

ZSI E-News

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Cover: *Mycteria leucocephala*
(Pennant, 1769)

Courtesy: ZSI / SRC, Chennai

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Dear Colleagues, Readers, Partners and Friends,

As we embark on a new year, I wish to convey my heartfelt gratitude, on behalf of our institution, to all individuals who support and engage with our mission. I extend my best wishes to you and your families for a joyful, prosperous, and environmentally conscious New Year 2025 ahead.

I am extremely happy to present the December 2024 edition of our monthly E-News. This publication highlights the vibrant activities of ZSI related to faunal exploration, identification, documentation, and discoveries. It also emphasizes our notable achievements in faunal inventorisation, the publication and conservation of biodiversity, as well as the unwavering dedication of our team to enhancing conservation efficiencies, strategies, and planning for the preservation of India's rich faunal resources. The past months have been particularly remarkable, characterized by significant milestones in research, conservation initiatives, and collaborative endeavors. Our teams have made noteworthy detections concerning India's unique ecosystems, and we take pride in our role in protecting the invaluable biodiversity heritage of our nation. The newsletter highlights the key aspects of these initiatives, encompassing field

from the Director's Desk

studies, addition of species in Indian database as well as world faunal database, and impactful outreach programs. It stands as a testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of our staff, partners, and the wider community who are tirelessly working towards the cause of conservation.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Natural History Museum, London, Zoological Survey of India is instrumental for the development of bilateral studies on the digitizing process of Indian fauna housed in NHM, London and scientists of ZSI are making their regular visit to accomplish the task. A recent initiative was under taken to develop strategies where LinSoc can work together with NHM and ZSI for the conservation of faunal diversity. The GBIF-CESP-HKH project related to Enhancing institutional capacity for data management in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region under the Capacity Enhancement Support Programme funded by Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) was initiated in this month where Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is one of the partners.

In this month, scientists and researchers at ZSI have successfully identified a total of 1402 species of faunal communities covering diverse ecosystems of India. This achievement includes the identification of six new species, which consist of one new Scolopendromorpha species, one new Frog species, one species of Hymenoptera, and three new Lepidoptera species. It is particularly noteworthy that one diptera species, one hymenoptera species, and one polychaeta species have been newly recorded in India.

I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to all those who contributed to this publication for their meticulous work in assembling and articulating our findings with accuracy and clarity. Their dedication ensures that India's unique and invaluable wildlife, especially regarding faunal communities, continues to advance in conservation initiatives. Let us unite in our commitment to preserving the natural heritage of our nation. As we navigate the opportunities and challenges of 2025, let us renew our pledge to protect and honor the natural world. May this year draw us nearer to our common goal of a sustainable future, enhanced by the remarkable biodiversity we cherish.

Jai Hind,
Dr. Dhriti Banerjee
Director
5th January 2025
Kolkata

HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Survey tours were conducted to Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, West Burdwan, Murshidabad and Nadia districts of West Bengal, Satkosia, Tikarpada, Angul, Nayagarh, Berhampur Koraput districts, and Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary of Odisha, different localities of North-East India, Nagaland, Gujarat and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A total of 402 species of faunal communities belonging to Arachnida, Acari, Ephemeroptera, Odonata, Nematoda, Diptera, Lepidoptera, Crustacea, Hymenoptera, and Orthoptera were identified. A total of thirty species of Lepidoptera and Nematoda were augmented to National Zoological Collections (NZCs).



IUCN Red List Assessor Training Workshop

WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

A survey tour was conducted to Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary, Ballari district, Karnataka from 27th November to 06th December 2024. A total of 54 species of faunal communities belonging to Platyhelminthes, Crustacea, Myriapoda, Blattodea, Diptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Odonata, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified. A total of five Identification and Advisory services have been rendered. A total of 266 people visited the museum of the centre.



Common Picture wing, *Rhyothemis variegata* Linnaeus, 1763 (Libellulidae)



Tea Looper, *Biston suppressaria* (Guenée, [1858]) (Geometridae)

CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

A total of 64 species of faunal communities including Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Pisces, and Mollusca were identified. The centre received appreciation certificate for works in Hindi during the year 2023 from NARAKAS-2, Jabalpur on 27th December 2024. Officers and staff of the centre planted saplings under “एक पेड़ माँ क नाम” for developing a मातृ वन at CZRC, ZSI, Jabalpur residential campus on 5th December 2024. A total of 210 visitors visited the museum of the centre.



