. C. Raghunathan, Additional Director, Zoological Survey of India, along with the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour. During the month, a total of 1646 species from 13 phyla were identified within the faunal communities. Notably, six new species were documented in the vertebrate and invertebrate faunal groups from India, while an additional of 12 species were recorded as new distributional records for the country.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our contributors, whose passion and expertise are the cornerstones of this e-newsletter. Your commitment to excellence is what makes this initiative truly remarkable. To our valued readers, thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Your feedback and involvement are of paramount importance to us, and we are always eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

Wishing you an enjoyable reading experience and here's to many more editions filled with scientific exploration and enlightenment.

Jai Hind,

Dr. Dhriti Banerjee
Director
5th August 2024
Kolkata

Cover: Conferring the status of "Emeritus Scientist" to the Former Directors of ZSI.
Courtesy: ZSI Headquarter, Kolkata

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HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA

Surveys were conducted to Konkan and Malabar Coasts of India, Nadia, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia and West Bardhaman districts and Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest of West Bengal. A total of 624 species of faunal communities belonging to Apterygota, Arachnida, Diptera, Formicidae, Chalcididae, Ichneumonidae, Hemiptera, Porifera, Cnidaria, Annelida, Echinodermata, Nematode, Orthoptera, Platyhelminthes, Mollusca, and Testate Amoeba were identified. One species of Apterygota was described as new to Science and

10 species of Apterygota, Arachnida, Dipteran and Hemiptera were added as new to Indian fauna. Five species of Diptera, three species of Nematode and three species of Platyhelminthes were augmented to NZCs. Identification and advisory services were rendered to Wheat Research Station, Sardarkrushi Nagar, Dantiwada Agricultural University, Vijapur, Gujarat, Thiruvalluvar University, Tamil Nadu, MES Mampad College, Kerala, Cotton University Assam, Vidyasagar University, and Scottish Church College, West Bengal.



Zoanthus gigantus Reimer & Tsukahara, 2006



Jorunna funebris (Kelaart, 1858)



Snorkeling to study coastal and marine communities



SCUBA diving to study coastal and marine communities

NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

A total of 75 species of faunal communities belonging to Orthoptera, Odonata, Arachnida, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Coleoptera, Mollusca, Pisces, and Amphibia were identified. One species of frog was described as new to science. Identification and advisory services were rendered to Divisional Forest officer, Wildlife, Khasi Hills Division, Rajah Serfoji Government College (Autonomous), Tamil Nadu, Golaghat College, Assam, Kerala Agriculture University, Thrissur, Osmania University and to Zafeer Ahmad Shaikh of Karachi, Pakistan. Students and faculties from St Anthony's College, Shillong visited the centre.



Visiting faculty and students of St Anthony's College

WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

A total of 198 species of faunal communities belonging to Arachnida, Blattodea, Crustacea, Chilopoda, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Mollusca, Odonata, and Pisces were identified. Identification and Advisory services were rendered to Principal Zoologist (Rodents) & PI, All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management (Rodent Control), Department of Zoology, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), MES College, Kerala.



ZSI Foundation Day Book Release: Lepidoptera of Western Ghats



ZSI Foundation Day Book Release: Birds of IBAs of Goa

CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

A total of 62 species of faunal communities belonging to Orthoptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Mollusca, Amphibia, and Reptilia were identified. Identification & advisory services rendered to Sant Gahira Guru University, Sarguja, Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh. Officers and staff of CZRC, Jabalpur celebrated the वन महोत्सव under “एक पेड़ माँ क नाम” and planted saplings from 1st to 7th July, 2024. Students and faculties of Gyan Ganga Orchids- The international School, Jabalpur visited the centre.



Officers and staff of CZRC, Jabalpur celebrated the वन महोत्सव under “एक पेड़ माँ क नाम” and planted saplings from 1st to 7th July 2024.



CZRC, ZSI Jabalpur organised One Day Workshop on “Workplace sexual harassment of women (PoSH)” on 12.07.2024.

DESERT REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

Survey was conducted to Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan. A total of 60 species of faunal communities belonging to Insecta, Gastropoda, and Pisces were identified. Identification and advisory services rendered to Govt. College, Jhalawar. Selfie points were installed at various places under Mission LiFE. Visitors from RSM School, Jodhpur visited the centre during the month.



Museum visit of school students from RSM School



Landscape at BaiMata Track in Mount Abu WLS

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

A total of 71 species of faunal communities belonging to Phthiraptera, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Hymenoptera, Pisces, Amphibia, and Reptilia were identified. Mission LIFE activities were conducted by planting saplings and awareness activities on 8th July 2024 and also celebrated “लोकपर्व हरेला/Harela Festival Uttarakhand” by planting 101 saplings of different Forest Plant Species in the “Government Forest Land at Selaqui, Dehradun, Uttarakhand” on 16th July 2024. Prof. Dr. Jagbir Singh, Former Head, Department of Zoology, Punjabi University, Patiala planted Rudraksh Plant as a part of “Ek Ped Maa Kae Naam” in the centre on 30th July 2024. A special Campaign 3.0 Swachhta/Cleanliness awareness drive conducted in and around the centre; Kaulagarh Market, Dehradun, Forest Land Selaqui, Dehradun, Uttarakhand on 8th 16th and 30th July 2024.



