

ZSI E-News

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Cover: Indian Hog Deer, *Axis porcinus*
(Zimmermann, 1780)

Courtesy: Head Quarters, Kolkata.

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from the Director's Desk

Dear Colleagues and Esteemed Readers

I am delighted to present March 2026 edition of the Monthly E-News of Zoological Survey of India. The E-News is a true reflection of our scientific prowess and our strong desire to explore and protect the wonderful variety of fauna in our country. Every edition of the E-News highlights the determination and hard work of our researchers, who constantly try to understand the complexity of India's fauna. Through the various activities including explorations, taxonomic, behavioral studies, and conservation projects, our researchers contribute towards the understanding of India's biodiversity.

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a One-Day National Seminar on “*Emerging Paradigms in Zoological Sciences for Sustainable Futures*” was jointly organized by the Zoological Survey of India and the Department of Zoology, Vidyasagar University on 24th March 2026 at Vidyasagar University. Scientists from Zoological Survey of India delivered lectures and performed duties as judge during the poster session. During the month, the scientists and researchers of ZSI identified 1137 species from different faunal groups. This included nine new species, including one species of marine Crab, one species of Cockroach, two new species of Psocoptera, two new species of Moths, one species of Hymenoptera, two species of Nematelminthes, and one species of Annelida. Seven species of moths, one species of Coleoptera, and one species of Mollusca have been recorded from India for the first time.

We are dedicated to bringing out our collective achievements, sharing our thoughts, and promoting collaboration not only within the scientific fraternity but also outside it. It is my utmost pleasure to thank all those who are making relentless efforts to advance the cause of the Zoological Survey of India.

Let us jointly strive for the conservation of this unique fauna of our country. Best wishes for more success in future.

Jai Hind,

Dr. Dhriti Banerjee
Director
5th April 2026
Kolkata

HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA

Survey tours were conducted to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat. A total of 573 species of faunal communities belonging to Acanthocephala, Arachnida, Diptera, Hymenoptera, Mollusca, Lepidoptera, Platyhelminthes, Hemiptera, and Nematelminthes were identified. A total of three species belonging to Nematelminthes and Hymenoptera are described as new to science, and one species of Mollusca is reported for the first time from the country. A total of 53 species of Nematelminthes, Hymenoptera, and Lepidoptera were augmented to National Zoological Collections (NZCs). Apart from these, 77 species of archaeological specimens were identified. Identification and Advisory services were rendered to Fergusson College, Pune, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Raja Narendralal Khan Women's College, and Vidyasagar University, West Bengal.



NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

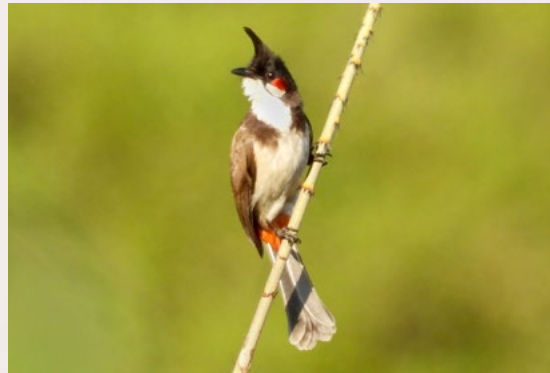
Survey tours were conducted to Veerangana Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh and the caves of Garo Hills, Meghalaya, from 25th February to 6th March 2026 and from 14th March to 21st March 2026, respectively. A total of 121 species of faunal communities belonging to Orthoptera, Odonata, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Aranae, Pisces, Amphibia, Aves, Decapoda, and Chiroptera were identified. As part of the report release event of “*State of India’s Bats, 2024-25*”, a photo exhibition on caves and bats was organized at the Centre on 25th March 2026. A total of 30 visitors, including guests attending the “*State of India’s Bats*” book release event, faculty members from several colleges in Shillong, and media personnel from the city, visited the Museum on 25th March 2026. As part of ‘*Jal Mahotsav*’, a water awareness session on the global, regional and Meghalaya-specific water crisis, focusing on rainwater harvesting and daily water-saving practices, was organized by the centre on 20th March 2026.



Visitors at the photo exhibition organized at the Centre

WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

Survey tour was conducted to Odisha and West Bengal from 27th February to 15th March 2026. A total of 155 species of faunal communities belonging to Crustacea, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Mollusca, Mammals, Odonata, Amphibia, and Araneae were identified. One species of marine crab and one species of Cockroach were described as new to science. A total of 10 DNA sequences have been submitted to NCBI. Identification and advisory services were rendered to eight different educational institutions. A total of 200 people visited the museum of the centre. A “Seva Sankalp Resolution” reading programme was organized at the centre on 2nd March 2026.



Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus* (Linnaeus, 1758)



Observation of seva sankalp in the centre

CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

A total of 88 species of faunal communities, including Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Hemiptera, and Mollusca were identified. Two new species of Lepidoptera (Moths) were described new to science, and 7 new records to Indian Lepidoptera fauna were added by the scientists of the centre. A total of 31 general visitors visited the museum of the centre. Officers and staff of the centre participated and took resolution under campaign “Seva Sankalp Resolution” on 2nd March 2026 and a rally was organized on 20th March 2026 under “Jal Mahotsav-2026” campaign.



“Jal Mahotsav-2026” rally

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

A survey tour was conducted to Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand, from 23rd March to 27th March 2026. A total of 93 species of faunal communities belonging to Phthiraptera, Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Coleoptera, Diptera, Pisces, Amphibia, and Reptilia were identified. The Centre organized “*Mission Life Programme-Save Water, Save Electricity, Cleanliness Drive*” and “*Ek Ped Maa Kae Naam Campaign*” by the staff of ZSI/NRC, Dehradun and students of Dev Bhoomi University, Dehradun on 6th March, 10th March, 12th March, and 18th March 2026.