Receiving appreciation certificate for works in Hindi during the year 2023 from NARAKAS- 2



A pack of Dhole-Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus* Pallas, 1811) at Bori Wildlife Sanctuary.



Group photo with IFS Probationers Batch 2024-26 of IGNFA, Dehradun at ZSI, NRC

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

Survey tours were conducted to Gangotri National Park from 5th to 9th December 2024 and to Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary also conducted from 26th to 31st December 2024. A total of 93 species of faunal communities belonging to Phthiraptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Pisces, Amphibia, and Reptilia were identified. "Mission Life Programme- Save Water, Save Electricity, Cleanliness Drive" was conducted for awareness to common public, trainees of Haryana Forestry Training Institute, Gurugram, Indian Forest Service 114 Probationers Batch of 2024-26 of Indra Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun and with students at Kaulagarh Market and in the campus of ZSI, NRC, Dehradun on 18th and 21st December 2024. Hindi Pakhwada was also celebrated in this centre.



Nepal Grey Langur, *Semnopithecus schistaceus* Hodgson, 1840 at Gangotri National Park



Cyornis tickelliae Blyth, 1843

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

Survey tours were conducted to Anamalai Tiger Reserve and Ramsar sites of Tamil Nadu. A total of 132 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Blattodea, Ephemeroptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Psocoptera, Fishes, Amphibia, and Reptilia were identified. Thirty Forest Officials participating in a three-week short-term course at the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy in Coimbatore, focused on the implementation of Forest and Wildlife-related Laws as well as Criminal Laws, visited the center.



Vembanur Wetland

HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A total of 67 species of faunal communities belonging to Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Trichoptera, Neuroptera, Hymenoptera, Amphibia, Reptilia, and Pisces were identified. Nine DNA sequences belonging to two species were submitted to NCBI. Six research articles and two Ph. D. thesis were reviewed by the scientists of the centre.



Agro ecosystem in Lahaul Valley



Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus* (Linnaeus, 1766) from Lahaul Valley

MARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

Surveys were conducted on the south Tamil Nadu and Kerala coasts from 18th to 30th December 2024 under the project 'Deep-Sea Chondrichthyans of India - Taxonomy, Distribution, Biology and Current Status'. A total of 62 species of faunal communities belonging to Marine Sponges, Bryozoa, Mollusca, Echinodermata, Arthropoda, Meiofaunal nematodes, Blattoidea, and fishes were identified. A total of 55 visitors including Forest Range Officers of Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore Division) visited the centre.



Cirrhitus pinnulatus (Schneider, 1801)



Oxymonacanthus longirostris (Bloach and Schneider 1801)

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, PORT BLAIR, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

One survey tour was conducted to North and Middle Andaman to study terrestrial faunal diversity from 4th to 16th December 2024 and local surveys were conducted to Carbyn's Cove, Terelabad, Bimblitan, Chidiyatappu Biological Park, Burmanallah Site-I; Burmanallah Site-II, Mount Manipur, North Bay to study the marine and terrestrial faunal diversity and to survey of the wetland birds in south Andaman. A total of 139 species of faunal communities belonging to Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Phasmatodea, Reptilia, Mollusca, Decapoda, Fishes, Stomatopoda, and Echinodermata were identified. One species of marine feather duster worm and one species of Diptera are recorded for the first time from India and seven species are recorded for the first time from Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



Andaman Wart Frog *Fejervarya andamanensis* (Stoliczka, 1870)



One-week compulsory training course for IFS Officers



Visit of Head of Office to the centre

SUNDERBAN REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING, WEST BENGAL

Local surveys were conducted to Sunderbans on 28th to 29th December 2024 under the program entitled "Mangrove Associated fauna of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, India". A total of 34 species of faunal communities belonging to Fish, Mollusca, Crustacea and Cnidaria were identified. A total of eleven students visited the museum of the centre.



Sandy beach - Island Ecosystem



Ceryle rudis
(Linnaeus, 1758)

FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

One survey tour was conducted to Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve, Andhra Pradesh from 6th to 25th December 2024. A total of 108 species of faunal communities belonging to Fishes, Hemiptera, Branchipods, Ostracoda, Coleoptera, Mollusca and amphibia were identified during this month. Ten DNA sequences were submitted to NCBI. Students from Shriram Montessori School, Hyderabad visited Museum of the centre on 5th December 2024. Mission Life and Swachhta Hi Seva Special Campaigns 4.0 were conducted to generate awareness among people.