GANGETIC PLAINS REGIONAL CENTRE, PATNA, BIHAR

A total of 56 species of faunal communities belonging to Insecta, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified. Identification and advisory services were rendered to Central Silk Board - Basic Seed Multiplication and Training Centre and College of Plant Protection, Northwest A&F University, China. Mission Cleanliness at work place was organised at GPRC, Patna on 24th July 2024.



Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) at Baraila wetlands Bihar

HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A total of 70 species of faunal communities belonging to Lepidoptera, Trichoptera, Neuroptera, Orthoptera, and Hymenoptera were identified. Identification and advisory services were rendered to Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Punjab Agricultural University and Post Graduate Govt. College, Chandigarh. Centre organized the visit of employees from different institutes like banks, LIC, DMR, and other autonomous bodies of Solan, Sabathu and Kasauli to the National Himalayan Faunal Museum on 18th July 2024.



Central government employees of various offices of Solan district attending Hindi Karayashala organised at ZSI, Solan on 18th July 2024 under NARAKAAS



Hindi karayashala organised at ZSI, Solan on 18th July 2024 under NARAKAAS

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, PORT BLAIR

Survey was conducted to North and Middle Andaman and local field surveys were conducted to Burmanallah; Kodyaghat; Chidiyatappu; Shoal Bay; Chatham; Science centre; Marina Park; Corbyn's cove, South Andaman to study the marine faunal diversity; Kalatang; Shoal Bay- 19; Collinpur; Chidiyatappu; Badabalu; New Wandoor; Mount Manipur, South Andaman. A total of 97 species of faunal communities belonging to Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Annelida, Echinodermata, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified.



Nicobar Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis umbrosa* Miller 1902



Andaman Water Monitor lizard *Varanus salvator andamanensis* (Laurenti, 1768)

SUNDERBAN REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING, WEST BENGAL

One day local survey was undertaken in Dabu Mangrove Ecosystem. A total of 55 species of faunal communities belonging to Mollusca, Crustacea, and Pisces were identified. One day seminar was organized under International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, the presentation entitled “Invertebrate fauna of Sunderbans” and “Vertebrate fauna of Sunderbans” on 26th July 2024 with 75 participants. Sapling distribution and sapling planted on 26th July 2024 under the program entitled “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam”.



International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem



Sapling plantation Ek Ped Ma ke naam



FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

Two surveys were conducted to Three Ramsar sites of Madhya Pradesh (Sirpur lake, Yashwanth sagar and Sakhya sagar) and to one Ramsar sites of Uttar Pradesh. A total of 69 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Ostracods, Branchiopods, and Pisces were identified. Mission LiFE and Swachhta Hi Seva Special Campaigns 3.0 were conducted to generate awareness among people.



Semnopithecus entellus (Dufresne, 1797)-Northern plains gray langur



Sitana laticeps Deepak & Giri, 2016-broad-headed fan-throated lizard

WESTERN GHAT REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA

Survey was conducted to Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala. A total of 82 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate amoeba, Decapoda, Chilopoda, Arachnida, Coleoptera, Dermaptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, and Mantodea were identified. One species of Hymenoptera was described as new to Science and 4 species of Hymenoptera were recorded as new to Indian fauna. Identification and advisory services rendered to Mananthavady Campus, Kannur University.

ESTUARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, GOPALPUR-ON-SEA, ODISHA

Local surveys were conducted to Bahuda estuary and Gopalpur coast. A total of 112 species of different faunal groups were identified. Six DNA barcodes of 6 species were uploaded in the NCBI data base including one novel species. One patent was published.



Epinephelus erythrurus (Valenciennes, 1828), a Grouper species documented for the first time from Odisha coast.



Black winged kite *Elanus caeruleus* (Desfontaines, 1789) at Bahuda estuary



Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Linnaeus, 1758 at Bahuda estuary

ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR

Surveys were conducted to Kane WLS and Yordi-Rabe Subse and to Poma & Baat village, Papum Pare. A total of 45 species of faunal communities belonging to Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Hemiptera, Pisces, and Anura were identified. Advisory services were rendered to Patkai Christen college, Dimapur, Asufü Christian Institute Mao and DM University, Imphal. The Centre has organised Van Mahotsav: एक पेड़ मां के नाम at the residence of Honorable MLA Shri Techhi Kaso with Officer-in-Charge & Scientists of Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Itanagar on 7th July 2024. The Centre also took the opportunity in organizing the Mission LiFE program with Dr Giridhar Malla, founder of Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) and the trainees of training on Wildlife Conservation Sciences which was jointly organised by WCN and ZSI, APRC, Itanagar on 25th and 26th July 2024.



