

# ZSI E-News

Vol. 65 | June 2024 | Monthly E-Newsletter from Zoological Survey of India







# from the Director's Desk

I am pleased to announce the successful launch of the June 2024 edition of ZSI monthly e-newsletter. This achievement is a significant milestone for the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) as we work towards progress of scientific research and endeavors that drive our institution's pursuit of knowledge and innovation for increasing the visibility of our national conservational efforts and acknowledging the outstanding accomplishments of our dedicated team. The e-newsletter has been carefully curated to provide a comprehensive overview of our surveys, explorations and inventories across various

ecosystems of country, research findings, and scientific discoveries. It will serve as a platform to showcase the wide variety of species studied, the most recent discoveries, and the important contributions made by our scientists to biodiversity conservation. Our goal with this e-newsletter is not only to inform but also to inspire. By sharing our stories and successes, we aim to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation for the crucial work carried out by ZSI. Each issue will include updates on our collaborations with national and international partners, insights into our latest research publications, and profiles of our skilled researchers and staff.

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) celebrated its 109th Foundation Day on 30th June 2024, with a range of activities underscoring its enduring dedication to zoology, taxonomy, and wildlife conservation. The celebration of ZSI Day was held at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Newtown, Kolkata. The event was graced by Shri Bhupender Yadav, the Hon'ble Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, as the chief guest, and Shri Jitendra Kumar, IFS, the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, as the guest of honor. The programme commenced with a tree planting initiative named **Ek Ped Maa K Naam**. More than 1500 individuals participated in the 109th ZSI Day celebration, including distinguished scientists, Vice-Chancellors of various institutions, college and university professors, Directors of National Institutes, conservationists, and members of the general public. Hon'ble Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav unveiled publications from the Zoological Survey of India and the Botanical Survey of India, such as Animal Discoveries-2023 and Plant Discoveries-2023, and awarded trophies to the winners of events organized during World Biodiversity Day-2024, World Environment Day-2024, and others. A total of 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) were signed between ZSI and different universities and institutions. Director General of Forests Shri Jitendra Kumar, IFS launched the International Society of Zoology (ISZ) and delivered a special address. Hon'ble Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav introduced the Checklist of Indian Fauna Portal and the hard copy of the Checklist of Indian Fauna, the first of its kind globally, containing the names of all species across 121 groups found in India. He then inaugurated the Animal Taxonomy Summit-2024 (ATS 2024) and delivered the opening speech. The inaugural program also featured a live telecast of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi's MANN KI BAAT. During the month, a total of 1225 species from 13 phyla were identified within the faunal communities. It is worth mentioning that, four new species were described in the vertebrate and invertebrate faunal groups from India.

I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the ZSI team for their exceptional commitment throughout the month. I believe that this issue of the E-News will successfully inspire readers to engage in ZSI activities.

Jai Hind,

**Dr. Dhriti Banerjee**  
Director  
5<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
Kolkata

**Cover:** 109<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of  
Zoological Survey of India  
**Courtesy:** ZSI Headquarter, Kolkata

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## HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA

A total of 624 species of faunal communities belonging to Orthoptera, Diptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Collembola, Nematode, Mollusca, Porifera, Cnidaria, Annelida, Platyhelminthes, Echinodermata, and Aves were identified. One species of Shrimp was described as new to Science. Two species of Nematode, four species of Platyhelminthes, one species of Formicidae and 22 species of Lepidoptera were augmented to NZCs. Identification and advisory

services provided to Banda University of Agriculture & Technology, U.P, Botanical Survey of India, Scottish Church College, MES, Mampad College, Kerala , University of Dhaka , BCKV, W. Bengal, Nagaland University and for confiscated coral specimens to the Forest Range Officer, Wildlife Crime Control Cell & Data Management Unit, Wildlife (Headquarters), Salt Lake and on birds to Forest Range Officer, Tangi Wildlife Range, Tangi, Odisha.





## NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

A total of 74 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Odonata, Araneae, Mollusca, Pisces, and Amphibia were identified. Five species of bats were newly reported from Mizoram state. On the occasion of World Environment Day, an awareness programme was organized at Step-by-Step School (Senior Wing), Shillong on 31st May 2024 and all the staff of the centre participated in a plantation drive at Khliehriat, Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya on 5th June 2024, all the staff of the centre took pledge on 14th June, 2024 on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, and International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21st June 2024. From 18th to 20th June, 2024 the staff of the centre participated in a one-hour Yoga Session as part of the International Yoga Day 2024.