Calotes versicolor
(Daudin, 1802)



Survey party at the Tri-junction of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu states, Wayanad WLS

WESTERN GHAT REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA

Survey tours were conducted to Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala from 04th to 13th December 2024 and to Mangalagangothri campus of Mangalore University from 17th to 22nd December 2024. A total of 134 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate Amoeba, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Scolopendromorpha, Mantodea, Hymenoptera, Arachnida, and Pisces were identified. One new species of scolopendromorpha and one new record of hymenoptera was published during this month. A total of 734 people visited the museum of the centre.



White-bellied woodpecker, *Dryocopus javensis* (Horsfield, 1821)

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



ZSI stall at Odisha Research conclave, 2024

A survey tour was conducted to Devi and Nuanai Estuary during 11th to 17th December 2024. A total of 143 species of different faunal communities were identified. Ten DNA barcodes including one endangered species are uploaded in the NCBI. The centre participated in Odisha Research Conclave, 2024 organized by Fakir Mohan University, Vyasa Vihar by Odisha State Higher Education Council, Government of Odisha from 26th to 28th December 2024 and installed a show case for demonstration of various museum specimens, published books of ZSI and ongoing research activities. One research scholar of this centre won Young Scientist Award at Odisha Environment Congress, 2024 organized at by Odisha Environment Society in collaboration with Berhampur University on 20th December 2024. A total of 386 visitors including 60 students from Sashi Bhusan Rath Autonomous Government Women's College, Berhampur visited the museum of the centre.



Ms. Smrutirekha Acharya, CSIR SRF-Direct for winning Young Scientist Award at Odisha Environment Congress, 2024

ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

A total of 94 species of faunal communities belonging to Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, and Pisces were identified. One new species of sisorid catfish was described.



Dr. SD Gurumayum delivering lecture on International Mountain Day @ GB Pant



ZSI APRC attending the International Mountain Day @ GB Pant



Dr. SD Gurumayum receiving memento during International Mountain Day @ GB Pant



ZSI APRC staffs during the field survey



ZSI APRC staffs during the field survey at Kane WLS



Sukkiashana dactyloscelus (Bolivar, 1914)

Glimpses of different activities of APRC Itanagar

MARINE AQUARIUM AND REGIONAL CENTRE, DIGHA, WEST BENGAL

A survey tour was conducted to Digha and adjacent areas from 2nd to 6th December and two local surveys were conducted to Hospital Ghat and Udaypur on 13th and 14th December 2024. A total of 59 species of faunal communities belonging to Mollusca, Polychaeta, Nematoda, Crab, and Pisces were identified. A total of seven gDNA (four gDNA polychaete and three sea slug) and seven PCR (four polychaete and three sea slug) PCR products have been amplified. A total of 28532 visitors visited the museum of the centre.



Scylla olivacea (Herbst, 1796)



A batch of trainees and officials from West Bengal State Forest Department, Kharagpur Division, Hijli visited and interacted with the team of MARC, ZSI, Digha

NEW DISCOVERIES

NEW SPECIES



*Osmia (Pyrosmia)
muelleri* Rameshkumar
and Sardar, 2024



Otostigmus coorgensis
Kashmeera and
Sureshan 2024



Glyptothorax zeiladensis
Shangningam, Kosygin and
Gurumayum, 2024



Phrynoderma konkani Yadav,
Bhosale, Koli, Gopalan, Kadam,
Khandekar and Dinesh, 2024

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

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Tale Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India: Conservation Area Series, 77: 1-412. (Published by Director, ZSI, Kolkata).

