

# ZSI E-News

Vol. 82 | November 2025 | Monthly E-Newsletter from Zoological Survey of India





# from the Director's Desk

Dear Colleagues and Esteemed Readers,

I am indeed delighted to inform that the Zoological Survey of India is bringing out the Monthly E-News of ZSI for November successfully. This is yet another testament to our sustained effort for excellence in scientific pursuits and our continuous commitment towards exploration, documentation, and conservation of the diverse fauna of our country. Every issue of the E-News is a tribute to the hard work, dedication, and scientific passion of our eminent scientists and researchers. Through meticulous field studies, detailed taxonomic work, extensive status survey of scheduled faunal species, perceptive behavioural studies, and focused conservation initiatives, they strive ceaselessly to unravel the intricacies of India's wildlife. Their work not only adds to our knowledge of the country's rich faunal heritage but also forms an integral part of efforts to meet both national and international goals for biodiversity conservation.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Research Advisory and Monitoring Committee of ZSI was held on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Taj Ganga Kutir, Diamond Harbour, West Bengal. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Nandita Chatterjee, IAS (R), Advisor to UN Secretary General, former Member (A) Central Administrative Tribunal, and former Secretary to Government of India. The Half-yearly Progress Monitoring Committee Meeting for Regional Centres of Zoological Survey of India for 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 was organized at the Centre at Zoological Survey of India, Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Gopalpur-on-Sea from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to discuss the scientific, administrative and financial aspects. Zoological Survey of India is recognized as the nodal institution for the IUCN Coral Reef Ecosystem Assessment in India. Three scientists from ZSI were deputed for Global Assessment of Ecosystem Red List of Coral Reef- South Asia Regional Assessment organized by IUCN in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 on invitation. During the month, the scientists and researchers of ZSI identified 1583 species of faunal communities including four new species, one belonging to the Neuroptera, one to the Diptera, and two to the Spider.

I extend my profound gratitude to all contributors, whose research and findings continue to shed light on various aspects of our biodiversity. Their work fortifies our determination to protect India's natural heritage and motivates future generations to advance this essential mission. I would like to commend the entire team for delivering such an informative and influential publication. I wish them continued success in the coming months.

Jai Hind,

**Dr. Dhriti Banerjee**  
Director  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
Kolkata

**Cover:** Buddha peacock, *Papilio buddha* Westwood, 1872  
**Courtesy:** ZSI Headquarter, Kolkata

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**Edited by**  
Dr. Dhriti Banerjee  
Dr. C. Raghunathan  
Dr. S. Sheela  
Dr. Tamal Mondal

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## HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA

Survey tours were conducted to West Bengal (Purulia), Assam, Palk Bay, Daman, Madhya Pradesh and Dihang- Dibang Biosphere Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh. A total of 599 species of faunal communities belonging to Acanthocephala, Arachnida, Diptera, Hymenoptera, Orthoptera, Mantodea, Blattodea, Mollusca, Platyhelminthes, Hemiptera, Porifera, Cnidaria, Annelida, Lepidoptera, and Echinodermata were identified. Two species of Arachnida and one species of Diptera were described as New to Science. A total of 52 species of Arachnida, Annelida, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Mantodea, Platyhelminthes,

Hymenoptera, and Diptera were augmented to National Zoological Collections (NZCs). Apart from these, 28 species of archaeological specimens were identified. Identification and Advisory services were rendered to Bodoland University, Assam, GD Goyenka University, Haryana and Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh. Officers and staff members actively took part in mass signing of Vande Mataram on the occasion of 150 years of the National Song of India on 4<sup>th</sup> November and in pledge taking ceremony on the Constitution Day on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



## NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

Survey tours were conducted to Mizoram, Balpakram National Park, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya and Kynshi and Umngi river sub-basins, Khasi Hills, Meghalaya from 22<sup>nd</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025, 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and 13<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025 respectively. A total of 78 species of faunal communities belonging to Araneae, Amphibia, Coleoptera, Chiroptera, Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Odonata, Reptilia, and Pisces were identified. Identification and Advisory Services were rendered to three different educational institutions. The commemoration of 150 years of the National Song “Vande Mataram”, Janjatiya Gaurav Divas and the Constitution Day were celebrated at the centre.