World Environment Day Celebration



International Yoga Day Celebration



## WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

Surveys were conducted to Ballari & Vijayanagar districts of Karnataka (under JSW-WMP Project) and to Caves of Mahabaleshwar & around, Satara. A total of 93 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Blattodea, Mollusca, Chilopoda, Crustacea, and Pisces were identified during the month. One species of Sri Lankan wet land frog, *Hylarana gracilis* (Gravenhorst, 1829) is reported as new to the Indian fauna. 19 DNA barcodes of Lepidoptera were submitted to the GenBank. Identification and advisory services were rendered for four different journals. World Environment Day was celebrated with programmes on Tree Plantation and Eco-awareness Rally in Ravet and International Yoga Day was celebrated with the theme “Yoga for self and society”.



Tree Plantation at WRC Campus during  
World Environment Day 2024



Celebration of International Yoga Day 2024



Conducted Hindi Rajbhasha Workshop on  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2024



## CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

A total of 76 species of faunal communities belonging to Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Hemiptera, Mollusca, and Reptilia were identified. Identification & Advisory services was rendered to Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishawavidyala, Jabalpur. World Environment Day 2024 was celebrated from 27th May to 5th June 2024 through tree planation drives at various places of Jabalpur and made aware campaign about the themes "Land restoration, Drought Resilience and Desertification". Various programmes like Painting, Poster, Elocution and photography competitions were organized for school students and prizes were distributed, and Blood Donation Camp was organized in co-ordination with Red Cross Society, Jabalpur on 18th June 2024. The staff and internship students performed the blood donation for the noble cause. International Day of Yoga 2024 was also organized at the centre.



A five-day Hindi short training program was organized by the Central Zone Regional Center of Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur during 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024



Celebration of International Day of Yoga 2024, World Environment Day-2024 and Blood Donation Camp



## DESERT REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

A total of 54 species of faunal communities belonging to Insecta, Gastropoda, and Pisces were identified. Paryavaran Divas 2024 were celebrated and distributed plant saplings to the officers and staff members of the Centre on 27th May 2024 under the celebration of World Environment Day from 27th May to 5th June 2024. Plantation was also done at Prajapati Hostel and at the centre on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th June 2024. Pledge taking ceremony was organized on the occasion of “World Blood donor Day” on 14th June 2024 at the Centre. Mission LiFE activity under the theme Healthy Life Style: Yoga was organized and pledge was also taken on 14th June 2024 at the Centre. International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21st June 2024 at the centre. First Quarterly Hindi meeting on 25th June and Rajbhasha Workshop was organized on 26th June 2024 at the Centre.



Grey Francolin, *Ortygornis pondicerianus* (Gmelin, 1789)



Celebration of “World Environment Day” from 27th May to 5th June, 2024 at DRC Jodhpur



## SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A total of 181 species of faunal communities belonging to Ephemeroptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Psocoptera, Mollusca, Pisces, Amphibia, Reptilia, and Zooplankton were identified. One species of Diptera, namely, *Lasioptera sharma* was described as new to science. World Environment Day and International Yoga Day were celebrated at the centre.



Galls of *Lasioptera sharma*



Celebration of International Yoga Day 2024



## GANGETIC PLAINS REGIONAL CENTRE, PATNA, BIHAR

A total of 47 species of faunal communities belonging to Insecta, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified. Identification and advisory services was rendered to School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University. The Centre organized an invited talk on “Harnessing natural predators for sustainable pest management in developing Nations: Ecological, Economic and social impact” by Dr. Mehd Shahid, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Oriental College, Patna City Patna on 5th June 2024. Another invited talk was given on “How to train the brain for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation” by Dr. Mehdi Hayat Shahi, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Brain Research Centre (IBRC), J. N. Medical College, Faculty of Medicine, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202002 on 7th June 2024. Plantation programme, Mission Cleanliness, World Environment Day, World Blood Donor Day and International Yoga Day were celebrated during the month.



Dr. Mehdi Hayat Shahi, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Brain Research Centre (IBRC), J. N. Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202002



International Yoga Day celebration on 21st June 2024



# HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A total of 57 species of faunal communities belonging to Insecta, and Pisces were identified. Identification & Advisory Service were rendered to Post Graduate Govt. College, Chandigarh and one research paper was reviewed. World Environment Day was celebrated, various activities was organized covering the areas of Solan and village Salogra of District Solan by involving the rural area school students, various events were organized at Govt. Senior Secondary School, village Salogra of Solan District of H.P. on 5th June 2024, including painting competitions, slogan writing competitions, lectures by scientists of the Centre, Swachhta pledge, plantation drive, selfie point installation, and awareness rally which included school students and local village people, International Yoga Day and Swachhata Pakhwada were organized. Indian army officers and Jawans of 14th Gorkha Training Centre Subathu along with children of Western Command Children Summer Adventure Camp and Shri Brijesh Sood, Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices, BNPL Centre, Head Post Office, Ludhiana visited the centre during the month.



