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from the Director's Desk

Cover: Release of Animal Discoveries 2025 by Honorable Minister Sri Bhupendar Yadav on 30th June 2026

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Dear Colleagues and Esteemed Readers,

It is my great pleasure in releasing June 2026 edition of the Monthly E-News of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The regular and successful publication of this electronic newsletter is an indication of our firm commitment to scientific excellence and consistent dedication to the study and conservation of the vast fauna of our country. Each issue of the publication provides an insight into the commendable scientific activities being carried out by our scientists through their hard work in field studies, taxonomy, behaviour, biodiversity assessments, and conservation. The results and contributions contained in this edition not only add to our scientific understanding of the fauna of the nation but also help in achieving national and international biodiversity targets. I thank all the contributors who have been maintaining the proud tradition of the Zoological Survey of India through their dedication and scientific spirit.

This year is very special in the long and glorious journey of our institution as we celebrate the 111th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India. In the last over a hundred years, the institution of ZSI has stayed ahead of others in terms of zoological research, taxonomy, and biodiversity conservation, working for the nation through scientific and evidence-based conservation efforts. To mark this occasion, the Zoological Survey of India has organized the 111 Hours Hackathon on Traditional Knowledge on Biodiversity Conservation, an innovative national level program which was simultaneously organized in all 16 Regional Centres of ZSI throughout the month. The overwhelming participation and responses to the hackathon were indeed heartening. In all, there were 360 registered teams for the event, out of which 192 teams represented their novel projects in the Regional Level-1 competitions that were held in 16 different Regional Centres. The winners from each of the Regional Centres then competed in the Level-2 competition that was organized at the ZSI/Northern Regional Centre, Dehradun. After the selection process, the best five teams participated in the Grand Finale on 29th June 2026. The grand finale was honored by Shri Tanmay Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India; Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, IFS, Additional Director General, MoEFCC; Ms. Meenaxi Rawat, IES, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser (AS&FA), MoEFCC; Shri Anand Mohan, IFS, Chief Executive Officer, National CAMPA, MoEFCC; Shri Ved Prakash Mishra, IRS, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC; and Dr. Kanad Das, Director, Botanical Survey of India.

The 111th Foundation Day of ZSI was celebrated on 30th June 2026 along with the inauguration of Animal Taxonomy Summit 2026. Shri Bhupender Yadav, Honorable Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India graced the occasion as Chief Guest, Shri Swapan Dasgupta, Honorable Minister-in-Charge, Finance, Government of West Bengal, and Shri Manoj Kumar Oraon, Honorable Minister-in-Charge, Environment & Forests, Government of West Bengal graced the occasion as guests of honour; Shri Manish Jain, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Forests, Government of West Bengal, and Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi, IFS, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, were also present on the dias. One of the most important highlights of the Foundation Day was the release of some major scientific publications and digital initiatives that demonstrate the continuing dedication of the Zoological Survey of India towards the documentation and preservation of the vast biodiversity of our country. The Hon'ble Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav unveiled publications from the Zoological Survey of India and the Botanical Survey of India, including Animal Discoveries 2025: New Species and New Records, Animal Taxonomy Summit 2026 Abstract Book and Special Issue of Records of the Zoological Survey of India, Jeev Darpan, Checklist: Fauna of West Bengal, Faunal Composition of Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest of West Bengal, Faunal Diversity of Protected Areas of West Bengal, and Plant Discoveries 2025: New Genera, New Species and New Records was released. The Hon'ble Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav introduced the Checklist of Indian Fauna Portal 3.0 and the printed version of the Checklist of Indian Fauna 3.0 listing all species across 121 groups found in India and launched the PaleoIndia Portal for the first of its kind in India towards biodiversity documentation and scientific research. He subsequently inaugurated the Animal Taxonomy Summit-2026 (ATS 2026) and delivered the opening speech. In the poster session of Animal Taxonomy Summit 2026, a total number of 113 abstracts have been selected on three different thrust areas, including 39 abstracts on Thrust Area-1: Taxonomy, 35 abstracts on Thrust Area -2: Systematics, and 39 abstracts on Thrust Area -3: Faunal Diversity and Conservation. This month, a total of **1755** species of faunal communities have been identified, which includes 20 new species to science such as five species of Lepidoptera, five species of Mantodea, one species of Damselfly, three species of Hymenoptera, two species of Arachnida, two species of free living Nematoda, one species of Land Snail, and one species of Frog. In addition to these, two genera of Lepidoptera, nine species of Lepidoptera, one Genus of Arachnida and one species of Arachnida have been added to the Indian faunal database for the first time.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all the contributors for bringing these achievements. Let us persist in our pursuit of excellence as we advance in our mission to enhance our understanding and protection of the faunal wealth of our nation.

Jai Hind,

Dr. Dhriti Banerjee
Director
5th June 2026
Kolkata

HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA

A total of 473 species of faunal communities belonging to Arachnida, Diptera, Hymenoptera, Platyhelminthes, Orthoptera, Blattodea, Mantodea, Hemiptera, Mollusca, and Acanthocephala were identified. A total of two species belonging to Arachnida are described as new to science. One genus and one species of Arachnida were reported for the first time from the country. A total of four species of Arachnida, and Hemiptera were augmented to National Zoological Collections (NZCs). Apart from

these, two species of archaeological specimens were identified. Identification and Advisory services were rendered to Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Cotton University, and Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University. All scientists and staff members attended the Environment Day Rally, International Day of Yoga, Grand Finale of 111 Hours of Hackathon on Traditional Knowledge on Biodiversity Conservation, and 111th Foundation Day of Zoological Survey of India on 5th, 21st, 29th, and 30th June respectively.