Cleanliness drive was conducted in the stream of Risa Colony Forest during commemoration of 150 years of the National Song “Vande Mataram”



A community programme organized on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas at Mawphlang Sacred Grove, Meghalaya

## WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

Survey tours were conducted to the Southern Western Ghats and Kalsubai Harishchandragad Wildlife Sanctuary, Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025 respectively. A total of 62 species of faunal communities belonging to Blattodea, Crustacea, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Mollusca, Myriapoda, and Pisces were identified. Two Identification and Advisory services were rendered to two different institutions. Five research manuscripts were reviewed by the scientists of the centre. A total of 11 DNA barcodes were submitted to NCBI. A total of 210 visitors, including students from various educational institutions, visited the museum of the centre. The commemoration of 150 glorious years of the National Song, “Vande Mataram” and the National Constitution

Day were celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November respectively at the centre.



The rainbow shrimp, *Mierspenaeopsis sculptilis* (Heller, 1862)



Conducting survey of marine benthic diversity through bottom trawling



Sambar, *Rusa unicolor* (Kerr, 1792) observed in Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, M.P.

## CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

Survey tour was conducted to Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh from 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A total of 86 species of faunal communities, including Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, and Mollusca were identified. A total of 224 visitors, including students from various institutions, visited the museum of the centre.

सेंटर में 27 अक्टूबर से 2 नवंबर 2025 तक सतर्कता जागरूकता सप्ताह -2025 मनाया गया। Mass singing during the occasion of Commemoration of 150 Years of the National Song “Vande Mataram” and pledge taking on the occasion of the Constitution day were conducted at the premises of the centre.



Officers and staff of CZRC took the pledge of Constitution of India on the occasion of Constitution day on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025



Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebrated at DRC, Jodhpur

## DESERT REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

Survey tour was conducted to Gujarat from 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A total of 101 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Orthoptera, and Pisces were identified. One species of hymenoptera, *Bombus bohemicus*

Seidl, 1837, is recorded for the first time from the country. A total of 26 visitors visited the museum of the centre. The commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national song, “Vande Mataram”, Tribal Pride Day 2025 and the Constitution Day were celebrated at the centre.



150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Song “Vande Mataram” celebration at DRC, Jodhpur

## NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

A total of 77 species of faunal communities belonging to Phthiraptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Pisces, Amphibia, and Reptilia were identified. The centre participated as Exhibitor of Faunal Exhibition at 6<sup>th</sup> Dehradun International Science & Technology Festival, 2025 conducted by UCOST, Dehradun at Vigyan Dham, UCOST, Dehradun from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and in World Summit on Disaster Management 2025 from 20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The Centre organized “Mission Life Programme- Save Water, Save Electricity, Cleanliness Drive” for awareness to common public and by planting saplings under the initiative of Hon’ble PM of India “Ek Ped Maa Kae Naam Campaign” in the Matri Van of ZSI, NRC, Dehradun by staff of ZSI, NRC, Dehradun and students/faculty of Arya College, Panipat, Haryana on 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The “Vande Mataram” activities were also conducted at the centre from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



ZSI/NRC, Dehradun participated as Exhibitor in World Summit on Disaster Management 2025 from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025



Celebration 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the national song “Vande Mataram”

## SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A survey tour was conducted on the Andhra Pradesh coast to study the diversity and distribution of Anomuran crabs. A total of 130 species belonging to Crustacea, Ephemeroptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Psocoptera, Mollusca, Pisces, Amphibia, Reptilia, Aves, and zooplankton were identified. This

centre observed the Vigilance pledge on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week and conducted mass singing of “Vande Mataram” along with the plantation drive on the occasion of 150 years of Vande Mataram celebration in the office premises.