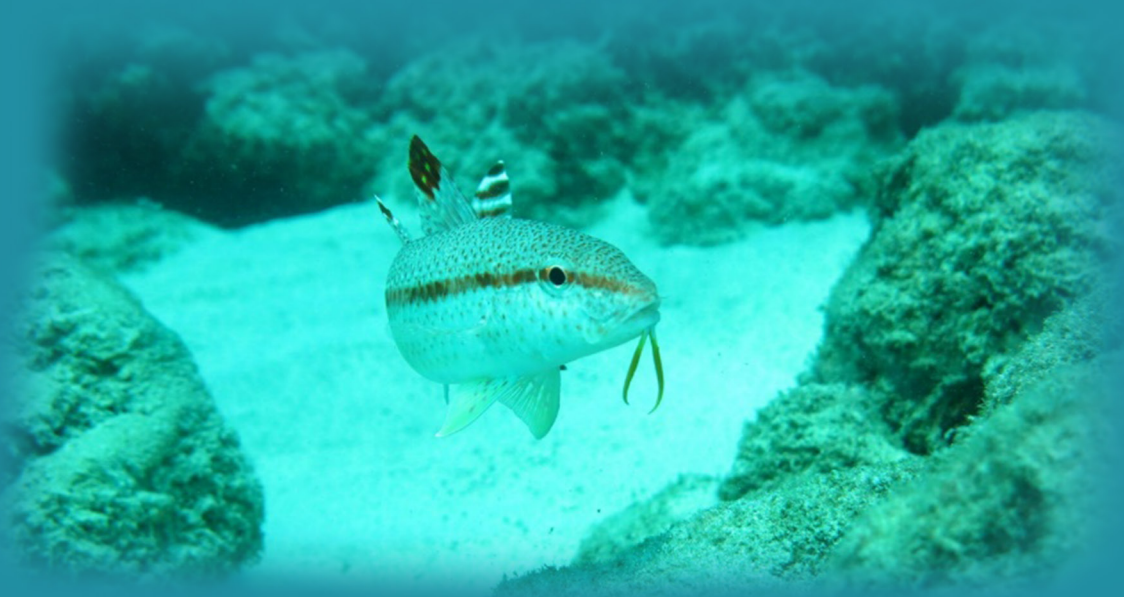
ZSI, Solan employees doing Tar Asan on 21st June 2024





## ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, PORT BLAIR

One survey was conducted to Great Nicobar Island along with several local field surveys in South Andaman. A total of 185 species of faunal communities belonging to Pisces, Mollusca, Decapoda, Isopoda, Sipuncula, Aves, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Mammalia, and Reptilia were identified. World Environment Day was celebrated, where Shri. Keshav Chandra, IAS, Chief Secretary, A & N Administration was the Chief Guest, and Shri. Devesh Chandra Srivastava, IPS, Director General of Police was the Guest of Honour, faunal exhibition of Biodiversity of A & N Islands was organized and one day seminar was organized on the theme of the World Environment Day. Ms. Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC graced the inaugural function of the one seminar as a Chief Guest. Celebrated International Yoga Day on 21st June 2024.



*Upeneus vittatus* (Forsskal, 1775)



*Comaster nobilis* Carpenter 188



## SUNDERBAN REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING, WEST BENGAL

One day local survey was undertaken in Matla River area. A total of 58 species of faunal communities belonging to Mollusca, Crustacea, and Pisces were identified. Indoor plants were distributed to the staff members on the occasion of World Environment Day and International Yoga Day was celebrated. One day seminar, Sapling distribution and sapling was planted on 5th June 2024.



Celebration of International  
Yoga Day 2024



Celebration of World Environment Day, 2024



## FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

A total of 128 species of faunal communities belonging to Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Branchiopoda, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified. A plantation drive was organized to commemorate World Environment Day on 5th June 2024, a drawing competition was conducted on the theme Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience on World Environment Day 2024 to raise awareness among school students. Shri Shyam Sundar Naik, GM, HMWSSB, Dr. L. Rasingham, O/C, BSI, Hyderabad and Dr. Deepa Jaiswal, O/C, FBRC, ZSI shared their insights and perspectives on the theme. "International Yoga Day" was also celebrated. Mission LiFE and Swachhta Hi Seva Special Campaigns 3.0 were conducted to generate awareness among people.