- » Pati, S.K. and Mitra, S. 2024. Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura, pp. 91- 103. In: Banerjee, D., Sinha, B., Kumar, A. and Maheswaran, G. (Eds.), *Faunal Diversity of Dihang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh. Conservation Area series, 76: 1-364.* (Published by Director, ZSI, Kolkata).
- » Pati, S.K. 2024. Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura, pp. 93- 100. In: Sinha, B., Kosygin, L. and Gurumayum, S.D. (Eds.): *Faunal diversity of Tale Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India: Conservation Area Series, 77: 1-412.* (Published by Director, ZSI, Kolkata).
- » Singh N., Pathania P.C., Shah S.K., Mishra P., Ahmad J. and Chatterjee P. 2024. Insecta: Lepidoptera, pp. 181- 226. In: Banerjee, D., Sinha, B., Kumar, A. and Maheswaran, G. (Eds.), *Faunal Diversity of Dihang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh. Conservation Area series, 76: 1-364.* (Published by Director, ZSI, Kolkata).
- » Valarmathi, K. 2024. Crustacea: Decapoda: Caridea, pp. 87- 91. In: Sinha, B., Kosygin, L. and Gurumayum, S.D. (Eds.): *Faunal diversity of Tale Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India: Conservation Area Series, 77: 1-412.* (Published by Director, ZSI, Kolkata).
- » Mitra, S. 2024. Crustacea: Isopoda, pp. 83- 89. In: Banerjee, D., Sinha, B., Kumar, A. and Maheswaran, G. (Eds.), *Faunal Diversity of Dihang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh. Conservation Area series, 76: 1-364.* (Published by Director, ZSI, Kolkata).

MEETINGS ATTENDED

- » Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI attended an administrative meeting to review Group A officers of BSI and ZSI under FR 56 (j) / (i) and Rule 48 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021 held on 3rd December 2024 under the Chairmanship of Secretary EF&CC along with JS(NP); was invited for an online event titled The IUCN Red List Criteria: Your questions answered by Prof. H. Resit Akcakaya, Chair of the

IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee on 4th December 2024; visited Natural History Museum, London along with Riat Raina- Scientist E, ZSI/DRC Jodhpur and Ranee Prakash- Senior Curator-Flowering Plants on 5th December 2024 and had useful discussions regarding the way forward and strengthening collaborations in terms of capacity building and staff exchange; met Tim Littlewood (Executive Director of Science) and John Jackson (Head of Science Policy and Communication) and discussed at length about why digitizing is important and contributions of biodiversity data from India to GBIF and how NHM can help ZSI and GBIF in overcoming the challenges faced; met Anjali Goswami (Merit researcher) and discussed capacity building in CT Scanning; met Dr. Mark Watson (the next President of LinSoc), currently working at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and had discussion on and how LinSoc can work together with NHM and ZSI; met with Erica McAlister (Principal Curator-Collections), Paul Williams (Principal Researcher), Alberto Zilli (Senior Curator in Charge, Lepidoptera) and Andrea Hart (Library Special Collections Manager) of NHM, London and had fruitful discussion; was invited to attend as an Ex-officio member in the Central Insecticides Board (CIB) at their 67th Meeting held on 10th December 2024; was invited as Guest of Honor to the 41st Foundation Day cum Farm Innovators Day Celebration of ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources at ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow on 12th December 2024; was invited in the project inception meeting of the co-organizers on 16th December 2024 to officially begin the GBIF-CESP-HKH project related to Enhancing institutional capacity for data management in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region under the Capacity Enhancement Support Programme funded by Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is among one of the partners of the project including Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Forest Action Nepal (FAN) and National Biodiversity Centre, Bhutan; was invited to attend the 112th Meeting of the Technical Committee of the Central Zoo Authority to discuss

the Proposals for the acquisition/ transfer/ exchange/ release/ translocation of animals between/ by Indian zoos on 19th December, 2024; attended a review meeting on Mission Recruitment in hybrid mode organized by the MoEFCC on 21st December, 2024; attended the 26th Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) meeting of National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) on 23rd December 2024 and presented a New Project Proposals (21) under NMHS-Project Grant 2024-25 in context of project proposal submitted under the “2nd Call of New Project Grant under NMHS 2024-25” for funding support under the identified broad thematic areas/ thrust areas of NMHS; was invited to attend the 17th Governing Body Meeting of Sundarban Tiger Conservation Foundation Trust (STCFT) on 26th December 2024; was invited to participate in the “Odisha Research Conclave-2024” and Round Table Discussion-II on R&D in Science and Technology for Higher Education System held at Fakir Mohan University Campus, Nuapadhi, Balasore, Odisha on 27th December 2024; was invited to attend the 4th Meeting of the National Wetlands Committee (NWC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, MoEF&CC was held on 27th December 2024; was invited to attend the 4th meeting of the Administrative Committee of National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR) under the chairpersonship of Secretary (EF&CC) on 31st December 2024.

- » Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist-F, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, provided reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question Dy. No. 1673 on the subject ‘Conservation of Western Ghats’ submitted to the Ministry on 2nd December 2024; provided reply for Lok Sabha unstarred question No. 1072 regarding ‘Marine Species Conservation’ submitted to the Ministry on 2nd December 2024; provided reply for Lok Sabha Provisionally admitted Unstarred Question Diary No. 5951 on the subject “Biodiversity Conservation in Odisha’s Coastal and Riverine Ecosystems” submitted to the Ministry on 2nd December 2024; attended the inaugural session of Compulsory training course for IFS

Officers on Natural Resource Management and Conflict Resolution Skills for Forest Management’ and delivered a lecture on Ecology and Biodiversity of Sunderban Biosphere Reserve on 9th December 2024 at Sunderbans; attended the brainstorming session IUCN National Red Listing of Indian Flora and Fauna organized by ZSI and BSI on 11th December 2024 at BSI, Howrah and delivered a lecture on Status of IUCN Red listing of fauna and flora; provided reply for Rajya Sabha Starred Question vide Dairy No. 4833 regarding Protecting the East Kolkata Wetlands submitted to the Ministry on 12th December 2024; attended the valedictory session of Compulsory training course for IFS Officers on Natural Resource Management and Conflict Resolution Skills for Forest Management’ and delivered a lecture on Human-Wildlife Conflict and mitigation measures on 13th December 2024 at Sunderbans; provided inputs for Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OCEM) guidelines prepared by National Biodiversity Authority to meet out the commitment of India to adopt Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework during the COP-15 meeting of the Convention of Biological Diversity and sent by Ministry 20th December 2024; reviewed a manuscript on Wetlands for Records of Zoological Survey of India on 23rd December 2024 and report sent; served as an Expert Member in 41st meeting of Lakshadweep Coastal Zone Management Authority (LCZMA) on 24th December 2024 through virtual mode; served as an External Examiner to conduct oral examination for Ph.D. thesis at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai on 27th December 2024; attended the 4th meeting of Administrative Committee of NIRANTAR chaired by the Secretary, MoEFCC at New Delhi on 31st December 2024.

- » Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-E, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, attended function as Invited Guest of “Women Scientist Conclave 2024-25” organized by Uttarakhand State Education Research Centre (USERC), Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun and awards given to selected Women Scientist by Hon’ble Governor, Uttarakhand held at

- IRDT Hall, Dehradun on 19th December 2024; attended function of release of "India State of Forest Report-2023 of Forest Survey of India" released by Hon'ble Minister MoEFCC Shri Bhupinder Yadav Ji in the Convocation Hall of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun on 21st December 2024; attended virtual meeting to discuss on National Red Listing of Indian Fauna held under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Raghunathan, Director-in-Charge, ZSI on 24th December 2024; attended virtual meeting to discuss on Financial Matter held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Gurupada Mandal, Head of Office, ZSI on 30th December 2024.
- » Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-E, ZSI/ANRC, Port Blair, attended meeting on the RED Listing of faunal species held on 24th December 2024.
 - » Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist-E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, attended a meeting on Discussion of Financial Matters FY 2024-25 organized by ZSI, HQs, Kolkata on 30th December 2024.
 - » Dr. Basudev Tripathy, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, participated in the GSBSAP meeting for Final Draft Presentation on Goa State Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan, held on 16th December 2024 at Mantralaya, Goa under the chairmanship of Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of Goa.
 - » Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Scientist-E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur, attended the Departmental research Committee Meeting of Department of Biotechnology, Berhampur University, Berhampur on 18th December 2024.
 - » Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Scientist-E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, attended IUCN on line meeting with JS Namita Prasad, IAS, MoEF&CC on 5th December 2024; attended online meeting on 24th December 2024 with HQs to discuss '*Prioritization of taxa for red listing*' and '*Preparation of Vision 2030 document for National red listing*'.
 - » Dr. A.S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended an online meeting on "*Brainstorming points*" on Red List assessment of fauna on 5th December 2024 organised by Ms. Nameeta Prasad, JS, MoEF&CC; attended an online meeting on 24th December 2024 to discuss '*Prioritization of taxa for red listing*' and '*Preparation of Vision 2030 document for National red listing*' organized by Headquarter, Kolkata.
 - » Dr. P. S. Bhatnagar, Scientist-E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended CGEWC committee meeting today with Chairwoman madam Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Jabalpur on 20th December 2024; attended virtual Good Governance Week Celebration by DAIC on 23rd December 2024; attended a virtual IUCN meeting by HQ, ZSI on 24th December 2024.
 - » Dr. J. S. Yogesh Kumar, Scientist-E, ZSI/SbRC, Canning, participated in IUCN Red-List training on 11th to 15th December 2024 in Central National Herbarium, BSI, Howrah; participated in the Christmas celebration as a chief Guest on 20th December 2024 at De Paul School, Canning.
 - » Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist-E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the Brainstorming Session on '*IUCN National Red Listing Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna*' held on 11th December 2024 at Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, West Bengal; attended the 'Quarterly Hindi Meeting' on 23rd December 2024 at ZSI, Kolkata; attended the 17th Governing Body Meeting of Sundarban Tiger Conservation Foundation Trust on 26th December 2024 at Aranya Bhawan, Kolkata; attended the 4th meeting of Administrative Committee of NIRANTAR on 31st December 2024 at 10:00 AM under the chairpersonship of Secretary (EF & CC) at Teesta Conference Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
 - » Dr. Girishkumar P., Scientist-D, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, attended the half-yearly meeting of the City Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) on 12th December 2024 at Nadakkavu, Kozhikode.
 - » Dr. T. Kubendran, Scientist D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended a meeting on '*Brainstorming on National Red Listing Assessment for Indian Flora and Fauna*' under the chairmanship of Ms. Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC, New Delhi on 11th December 2024.
 - » Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a key note