Celebration of 111th Foundation Day and inauguration of Animal Taxonomy Summit 2026

NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

A total of 78 species of faunal communities belonging to Orthoptera, Odonata, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Aranae, Pisces, Amphibia, Decapoda, Mollusca, and Chiroptera were identified. Identification and advisory services were rendered to three different institutions. Regional level 111 Hours Hackathon was organised at the centre on the theme “*Traditional Knowledge in Biodiversity Conservation in the Northeastern states of India*” on 2nd June 2026. Lt General Neeraj Shukla along with senior officials visited the Centre on 12th June 2026 to discuss about possible collaborative

work with ZSI for biodiversity conservation. A team of scientists from the Centre participated in a joint workshop organised by the Indian Army and ZSI at Hasimara Military Station, West Bengal, from 15th to 17th June 2026. ‘*World Environment Day*’ was celebrated at the centre on 5th June 2026. ‘*World Blood Donor Day*’ was observed on 14th June 2026 at the centre. ‘*International Day of Yoga*’ was celebrated on 21st June 2026 at the office premises. A Technical Hindi Workshop was organised at the centre on 25th June 2026.



Visit of Lt Gen Neeraj Shukla and senior officials to ZSI/NERC



ZSI/NERC team at Hasimara Military Station

WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

A total of 89 species of faunal communities belonging to Crustacea, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Odonata, Blattodea, Lepidoptera, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified. One genus of Moth, one species of Land Snail, one species of Moth, and one species of frog were described as new to science. Four identification and advisory services were provided to researchers and stakeholders. 10 DNA barcode sequences were successfully submitted to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). A total of 101 visitors, including students from various educational institutions, visited the museum of the centre. To commemorate the 111th Foundation Year of the Zoological Survey

of India, the Centre organized the 111th Hackathon on the theme “*Traditional Knowledge in Biodiversity Conservation*” on 3rd June 2026. Swachhata Pakhwada (Cleanliness Fortnight) was observed from 1st to 15th June 2026 through activities such as the Swachhata Pledge, cleanliness and plogging drives, Shramdaan (Voluntary Labour), and a cleanliness campaign along the banks of the Pavana River. The Centre also enthusiastically observed ‘World Environment Day’, ‘World Blood Donor Day’, and ‘International Yoga Day’, reaffirming its commitment to environmental conservation, public health, and community well-being.



Celebration of International Yoga Day



Cleanliness Campaign along Pavana River bank during Swachhata Pakhwada

CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

A total of 58 species of faunal communities, including Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Hemiptera, Crustacea, and Mollusca were identified. Shri. Ved Prakash Mishra, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC and Shri. Washimul Haq, Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner, Jabalpur, visited the centre on

8th and 5th June 2026 respectively. A total of 33 visitors visited the museum of the centre. World Environment Day, Swachhata Pakhwada, World Blood Donor Day and International Day of Yoga were celebrated at the centre.



Shri. Ved Prakash Mishra, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC, visited ZSI/CZRC, Museum on 8th June, 2026



Officers and staff of ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur participated in International day for Yoga on 21st June 2026

DESERT REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

A total of 76 species of faunal communities belonging to Arachnida, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, and Hemiptera were identified. A total of 36 visitors visited the museum of the centre. One student was awarded with the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree by BGSB University, Rajouri, Jammu & Kashmir,

under the guidance of one of the scientists of the centre. 111 hours of Hackathon on Traditional Knowledge was organized by the centre on 5th June 2026. World Environment Day, International Day of Yoga, Swachhta Pakhwada, World Bicycle Day, and World Blood Donor Day were celebrated at the centre during this month.



Celebration of “Ek Ped Ma Ke Nam” at ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur



111 hours of Hackathon organized by ZSI/ DRC, Jodhpur

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

One Survey tour was conducted to Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand, from 20th to 26th June 2026. A total of 84 species of faunal communities belonging to Phthiraptera, Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Coleoptera, Pisces, Amphibia and Reptilia were identified. Regional level 111-Hours Hackathon was organised at the centre on 3rd June 2026 and the Level 2 Semifinal of 111-Hours Hackathon on “Traditional Knowledge in Biodiversity Conservation” was also organized at the centre on 14th June 2026. World

Environment Day was celebrated at the centre on 5th June 2026, where 60 participants from CRIS DNA Labs Institute, Dehradun participated in Capacity Building Hands on Training Workshop on Faunal Diversity and Environment Conservation. ‘International Day of Yoga’ was celebrated on 21st June at the office premises. The Centre organized “Mission Life Programme- Save Water, Save Electricity, Cleanliness Drive”, and “Ek Ped Maa Kae Naam Campaign” during the month.



Celebration of International Day for Yoga



Sandal sapling planted by the Director, ZSI at ZSI/NRC, Dehradun on 14th June 2026

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A total of 87 species of faunal communities belonging to Crustacea, Ephemeroptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Mollusca, Pisces, Amphibia, Reptilia, Aves, and zooplankton were identified. A damselfly species, *Mortonagrion santha* Christopher, Babu & Subramanian, 2026, has been described as new to science from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Training was imparted to 54 Zoology students from The American College, Madurai; Fatima College, Madurai; Quaid-E-Millat Government College for

Women, Chennai; Queen Mary's College, Chennai; The New College, Chennai; and Presidency College, Chennai. In commemoration of the 111th foundation day of the Zoological Survey of India, the Level-1 ZSI 111 Hours of Hackathon was organized by the centre on 3rd June 2026, with the theme “Traditional Knowledge Systems with Contemporary Technological Advancements.” ‘World Environment Day’ and the ‘International Day of Yoga’ were also celebrated at the centre on 5th June, and 21st June 2026 respectively.



Celebration of World Environment Day

GANGETIC PLAINS REGIONAL CENTRE, PATNA, BIHAR

A total of 103 species belonging to Insecta, Testate Amoebae, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified. The Hackathon 2026 Level-1 competition for Bihar and Jharkhand states was conducted on 3rd

June 2026 by the centre. World Environment Day, International Day of Yoga, Swachhta Pakhwada, and World Blood Donor Day were celebrated at the centre during this month.