Survey Team at Gangotri National Park,
Uttarakhand



A Glimpse of Habitat around Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A total of 155 species belonging to Crustacea, Ephemeroptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Psocoptera, Mollusca, Pisces, Amphibia, Reptilia, Aves, and zooplankton were identified. One new species of Blattodea, and three new species along with five new country records of Psocoptera, were described from Peninsular India and South India, respectively. Identification and advisory services on Hemiptera and Crustacea were rendered to the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute and Loyola College, Chennai, respectively.



HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A total of 70 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Trichoptera, Orthoptera, Hymenoptera, and Coleoptera were identified during this month. A total of 9 visitors, visited the museum of the centre. Officers and staff of the centre celebrated Women's Day at the centre and also took the pledge on "Seva Sankalp Resolution", reaffirming our commitment to sincerity, punctuality, discipline, and a holistic outlook in performing their duties, with the shared objective of enhancing professional integrity, institutional effectiveness, and service to the nation.



Participants of the primary wing of the government School Bhoj Anji on the occasion of 'Jal Mahotsav'



International Women's Day Celebration



Sorting specimens
aboard a deep-sea
trawl, off Kollam,
Arabian Sea

MARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

Survey tours were conducted to Kollam, Arabian Sea and the Lakshadweep atolls from 14th March to 25th March 2026 and from 24th February to 25th March 2026, respectively. A total of 208 species belonging to different faunal groups were identified during this month.



Recovering bleached-dead *Acropora muricata* patch in Kavaratti lagoon, Lakshadweep

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

One long-term survey was conducted to Great Nicobar Island from 1st March to 31st March 2026 and local surveys were conducted to study the Marine and Terrestrial faunal diversity. A total of 253 species of faunal communities belonging to Annelida, Decapoda, Scapellomorpha, Fishes, Scleractinia, Reptilia, Tunicata, Hydrozoa, Echinodermata, Foraminifera, Mollusca, Platyhelminthes, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Mammalia, and Reptilia were identified. A drawing competition on the topic "Forests and Healthy Economies" was organized by the centre as part of the celebration of 'International Day of Forests' on 18th March 2026, where 72 participants participated from different schools, colleges and institutions of South Andaman. 'World Water Day' Was also celebrated at the centre on 22nd March 2026, by conducting an awareness programme, distributing seedlings to the local public, tourists and students.



Didemnum molle (Herdman, 1886)



Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (Linnaeus, 1758)



Survey team at Sundarbans

SUNDERBAN REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING, WEST BENGAL

A survey tour was conducted to Sundarbans from 22nd March to 31st March 2026. A local survey was also conducted to Gatkali, Diamond Harbour, Namkhana, Bakkhali, Henry Island, and Sagar Island along with scientists from Sathyabama University, Chennai, for eDNA and microplastic study on 3rd and 4th March 2026. A total of 77 species of different faunal communities were identified and deposited in the National Zoological Collections. A one-day seminar was organized at the centre for school students on 31st March 2026.



Seminar for school students at ZSI/SbRC, Canning

WESTERN GHATS REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA

A survey tour was conducted to Uttar Kannada district, Karnataka, from 27th February to 10th March 2026. A total of 135 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate Amoeba, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Dermaptera, Odonata, and Lepidoptera were identified. One species of Coleoptera, *Heterotarsus ceylonicus* Kaszab, 1976, was recorded for the first time from India. Identification and advisory services were provided to Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra and Farook College, Kozhikode, Kerala. A total of 35 visitors visited the museum of the centre. An awareness programme was conducted at the centre to promote the sustainable objectives of “Jal Mahotsav”, such as promoting rainwater harvesting and sustainable water use on 18th March 2026.



Survey team at Uttar Kannada district, Karnataka



“Jal Mahotsav” campaign

FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD

Survey tour was conducted to Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve, Andhra Pradesh. A total of 215 species of different faunal communities were identified. A total of 34 DNA sequences have been submitted to NCBI. National Science Day and Seva Sankalp Resolution were celebrated at the centre during this month.



Pavo cristatus Linnaeus, 1758



Porphyrio poliocephalus (Latham, 1801)



Burhinus indicus (Salvadori, 1866)



Students from Mahisadal Raj College, West Bengal

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

Mass nesting of sea turtles was recorded at the Rushikulya Mass Nesting Site from 15th to 19th March 2026, in which over 2 lakh Olive Ridley turtles laid eggs, and during the arribada, 82 old tagged turtles were recovered and also laid eggs in the site. During this month of March, two major surveys were also carried out by the centre. A total of 174 species of different faunal communities were identified in this month. A total of 32 DNA barcodes were uploaded to the NCBI database belonging to 21 species. Students from different institutions visited the museum of the centre. Officers and staff of the centre celebrated Women's Day at the centre and also took the '*Jal Sankalp pledge*', reaffirming our commitment to responsible water use and sustainable practices.



Turtle Mass nesting

ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

One local survey tour was conducted to Sonajuli on 12th March 2026. A total of 99 species of faunal communities belonging to Blattodea, Coleoptera, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Pisces, and Birds were identified. DNA extraction and PCR completed for a total of 05 different samples of 05 species using varied universal primers and 1 novel COI sequence of a new species of Genus *Neojurtina* under Hemiptera and 1 under Genus *Trachyzulpha* under Orthoptera. All the Officers and staff of ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, read the “Seva Sankalp Resolution” on the 2nd March 2026. Three reporters from All India Radio, Itanagar, and students from Hornbill English Residential School, Itanagar have visited the Centre’s Museum on 22nd March 2026. World Water Day was celebrated at the centre on 22nd March 2026 under the theme “Water and Gender: Where water flows, equality grows”.