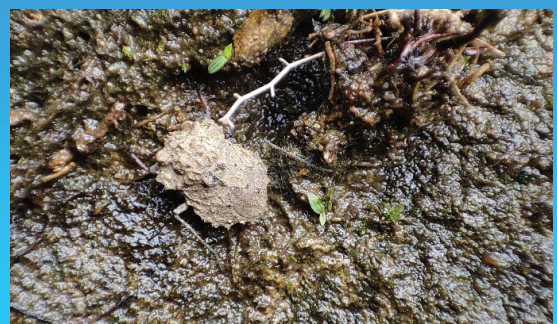
Prinia hodgsonii (Grey-breasted Prinia)



Hands-on training on camera trap during two days Wildlife Conservation Sciences held at the Centre



Survey tour photograph at Yordi-Rabe Subse WLS



Nerthra indica (Atkinson, 1889)

MARINE AQUARIUM AND REGIONAL CENTRE, DIGHA, WEST BENGAL

Surveys were conducted to Thiruvananthapuram Coasts, Kerala and local surveys were conducted to Udaypur, Shankarpur, Tajpur and Mohana. A total of 129 species of faunal communities belonging to Annelida, Nematoda, Mollusca, and Crustacea were identified. Students from Durgamoyee Academy, Hooghly, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Maharastra visited the centre.



Training programme on 13th July 2024



Ms. Jyoshna Pradhan, Senior Project Fellow, ZSI, MARC, Digha won the Best Poster Presentation Award (1st Prize)



Harpa davidis Röding, 1798

NEW DISCOVERIES

NEW SPECIES



Xenophrys apatani Saikia et al, 2024 [NERC, Shillong]



Tomocerus (s. str.) *sikkimensis* Mandal, Kumari and Mandal, 2024



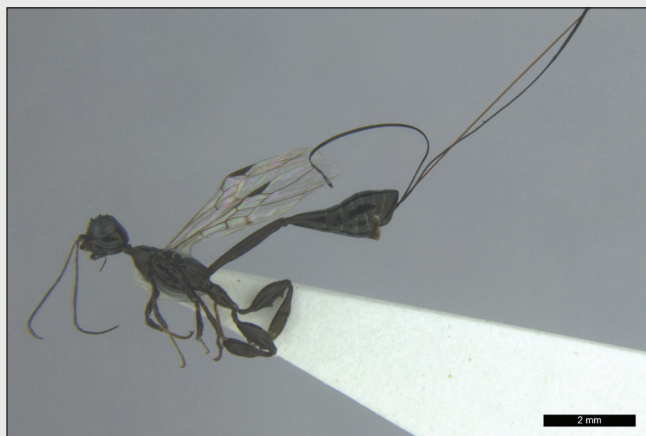
Ammoplanellus keralaensis Tessy, Girish Kumar & Sureshan, 2024



Ammoplanellus smithi Tessy, Girish Kumar & Sureshan, 2024



Brachystegus madhavani Amal & Girish Kumar, 2024



Parastephanellus binoyi Amal, Girish Kumar & van Achterberg, 2024 Sureshan, 2024

NEW RECORDS



Pseudophilautus regius (Manamendra- Arachchi & Pethiyagoda, 2005) (Rhacophoridae)



Tomocerus (Tomocerus) minor (Lubbock, 1862)



Tomocerus (Ocreatomurus) paraspinulus Gong, Qin and Yu, 2018



Tomocerus (Ocreatomurus) qinae Yu, Yao & Hu, 2016



Cheiracanthium iranicum Esysunin & Zamani, 2020



Krombeinidia albopunctata (Andre, 1907)

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ABSTRACTS

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ONLINE CHECKLISTS

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MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Scientist – G, Director, Zoological Survey of India, addressed the inaugural session of Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 (ATS 2024) and welcomed the eminent scientists and the guests. ATS 24 is the second summit organised by ZSI from 30th June 2024 to 3rd July 2024. More than 465 delegates from four countries, including Natural History Museum London participated in ATS 24. The three-day ATS 24 witnessed more than 20 plenary/ lead lectures of eminent speakers/ experts from India as well as abroad and 142 oral/poster presentations. Director, ZSI chaired the Panel Discussion and Recommendations themed “Taxonomy – Way forward” in Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 on 3rd July 2024. Director, ZSI was felicitated by the Birdwatchers’ Society in a Bengal Birders Meet 2024 on 22nd July 2024 in Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Purbashree, Kolkata. Director, ZSI was invited as Chief Guest for Country Women’s Association of India’s (CWAI) exhibition on Friday 26th July, 2024 at Nari Seva Sangha, Kolkata committed to improve the lives of the underprivileged urban, rural, tribal women and children of India. A field survey tour was conducted by Director, ZSI to Birbhum & Burdwan districts, West Bengal for a period of five days from 26th July 2023 to 30th July 2024 under the approved combined programme of Research work Project titled “Faunal Composition of Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest, Phase I: West Bengal, 2024-25”.

2. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist – F, ZSI, Kolkata, submitted a note on the conservation of Corals, Nicobar Megapode, Leatherback turtle and Long-tailed macaque in view of the holistic development of Great Nicobar Island submitted to MoEFCC on 7th July 2024; conducted the proceedings and technical sessions of ATS 2024 on 1st to 3rd July 2024; prepared an article on ZSI for INDIA 2024 Reference Annual and submitted to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India on 5th July 2024; attended the NIRANTAR meeting organized by BSI on 11th July 2024; served as a witness for Wildlife case in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Port Blair on 12th July 2024; furnished the reply for Rajya Sabha provisionally admitted question No. U799 on Impact of Climate Change on Marine Life and submitted to the Ministry on 18th July 2024, for Lok Sabha provisionally admitted question Diary No. 131 on Reduction of Green Cover in Cauvery Basin and submitted to the Ministry on 16th July 2024; provided the ZSI's milestone for SDG National Indicator for the years 2025, 2027, and 2030, to complete 15.5.1: Red List Index and submitted to the Ministry on 16th July 2024; furnished the reply for Lok Sabha starred question Diary No. 2038 on Steps to increase endangered species and submitted to the Ministry on 19th July 2024; provided ZSI's reply for provisionally admitted Rajya Sabha Unstarred question No. 505 regarding 'Marine Species Conservation' and submitted to the Ministry on 23rd July 2024; for provisionally admitted Rajya Sabha starred question Diary No. 21 regarding Conservation efforts of threatened species found in India in IUCN Red List and submitted to the Ministry on 23rd July 2024, for Lok Sabha Unstarred question Diary No. 2312 regarding Financial Assistance to Fishermen has been submitted to the Ministry on 24th July 2024, for Lok Sabha Starred Question Diary No. 4555 regarding Coral Mass Bleaching has been submitted to the Ministry on 26th July 2024, for Lok Sabha unstarred question Diary No. 4383 regarding List of Fauna in the Country has been submitted to the Ministry on 29th July 2024, for Rajya Sabha unstarred question Diary No. 2956 regarding Biodiversity Documentation has been submitted to the Ministry on 29th July 2024, for Rajya Sabha unstarred question Diary No. 32769 regarding Blackbuck population has been submitted to the Ministry on 30th July 2024; comments of ZSI for The National SoE Report - Biodiversity and Wildlife Chapter has been submitted to the Ministry on 26th July 2024.
3. Dr. Anil Kumar, Scientist-E, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, attended the Foundation Day of ZSI and Annual Taxonomy Summit 2024 organised by ZSI, Kolkata, from 30th June to 3rd July 2024 and the meeting organised by ZSI, Kolkata; attended an online meeting on 25th July 2024 to discuss and demonstrate the process of uploading of publication data in the Integrated NIRANTAR portal maintained by ICFRE.
4. Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Scientist-E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea, attended - Omic 'Haar' titled "Advancement in Genomic Healthcare: Emerging Trends and Innovations in India," on 28th -29th July 2024 at the Sterling Resort in Puri organized by Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar.
5. Dr. Anjum N. Rizvi, Scientist – E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, performed duties as member Interview board PDF/JRF/JPF for NMHS funded project on 28th June 2024.
6. Dr. Aparna S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended an Inaugural talk on "National Moth Week" by Dr. V. Shubhalaxmi organized by iNaturewatch foundation as a part of National Moth week celebration on 20th July 2024, talk on "Unique Moths and their Behaviour" by Dr. Shashank P. organized by iNaturewatch foundation as a part of National Moth week celebration on 20th July 2024 and talk on "Common micromoths of India" on the occasion of Brochure launch of Common micromoths of India by Dr. Shashank P. and Sanjay Sondhi organized by Titli Trust, Dehradun on 21st July 2024.
7. Dr. Atanu Naskar, Scientist – C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended CAG Audit meeting on 22nd July 2024.
8. Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Scientist-E & Officer in Charge, and Dr. Boni Amin Laskar Scientist-E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, participated in the Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 organized by Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata from 1-3 July 2023. Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu acted as moderator in first Technical Session on 2nd July 2024.
9. Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Scientist-E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, attended online meeting on Uploading of publication in the Integrated NIRANTAR Portal organized by technical Section, ZSI, Kolkata on 25th July 2024 and attended online webinar on IUCN & ISO Technical Committee on Biodiversity on 24th July 2024.
10. Dr. B. Sinha, Scientist – E, ZSI/NERC, Shillong, attended the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting of Bio-Resources Development Centre, Shillong on 25th July 2024.
11. Dr. Basudev Tripathy, Scientist-E, Dr. Aparna S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, and Dr. Md. Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, ZSI/WRC, Pune, participated in the Animal

Taxonomy Summit 2024 organized by the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, in commemoration of 109th ZSI day held from 30th June 2024 to 3rd July 2024.

12. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-E, ZSI/ANRC, Port Blair, attended 20th Project Advisory and Monitoring Committee (PAMC) - Ocean Sciences (OS) meeting held during 3rd - 5th July 2024 at INCOIS, Hyderabad to present the new project proposal; delivered a talk on "An Overview of Biodiversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands" to the students of SSM College of Arts & Science, Dindukkal, Tamil Nadu on 13th July 2024; attended the passing board meeting for the M.Sc., Marine Biology (Second Semester), MBA (Fourth Semester) at Pondicherry University, Port Blair on 9th July 2024 to declare the semester results; attended the 109th Foundation Day of ZSI, and Animal Taxonomy Congress 2024 during 29th June 2024 - 3rd July 2024 at ZSI, Kolkata.
13. Dr. Deepa Jaiswal, Scientist - E, ZSI/FBRC, Hyderabad, attended Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board meeting at Guntur on 30th July 2024.
14. Dr. Deepa Jaiswal, Scientist-E and Dr. Karuthapandi Scientist-D, Mr. Shiva Shankar, SRF and Mr. Somesh Banerjee, SRF, ZSI/FBRC, Hyderabad, attended Annual Taxonomy Summit-2024 at ZSI Headquarters Kolkata from 30th June 2024 to 03rd July 2024.
15. Dr. G. Srinivasan, Scientist - E, Dr. Temjenmongla, Scientist - D & LS Khongsai, SZA, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended the meeting hosted by HQ, Kolkata on "Uploading of publication in the Integrated NIRANTAR Portal" through hybrid mode on 25th July 2024.
16. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-E, Dr. Archana Bahuguna, Scientist-E and Manoj Kumar Meena, Scientist-B, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, participated in the 109th Foundation Day of Zoological Survey of India and Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 held at Hotel Taj Bengal, Kolkata from 30th June to 3rd July 2024. Dr. Gaurav Sharma participated as nominated by the Director, ZSI in the "Meeting to review the additional budget requirement during CFY-2024-25 in respect of Capital works of MoEFCC" held under the Chairmanship of Shri Parvir Pandey, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, MoEFCC at the Conference Hall of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun on 12th July 2024; participated in the "Sixth Monthly Meeting of Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanvyan Samiti (Ka. 1) Dehradun" held under the Chairmanship of Shri Hitesh Kumar S. Makvana, IAS, Surveyor General, Survey of India, Dehradun at Sikandar Conference Hall, Surveyor General's Office, Survey of India, Dehradun on 23rd July 2024; participated as nominated by the Director, ZSI in the "Uttarakhand State Board of Wildlife Meeting" held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Puskar Singh Dhammi at Secretariat Veerchandar Singh Gadhwal Conference Hall, Dehradun on 19th July 2024; conducted Monthly Meeting with the Officer and Staff of ZSI, NRC, Dehradun in the Conference Hall of ZSI, NRC, Dehradun on 29th July 2024; participated as External Member nominated by the Registrar, H.N.B. Garhwal University, Uttarakhand in the "Board of Studies of Dolphin (PG) Institute of Bio-Medical and Natural Sciences, Dehradun" for finalizing the course curriculum of B.Sc. Zoology and M.Sc. Zoology Course as per Gol National Education Policy held at the Meeting Hall of Dolphin Institute, Dehradun on 30th July 2024; conducted Dissertation Viva of two students of M.Sc. Forestry (2022-24) batch of Forest Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Dehradun on 5th July 2024. Dr. Gaurav Sharma was nominated as Member of Board of Studies in Zoology by The Registrar, H.N.B. Garhwal University, Uttarakhand for finalizing the course curriculum of B.Sc. Zoology and M.Sc. Zoology Course as per Gol National Education Policy of Dolphin (PG) Institute of Bio-Medical and Natural Sciences, Dehradun.
17. Dr. Indu Sharma, Scientist-E and Dr. R. Bano, Scientist-E, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur, participated in the 109th Foundation Day of ZSI and Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 at Kolkata from 30th June to 3rd July 2024. Dr. Indu Sharma, Scientist-E performed the duties of Moderator in the Technical session-4 in the Thrust Area 3 on "Biodiversity and Conservation" on 2nd July 2024 and Dr. R. Bano, Scientist-E as Moderator during the Poster Presentation session on "Ecology and Animal Behaviour" on 1st July 2024. All officials attended online celebration 109th Foundation Day of ZSI on 30th June 2024. Dr. Indu Sharma, and Dr. R. Bano, Scientist-E, DRC, Jodhpur participated in the NARAKAS meeting on 19th July 2024 at CAZARI, Jodhpur. Dr. Indu Sharma, gave the consent to State Board for Wildlife, a resolution for approval of the proposal for wildlife clearance on 26th July 2024 as Representative of Director, Zoological Survey of India.
18. Dr. J. S. Yogesh Kumar Scientist - E, ZSI/SbRC, Caning, attended the Foundation Day of ZSI and Annual Taxonomy Summit 2024 organised by ZSI, Kolkata, from 30th June to 3rd July 2024.