lecture on the “*Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Faunal Wealth of Kerala*” on 14th December 2024 at Government Arts & Science College, Meenchanda, Kozhikode organized by Zoology Teachers Association of Kozhikode; delivered a lecture on “*Diversity of Butterflies and Birds*” at the one week long Lecture Workshop and Faunal diversity Survey of Mangalagangothri campus of Mangalore University from 17th to 22nd December 2024 organised jointly by the Department of Applied Zoology, Mangalore University and the Zoological Survey of India, Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode, Kerala.

- » Dr. Atanu Naskar, Scientist- C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended a meeting of the screening committee for the recruitment process under the NHAI-funded project, ‘Long-Term Monitoring of Key Riverine Species in Prayagraj for Conservation and Management in Uttar Pradesh’ on 27th December 2024.
- » Ms. Debashree Dam, Scientist – C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the inaugural session of IUCN training at BSI Botanical Garden, Shibpur on 11th December, 2024.
- » Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist-C, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended Meeting with Director SFRI, Jabalpur on 6th December 2024; attended a meeting on commercial cultivation of *Kerria lacca* (Hemiptera) lac in *Cajanus cajan* at SFRI campus on 6th December 2024; attended Meeting with Hindi Rajbhasha prabhari of Jabalpur circle on 17th December 2024; attended National Conference on “New Horizons in Applied Research for Sustainability” (NHARS-2024) jointly organized by CSIR advanced materials and processing research institute, Bhopal and School of Environmental Biology, APS University Rewa, MP on 20th December 2024.
- » Dr. Dola Roy, Scientist – B, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the 26th Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) Meeting of NMHS, MoEFCC to present a project proposal as Co-PI along with the other Co-PIs and Director, ZSI (PI) on 23rd December 2024 on virtual mode.
- » Smt. Rehnuma Sulthana, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/ FBRC Hyderabad, Shri. Amit Kumar Office Superintendent, and Shri. B. Shankar

Lower Division Clerk, ZSI/ FBRC, Hyderabad, attended virtual meeting regarding discussions on financial matters conducted by HQ, Kolkata on 30th December 2024.

TRAININGS ORGANIZED

- » ZSI/ANRC, Port Blair, organised one week compulsory training course of the Indian Forest Service Officers on Natural Resource Management and Conflict Resolution Skills for Forest Management for the Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officers held during 9th to 13th December 2024 at Sunderbans, West Bengal sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; organised three day training workshop on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Island Ecosystem under the Training of Other Services sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India during 19th to 21st December 2024.
- » ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, organized training programme for trainees of Haryana Forestry Training Institute, Gurugram on topic entitled “Faunal Diversity and efforts on their Conservation in India” on 18th December 2024.