Hackathon 2026 Level-1 at ZSI/GPRC on 3rd June 2026



International Yoga Day celebration at Eco Park, Patna on 21st June 2026

HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A total of 99 species of faunal communities belonging to Lepidoptera, Trichoptera, Neuroptera, Orthoptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, and Coleoptera were identified during this month. Four species of Lepidoptera were described as new to science, two genera and nine species of Lepidoptera recorded for the first time from the country. A total of 30 species of Lepidoptera were augmented to National Zoological Collections (ZSI-NZC). The 111 hours of Hackathon with the theme “Traditional knowledge on Biodiversity conservation in Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Jammu

and Kashmir” was organized at ZSI/HARC, Solan on 3rd June 2026. दिनांक 09 जून 2026 को संसदीय राजभाषा समिति की तीसरी उपसमिति द्वारा मनाली (हि. प्र.) में इस कार्यालय का राजभाषा का निरीक्षण किया गया। कार्यालय का राजभाषा संबंधित कार्य सर्वोत्तम पाया गया और संसदीय राजभाषा समिति द्वारा इस कार्यालय को “उत्कृष्ट” श्रेणी का प्रमाण पत्र प्रदान किया गया। A total of 33 visitors visited the museum of the centre. World Environment Day, International Day of Yoga, and Swachhta Pakhwada were celebrated at the centre during this month.



Plantation Drive on 5th June 2026 at ZSI/HARC Campus



Swachhta Pledge

MARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

Surveys were conducted to the fish landing centres in Chennai during this month. A total of 60 species belonging to different faunal

groups were identified during this month. 'World Environment Day' was celebrated at the centre on 5th June 2026.



Reef slope in Kavaratti atoll

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, SRI VIJAYA PURAM, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

A long-term survey was conducted to Great Nicobar Island from 1st to 30th June 2026 to study the Marine and Terrestrial faunal diversity. Local surveys were conducted on 11th and 26th to 30th June 2026 to South Andaman to study the Terrestrial and Marine Faunal diversity. A total of 256 species of faunal communities belonging to Coleoptera, Hemiptera,

Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Amphibia, Mammalia, Reptilia, Birds, Decapoda, Stomatopoda, Fishes, Scyphozoa, and Mollusca were identified. Quarterly Hindi Workshop was organized at the centre on 29th June 2026. World Environment Day, International Day of Yoga and Swachhata Pakhwada were celebrated at the centre.



World Environment Day celebration at ZSI/ANRC



Thelenota ananas (Jaeger, 1833)

SUNDERBAN REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING, WEST BENGAL

A total 66 species of different faunal communities were identified during this month. Seven outreach activities were organized at the centre including

Regional level 111-Hours Hackathon on the theme “*Traditional Knowledge on Biodiversity Conservation*” on 5th June 2026.



Regional level 111-Hours Hackathon



International Day for Yoga 2026

FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

Survey tour was conducted to Krishna River basin from 8th to 27th June 2026. A total of 109 species of faunal communities belonging to Fishes, Aquatic Coleoptera, Aquatic Hemiptera, Branchiopoda, Ostracoda, Copepoda, Amphibia, and Mollusca were identified during this month. A total of 22 DNA sequences were submitted to NCBI. All scientists and staff actively participated in the “Plogging While Jogging” event conducted on 3rd June 2026 and in the World Environment Day

programme on 5th June 2026. As part of the World Environment Day celebrations, all scientists and staff participated in a plantation drive conducted in the office campus under the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” campaign on the same day. As part of the Swachhata Pakhwada campaign, scientists and staff actively participated in a pond cleaning drive conducted on 12th June 2026. World Blood Donor Day and International Day of Yoga were celebrated at the centre during this month.



Funambulus pennantii Wroughton, 1905



Wetland cleaning as part of Swachhata Pakhwada campaign

WESTERN GHATS REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA

A total of 40 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate Amoeba, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Dermaptera, and Pisces were identified. Three species of Hymenoptera, one species of Lepidoptera, and five species of Mantodea were described as new to science. One subspecies of Mantodea was also described as new to science. Identification and advisory services was rendered to University of Calicut. A total of 85 visitors visited the museum of the centre. Regional level 111-Hour Hackathon, was organized by the centre as a part of the commemoration of the 111th Foundation Year of the Zoological Survey of India on 1st June 2026. 'World Environment Day' was celebrated at the centre on 5th June 2026. 'Swatchatha Pakwada fortnight' was celebrated at the centre from 1st June to 15th June 2026. 'International Day of Yoga' was celebrated in collaboration with Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centre on 21st June.



International Yoga Day celebration



Regional level 111-Hours Hackathon

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

A total of 178 species belonging to different faunal communities were identified during this month. A total of 19 DNA barcodes uploaded in NCBI database belonging to 11 species. Hackathon on “*Traditional Knowledge on Biodiversity Conservation*” on regional level was organized by the centre on 5th June 2026. International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21st of this month on the Gopalpur-on-Sea, beaches. Forty-eight Forest Officers from Odisha Forest Department along with their Senior Officer have

visited ZSI/EBRC museum auditorium DNA lab for training purposes. Swachhata Pakhwada was celebrated from 1st to 15th of this month with various activities including beach cleaning activity. हिन्दी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यशाला में “वैज्ञानिक एवं प्रशासनिक कार्यों में हिन्दी: प्रयोग, संभावनाएँ एवं चुनौतियाँ” विषय पर मुख्य वक्ता सुश्री सुष्मिता स्वैन द्वारा सारगर्भित व्याख्यान एवं विचार-विमर्श किया गया। यह आयोजन राजभाषा हिन्दी के प्रभावी प्रयोग को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल रहा।



Hackathon 2026 on Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity



Yoga Day celebration in the Gopalpur, Odisha Beach

ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

A local survey was conducted to Pare Dam in Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh. A total of 97 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Coleoptera, Aves, and Pisces were identified. A total of 32 DNA sequences were generated during this month. 111 hours of Hackathon

on traditional knowledge and workshop on “Implementation of Hindi” were organized by the centre on 19th June 2026. World Environment Day, Swachhata Pakhwada, World Blood Donor Day and International Day of Yoga were celebrated at the centre.