Nilgiri flycatcher, *Eumyias albicaudatus* (Jerdon, 1840)



A flock of Greater Adjutants (*Leptoptilos dubius*) observed at Bhagalpur during faunal survey to Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary

## GANGETIC PLAINS REGIONAL CENTRE, PATNA, BIHAR

Survey tour was conducted to Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar, from 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025. A total of 76 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate Amoeba, Insecta, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified during this month. The Constitutional Day and

Pledge Taking ceremony were organised at the centre on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A total of 450 graduate and postgraduate students from Patna University, Patliputra University, and Sri Arvind Women's College, Patna, visited the museum of the centre on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



Graduate and Postgraduate students visit to GPRC on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A total of 85 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Trichoptera, Orthoptera, Hymenoptera, and Fishes were identified during this month. One research Manuscript was reviewed by the scientists of the centre. A total of 37 visitors visited the museum of the centre. Mass signing of “Vande Mataram” on the occasion of 150 Years of the National Song, Janjatiya Gourav Diwas, the Constitution day were celebrated at the office premises during this month.



Mass Singing of National Song “Vande Mataram” on 10.11.2025 under Vande Matram Programme by Students of Eternal University

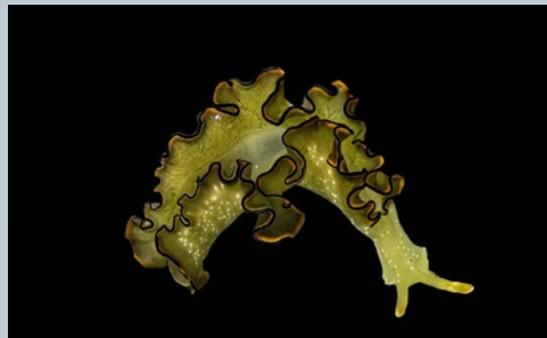


Plantation Drive under Vande Mataram Programme on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, SRI VIJAY PURAM, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Two long-term surveys were conducted to Great Nicobar Island from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025, and North and Middle Andaman from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025, and nineteen-day local surveys conducted during 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to study the Terrestrial and Marine Faunal diversity. A total of 341 species of faunal communities belonging to Arachnida, Echinodermata, Decapoda, Actiniaria, Hydrozoa, Scleractinia, Zoantharia, Polyclads, Porifera, Stomatopoda, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Coleoptera, Odonata, Reptilia, Fishes, Echinodermata, Mollusca, Aves, and Mammalia were identified. Tree plantation drive was organized by the centre in Nayashahar, village Gram Panchayat Wandoor and Humfrygunj Crescent Public School, Wimberlygunj, Government Primary School, Chunna Bhatta and Gram Panchayat Brindaban to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National song “Vande Mataram” from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Mass singing of *Vande Mataram* for the officers and staff was organized as part of celebration

of commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National song “Vande Mataram” on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Bird Watching was organized by the centre on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Mt. Manipur National Park as part of the Celebration of Dr. Salim Ali’s 129<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary. Disaster Management and Capacity Building Programme were conducted by the centre in Gram Panchayat Madhupur, Sitanagar, Subashgram, Ramnagar and Nabagram Diglipur of North Andaman from 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



*Elysia marginata* (Pease, 1871)



Three Day Training Workshop on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Island Ecosystem



*Dendronephthya* sp.

## SUNDERBAN REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING, WEST BENGAL

A survey tour was undertaken in the Burrow Pit Region of the Arabian Sea from 10<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A total of 53 species were identified and deposited in the National Zoological Collections.



Constitution Day celebration

## FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

Survey tour was conducted to Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve, Andhra Pradesh from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A total of 104 species of faunal communities belonging to Rotifera, Fishes, Aquatic Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Mollusca, Branchiopoda, and Reptilia were identified during this month. As part of the

digitization of the National Zoological Collections of the centre, 142 registrations were digitized. A total of 36 DNA sequences have been submitted to NCBI. 150 Years of the National Song, "Vande Mataram", Janjatiya Gourav Diwas, the Constitution day were celebrated at the office premises during this month.