Celebration of World Environment Day, 2024



Celebration of International Yoga Day 2024



## WESTERN GHAT REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA

A total of 75 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate amoebae, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Dermaptera, Decapoda, Chilopoda, Arachnida, Hymenoptera, and Mantodea were identified. Identification and advisory services was rendered to MES College, Mampad. World Environment Day was celebrated and as part of the celebration, competitions like Quiz, Essay, Elocution, etc. were conducted for school and college students. A Mobile Photography competition is also conducted for all Indian citizens to create awareness among general public. A cleanliness and plantation drive were undertaken at Regional Science Centre & Planetarium, Kozhikode campus and Sarovaram Biopark, Kozhikode. International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21st June 2024 under the theme Yoga for Self and Society. Smt. Smitha Jose, UDC and Shri. Sakthi P.P., LDC who are certified yoga trainers spearheaded the programme.



Celebration of World Environment Day 2024



Celebration of International Yoga Day 2024



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

A total of 402 specimens were collected from local surveys to Bahuda estuary and Gopalpur coast. A total of 644 specimens were identified belonging to 121 species. *Ophichthus suryai* Behera, Acharya, Mishra, Mohapatra, 2024, a new species described from the Bahuda and Subarnarekha estuaries and Paradip coastal waters of Odisha. Nine DNA barcodes belonging to 4 species were uploaded in the NCBI data base including one novel species. The museum of the Centre received 85 visitors during this month. Director of Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar Dr. Debasis Dash along with Prof. Mitali Mukerji, HOD, Bioscience and Bioengineering, IIT, Jodhpur visited the museum facilities at the Centre and discussed their innovative ideas on various fields of research pursued at respective institutes. Plantation drive was carried out on the eve of World Environment Day by staff members of the Centre. International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21st June 2024 and pledged to practice Yoga in daily life.



Director, Institute of Life Sciences Bhubaneswar visited EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea



Celebration of International Yoga Day at EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea

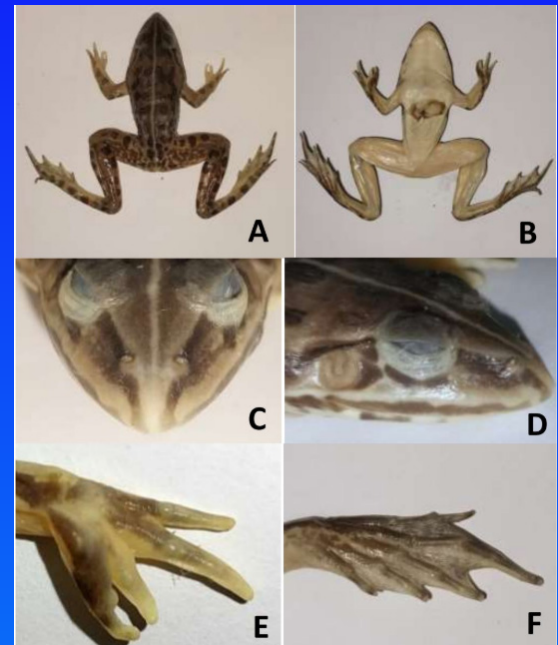


## ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR

A frog was reported as new to the state fauna of Arunachal Pradesh. A total of 43 species of faunal communities belonging to Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Hemiptera, and Pisces were identified. Identification and advisory services were rendered to Delhi University and Himalayan University. World Environment Day and International Yoga Day were celebrated in the centre. World Environment Day celebrations included a drawing competition, tree plantation program, awareness programs in JNK School Itanagar in collaboration with GB pant institutes and an extempore speech competition aligned with environmental themes. Extempore speech competition was organized for the Students from Vivekananda Residential Public School on various environmental issues, aligned with the theme of WED 2024 in the Centre on 5th June 2024. Drawing completion was organized in VKV School Chimpu, Itanagar in collaboration with GP Pant 'National Institute of Himalayan Environment'(NIHE) on 01st June 2024 as part of World Environment Day 2024.



Group photo students of Hornbill English Medium School part of the celebrations for WED 2024



*Hoplobarachus litoralis*  
New state record of Arunachal Pradesh



Plantation programme in celebrations for WED 2024



Yoga class for the office staff in celebration of International Yoga Day



## MARINE AQUARIUM AND REGIONAL CENTRE, DIGHA, WEST BENGAL

Local surveys were conducted at Champa, Udaypur, Shankarpur, and Mohana. A total of 34 species of faunal communities belonging to Annelida, Nematoda, Crustacea, and Pisces were identified. DNA sequence of three species were submitted in NCBI. Under Mission LiFE, “International Yoga Day 2024” with a theme of “Yoga for Women Empowerment,” was celebrated on 21st June 2024, “World Blood Donor Day – 2024” was organized on 14th June 2024 with an event on World Blood Donor Day Pledge [Hindi and English] and an awareness campaign for public. On the occasion of World Environment Day 2024, an event on cleaning the campus and plantation of office premises was conducted on the theme of “Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience” contact. All the staff participated and took Mission LiFE awareness pledge during the event on 5th June 2024.