19. Dr. Kamal Saini, Scientist-B, ZSI/HARC, Solan, participated the online webinar “Soil carbon footprints to identify climate-smart soils for carbon trading” organized by the Centre of Excellence on Watershed Management, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore under the World Bank supported REWARD program on 5th July 2024 and on “Punjab Agriculture” Organized by Director, Extension Education, Punjab Agriculture University and Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare on 5th July 2024.
20. Dr. M. E. Hassan, Scientist-E, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, attended the Foundation Day of ZSI and Annual Taxonomy Summit 2024 organised by ZSI, Kolkata, from 30th June to 3rd July 2024.
21. Dr. N Marimuthu, Scientist – E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended as an external examiner of a PhD public viva-voce for Ms. Sameha Pathan (Topic: The spatial ecology and conservation of sea grasses of the Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat; Guide: Prof. Dr. K. Sivakumar, Pondicherry University), Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun on 28.06.2024 through hybrid mode.
22. Dr. P. S. Bhatnagar, Scientist-E, and Dr. S. D. Paunekar, Scientist-E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended the Foundation Day of ZSI and Annual Taxonomy Summit 2024 organised by Head ZSI, Kolkata from 30th June to 3rd July 2024; attended and 14th meeting of नगर राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति, कार्यालय क्र.-2 in Jabalpur on 24th July 2024. Dr. P. S. Bhatnagar, attended meeting at Survey of India, Jabalpur on 25th July 2024.
23. Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist – E and Dr. P.C. Tudu, Scientist – D, ZSI/MARC, Digha, attended the Foundation Day of ZSI and Annual Taxonomy Summit 2024 organised by ZSI, Kolkata, from 30th June to 3rd July 2024.
24. Dr. S.D. Gurumayum, Scientist – E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended the 109th ZSI Foundation day and 2nd ATS at HQ Kolkata from 30th June to 3rd July 2024; attended review meeting convened by PCCF HoFF to review the draft report of the IUCN RED List Assessment of Orchids of Arunachal Pradesh on 10th July 2024.
25. Dr. Saipari Sailo, Scientist-D, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended meeting as chairperson of Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) on PoSH, 1st Quarterly meeting was held at auditorium of CZRC, Jabalpur.
26. Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist-C, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended a lecture on “Use of traditional medicine in veterinary sciences” at Veterinary University Jabalpur on 19th July 2024; attended meeting at Vigyan Bharti Jabalpur on 19th July 2024 and meeting at Veterinary University, Jabalpur with the Dean, Science on 19th July 2024; acted as a center invigilator of Hindi examination of various central government employees of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh at Hindi Rajbhasa vibhag Jabalpur, Ministry of Home affairs New Delhi from 8th to 15th July 2024.
27. Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist-D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended 109th ZSI Foundation Day on 30th June 2024 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre. Technical Sessions of Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 in commemoration of 109th Foundation of Zoological Survey of India during 1st to 3rd July 2024; attended a meeting of NIRANTAR on 6th June and 11th June 2024 to discuss the progress under the Vertical-I; attended a debriefing meeting with reference to the 4th Plenary Meeting of ISO/TC 331 that was conducted from 20 to 24 May 2024 at Manaus, Brazil in Hybrid Mode on 10 June 2024 as a member of BIS, ISO, SSD20; provide replies on the holistic development of Great Nicobar Island as required by MoEFCC; provided reply on provisionally admitted Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question Diary No. 3269 on Blackbuck Population as required by the MOEF&CC through ZSI/HQs; provided reply on provisionally admitted Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question Diary No. 2956 on Biodiversity Documentation as required by the MOEF&CC through ZSI/HQs; provided reply on provisionally admitted Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Diary No. 4383 on List of Fauna in the Country as required by the MOEF&CC through ZSI/HQs; provided reply on provisionally admitted Lok Sabha Starred Question Diary No. 4555 on Coral Bleaching as required by the MOEF&CC through ZSI/HQs; provided reply on provisionally admitted Lok Sabha Starred Question Diary No. 2038 on Steps to increase Endangered Species as required by the MOEF&CC through ZSI/HQs; provided reply on provisionally admitted Lok Sabha Starred Question Diary No. 131 on Reduction of Green Cover in Cauvery Basin as required by the MOEF&CC through ZSI/HQs; provided reply on Identification of Milestones for SDG National Indicators for the year 2025, 2027 and 2030, 15.5.1: Red List Index as required by the MOEF&CC through ZSI/HQs, on taxonomic faunal diversity of India under different IUCN categories prepared using IUCN Red List Spatial Data for India as required by the Ministry of Statistics & PI through ZSI/HQs; provided necessary comments on the Trade in Stony Corals (Scleractinia spp.) for CITES as required by CITES during Thirty-third meeting of the Animals Committee Geneva (Switzerland), 12 – 19 July 2024 through ZSI/HQs.