World Water Day observation 2026



Local Survey at Sonajuli



One-day workshop on “Collection, Preservation and Identification of Meio and Macrofauna of Digha and West Bengal”

MARINE AQUARIUM AND REGIONAL CENTRE, DIGHA, WEST BENGAL

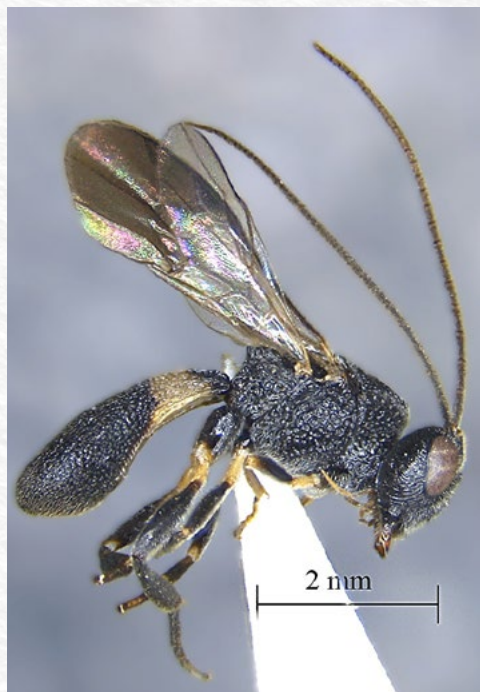
Survey tours were conducted on 17th March and 19th March 2026. A total of 113 species of faunal communities belonging to Nematoda, Mollusca, Foraminifera, Crustacea, and Pisces were identified. 2 DNA barcodes were uploaded to the NCBI database. Identification and advisory service provided to KAU Padanakkad Campus, Kasargod, Kerala by the scientists of the centre. 6260 visitors, including students from different educational institutions, visited the museum of the centre. ‘Jal Mahotsav 2026’ was celebrated by the centre through different awareness programmes, and the Jal Sankalp pledge for the “Sustainable Use of Water” was taken by all officers and staff of the centre. International Women’s Day 2026 was celebrated at the centre on 10th March 2026.



Zoology Final semester students and faculty of Ramnagar College visited ZSI/MARC, Digha

NEW DISCOVERIES

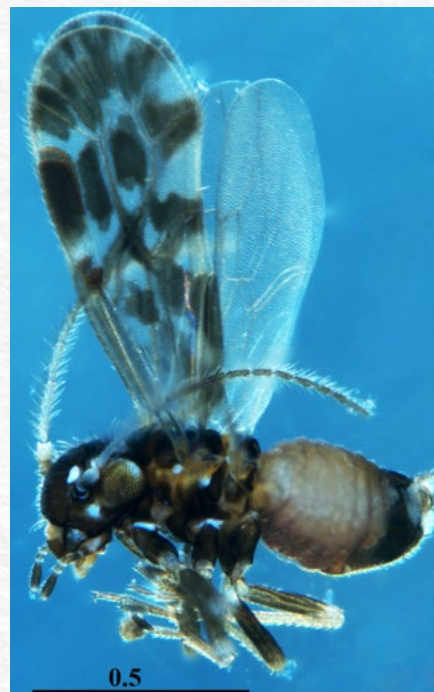
NEW SPECIES



Chelonus (Carinichelonus) mahadeb Ghosh & Sengupta, 2026



Ectopsocus bispinosus Ramesh, Babu & Subramanian, 2026



Ectopsocus sengaltheri Ramesh, Babu & Subramanian, 2026



Neoloboptera peninsularis Shabnam & Senraj 2026



Chhapgarus ngankeeae Pati, 2026



Asura buxa Bhattacharya, S. Singh & N. Singh, 2026



Caulocera hollowayi S. Singh, N. Singh & Bhattacharya, 2026

NEW RECORDS



Heterotarsus ceylonicus Kaszab, 1976

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174. Talmale, S.S. 2026. Mammalia. Pp. 233–259. **In:** Subramanian, K.A., Babu, R. and Banerjee, D. (Eds.), *Fauna of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Theni District, Tamil Nadu: Conservation Area Series, 92*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
175. Talmale, S.S. 2026. Insecta: Odonata. Pp. 245–254. **In:** *Faunal Diversity of Pune District, Maharashtra*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
176. Thilak, J. 2026. Crustacea: Branchiopoda: Cladocera. Pp. 35–42. **In:** Subramanian, K.A., Babu, R. and Banerjee, D. (Eds.), *Fauna of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Theni District, Tamil Nadu: Conservation Area Series, 92*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
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178. Thilak, J. 2026. Rotifera: Eurotatoria. Pp. 27–34. **In:** Subramanian, K.A., Babu, R. and Banerjee, D. (Eds.), *Fauna of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Theni District, Tamil Nadu: Conservation Area Series, 92*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
179. Thilak, J. 2026. Pisces. Pp. 169–180. **In:** Subramanian, K.A., Babu, R. and Banerjee, D. (Eds.), *Fauna of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Theni District, Tamil Nadu: Conservation Area Series, 92*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
180. Tripathy, B. 2026. An Overview. Pp. 1–7. **In:** *Fauna of Gautala – Autramghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra, Conservation Area Series, 80*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
181. Tripathy, B. 2026. Conservation and Management of Fauna of Gautala – Autramghat Sanctuary, Maharashtra. Pp. 355–357. **In:** *Fauna of Gautala – Autramghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra, Conservation Area Series, 80*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
182. Varadaraju. 2026. Reptilia. Pp. 141–168. **In:** Subramanian, K.A., Babu, R. and Banerjee, D. (Eds.), *Fauna of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Theni District, Tamil Nadu: Conservation Area Series, 92*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
183. Venkitesan, R. and Revathy, V. 2026. Mollusca. Pp. 141–168. **In:** Subramanian, K.A., Babu, R. and Banerjee, D. (Eds.), *Fauna of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Theni District, Tamil Nadu: Conservation Area Series, 92*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.
184. Vizhi, R.K. and Sivaperuman, C. 2026. Mollusca. Pp. 191–202. **In:** Sivaperuman, C. and Raghunathan, C. (Eds.), *Marine and Terrestrial Fauna of Paget Group of Islands*. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