TRAININGS ATTENDED

- » Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Scientist-E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, attended ‘Brainstorming on IUCN National Red Listing Assessment for Indian Flora and Fauna’ on 11th December 2024 and attended ‘IUCN Red List Assessor Training’ from 12th to 15th December 2024, held at Central National Herbarium (CNS), Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, Kolkata.
- » Dr. P. C. Pathania, Scientist-E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, attended online webinar on McGuire Center’s “*Expanding Horizons in Lepidoptera Research*” series talk on the topic entitled, “*From pixels to patterns: integrating computer vision and AI to study wing color pattern evolution in butterflies*” by Mortiz Luerig, Florida Museum of Natural History organised by Director, Curator, and Professor McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, Florida Museum of Natural History University of Florida, USA on 3rd December 2024.

- » Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist – E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, attended the IUCN Red Listing Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna Training organized by BSI & ZSI, at BSI, Indian Botanical Garden, AJC Bose, Kolkata, from 10th to 16th December 2024; attended an online meeting to discuss “*Prioritization of taxa for red listing*” and “*Preparation of Vision 2030 document for National red listing*” organized by ZSI, Hqs, Kolkata on 24th December 2024.
- » Dr. K. A. Subramanian, Scientist- E, ZSI/SRC, Chennai, & Dr. R. Babu, Scientist- E, ZSI/ SRC, Chennai, attended IUCN Red Listing of Species Training programme, held at CNH, Botanical Garden, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata from 11th to 15th December 2024.
- » Dr. P. S. Bhatnagar, Scientist-E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, participated in the ‘*Training for IUCN Red Listing of Species for BSI & ZSI Scientists*’ held at ‘Central National Herbarium (CNS), Botanical Survey of India, Howrah’ from 11th to 15th December 2024.
- » Dr. S. S. Jadhav, Scientist-E, ZSI/ FBRC, Hyderabad, attended “*IUCN Red List Assessor training workshop*” at Central National Herbarium, Kolkata from 11th to 15th December 2024.
- » Dr. A.S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended a week’s training on “*IUCN National Red Listing Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna*” at the Central National Herbarium (CNS), Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, from 11th to 15th December 2024 for Lepidoptera.
- » Dr. Shelley Acharya, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended one-day workshop on “*Brainstorming on IUCN National Red Listing assessment*” on 11th December 2024 at the Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah.
- » Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist-E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, participated in the ‘*IUCN Red List Assessor Training Workshop*’ held during 11th to 15th December, 2024 at Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, West Bengal hosted by ZSI & BSI.
- » Dr. T. Kubendran, Scientist D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, participated in the ‘*Training for IUCN Red Listing of Species for BSI & ZSI Scientists*’

held at ‘Central National Herbarium (CNS), Botanical Survey of India, Howrah’ from 11th to 15th December 2024.

- » Dr Kamal Saini, Scientist-B, ZSI/HARC, Solan, attended the online webinar on “*Monsoons, Termites, and the Amur Falcons – Nature Intertwined*” organized by Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Birds of the World), Cornell University, New York on 19th December 2024.

LECTURES DELIVERED

- » Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-E, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, delivered lecture on topic entitled “*Status of Faunal Diversity, efforts on Wildlife Conservation and Management in India*” to the “*Senior IFS Officers Training Programme on Human-Wildlife Interface Management*” organized by Forest Research Institute, Dehradun on 16th December 2024; delivered a lecture on topic entitled “*Faunal Diversity and efforts on their Conservation in India*” to 28 Trainees of Haryana Forestry Training Institute, Gurugram on 18th December 2024; delivered a lecture on topic entitled “*Status of Faunal Diversity and efforts on their Conservation in India*” to “*Indian Forest Service 114 Probationers Batch of 2024-26 of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun*” on 18th December 2024; delivered a lecture on topic entitled “*Status of Faunal Diversity of India*” to School Children’s and Teachers of PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya ITBP, Dehradun on 21st December, 2024.
- » Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-E, ZSI/ANRC, Port Blair, delivered a talk on the Overview of Biodiversity of A & N Island with special reference to endemic and endangered fauna in the one week compulsory training course on Natural Resource Management and Conflict Resolution Skills for Forest Management for the Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officers held during 9th to 13th December 2024 at Sunderbans, West Bengal; delivered a talk on the Overview of Marine Biodiversity of A & N Island in the three day training workshop on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Island Ecosystem for the other services held during 19th to 21st December 2024.