World Environment Day 2026 in collaboration with 1 Arunachal Pradesh Battalion NCC cadets on 5th June 2026



Hindi Workshop and meeting of Official Language Implementation Committee on 19th June 2026

MARINE AQUARIUM AND REGIONAL CENTRE, DIGHA, WEST BENGAL

Survey tours were conducted to the Champa estuary, West Bengal, and Udaypur sea beach, Odisha, on 12th and 18th June. A total of 65 species of different faunal communities were identified during this month. Two species of free living nematodes, *Metachromadoroides champensis* sp. nov. and *Metachromadoroides hamatus* sp. nov., were described as new to science. One species of dead-leaf mantis, *Parablepharis indica* Binoy & Sureshan, 2026, was also described as new to science. The centre received a total number of 10193 visitors during this month. Regional level 111-Hour Hackathon, was organized by the centre on 2nd June 2026. Various awareness activities were organized as a part of World Environment Day, at the centre on 5th June 2026. World Blood Donor Day, World Ocean Day, World Bicycle Day, International Yoga Day, and Swachhta

Pakhwada 2026 were also celebrated at the centre during this month. दिनांक 24th June 2026 को ZSI/MARC, Digha में एक पूर्णदिवसीय राजभाषा हिंदी कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया, जिसका उद्देश्य दैनिक कार्यालयी कार्यों एवं पत्राचार में हिंदी के व्यावहारिक प्रयोग को बढ़ावा देना था।



International Yoga Day 2026



World Environment Day 2026

NEW DISCOVERIES

NEW SPECIES



Hamataliwa mawlyngot Bhattacharya, Sudhin & Sen, 2026



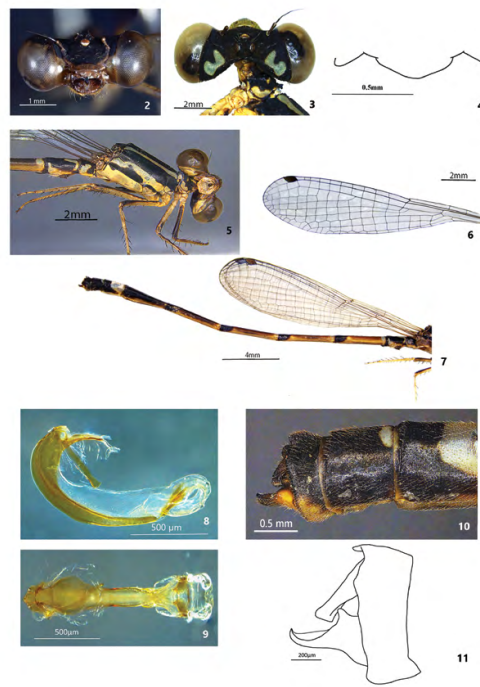
Chorizopesoides shimoga Dutta, Sudhin, Sen & Banerjee, 2026



Metachromadoroides champensis Manna, Balakrishnan & Ansari, 2026



Metachromadoroides hamatus Manna, Balakrishnan & Ansari, 2026



Mortonagrion santha Christopher, Babu & Subramanian, 2026



Ammoplanus clypeatus Tessy, Girish Kumar & Sureshan, 2026



Ammoplanus luteus Tessy, Girish Kumar & Sureshan, 2026



Ammoplanus striatus Tessy, Girish Kumar & Sureshan, 2026



Antaram idukki Kalawate, Palot, Valappil & Zilli, 2026



Parablepharis indica Binoy & Sureshan, 2026



Pseudohestiasula (Bharatestiasula) *occidentalis* Kamila, Schwarz, Shcherbakov & Sureshan, 2026



Pseudohestiasula (Bharatestiasula) *greeni* Kamila, Schwarz, Shcherbakov & Sureshan, 2026



Pseudohestiasula (Paxestiasula) unipunctata Kamila, Schwarz, Shcherbakov & Sureshan, 2026



Pseudohestiasula incertae sedis ovata Kamila, Schwarz, Shcherbakov & Sureshan, 2026



Amolops kamal Saikia, Sinha, Shabnam, Konwar, Borthakur & Dinesh, 2026



Leptopoma subbaraoi Tripathy, Sajan & Thakur, 2026

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BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Sardar, S., Majumdar, B., Rameshkumar, A. and Kazmi, S.I. 2026. Bee Pollinators of Medicinal Plants. In: Chakravarthy, A.K. (Eds.). *The Role of Pollinators in Tropical Landscapes- Conservation and Sustainability across Wild and Managed Systems*, Springer Nature, Singapore, 464 pp.
2. Saini, K. 2026. Urban wildlife adaptations: How animals thrive in man-made environments. Pp. 190–199. In: Salunke, A.K. and Pant, R. (Eds.). *Innovative Approaches in Multidisciplinary Research*

and Development (IAMRD), San Int. Scientific Publications, Chennai, India.

3. Saini, K. 2026. Genetic diversity in Endangered Species: Conservation Strategies and Challenges. Pp. 106–114. In: Salunke, A.K. and Pant, R. (Eds.). *Innovative Approaches in Multidisciplinary Research and Development (IAMRD)*, San Int. Scientific Publications, Chennai, India.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, attended a meeting under the chairmanship of Shri Satyajit Mishra, Joint Secretary (Media) on 1st June 2026 to discuss the modality of the social media outreach of the tree plantation programme on the occasion of World Environment Day, 2026; officially launched the Swachh Bharat Special Campaign 6.0 committing to a cleaner, greener India on 1st June 2026 and encouraged all scientists, officers, staff and research scholars of ZSI Hqrs and regional centres to take the Swachhwa pledge enthusiastically on 2nd June 2026; inspired the Training and Extension Division of the Zoological Survey of India to organise a painting competition on the Theme of “*Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future.*” for school children on the occasion of World Environment Day 2026 and also handed over trophies, certificates to the winners and distributed saplings to all participants for promoting ‘*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*’ initiative of Government of India; lead a vibrant “*Save the Environment*” awareness rally consisting of over 700 scientists, researchers and staff of ZSI along with citizens, volunteers and young learners on the occasion of World Environment Day; launched the tree plantation initiative “*Tree Plantation Seva Project*” undertaken by the Art of Living in the South Kolkata Region on 5th June 2026 and also distributed fruit saplings to Art of Living volunteers which were later planted at Chetla, Kolkata; felicitated Colonel Samarjit Ray, Commanding Officer, 121 Infantry Battalion and distributed fruit saplings to the Jawans and Kolkata Police on the same day; attended the meeting under the Chairmanship of the Hon’ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, held at MoEF&CC, New Delhi on 9th June 2026; attended the Level 2 (Semi-Final) of the