POPULAR ARTICLES

1. Marimuthu, N. and Venkataraman, K. 2026. Coral Reefs: Vitality of continuous monitoring and their recruitment assessment prior to restoration process. Pp. 1–9. **In:** Institute for Ocean Management, EIACP Newsletter. *Coast Track*, **25**(4): 29 pp.
2. Palot, M. J. 2026. Rajavembalakkal (King Cobra). *Sahyashree (A monthly publication of Sahyadri Natural History Society)*. **2**(2): 7–8.
3. Saikia, B. 2026. Before they vanish: Why taxonomists and frogs matter for earth's future. **In:** *The Meghalaya Guardian*. (Published on 15th March 2026).
4. Saikia, B. 2026. Forest Rights, a 'Law' Promulgated 800 Years Ago. **In:** *The Meghalayan Express*. (Published on 21st March 2026).

MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, attended the National Workshop on Forest Fire on 1st March 2026 at IIFM, Bhopal organized by Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal and MoEF&CC; graced Zee Bangla Sa Re Ga Ma Pa stage, as the first ever woman director in the 110-year history of ZSI, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2026; joined Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE), Kolkata Centre, on 9th March 2026, as a guest of honour for a special workshop on "Unlocking Fisheries Enterprise Opportunities for Women" and also shared her vision on how women can lead the way in sustainable aquaculture and delivered an inspiring speech highlighting "Empowerment isn't just about opportunity; it's about giving women the tools to innovate within our natural ecosystems"; organized the Divisional Language Implementation Committee meeting on 10th March 2026 at ZSI Headquarters for review and evaluating the Hindi works being done in the office and discussed various important topics to further strengthen the effective implementation of the Indian Government's Language Policy; attended the meeting on 10th March 2026 to review the services of Group A officers of BSI and ZSI under FR 56 (j)/ (l) and Rule 48 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021) under the chairmanship of Secretary, Mo&EFCC; attended the International Conference and Exhibition on "Towards a Gender Inclusive Space: Diversity and Equity", organized by the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Kalyani, in collaboration with the Departments of Bengali, English, History, Economics, Commerce, Environmental Science, Ecological Studies and Rural Development Studies, University of Kalyani, on 11th March 2026 and also delivered a lecture titled "The Missing Half", a stirring call to action for gender equity; organized "One Day Hindi Workshop-2026" on 12th March 2026 at ZSI Headquarters as an empowering step towards enhancing the

pride of Hindi in administrative and scientific works; graced the occasion as "Guest of Honor" at the celebration of Women's Day on 16th March 2026 and was honoured with the "Kadambini Ganguly Award for Scientific Contribution" at the Celebrating Womanhood Awards Ceremony 2026, a celebration of exceptional achievements and contributions by women, organized by the Institute of Engineering and Management(IEM), Kolkata, under the University of Engineering and Management(UEM), Kolkata, in association with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Women in Engineering (WIE) and the Internal Complaint Committee (ICC), Kolkata Nivedita Sakti and Human & Emotion; attended the 147th meeting of the Governing Body, NCSM (National Council of Science Museums) held at Science City, Kolkata on 18th March 2026; was invited to the 27th Annual General Meeting of the WII (Wildlife Institute of India)-Society scheduled on 21st March 2026 at Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; was invited to join as a chief guest in International Conference on Climate Change and One Health (ICC1H) on 23rd and 24th March 2026 in Patna, Bihar, focusing on "Climate Change and Its Crossroads: One Health, Animal Science, and the Role of Artificial Intelligence"; attended the Valedictory Session of a Capacity Building Programme on Insect Diversity, Taxonomy and Economic Entomology for undergraduate students, conducted by the EIACP Centre, ZSI, Kolkata, on 20th March 2026 on the occasion of World Sparrow Day; attended the International Women's Day celebration at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata as a Chief Guest and shared vast knowledge and experience regarding our natural environment, flora and fauna, climate change, and other issues, especially those that affect women deeply and throughout their lives on 24th March 2026; was invited to grace the One-Day National Seminar, "Emerging Paradigms in Zoological Sciences for Sustainable Futures" as Chief Guest on 24th March 2026 at Department of Zoology,