- » Dr. Basudev Tripathy, Scientist-, ZSI/WRC, Pune, participated in the 15th edition of the Odisha Environment Congress (OEC) from 20th to 22nd December, 2024 held at Berhampur University, Bhanja Bihar, Berhampur, Odisha, and presented an invited talk on “*Environment and Coast*” and “*Status of Horseshoe Crabs of Odisha*”.
- » Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Scientist-E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur, presented a talk on “*Olive Ridley sea turtle: Conservation and management during the current nesting Period*” – in the Division level training –Cum–Awareness programme for front line staff on protection & conservation of Olive Ridley sea turtle during the year 2024–25 at Chilika Wildlife Range Office, Nuapada on 20th December 2024; delivered a lecture on “*Marine Biodiversity and Conservation: Indian Prospective*” – in Role model interaction under VigyanJyoti (VJ) Programme by DST on 21st December 2024 at Jabahar Nabodaya Vidyalaya, Nayagarh, Odisha.
- » Dr. SD Gurumayum, Scientist –E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered an invited lecture on the theme “*Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation, youth and beyond*” during the occasion of International Mountain Day observation on 11th December 2024 at GB Pant Institute.
- » Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist – E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, delivered a talk virtually on the Overview of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity: Challenges, Threats and their Impacts on Climate Change, organized by P.G. & Research Department of Zoology, C. Abdul Hakeem College (Auto.), Tamil Nadu, India on 18th December 2024; delivered a virtual lecture on the Overview of Life in Water [Coastal & Marine] by the Department of Biotechnology, Bon Secours College for Women, Tamil Nadu on 21st December 2024; presented on the project entitled “*Ecology, diversity, and distribution patterns of meiofauna assemblages from the Bay of Bengal Coast with Special Reference to Polychaete*” under Deep Ocean Mission, Under the Thematic and Sub-Thematic Area: Ocean Biology [Biodiversity and Ecology], MoES, New Delhi on 31st December 2024.
- » Dr. V.D. Hegde, scientist-E, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a lecture to B.Sc. students of SDM College, Honavar, Karnataka on 7th December 2024; delivered a lecture to M.Sc. students of Mangaluru University campus, Mangaluru on 17th December 2024.
- » Dr. P. S. Bhatnagar, Scientist-E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture on “*Taxonomy and Conservation*” to the internship students on 18th December 2024.
- » Dr. S. D. Paunikar, Scientist-E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture on “*Moth: Collection, Preservation and Identification*” to the internship students on 19th December 2024.
- » Dr. D. Suresh Chand, Scientist-E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on “*Natural Resource Management and Conflict Resolution skills for Forest Management*” during one-week compulsory training course for The Indian Forest Service (IFS) at Sundarbans, West Bengal from 9th to 13th December 2024.
- » Dr. Rahul Joshi, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered lectures to Ph. D. Course work students on 2nd and 9th December 2024.
- » Dr. P.C. Tudu, Scientist – D, ZSI/MARC, Digha, delivered a talk on the “*Marine Aquarium Fauna*” by M.Sc., Biotechnology, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjdeo University, Baripada on 22nd December 2024.
- » Dr. Saipari Sailo, Scientist-D, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a virtual lecture on

"Breeding and development of Amphibians with special reference to North East India" at South Asia Meet-UP Save the Frogs on 21st December 2024.

- » Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist-C, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture on *"Carrier prospective in the field of zoology"* to the internship students on 17th December 2024.
- » Dr. Jayita Sengupta, Scientist- B, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on *"Beneficiary & Harmful Diptera"* to the students of Ph.D. course work for ZSI researchers on 27th December 2024.
- » Mr. Akhil Nair, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture on Lepidoptera (Butterfly) to the internship students on 21st December 2024.
- » Mrs. Aakriti Singh, Senior Zoological Assistant, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered Lecture on *"Collection and preservation techniques of Prawn"* to the internship students on 24th December 2024.
- » Mr. Yomto Mayi, SPF, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered a lecture on conservation challenges and threats to Wildlife in West Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh during the International Clouded Leopard Working Group Conference from 3rd December to 7th December 2024 at Kathmandu.

PHOTO GALLERY









Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, DZSI, Kolkata at National History Museum, London on 5th December 2024