*Gymnothorax flavimarginatus* (Rüppell, 1830)



Celebration of World Environment Day 2024



Celebration of International Yoga Day 2024



## NEW DISCOVERIES

### NEW SPECIES



*Lasioptera sharma* sp. nov. (Adult)



*Ophichthus suryai* Behera, Acharya,  
Mishra & Mohapatra, 2024



Gravenhorst's Frog, *Hylarana gracilis* (Gravenhorst, 1829)



## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

- » Jaiswal, D., Karuthapandi, M., Jadhav, S.S., Kumar, B.B., Shankar, S., Kunte, K.B. and Sulthana, S.R. 2024. *Threatened fauna of Andhra Pradesh*. Published by Zoological Survey of India and Andhra Pradesh State biodiversity Board. pp i-213.
- » Maheswaran, G and Alam, I. (2024). Fauna of India Checklist: Aves. Version 1.0. Zoological Survey of India. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26515/Fauna/1/2023/Chordata:Aves>
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- » Sarakar, U.K., Banerjee, D. Mohapatra, A., Singh, M. and Kathirvelpandian, A. (Eds.) 2024. *Barcode Atlas of Indian fishes*. Edition 1. A joint publication of ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetics Resources and Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, p. 1001. ISBN: 978-81-967320-5-9.

### PAPERS

- » Behera, R.K., Acharya, S., Mishra, S.S. and Mohapatra, A. 2024. Morphological and molecular evidences confirm a new species in *Ophichthus* (Anguilliformes: Ophichthidae) from the east coast of India. *Bulletin of Marine Science*. <https://doi.org/10.5343/bms.2023.0084>
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- » Joshi, R., Farooqui, S.A. and Singh, N. 2024. A catalogue of the Yponomeutoidea of India (Lepidoptera). *Zootaxa*, 5468 (3): 468-504.
- » Kar, O., Mukherjee, A., Ghosh, D., Mukherjee, K., Pramanik, D., Naskar, A. and Banerjee, D. 2024. DNA Barcoding of Economically Important Fruit Flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) from the Lower Gangetic Plains of Eastern India. *Journal of Advances in Biology & Biotechnology*, 27(7): 587-604
- » Khanra, S. and Dash, S. 2024. On An Account Of Diversity Of Aquatic And Semi Aquatic Bugs From Lower Basin Of Mundeswari River, West Bengal, India, *Flora And Fauna*, 30(1): 140-146 .
- » Mohanty, S.R., Roy, S., Mishra, S.S., Mishra, A., Seth, J. K., Patro, S. and Mohapatra, A. 2023. Occurrence of two ornamental fish species of the order Tetraodontiformes from Odisha coast, India. *Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Science*, 52 (10): 490 – 494.
- » Nath K.P., Gurumayum, S. D., Laremsanga, H. T. and Khongsai, L. S. 2024. On the Distribution of Coastal Bull Frog *Hoplobatrachus litoralis* Hasan, Kuramoto, Islam, Alam, Khan and Sumida, 2012 (Anura: Dicroglossidae) from Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary- New state report for Arunachal



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- » Palot, M.J., Dinesh, K.P., Shabnam, A., Talmale, S.S. and Tripathy, B. 2024. Predation on a Brahminy Blindsnake, *Indotyphlops braminus* (Daudin 1803) (Typhloidae), by a Bibron's Coral snake, *Calliophis bibroni* (Jan 1858) (Elapidae), from the Western Ghats of Kerala, India. *Reptiles & Amphibians*, 31: 1-2, e21578.
  - » Pradhan, J. and Balakrishnan, S. 2024. First Report of *Hesione paulayi* Salazar-Vallejo, 2018 (Phyllodocida: Hesionidae) from the Indian Ocean with a Note and key to identification of Indian waters species of the genus *Hesione* Lamarck, 1818. *Species*, 25: e4s1623.
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  - » Singh, S., Naik, R., Bahuguna, A., Kumar, A. and Sharma, N. 2024. Habitat quality characterization and management of Asan Wetland biodiversity. *International Journal of Ecology and Environmental Sciences*, 50: 557-575.
  - » Varadaraju, 2024. Conservation status of Reptilia in Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, Western ghats, India and its environment. *Uttar Pradesh. Journal of Zoology*, 45(11): 168-181.
  - » Vasanthakumar, D., Loganathan, R. and Senthilkumar, P. 2024. *Lasioptera sharma*, a new species of gallmidge (Diptera:Cecidomyiidae) feeding on *Leea indica* (Vitaceae) in India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 16(6): 25465-25469. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jot.9036.16.6.25465-25469>
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## BOOK CHAPTERS