111 Hours of Hackathon on “*Traditional Knowledge on Biodiversity Conservation*”, organized by ZSI to commemorate the 111th Foundation Day of ZSI held on 14th June 2026 at Northern Regional Centre(NRC), ZSI, Dehradun; attended the Meeting of the steering committee for projects undertaken following the 7th Meeting of the National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) hosted by VC-MoEFCC; attended the Meeting of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) on 19th June 2026 in the Union Public Service Commission’s Office; celebrated the 12th International Day of Yoga with more than 500 scientists and staff in a mass Yoga session on 21st June 2026 under the theme “*Yoga for Healthy Ageing*” and also felicitated Shri Deep Biswas, Yoga Instructor, Art of Living Foundation South Kolkata, for guiding the ZSI scientists and staff through a transformative yoga session; presided over the Meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee regarding the Implementation of the Official Language policy on 22nd June 2026; attended the Meeting regarding DPC for promotion to the post of Assistant Library and Information officer in ZSI under the chairmanship of JS(Admin) on 23rd June 2026; attended a Press Meeting for Curtain Raiser event of 111th Foundation Day of Zoological Survey of India and Animal Taxonomy Summit 2026 on 24th June 2026; organized the Grand Finale of the 111 Hours Hackathon on 29th June 2026 at Dhanodhanyo Auditorium, Kolkata and graced the dias with the Chief Guest Mr. Tanmay Kumar, IAS, Secretary, MoEFCC; Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, ADG, MoEFCC; Ms. Meenaxi Rawat, AS & FA, MoEFCC; Shri Anand Mohan, CEO CAMPAA; Shri. Ved Prakash Mishra, JS, MoEFCC; Dr. Kanad Das, Director, BSI, and also delivered a speech addressing the importance of collaboration in advancing innovation for biodiversity & contribution of traditional knowledge in Biodiversity Conservation; organized the 111th Foundation Day Ceremony on 30th June 2026 at Dhanodhanyo Auditorium, Kolkata in the gracious presence of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon’ble Union Minister, MoEFCC; Shri Manoj Oraon, Hon’ble Minister Forests & Environment, Government of WB & Dr. Swapan Dasgupta Hon’ble Finance Minister, West Bengal and also delivered the Welcome Address, highlighting the

institution’s enduring commitment to biodiversity research, scientific excellence, and wildlife conservation.

2. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist- F, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended meeting with the Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Administration on 5th June 2026 and presented the proposed work plan for the Development of Coral Reefs and its Management in Andaman under the National Coastal Mission through virtual mode; attended the 47th Meeting of the Lakshadweep Coastal Zone Management Authority, as an Expert Member, on 8th June 2026 through virtual mode; attended the meeting with Hon’ble Minister, MoEFCC and the Secretary, MoEFCC on 9th June 2026 to discuss about the ZSI Foundation Day and ATS 2026; attended meeting with the Joint Secretary, MoEFCC regarding the draft version of the book Faunal Diversity of Rampath held on 10th June 2026; attended the semi-final of 111 hrs of Hackathon on Traditional Knowledge in Wildlife Conservation held at ZSI/ NRC, Dehradun on 14th June 2026; presented the progress report on the review meeting of National Coastal Mission 2.0 project, Development of Corals Reefs and its Management chaired by the Additional Secretary, MoEFCC on 18th June 2026; submitted the draft DPR for the project Development of Corals Reefs and its Management submitted to the MoEFCC on 23rd June 2026.
3. Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Scientist- E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur, attend the Technical and Financial Committee of NIRANTAR on 8th June 2026 under the Chairmanship of the Addl. DGF (WL), MoEFCC at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Indus Conference Hall, Ground Floor, Jal Wing, New Delhi.
4. Dr. Anil Kumar, Scientist- E, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, attended a meeting regarding the pendency of payments on GeM on 16th June 2026.
5. Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist- E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, attended meeting with Chief Controller of Accounts, MoEF&CC to discuss the pendency of Payments in GeM portal as per Annexure-A at Sutlej Conference Hall, Ground Floor, Jal Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan on 16th June 2026.
6. Dr. J. S. Yogesh Kumar, Scientist- E, ZSI/SbRC, Canning, attended IUCN Online meeting entitled “*Global Coral RLE-Data Contributors Engagement in*