- Vidyasagar University; was awarded with Nakshatra Samman Award 2026 from TV9 Bangla to honour her pioneering contributions to zoology and biodiversity research, and her historic achievement as the first woman Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) which profoundly enriched the scientific community and inspired countless young researchers across the country on 26th March 2026.
2. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist- F, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, served as a Chairman in MACP Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2026 at ZSI Headquarters; attended the 1st meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of National Coastal Mission (NCM 2.0) held under the chairpersonship of Secretary, MoEFCC on 3rd March 2026 at MoEFCC; attended IUCN National Red Listing progress meeting convened by Wildlife Trust of India on 9th March 2026 virtually; attended 45th meeting of Lakshadweep Coastal Zone Management Authority (LCZMA), as an Expert Member of the committee, on 11th March 2026 virtually; chaired the MACP meeting at ZSI Headquarters on 16th March 2026; served as a Member in the assessment committee for Project Scientists of NCSCM, Chennai on 23rd and 24th March 2026; attended meeting with NCSCM towards the implementation of the National Coastal Mission 2.0 – Development of Coral Reefs and its Management on 24th March 2026; served as Chairperson for the progress assessment of JRFs and SRFs on 30th March 2026.
 3. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist- F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, conducted a Doctoral Committee meeting for the PhD. Research Scholars of ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, on 2nd and 3rd March 2026; attended meeting of Tender Evaluation Committee for Evaluation of Technical bid of the work of “Planning, Designing and Construction of National Coral Reef Research Institute” held at CCU, MoEF&CC, New Delhi on 5th and 16th March 2026; attended the valedictory function of Floristic 2026, organized by Department of Botany, Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya on 12th March 2026 as a Guest of Honour; attended the National Evaluation workshop of EIACP Centres during 15th to 17th March 2026 at JNU, New Delhi, organized by EIACP Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi.
 4. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist- F, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, participated as external group expert (entomology) in the Evaluation Selection Meeting at ICFRE, HQs., Dehradun on 10th March 2026; attended review meeting regarding Saturation of Government Buildings with rooftop solar panels under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, virtually hosted by NHPC Ltd. on 13th March 2026.
 5. Dr. Aparna S. Kalawate, Scientist- E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended a meeting organized by Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB) and evaluated 16 Research and Academic proposals received by MSBB as a member of Animal Expert committee of Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board on 23rd March 2026.
 6. Dr. S. D. Gurumayum, Scientist- E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended a meeting on State research advisory committee for protected areas DoE&FCC, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh on 30th March 2026.
 7. Dr. P. S. Bhatnagar, Scientist-E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended the Central Coordination Committee meeting on 30th March 2026.
 8. Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist-E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, attended and presented external project review meeting project entitled “*Ecology, diversity, and distribution patterns of meiofauna assemblages from the Bay of Bengal Coast with Special Reference to Polychaete*” organised by MoES, under Deep Ocean Mission from 9th March to 11th March 2026; attended and participated as a chair of the session one-day National Seminar “*Emerging Paradigms in Zoological Sciences for a Sustainable Future*” jointly organized by Department of Zoology, Vidyasagar University and Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata on 24th March 2026.

9. Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended 'Coordination Meeting on the National Red List of Flora and Fauna of India', via online mode, on 9th March 2026; attended 'राजभाषा नीति के कार्यान्वयन से संबंधित विभागीय राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति की बैठक' at Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, on 10th March 2026; organized a one-day national seminar on "*Emerging Paradigms in Zoological Sciences for Sustainable Futures*" as joint convener at Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal, on 24th March 2026.
10. Dr. Mirnal Kumar Das, Scientist- D, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, attended the Research Advisory Committee meeting at the Department of Environment and Forests on 25th March 2026.
11. Dr. P. Girish Kumar, Scientist-D, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, attended the Research Advisory Committee meeting online on 23rd March 2026; attended the Board of Studies (Zoology) meeting online on 27th March 2026 at St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Devagiri, Calicut.
12. Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist- D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, provided replies on Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha questions as and when required; provided comments on CBD Notification 2026-024 - Invitation for Peer Review of Draft Global Guidance on Sustainable Management of Wildlife as required for Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change through ZSI/HQ; provided comments on Note No. 00323/02S.06/2026 explore possibilities in order to identify potential interest in establishing a technical exchange and best practices framework with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) as required for Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change through ZSI/HQ; attended one-day National Seminar on '*Emerging Paradigms in Zoological Sciences for Sustainable Futures*' Jointly Organized by Department of Zoology, Vidyasagar University & Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata on 24th March 2026 and acted as judge for the evaluation of poster presentation; attended meetings under National Coastal Mission 2.0 for the programme '*Development of Coral Reefs and its Management*' on 24th and 25th March 2026 under the Chairperson Mrs. Tanvi Garg, IAS officer, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC virtually.
13. Ms. Debashree Dam, Scientist- C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended a collaborative meeting in presence of Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist- F, at NCSCM, Chennai from 23rd to 24th March 2026 with regard to mapping of Fossil beds in India along with Dr. Dola Roy, Scientist- B and Ms. Soma Das, Senior Zoological Assistant; attended the Womenhood Awards Ceremony 2026 on 16th March 2026 at IEM, Salt lake, Kolkata organised by Institute of Engineering and Management (IEM), Kolkata; attended the Nakshatra Samman 2026 award program hosted by TV9 network at JW Marriot Hotel, Kolkata on 26th March 2026 in which Director, ZSI received the Nakshatra Samman 2026 award.
14. श्री श्रीजीत एस. कुमार, सहायक प्राणीविज्ञानी, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, ने 18 मार्च 2026 को नगर राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति, कोळिक्कोड की उप-समिति की बैठक में भाग लिया।

TRAININGS ORGANIZED

1. ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, organized Hindi Workshop on the topic "आधिकारिक कार्यों में राजभाषा हिंदी का प्रभावी उपयोग" (Effective use of Rajbhasa Hindi in Official Language) on 13th March, 2026; organised a one-day workshop on Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as part of the celebration of International Day of Forests on 21st March 2026.
2. ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, organized "*Technical Workshop on the Implementation of Official Language*" on 23rd March 2026 at the Conference Hall of the Centre.
3. ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, organized "*Rajyabhasha Hindi Karyashala*" based on topic "*Official Noting and Drafting*" on 26th March 2026 for the officers and staff of the centre.
4. ZSI/MARC, Digha, organized a One day training programme entitled "*Coastal and Marine fauna*