- » Yadav, S and Hegde, V.D. 2024. Insecta: Coleoptera: Cerambycidae. In: *Fauna of Nungkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary, Conservation Area Series*, 75:11-16.
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- » Mishra, S.S., Bineesh, K.K., Rajendra, S. and Mohapatra, A. 2024. Chordata: Pisces. In: *Current Status of Faunal Diversity in Lakshadweep*: 557-570 (Published by the Director, Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata).



- » जहान, एस., और कुशवाह, एस., ममित, जिला, मिजोरम के शिकारी कीड़े। पीपी. 19-20. भटनागर पी.एस. और कुशवाह, एस. 2024. शोध पुस्तिका "पर्यावरण और संरक्षण", पृष्ठ 1-64। राठौड़ अकादमिक अनुसंधान प्रकाशन, नई दिल्ली। (आईएसबीएन: 978-81-971624-4-2).

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- » Tripathy, B. 2024. World Turtle Day: Significance and Relevance in India. *EIACP Centre on Biodiversity (Fauna)*, 30 (2): 02–09. (Published by Zoological Survey of India)

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

- » Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, addressed the Celebration of World Environment Day programme encouraging awareness and action to protect our environment and emphasized working collectively towards plantation to a greater extent. The event was organised by ZSI Training & Extension Division, Kolkata jointly with EIACP Centre on Biodiversity (Fauna), ZSI run from 31st May to 5th June 2024 on the theme adopted for this year- 'Land restoration, Desertification and Drought resilience'. On this occasion several events were held to spread awareness in its week-long celebration including Plantation Programme, Meditation Camp, Painting Competition and Elocution Competition. EIACP Centre on Biodiversity (Fauna), ZSI organized a National Webinar on 'Soil Invertebrates and Restoration Ecology' on 3rd June 2024 to spread awareness on the theme; presided Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) Meeting on 6th June 2024 at the Hqs., ZSI along with Departmental Screening Committee (DSC) members; invited as Guest of Honour for the inauguration of a Plantation Drive Initiative where planned to plant 100 saplings at New Town Area, Kolkata with participation of children by Siddha Group, aimed at enhancing and promoting environmental sustainability on 11th June 2024; attended an online meeting of the Governing

Body, NCSM (National Council of Science Museums) on 17th June 2024; attended an Administrative Meeting at MoEFCC, New Delhi on 13th June 2024; attended an Administrative Meeting at MoEFCC, New Delhi on 20th June 2024; attended officials meets the press in a news conference in Kolkata on 26th June 2024 along with other officials and speaks regarding the celebration of 109th foundation day of ZSI which will be held on June 30 2024, Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 will also be organized from 1st to 3rd July 2024. 350 researchers from four countries will participate in the conference. Director told the press that saplings will be given to everyone on the occasion 30th June 2024 30.

- » Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist-F, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended NIRANTAR meeting Chaired by Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC at New Delhi on 14th June 2024; convened Ph.D. viva voce examination for Pondicherry University on 7th June 2024; attended meeting with Hon'ble, Minister of State, MoEFCC at New Delhi on 19th June 2024; served as a Member in the Selection Committee Meeting at NCSCM, Chennai for recruitment of Senior Manager on 21st June 2024; served as an Organizing Secretary for 109th Foundation Day of ZSI and ATS 2024.
- » Dr. G. Maheswaran, Scientist-F, ZSI, HQ on 26th June, 2024 gave his expert comments for the identification of Asian Openbill Stork (*Anastomus oscitans*) based on two photographs which were sent from Forest Range Officer, Tangi Wildlife Range, Tangi, Khordha – 752023, Odisha and on 26th June, 2024 gave his expert comments for the identification of Scaly – breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) by the provided photographs.
- » Dr. A.S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended a meeting held under the chairpersonship of Ms. Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC through virtual mode to discuss the red listing of species