- India*” on 18th June 2026 and presented progress of IUCN assessment data status by ZSI team; participated Tamil Nadu Forests – Wild Life – Research permission meeting held on 25th June 2026.
7. Dr. A. S. Kalawate, Scientist- E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended a Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB) meeting for research proposals on 9th June 2026; attended Hindi Rajbhasha meeting on 16th June and 18th June 2026; attended State Board for Wildlife (SBWL)-PCCF meeting on 18th June 2026.
 8. Dr. S.D. Gurumayum, Scientist- E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended the 12th SEAC meeting virtually on 22nd June 2026 on 2 drilling sites of Onshore Oil & Gas Drilling & Testing at Loc. ONMA in OALP-I Block AA-ONHP-2017/16 under Namsai under Agenda No. EC/AGENDA/SEAC/430283/6/2026.
 9. Smt. Ilona Kharkongor, Scientist- E, and Dr. Temjenmongla, Scientist- D, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended a hybrid meeting regarding review of pendency in GeM portal hosted by MoEFCC, New Delhi, on 16th and 18th June 2026.
 10. Dr. Mrinal Kumar Das, Scientist- D, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, attended a meeting at Lok Niwas under the Secretary to Lt. Governor, A & N Islands in connection with the translocation of coral reefs under the Great Nicobar Projects on 12th June 2026.
 11. Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist- D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, provided data on the Coral Reefs of India for the IUCN Global Coral Reef Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) assessment by as required by IUCN through ZSI/HQ; provide detailed information on Coral Conservation and Health Conditions and Establishment of Centre for excellence on Corals from National Coastal Mission, and Restoration of Corals in Lakshadweep from National Coastal Mission as required by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through ZSI/HQ; provided detailed information on activities of ZSI in Coral Reef Research in Gulf of Kachchh and Gulf of Mannar as required by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through ZSI/HQ; attended a meeting NFPs Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Region, for Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on 4th June 2026 virtually; attended IUCN meeting on “*Global Coral RLE-Data Contributors Engagement in India*” on 18th June 2026 virtually.
 12. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, attended a webinar titled “*Recent Outbreak of Nipah and Bats of Kerala*”, delivered by Dr. P. O. Nameer, Professor of Wildlife Sciences & Dean of College of Climate Change and Environmental Sciences, Kerala Agricultural University, on 21st June 2026; attended the webinar “*When Plants Turn Predators: The Study of Carnivorous Plants*”, delivered by Dr. Lakshmi Ashok Kumar and organized by Bionyx and the Travancore Natural History Society on 20th June 2026.
 13. Dr. Dola Roy, Scientist- B, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended a Consultative Workshop on the Scope of Work under the National Coastal Mission (NCM) Scheme for the proposed activity, “*Pollution Abatement, Monitoring and Control Measures in Coastal Waters of India with Emphasis on Deep Sea Discharge*” on 8th June 2026 at the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai; attended a review meeting along with Ms. Anubarna Dutta Chowdhury, Senior Zoological Assistant, at the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, regarding the finalization of the design and development of the National Consolidated Mapping of Indian Fossil Beds Portal on 9th June 2026.
 14. Dr. K. Silambarasn, Scientist- B, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, attended meeting at Lok Niwas under the Secretary to Lt. Governor, A & N Islands in connection with the translocation of coral reefs under the Great Nicobar Projects on 29th June 2026.
 15. Scientists of ZSI/HQ, Kolkata and regional centres attended a meeting on the “*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*” campaign on 1st and 18th June 2026 organized by the MoEFCC, New Delhi virtually; attended a meeting for the review of the Swachhta Pakhwara campaign on 10th June 2026, organized by the MoEFCC, New Delhi virtually; attended a meeting concerning the organization of a blood donation awareness programme on 12th June 2026, organized by the MoEFCC, New Delhi virtually; attended Grand Finale of 111-Hours Hackathon

on Traditional Knowledge on Biodiversity Conservation on 29th June 2026; attended 111th Foundation Day of Zoological Survey of India and Inauguration of Animal Taxonomy Summit 2026 on 30th June 2026.

TRAININGS ORGANIZED

1. Dr. N. Marimuthu, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, conducted a comprehensive five days training session between 1st and 5th June 2026 for the Marine Conservation Leadership Programme Fellows on “*Integrative Morpho-Multivariate Approach to the Systematics of Scleractinian Corals*”, organized by the OMCAR Foundation, OMCAR Palk Bay Environmental Education Centre, Velivayal Village, Rajamadam Post, Thanjavur Dist, Tamil Nadu – 614701 with the approval of DZSI.
2. ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, organized one-day seminar (online) on 2nd June 2026, as part of celebration of World Environment Day 2026 with the theme “*Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future*” for the teachers, students of Andaman & Nicobar island.
3. ZSI/MARC, Digha, organised One day training programme as part of their one-month training course conducted for the 15th batch of promotee deputy ranger/forester from the State Forest Training Institute, Hijli, Kharagpur where a batch of trainees visited the ZSI/MARC, Digha on 13th June 2026; Organised a training and interactive lecture session program on “*Overview of Marine fauna diversity and conservation*” for graduation students and faculty from the departments of Zoology, Fisheries Sciences, and Aquaculture at Ramnagar College on 24th June 2026;
4. ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, Organized one day “*Capacity Building Hands-on-Training Programme on Faunal Diversity in India and efforts on Environment Conservation*” for 60 Trainees of CRIS DNA Labs Institute, Dehradun at ZSI/NRC, Dehradun on 5th June 2026; organized one day “*Capacity Building Hands-on-Training Workshop on Faunal Diversity in India*” to 52 Trainees of Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun, organized at ZSI/ NRC, Dehradun on 24th June 2026; organized Quarterly Hindi workshop for the Scientists & staff of ZSI/NRC, Dehradun organised by Hindi Section in the Board Room of ZSI/NRC, Dehradun on 17th June 2026.
5. ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, organized a Hindi Workshop on “*Official Language (OL) Implementation in the Backdrop of AI.*” Shri Anil Kumar, Member Secretary, TOLIC Kozhikode, and General Manager (Official Language), SBI Administrative Office, Kozhikode was the resource person.

TRAININGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist- C, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, completed the “*Refresher Course on Palaeontology*” conducted by Regional Training Division, Geological Survey of India, Eastern Region, Kolkata from 2nd to 5th June 2026.
2. Shri Sreejith S. Kumar, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, along with Shri Maniratna Kumar, Senior Zoological Assistant, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, participated in the Joint Hindi Workshop organized by TOLIC Kozhikode at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode on 23rd June 2026.

LECTURES DELIVERED

1. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist- F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, delivered a talk on “*Island Biodiversity and Climate Change*” in the one-day seminar (online) on 2nd June 2026 as part of the celebrations of World Environment Day 2026.
2. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist- F, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, delivered lecture on the topic entitled “*Status of Faunal Diversity in India and efforts on Environment Conservation*” to 60 Trainees of CRIS DNA Labs Institute, Dehradun in the Conference Hall of ZSI/NRC, Dehradun on 5th June 2026 ; delivered a lecture on the topic entitled “*Status of Faunal Diversity and efforts on their conservation in India*” to 52 Trainees of Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun organized at ZSI/NRC, Dehradun in the Conference Hall of ZSI/ NRC, Dehradun on 24th June 2026.
3. Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist- E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, delivered a lecture on the topic “*Marine Biodiversity and Conservation for Schedule marine fauna*” at One

day training programme organised as part of their one-month training course conducted for the 15th batch of promote deputy ranger/forester from the State Forest Training Institute, Hijli, Kharagpur on 13th June 2026; delivered introduction remarks on the occasion of the 111-Hour Hackathon, organized by the ZSI/MARC, Digha, West Bengal, as a part of the commemoration of the 111th Foundation Year of the Zoological Survey of India on 2nd June 2026 .