- diversity and conservation*” as part of the 7-day Refresher Course, for 32 Forest and Deputy Forest Rangers, and Foresters of the State Forest Training Institute, Hijli, Kharagpur on 13th March 2026; Organized a One-day workshop on “*Collection, Preservation and Identification of Meio and Macrofauna of Digha and West Bengal*” on 17th March 2026, organized ‘पूर्ण दिवसीय राजभाषा कार्यशाला’ at the ZSI/MARC, Digha on 26th March 2026.
5. ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, organized “हिन्दी कार्यशाला” एवं “त्रैमासिक हिन्दी बैठक” (तिमाही बैठक) on 13th March 2026.
 6. ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, organized a three-day internship programme for the B.Sc. students of SMD College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Honnavar, Karnataka, from 12th to 14th March 2026.
 3. Dr. V.D. Hegde, Scientist- F, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a lecture to the B.Sc. students of SDM College, Honavar, (N.K.) Karnataka on 12th March 2026, in the internship conducted by ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode.
 4. Dr. Basudev Tripathy, Scientist- E, ZSI, WRC, Pune, presented a talk as the Chief Guest on 23rd March 2026 in Savitribai Phule Pune Vidyapeeth, Pune.
 5. Dr. S.D.Gurumayum, Scientist- E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered a talk on “*My Journey of Yoga*” during Yoga workshop series titled “*Yoga for Everyday: Breath, Balance and Begin Your Wellness Journey*” organized by D.N. College, Itanagar, on 20th March 2026; delivered an Introductory speech on ‘World Water Day’ Celebration on 22nd March 2026 organized by the ZSI/APRC, Itanagar; delivered Introductory speech at the Technical Workshop on the Implementation of Official Language conducted on 23rd March 2026 at the ZSI/APRC, Itanagar.
 6. Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Scientist- E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-On-Sea, presented an invited talk on “*Lesser-known fauna of Chilika Lagoon*” in the IUCN Green List Standard Training Workshop, Self-Assessment and Roadmap for Chilika Lake Marine Managed Area (MMA), Odisha, India, from 10th March to 11th March 2026.
 7. Dr. P. C. Pathania, Scientist- E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, delivered an invited lecture titled “*Insect Diversity and Its Economic Importance in Maintaining Ecosystem Services*” at the 13th International Conference on Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry & Allied Sciences: Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem, organized by ICFRE-HFRI, Panthaghatti, Shimla, on 18th March 2026.
 8. Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist- E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, delivered a lecture on “*Collection, Preservation and Identification of Meio and Macrofauna of Digha and West Bengal*” for the 20 students from The Pentecostal Assembly School, Sector - XII, Bokaro Steel City, Bokaro, Jharkhand on 17th March 2026.

TRAININGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. Sanjay Paunikar, Scientist- E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, attended a five-day Hindi Anuvad Training Programme at IIT-Kharagpur from 16th March to 20th March 2026 organized by Central Translation Bureau, Rajbhasha Vibhag, Home Ministry, Govt. of India.

LECTURES DELIVERED

1. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist- F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, delivered a talk on ‘*An Overview of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Ecosystem Services*’ in the One-day workshop on Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as a part of the celebration of ‘*International Day of Forests*’ on 21st March 2026; delivered a talk on ‘*Mangrove Biodiversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands*’ in the two-day Mangrove workshop organized by Department of Environment and Forests during 21st March to 22nd March 2026.
2. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-F, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, delivered a lecture on the topic entitled “*Status of Mammalian Diversity and efforts on their conservation in India*” to students of Uttaranchal University and Dev Bhoomi University, Dehradun at ZSI/NRC, Dehradun on 10th March 2026.

9. Dr. Bindu L., Scientist- E, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a lecture on the topic '*Biodiversity of India*' to the B.Sc. students of SDM College, Honavar, (N.K.) Karnataka, in the internship conducted by ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode.
10. Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, acted as a chief guest and delivered a lecture in the national workshop on "*Balancing Nature: Integrating Conservation & Wildlife Management*" organised by Mata Gujri Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jabalpur on 13th March 2026.
11. Dr. Swetapadma Dash, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on "*Agricultural Entomology with Special Reference to Hemiptera*" to the students for Capacity Building Programme on "*Insect Diversity, Taxonomy & Economic Entomology for Undergraduate Students*" by EIACP Centre, ZSI, Kolkata.
12. Dr. P. Girish Kumar, Scientist- D, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a lecture on the topic '*Insects*' to the B.Sc. students of SDM College, Honavar, (N.K.) Karnataka, in the internship conducted by ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode.
13. Dr. Vasantha Kumar, D., Scientist-B, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, delivered a lecture virtually on "*Taxonomy and Biology of Gall midges (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae)*" to the Graduate and Post Graduate students of Raja Doraisingam Government Arts College, Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu on 11th March 2026.
14. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a talk titled "*Birds of Silent Valley National Park*" to participants of the bird survey, held at the Conference Hall of the Divisional Forest Office, Silent Valley National Park, Mannarkkad, Palakkad District, on 6th March 2026; delivered a lecture titled "*Butterflies of the Western Ghats*" to students of the internship programme of SMD College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Honnavar, Karnataka, on 12th March 2026 at ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode.
15. Dr. Aditya Kapil Valiveti, Scientist – C, ZSI/MARC, Digha, delivered a talk on the topic "*Importance and systematic implementation for official language in working place*", at the Hindi Workshop organised by ZSI/MARC, Digha, on 26th March 2026.
16. Ms. Debashree Dam, Scientist- C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on '*Water conservation and sustainable use*' for about 100 students, and faculty of Bidya Bharati girls School, New Alipore on World Water Day on 22nd March 2026 as part of Jal Mahotsav.
17. Dr. Kritika Sharma, Scientist – B, ZSI/MARC, Digha, delivered a talk on the topic "*Save Water: Every Drop Counts*" at ZSI/MARC, Digha on 22nd March 2026.
18. Dr. Vikram Delu, Scientist- B, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered a talk on the background, policies and future prospects of Hindi implementation in government offices and presented key facts and a factsheet on global and Indian drinking water status, emphasising challenges and the need for sustainable water use during the workshop programme held at ZSI/APRC, Itanagar.
19. Dr. Karuthapandi. M, Scientist-D, ZSI/FBRC, Hyderabad, delivered a lecture on "*Wetland Faunal conservation and monitoring*" in a National Conference on Emerging Horizons in Biological Science organized by Department of Zoology, Khaja Bandnawaz University, Kalaburagi on 24th March 2026.