- and their long-term monitoring on 30th May 2024.
- » 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.
  - » Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Scientist – E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, attended Hindi Inspection and submitted the questionnaire performance of Hindi to Sh. Narender Mehra, Deputy Director, Hindi Raj Bhasha Vibhag, New Delhi on 20th June 2024.
  - » Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-E, ZSI/ANRC, Port Blair, attended the first meeting of Steering Committee meeting of EIACP programme on 11th June 2024 through online under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, MoEF&CC, GoI; attended as Chief of the 47th Foundation Day Celebration of ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair on 24th June 2024; attended meeting with Dr. S. Ashok Kumar, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Islands in connection with the carrying capacity assessment of Cinque Island Wildlife Sanctuary on 26th June 2024.
  - » Dr. J. S. Yogesh Kumar Scientist – E and Dr. Prabhakar Rai, Scientist – C, ZSI/SbRC, Canning attended meeting related NPS Oversight Mechanism on 3rd June 2024.
  - » Dr. K. A. Subramanian, Scientist – E, ZSI/SRC, Chennai, conducted Ph.D. Viva at Malabar Christian College, Kozhikode on 7th June, 2024 and attended third meeting of MoEF & CC Technical and Financial Appraisal Committee meeting at Anamalai University, Chidambaram from 17-19th June 2024.
  - » Dr. Kamal Saini, Scientist-B, ZSI/HARC, Solan, attended the Expert Group meeting for the evaluation and authentication of the draft PBRs prepared and updated by different Technical Support Groups (TSGs) at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on 20th and 21st June 2024.
  - » Dr. Karuthapandi.M, Scientist-D, ZSI/FBRC, Hyderabad, attended a meeting on “Eco-Tourism prospects and way forward in Telangana state” organized by Telangana Forest Development Corporation Ltd, Hyderabad on 22nd June 2024 at Telangana.
  - » Dr. S.D. Gurumayum, Scientist – E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, gave an interview on the role of ZSI at Akashvani Imphal on 18th June 2024; for the Youth’s Program and on the role of ZSI to popularize Taxonomy among the youths of Arunachal Pradesh at Akashvani Itanagar on 26th June 2024; for the Youth’s Program, conducted an interview at Akashvani Imphal for the Science Magazine Program to promote taxonomy among the youth of Manipur on 31st May 2024.
  - » Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist-D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended a meeting of NIRANTAR on 6th June 2024 to discuss the progress under the vertical; 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 10th June 2024 as a member of BIS, ISO, SSD20; a meeting of NIRANTAR on 11th June 2024 to discuss the progress under the vertical; various meetings regarding the preparedness of ATS 2024 during the entire month and attended 109th ZSI Foundation Day on 30th June 2024 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre.

## TRAININGS ORGANIZED

- » Dr. A.S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, provided training on pinning/stretching of lepidoptera specimens to three On-Job-Training students and on the collection, pinning and curation of beetles to the MSc and BSc students of JNKVV during the workshop on Collection, Preservation and Identification of Insects jointly organised by Department of Entomology, JNKVV, Jabalpur and ZSI, CZRC, Jabalpur on virtual mode from 27th to 31st May 2024.



- » Dr. K.P. Dinesh, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, providing training to Ms. Anjali Priti, Bachelors in Bioengineering student from DY Patil International University, Pune for her internship programme for a period of five months from January 2024 to June 2024.
- » Dr. Sachin R. Patil, Scientist-B, ZSI/WRC, Pune, provided training on Araneae to Miss. Hrutuja Kumbhkaran, M.Sc. student of the Modern College, Ganeshkhind, Pune for her dissertation work.
- » Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist-D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, provided internship training to a M.Sc. final year student of Kanpur University.
- » A Hindi Official Language Workshop was organized by WRC, Pune on 18th June 2024, in which Dr. Swati Chaddha, Secretary of Hindi Narakas, gave a detailed presentation regarding improving Hindi language in office work. All the office employees of IAS, PWD, Pune participated in the workshop.
- » One day seminar on “Sunderban Mangrove conservation, land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience” was organized by SbRC, Canning on 5th June 2024. A total of 65 students, two teachers and staff from ZSI-SbRC, Canning participated.
- » An internship program was conducted by SRC, Chennai for 32 postgraduate Zoology students from various institutions, namely Ethiraj College, University of Madras, Guru Nanak College, Stella Maris College, and Queen Mary’s College, Chennai.
- » Five-day Hindi short training program was organized jointly by CZRC, Jabalpur, Central Translation Bureau, Home Ministry, New Delhi and City Implementation Committee Office-02 Jabalpur from 10th to 14th June 2024. All the officers and employees of the office received training.
- » One day workshop was organized on 5th June 2024 by CZRC, Jabalpur on the occasion of World Environment Day-2024. Three lectures were held on the themes

“Land restoration, Drought resilience and Desertification” by Dr. S. P. Gautham, Retired Scientist, Pollution Control Board, Dr. Ankit Rai, Secretary, Vigyan Bharti Parishad, Dr. Satyendra Pandey, Scientist, ICMR, Jabalpur and Dr. Preeti Khare, Associate Professor, Govt. Science College, Jabalpur. All officers and staff attended the programme.