4. Dr. Basudev Tripathy, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, delivered a virtual lecture at Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE) on the occasion of World Sea Turtle Day on 16th June 2026; delivered a virtual lecture at Fakir Mohan University on the occasion of International Horseshoe Crab Day on 20th June 2026.
5. Dr. Aditya Kapil Valiveti, Scientist- C, ZSI/MARC, Digha, delivered a lecture on the topic “*Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean*” on the occasion of World Ocean Day 2026 on 8th June 2026 at a comprehensive awareness programme organized by ZSI/MARC, Digha.
6. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a lecture on the World Environment Day theme- ‘*Inspired by Nature.*

For Climate. For our Future’ at Regional Science Centre and Planetarium, Kozhikode on 5th June 2026 in connection with the celebration of World Environment Day; inaugurated the Workshop on African Giant Snail Eradication (E#GAS) at the Farookabad Institution campus on 12th June 2026 and delivered a lecture.

7. Dr. V. M. Sathish Kumar, Scientist- C, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, provided expert insights in an interview aimed at enhancing public awareness and outreach on biodiversity, environmental DNA (eDNA), and cybertaxonomy for conservation, with special emphasis on the unique ecological significance of the Gangetic plains at Doordarshan, Patna on 10th June 2026.
8. Dr. Vikram Delu, Scientist- B, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered a lecture entitled “*Scope and Career Opportunities in Natural Sciences: Biology, Environment, Wildlife, Forestry, Geology and Beyond*” on the world environment day 2026 at NERIST Campus, Nirjuli, A.P., for the NCC cadets of the 1 Arunachal Pradesh Battalion NCC.
9. Mr. Yomto Mayi, SPF, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered awareness lectured titled, “*Explore elusive Mammals of Arunachal Pradesh*” on the world environment day 2026.

PHOTO GALLERY



Glimpses of International Day of Yoga 2026



Glimpses of International Day of Yoga 2026



Director, ZSI felicitated Shri Deep Biswas, Yoga Instructor, Art of Living Foundation, Kolkata



Glimpses of Press Meeting for Curtain Raiser event of 111th Foundation Day of Zoological Survey of India and Animal Taxonomy Summit 2026 on 24th June 2026



Hon'ble guests with the Judges and finalist teams of the 111 Hours Hackathon Grand Finale on 29th June 2026



Address by Director, ZSI on the 111 Hrs Hackathon Grand Finale on 29th June 2026



Felicitation to Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director ZSI by Dr. C. Raghunathan, Additional Director, ZSI



Tribute to Bharat Mata by the Hon'ble Ministers



Welcome address by Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director ZSI on the 111th Foundation Day of ZSI



Felicitation to Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India by Director, ZSI



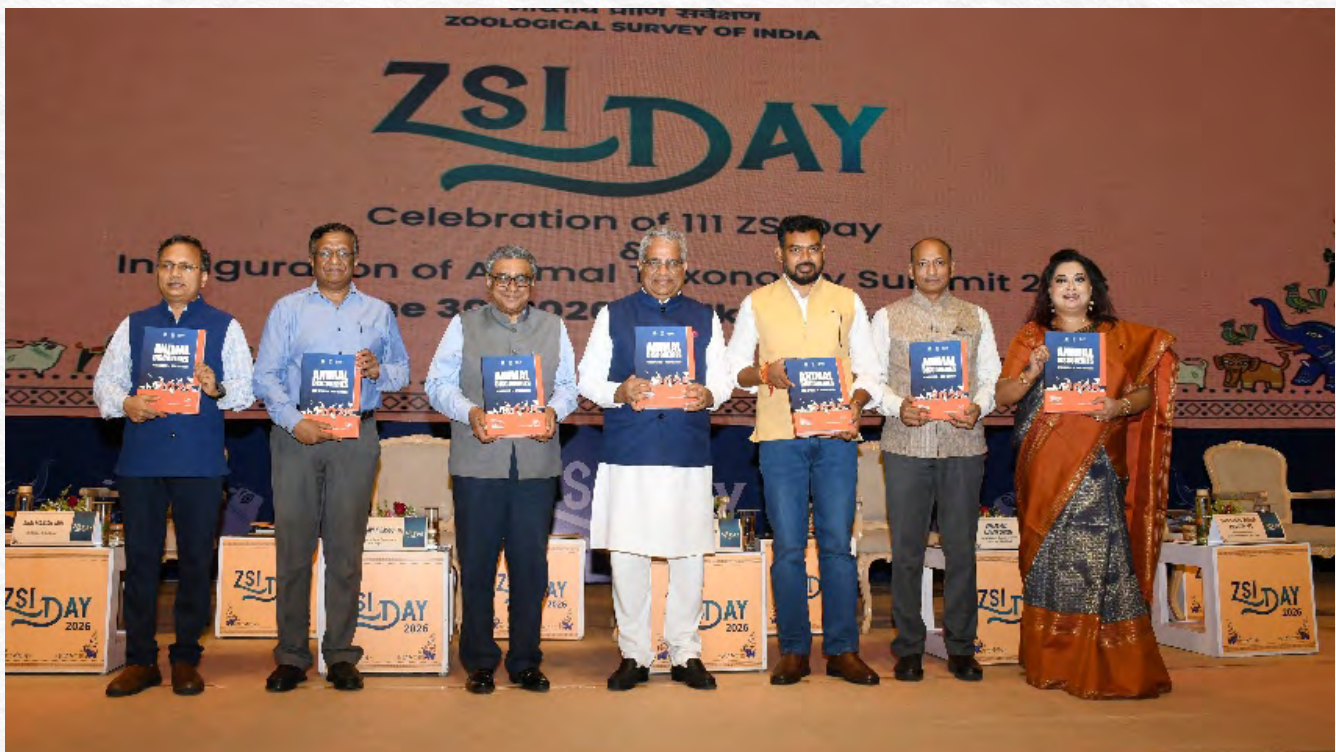
Felicitation to Dr. Swapan Dasgupta, Minister-in-Charge, Finance, Government of West Bengal by Director, ZSI