PHOTO GALLERY



Director, ZSI gracing the Zee Bangla Sa Re Ga Ma Pa stage on the occasion of International Women's Day 2026 for scripting history as the First ever woman Director in the 110- year history of ZSI



DZSI delivering an encouraging speech focusing on Unlocking Fisheries Enterprise Opportunities for Women at Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR–CIFE) Kolkata Centre on 9th March 2026



Divisional Language Implementation Committee meeting at Head Quarters, Kolkata



Director, ZSI at University of Kalyani on 11th March, 2026 at International Conference and Exhibition



Director, ZSI was awarded with Kadambini Ganguly Award for Scientific Contribution at the Celebration of Womanhood Awards Ceremony 2026 at IEM-UEM



Director, ZSI delivered an inspiring speech at the award ceremony



DZSI graced the valedictory session of Capacity Building Programme



Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI was awarded with Nakshatra Samman Award 2026 from TV9 Bangla to honour her pioneering contributions to zoology and biodiversity research, and her historic achievement as the first woman Director of the Zoological Survey of India

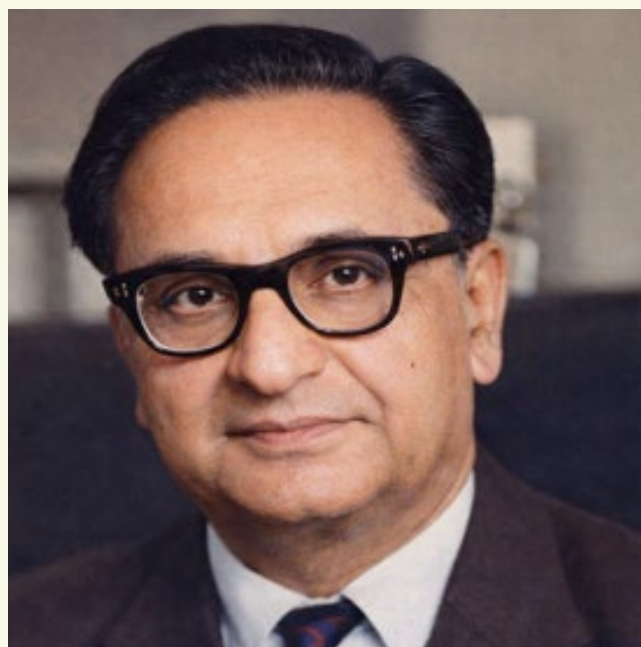
A Titan of Indian Entomology: A Tribute to the Life and Legacy of Dr. Atam Prakash Kapur (1915–1973) Former Director, Zoological Survey of India

by

Dr. K. Venkataraman

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

In the chronicles of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), few figures loom as large or as influentially as Dr. Atam Prakash Kapur, the institution's eighth Director. A man of "extraordinary calibre" and "seldom equalled energy," Dr. Kapur's life was a testament to the symbiotic relationship between scientific rigor and administrative sagacity. From his formative years in undivided India to his global recognition as a world authority on ladybird beetles (Coccinellidae), his journey was defined by an "indefatigable" spirit and an unwavering commitment to the natural world. This tribute provides his childhood, his pioneering contributions to economic entomology, his transformative leadership of the ZSI during a period of critical expansion, and the enduring legacy he left behind as a mentor and visionary.



Dr. Atam Prakash Kapur Childhood and Education:

The story of Atam Prakash Kapur begins in the historic city of Multan (now in Pakistan), where he was born on the 15th October, 1915. Growing up in an era of profound intellectual transition in the Indian subcontinent, young Kapur displayed an early and remarkable affinity for the sciences. His academic path led him to the prestigious Government College, Lahore, an institution then known for fostering the brightest minds of the region.

Joining the Honours School in Zoology, Kapur quickly distinguished himself as an elite student. His academic brilliance was rewarded with the Punjab University Scholarship and the Oman Purse for Sciences. He obtained his B.Sc. (Hons.) in 1935 and his M.Sc. in 1936, years during

which he was documented as a student of "exceptional calibre". Seeking to ground his theoretical knowledge in the practical needs of a developing nation, he moved to New Delhi in 1939 to obtain the Associateship of the Imperial (now Indian) Institute of Agricultural Research. This specialized training in agricultural entomology would later become the bedrock of his contributions to human welfare through science.

Dr. Atam Prakash Kapur a Scientist in the Field:

Dr. Kapur's career began with a sense of urgency and a focus on economic entomology. In 1939, he started his journey as an entomologist in Orissa, but it was his subsequent work in Jammu and Kashmir that first highlighted his ingenuity. Tasked with controlling the San Jose Scale and

Wooly Aphid—pests that were devastating the region’s fruit industry—Kapur did not merely rely on conventional methods.