TRAININGS ORGANIZED

1. Dr. K.P. Dinesh, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, provided training to Dr. Senraj, Taxidermist, ZSI/SRC, Chennai, on the basics of Cockroach DNA barcoding and phylogeny during his visit to ZSI, WRC, Pune from 24th June to 6th July 2024.
2. Dr. S.R. Patil, Scientist-B, ZSI/WRC, Pune provided training to three Ph.D. students of Savitribai Phule University, Pune, on Collection, Preservation and Taxonomic Identification of Araneae (spider) specimens.
3. Dr. S.K. Pati, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/WRC, Pune, provided capacity building training to one M.Sc. student on Animal Taxonomy.
4. Smt. Shabnam Ansari, Senior Zoological Assistant, ZSI/WRC, Pune, provided training to Miss Shruti and Miss Anjali, B.Sc. Bioengineering students, in molecular phylogenetic reconstruction using MEGA software and its application.
5. A Hindi Workshop was organized by ZSI/HARC, Solan, on 18th July 2024 for the NARAKAS members of Solan which included employees from various institutes like Bank, LIC, central government offices and other autonomous bodies functioning in Solan district (Solan, Sabathu and Kasauli). The participants were made aware about the procedure to fill and upload quarterly hindi report through online mode. The Senior Branch Manager of National Insurance Company Limited, Harpareet Singh was invited to give the lecture on same.
6. ZSI/APRC, Itanagar in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) organised “Two days training program on Wildlife Conservation Sciences” on 25th and 26th July 2024.
7. A training was organized by ZSI/MARC, Digha entitled “Marine Biodiversity and Conservation” on 13th July 2024 for 73rd batch of 60 Forest Guard trainees for 6 months of Regular Forest Guard Training Course, Directorate of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Office of the Director, State Forest Training Institute, Hijli-06, West Bengal.
8. Post Graduation students namely Mr. Kushagra Verma and Mr. Aviral Bajpai from Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur have completed summer training in Diptera section for the period of 1st May-31st July 2024. Certificates have been provided.

TRAININGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. P. C. Pathania, Scientist-E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, participated online in the seven days Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Climate Change: Challenges in Agriculture and on Health from 16th to 24th July 2024 being organized by IQAC, DeshBhagat University, MandiGobindgarh, Punjab on 17th July 2024.
2. Dr. S.D. Gurumayum, Scientist – E, Mr. LS Khongsai, SZA & Mr. KP Nath, SPF, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended two Days Training Workshop on Wetlands Management in Arunachal Pradesh on 30th & 31st July 2024 at PCCF Office, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh organized by State Wetland Authority (SWA), Arunachal Pradesh.
3. Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist-E and Mr. Shouvik Mali, JRF, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, have attended the ‘IUCN Red List Assessments for Theraphosidae Spiders of India’ organized by South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group, SSC, IUCN and Zoo Outreach Organization from 19th to 21st July, 2024 in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
4. Officers and staff of CZRC, Jabalpur, participated in One Day Workshop on “Workplace sexual harassment of women (PoSH)” organised at CZRC, Jabalpur on 12th July 2024 in presence of external PoSH committee member Mrs. Beena Semle.
5. Scientist and Scientific staffs of ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended the “Two days training program on Wildlife Conservation Sciences” on 25th and 26th July 2024 organised by Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) in collaboration with Zoological Survey of India, APRC, Itanagar.

LECTURES DELIVERED

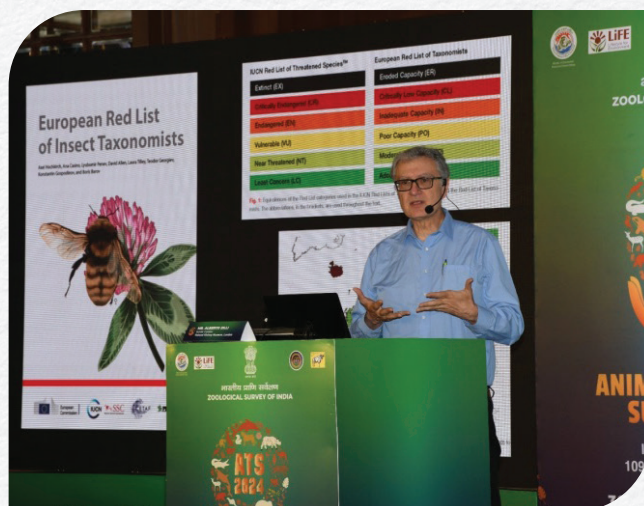
1. Dr. Aparna S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, delivered a lecture on Forensic Entomology on 23rd July 2024 at the One Week Faculty Development Program (FDP) on “Forensic Science Innovations: Transforming Investigations” organized on virtual mode by the Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry & Forensic Sciences (CBFS) Amity School of Applied Sciences supported by DST-VIA FIST GRANT NO. SR/FST/CS-I/2022/263(C) from 22-26 July 2024.
2. Dr. K.P. Dinesh, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, delivered a talk on the topic “Amphibian Diversity - an Indian Scenario” at the Institute for Natural History