Felicitation to Shri Manoj Oraon, Honorable Minister-in-Charge, Environment & Forests, Government of West Bengal by Director, ZSI



Address by Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav on the ZSI Day



Release of the Book - Animal Discoveries 2025: New Species and new Records by Hon'ble Ministers and delegates



Hon'ble Ministers awarded the Winner of the 111 Hours Hackathon Grand Finale Team Tamilnadu



Hon'ble Ministers awarded the Winner team of Green Businesses Model Plan from IQ City World School of Business, Kolkata



Director ZSI distributed saplings to the children



Winners of painting competition received trophies & certificate from Director ZSI



DZSI with Judges and participants for Placard design competition on world environment Day 2026.



Winner of the placard design competition on the theme of "Inspired by Nature. For climate. For our Future."



World Environment Day awareness rally led by Director, ZSI



Director, Zoological Survey of India felicitated Colonel Samarjit Ray, Commanding Officer on the occasion of World Environment Day



Director, ZSI distributed fruit saplings to the Jawans of 121 infantry battalion



Director, ZSI launched the tree plantation initiative undertaken by the Art of Living Organization

A Tribute to DR. P. K. TALWAR

The Unfading Lighthouse of Indian Ichthyology

by

Dr. K. Venkataraman

Former Director, ZSI; Former Secretary, NBA; Former Member Secretary LoEA



Dr. P. K. Talwar, one of the greatest fish taxonomists South Asia has ever produced, remains an irreplaceable pillar in the history of the Zoological Survey of India and in the scientific landscape of this nation. His journey began on November 14, 1934, in the rugged mountains of Quetta, then part of undivided India.

Born as the third of seven siblings, his early life was shaped by separation from home at the tender age of three when he was sent to Wynberg Allen School in Mussoorie. The turbulence of the 1947 partition uprooted his family from Quetta and thrust them into refugee camps in India, a period marked by hardship, uncertainty, and struggle. Yet, those difficult years forged in him a spirit of steel—an indomitable determination to rise above adversity, to work hard, support his siblings, and carve out a life built on purpose, discipline, and scientific passion. Despite having spent his childhood among mountains and deserts, far from the sea, an inexplicable calling drew him towards water, fish, and the underwater world. He would later remark—perhaps only half-jokingly—that he must have been a fish in his previous birth because the oceans felt like home.

After completing his M.Sc. from Jodhpur University, he moved to Mandapam in Tamil Nadu to join the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. There, aboard trawlers and small fishing boats, he discovered the magical realm hidden beneath the waves. He immersed himself in the painstaking, intricate world of ichthyology—studying, comparing, describing, and documenting fish species with an accuracy that demanded immense patience and a monk-like dedication.

The early years of his research were a herculean task. For every new species discovered, he had to examine hundreds—sometimes thousands—of specimens under the microscope. But his passion never wavered. Every discovery was a moment of pure scientific joy, a eureka moment that validated the endless hours of meticulous work. As the young India of the 1960s slowly grew through limited infrastructure and slow communication, Dr. Talwar built his career not through convenience but through sheer perseverance and scientific discipline.

His entry into the Zoological Survey of India in 1965 marked the beginning of a legendary association that

would define the course of Indian ichthyology for decades. At ZSI, he became not only a guardian of the National Zoological Collections but also a visionary who expanded our understanding of marine and freshwater biodiversity across the subcontinent. His respect for historical collections—those inherited from the Asiatic Society and the Indian Museum—was profound. He firmly believed that without accurate taxonomy and proper validation of type specimens, no scientific progress could stand on solid ground.

Throughout his career, Dr. Talwar contributed an extraordinary volume of scientific literature that remains foundational in the field. His magnum opus, *Commercial Sea Fishes of India*, co-authored with R. K. Kacker in 1984 and spanning almost 1000 pages, became the gold standard for marine biologists, policy planners, and conservation agencies. His monumental work on the family Sciaenidae, published in 1995 as part of the Fauna of India series, established him as the foremost authority on croakers and drums of the Indian region. His dedication to cataloguing and validating historical specimens ensured that no ambiguity remained regarding species described during colonial expeditions, including rediscoveries of lost or misidentified type specimens.

His contributions to the ZSI's regional faunal series—including the Fauna of West Bengal—helped establish ecological baselines for estuarine and coastal biodiversity.

His authorship of the Pisces section in Animal Resources of India further demonstrated his encyclopaedic command over fish diversity. Many young researchers of that era recall how his knowledge, humility, and discipline shaped their careers. For decades, students, scientists, professors, and fisheries managers across India and abroad referred to “Talwar’s books” as authoritative sources. Even today, no ichthyology laboratory or fisheries institution in India is complete without his works on its shelves.

Perhaps the most poetic aspect of his legacy is the emotional depth with which he viewed his relationship with fish. In his own reflective writing, *“Fish, Water and Me”*, Dr. Talwar described his lifelong bond with the sea—its waves, its rhythms, and the mysterious creatures it hid beneath. His words revealed a man who did not merely study fish; he understood them, respected them, and found companionship in their world. He spoke of diving into the unknown, of the thrill of new species rising from nets, of seabirds swooping down, of boats dancing with waves. Even towards the end of his life, he said, “Someday I shall return to meet the fish in the waters... yes, I will.” Those words echo today like a gentle whisper from a scientist whose soul forever belonged to the ocean. Dr. Talwar’s name will forever remain engraved in the history of India’s marine biology, and his legacy will continue guiding countless scientists toward deeper waters and greater discoveries.