In a move that pre-dated the widespread adoption of modern biological control, he successfully introduced the parasite *Aphelinus mali* to combat the aphid infestations. This successful field application of zoological research proved that Dr. Kapur was a “most versatile and accomplished worker,” capable of bridging the gap between the laboratory and the land.

The London Epoch and International Mastery:

The horizon of Kapur’s scientific influence expanded significantly when he was appointed Senior Entomologist at the Imperial (now Commonwealth) Institute of Entomology in London. For four years, he worked within the hallowed halls of the British Museum (Natural History), a period that allowed him to immerse himself in the study of primary type-material in European museums.

It was during this international tenure that he was awarded the DIC and Ph.D. degrees from London University. His doctoral work focused on the bionomics and systematics of Coccinellidae (ladybird beetles), a group of insects that would become his lifelong passion. His research on moth borers (Crambinae), particularly those affecting sugarcane and rice, was equally pioneering and remains cited in contemporary entomological literature. By the time he returned to a newly independent India, Dr. Kapur was recognized as a global authority in his field.

Dr. Atam Prakash Kapur Leadership of ZSI (1966–1973):

Dr. Kapur joined the Zoological Survey of India in 1949 as a Senior Research Fellow of the National Institute of Sciences. Within months, he took charge of the Entomology Section, and over the next seventeen years, his rise through the ranks was fueled by what colleagues described as “remarkable zeal and dedication”. On the 18th May, 1966, he accepted the Directorship of the Survey, initiating an era of “outstanding progress”.

1. Physical Expansion and the New Alipore Legacy:

One of Dr. Kapur’s most enduring administrative triumphs was his campaign to secure a permanent home for the Survey department. For decades, ZSI had operated out of scattered and often inadequate rented premises. In 1971, through personal initiative and persistent negotiation, he finalized the purchase of land in New Alipore, Kolkata. This move was the “culmination of years of planning” and finally set at rest all efforts to move the headquarters out of the city, providing a stable foundation for the institution’s future.

2. Strengthening the Regional Network:

Dr. Kapur understood that the vast faunal diversity of India could not be studied from a single center. In September 1968, he oversaw the establishment of the eighth regional station: The High-Altitude Zoology Field Station at Solan, Himachal Pradesh. This station became a gateway for studying the unique biodiversity of the Himalayas, a region Dr. Kapur personally explored during several expeditions.

3. Modernization and New Scientific Frontiers:

Under his leadership, the Survey embraced modern biological techniques. A full-fledged Cyto-taxonomy Laboratory was established at the Headquarters to study the chromosomal aspects of animal taxonomy. He also established three new Scientific and Technical Divisions: Herpetology; Information & Documentation and Museum & Taxidermy. Two new scientific sections under the Entomology Division, namely Isoptera and Apterygota, were also created during his tenure, reflecting his desire to leave no faunal group unstudied.

The Cho-Oyu Expedition and Contributions to Science:

Dr. Kapur was as much a field scientist as he was an administrator. In 1958, he participated in the Indian Cho-Oyu Expedition to Nepal, where he collected insect specimens at altitudes ranging from 700 m to 5,334 m. His work during this expedition was a masterclass in high-altitude entomology. His subsequent report described four new species of ground weevils (Curculionidae): *Dactylotus rugosus*; *Dactylotus nepalensis*; *Hyperomias dattai*; and

Hyperomias roonwali. He also recorded 43 species for the first time from Nepal, significantly expanding the known geographical range of Himalayan fauna. Over his career, Dr. Kapur described more than a hundred taxa new to science, many of which held immense economic importance for agriculture.

Dr. Atam Prakash Kapur's Global Recognition and Statesmanship:

Dr. Kapur's expertise was sought on the world stage. At the instance of UNESCO, he prepared a report on entomological problems in the humid tropical regions of South Asia and served as an advisor to the Indian National Committee for UNESCO. His peers recognized his contributions through numerous honors: Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London; Life Fellow of the Entomological Society of India; President of the Indian Association of Systematic Zoology; President of the Zoology and Entomology Section of the Indian Science Congress (1969). His presidential address on the 'Phylogeny of Lady-bird beetles' is still regarded as a "scholarly exposition" of the subject.

The Man Behind the Desk: Character and Mentorship:

Colleagues remember Dr. Kapur as a man "completely wrapped up in his work," devoting every moment to either scientific investigation or the care of the institution. Yet, he was not a distant figure. He possessed a "keen sense of humour and considerateness" that endeared him to all staff members. He was a fervent advocate for the development of young scientists. During his tenure,

he encouraged his staff to submit their research results for Doctorate degrees, resulting in a surge of academic achievement within the department. He led by example, demonstrating that meticulousness and persistent effort were the only true paths to scientific success.

Post-Retirement and Final Years:

Dr. Kapur retired from the Survey in October 1973, but his association with the institution did not end there. In 1974, he was appointed Emeritus-Scientist, a role that allowed him to continue his research and provide guidance for the betterment of the department. He remained "actively concerned" with the Survey's progress until his final days, personifying the "indomitable spirit" that ZSI celebrates in its centenary.

As we celebrate over 110 years of the Zoological Survey of India, the legacy of Dr. Atam Prakash Kapur remains a guiding light. He was more than a taxonomist; he was a builder—a builder of collections, a builder of regional stations, and a builder of the physical headquarters that still stands as a testament to his vision in New Alipore. He looked at the smallest ladybird beetle and saw the vast complexities of evolution; he looked at a plot of land and saw the future of Indian zoology. His life serves as a reminder that science is a noble calling, requiring a heart dedicated to both the meticulous detail of discovery and the broad strokes of institutional vision. India owes a tremendous debt to this most "sagacious administrator" and "accomplished worker" whose name will forever be etched in the annals of natural history.