- Education and Research, Pune as a part of their Certificate Course in Herpetology on 9th July 2024.
3. Dr. P.C. Pathania, Scientist-E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, delivered Lecture as Resource Person in the online Seven days Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Climate Change: Challenges in Agriculture and on Health from 16-24 July, 2024 being organized by IQAC, Desh Bhagat University, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab on 17th July, 2024; Conducted the practical examination of M.Sc. Zoology (4th Semester) students of Department of Biosciences, HP University, Summer Hill, Shimla, HP on 20th July 2024.
 4. Student from Department of Zoology, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (MP) completed Dissertation at ZSI, CZRC from 1st May to 31st July, 2024. Lectures were given by Dr. P.S. Bhatnagar, Sci-E & O/c, Dr. S. D. Paunekar, Sci-E, Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Sci-C, Mrs. Pallabi Priyadarsini, Asst. Zool, Mr. Akhil Nair, Asst. Zool, on respective groups and laboratory training was provided by the Technical Staff of CZRC.
 5. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-E, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, delivered lecture on topic entitled "Status of Faunal diversity and Protected Animals of India" to the 18 Internship students from the 05 Universities of Dehradun i.e. Forest Research Institute (Deemed to be University), Dehradun, Uttaranchal University, Dehradun, Central University of Jammu, Dev Bhoomi University and Graphic Era Institute, Dehradun in the conference hall of ZSI, NRC, Dehradun on 15th July 2024.
 6. Dr. Indu Sharma, Scientist- E, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur, delivered lecture on "Fauna of Desert Ecosystem and its importance", Awareness and information on Mission LiFE was detailed by Dr. R. Bano, Scientist-E and lecture on "Importance of Pollinators- a brief scenario" by Dr. R. H. Raina, Scientist-E among the students of Agriculture of Class 11th and 12th from R.S.M School, Jodhpur at the Centre on 12th July 2024.
 7. Dr. Saipari Sailo, Scientist-D, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered talk on Prevention of sexual Harassment at workplace (PoSH) on 12th July 2024.
 8. Dr. Uttam Saikia, Scientist – D, ZSI/NERC, Shillong, delivered a lecture "Relevance of taxonomic research in the Indian context" to the BSc Zoology students of St Anthony's College, Shillong on the 10th July 2024.
 9. Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist-C, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture on ticks and mites as Zoonotic diseases at Veterinary University Jabalpur on 19th July 2024.
 10. Shri. Terine Joshua Benjamin, Senior Research Fellow, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, presented a poster titled "First Distributional Record of *Krombeinidia albopunctata* (André, 1907) (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) from India, with a note on its Geographical Distribution" on 01 July 2024 during the Animal Taxonomy Summit at Kolkata organized by Zoological Survey of India under the Thrust Area: Taxonomy, Systematics & Evolution.
 11. Smt. Jwala R., Senior Research Fellow, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, presented a poster titled "Orb Web Weaving Spiders (Araneae) of Tea Ecosystems of Wayanad District of Kerala" on 2nd July 2024 during the Animal Taxonomy Summit at Kolkata organized by Zoological Survey of India and secured Best Poster Presentation Award under the Thrust Area: Taxonomy, Systematics & Evolution.
 12. Shri. Amal S., Senior Zoological Assistant, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered an oral presentation titled "Additions to the knowledge of *Brachystegus* Costa, 1859 (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae: Bembecinae) from the Indian subcontinent with description of a new species from India" on 2nd July 2024 during the Animal Taxonomy Summit at Kolkata organized by Zoological Survey of India under the Thrust Area: Taxonomy, Systematics & Evolution.
 13. Shri. Viswanath T.K. Senior Research Fellow, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered an oral presentation titled "Redescription of *Ceropria bifasciata* Chevrolat, 1878 and Range Extension of *Strongylium cultellatum* Mäklin, 1864 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) with a Note on its Geographical Distribution" on 2nd July 2024 during the Animal Taxonomy Summit at Kolkata organized by Zoological Survey of India under the Thrust Area: Taxonomy, Systematics & Evolution.
 14. Smt. Kamila A.P., Senior Research Fellow, ZSI/ WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered an oral presentation titled "Hunting the Hunter: Insights into Natural Enemies of Praying Mantids" on 2nd July 2024 during the Animal Taxonomy Summit at Kolkata organized by Zoological Survey of India under the Thrust Area: Ecology & Animal Behaviour.

PHOTO GALLERY

Glimpses of ATS









Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 (ATS 24) was the second summit organized by ZSI from 30th June to 3rd July 2024. During the summit, deliberations were held under three broad thrust areas, 1) Taxonomy, Systematics and Evolution, 2) Ecology and Animal Behaviour; 3) Biodiversity and Conservation. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI chaired the Panel Discussion and Recommendations themed “Taxonomy – Way forward” in Animal Taxonomic Summit 2024 on 3rd July 2024.



Director, ZSI was felicitated by the Birdwatchers' Society in a Bengal Birders Meet 2024 on 22nd July 2024, in Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Purbashree, Kolkata.



Director, ZSI, conducted a Field Survey tour to Birbhum & Burdwan districts, West Bengal for a period of five days from 26th July to 30th July 2024 under the approved combined programme of Research work Project titled "Faunal Composition of Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest, Phase I: West Bengal, 2024-25" to make collections with ZSI Scientists and expertise covering all faunal groups and collections.