- » Internship training is organized by CZRC, Jabalpur from 1st May to 31st July 2024 for the M.Sc. students of Life Sciences from Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur (UP). Lectures were given by Dr. P.S. Bhatnagar, Scientist – E, Dr. S. D. Paunekar, Scientist – E, Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist – 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.

## TRAININGS ATTENDED

- » Dr. A.S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, participated and attended a workshop at on the IUCN Red List Assessment of Tiger Beetles in India from 8th to 12th June 2024 at Karl Kuebel Institute, Coimbatore.
- » Dr. Uttam Saikia, Scientist – D, ZSI/NERC, Shillong, attended a two days’ workshop on “State of India’s Bats” conducted by Nature Conservation Foundation and Bat Conservation, International at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore between 17-19th June 2024.
- » Officers and staff members of ZSI/MARC, Digha participated and attended election micro observer counting training and duty for the General Election 2024 on 3rd and 4th June 2024.
- » Dr. V.D. Hegde, Scientist-E, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, attended an International workshop on Red list Assessment of Tiger Beetles of India at Karl Kuebel Institute, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu from 8th to 12th June 2024.



## LECTURES DELIVERED

- » Dr. A.S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, delivered a lecture on 31st May 2024 on “Diversity of Beetles in India with their collection, curation and preservation” at the workshop on Collection, Preservation and Identification of Insects jointly organised by the Department of Entomology, JNKVV, Jabalpur and the ZSI, CZRC, Jabalpur on virtual mode.
- » Smt. Ilona J. Kharkongor, Scientist-E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered lectures on the “History and significance of World Environment Day” and on “Drought Resilience Initiatives and Addressing Future Challenges” on 30th May 2024, at JNK Public School, Itanagar.
- » Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-E, ZSI/ANRC, Port Blair, delivered a talk on Island Ecosystem Structure and Function in the one-day seminar on the theme of World Environment Day 2024 (“Our Land, Our Future. We are #Generation Restoration”) held on 31st May 2024.
- » Dr. R. H. Raina, Scientist- E, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur, participated and delivered an invited lecture on “Diversity of Himalayan Bumblebees and their role in Pollination ecology” in the International Conference on Monitoring Biodiversity for Action (ICMBA-2024) on 25th June 2024, organized by the Department of Zoology, University of Kashmir from 25th to 27th June 2024.
- » Shri Yomto Mayi, JPF, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, spoke on “present heat waves in India, land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience” during the WED 2024 program on 5th June 2024 at the Centre.
- » Shri. Sreejith S. Kumar, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered an invited lecture on World Environment Day at Dr. Ghafoor Memorial MES Mampad College, Mampad, Malappuram on 6th June 2024.



## PHOTO GALLERY







Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI addressed the programme encouraging awareness and action to protect our environment and emphasized working collectively towards plantation to a greater extent. The event was organised by ZSI Training & Extension Division, Kolkata jointly with EIACP Centre on Biodiversity (Fauna), ZSI run from May 31 to June 5, 2024 on the theme adopted for this year- 'Land restoration, Desertification and Drought resilience'. EIACP Centre on Biodiversity (Fauna), ZSI organized a National Webinar on 'Soil Invertebrates and Restoration Ecology' on 3rd June, 2024 to spread awareness on the theme. Chief Guest, Ms. Ajanta Dey, Joint Secretary & Programme Director, Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS) delivered a lecture on "Landscape Restoration- Ecosystem based approach and nature based solution". Summed up the week-long programme with distributing plants and certificates to the winners and the participants of competition. On this occasion several events were held to spread awareness in its week-long celebration including Plantation Programme, Meditation Camp, Painting Competition and Elocution Competition.





Tree Plantation in ZSI Premise on the occasion of the World Environment Day 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. Plantation drive titled 'Ek Per Maa Ki Naam'.





On 11th June, 2024, Director ZSI was invited as Guest of Honour for the inauguration of a Plantation Drive Initiative where planned to plant 100 saplings at New Town Area, Kolkata with participation of children by Siddha Group, aimed at enhancing and promoting environmental sustainability.





Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director ZSI with officials meets the press in a news conference in Kolkata on 26.06.2024 and speaks regarding the celebration of 109th foundation day of ZSI which will be held on June 30. Animal Taxonomy Summit 2024 will also be organized from 30th June to 3rd July. 350 researchers from four countries will participate in the conference. Director told the press that saplings will be given to everyone on the occasion of the tree plantation drive titled 'Ek Per Maa Ki Naam' to be launched by the Prime Minister on June 30.















Celebration of 109th Foundation Day of ZSI