*Acritillas indica* (Jerdon, 1839)



*Hypothymis azurea* (Boddaert, 1783)



*Dicrurus caerulescens* (Linnaeus, 1758)



# WESTERN GHATS REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA

Survey tour was conducted to Wayanad Wild Life Sanctuary, and Coast of Daman port, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu from 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 respectively. A total of 68 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate Amoeba, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, and Crustacea were identified. One species of Neuroptera was described as new to science. Two research Manuscripts were reviewed by the scientists of the centre. The 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Tribal Pride Day was celebrated by the centre with Class-I students of ServalIndia Adivasi Upper Primary School at Thirunelli, Wayanad. Mass Singing of “Vande Mataram” to Commemorate 150 Years of Vande Mataram was conducted by the centre on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025, followed by a plantation drive. Constitution Day was celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the centre.



Tribal Pride Day celebration



Constitution day celebration

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

The Half-yearly Progress Monitoring Committee Meeting for Regional Centres of Zoological Survey of India (Period April to September, 2025) was organized at the Centre from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 in the august presence of Honourable Director, Dr. Dhriti Banerjee and senior officials. The program featured the release of मच्छर Mosquito Surveillance Technology: an AI based software to identify mosquito species using their sounds, developed by ZSI and the team Protiomix-NIST, Brahampur. A total of 110 species of different faunal communities were identified during this month. A total of 09 DNA barcodes were uploaded in the NCBI database. A stall showcasing the activities of ZSI was set up at the Odisha Research Conclave, 2025, held at Berhampur University, Odisha from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Visitors including Dr. D. Sukumaran, former head of Entomology, Defense Research and Establishment, DRDO, Gwalior visited the museum of the centre. The

150 glorious years of our National Song and the Constitution Day were celebrated at the centre. Ms. Smrutirekha Acharya, Senior Research Fellow of the centre has been Awarded Ph.D. from Berhampur University.



ZSI stall at Odisha Research Conclave



Students of Department of Marine Sciences, Berhampur University visiting the facilities

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Survey tour was conducted to Kurung Kumey district, Arunachal Pradesh from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A total of 39 species of faunal communities belonging to Blatodea, Coleoptera, Decapoda, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, and Pisces were identified. One local survey was also conducted in and around Bamboo Technology Park, Kamir Gungu in the Papum Pare district, near Poma River and Poma basti on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Hindi workshop was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for the office staff by the centre. Mass signing of “Vande Mataram” on the occasion of 150 Years of the National Song, and Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada were celebrated at the office premises during this month.



Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada

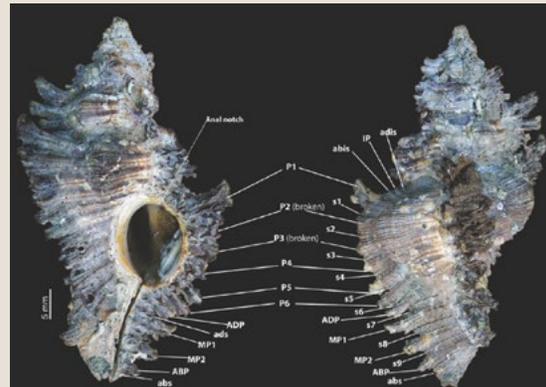


Field Survey at Borbheel, Namsai

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

Survey tours were conducted to Talsari and Udaypur, West Bengal on 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and to proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport (SJIA) at Puri, Odisha from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025. Local survey tours were conducted in the Hospital Ghat area, Digha, West Bengal, on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A total of 43 species of faunal communities belonging to Nematoda, Mollusca, Polychaeta, Crustacea, and Echinodermata were identified. Identification and Advisory Services were rendered to three different educational institutions. Four manuscripts were reviewed by the scientists of the centre. A total of 2408 visitors including Dr. Mohammad Muslem Uddin, Professor, Department of Oceanography, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh and students of 06 educational institutions visited the museum of the centre. The 150 years of our National Song

“Vande Mataram” and the Constitution Day were celebrated at the centre on 7<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November respectively.



*Chicoreus banksii* (Gastropoda: Muricidae)



Visit of Dr. Mohammad Muslem Uddin, Professor, Department of Oceanography, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh

## NEW DISCOVERIES

### NEW SPECIES



*Asemonea dentis* Sudhin & Sen, 2025



*Colyttus nongwar* Sudhin & Sen, 2025



*Protidricerus albocapitatus* Suryanrayanan, Abraham, Bijoy & Palot, 2025

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

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2. Roy, B., Sengupta, J., Naskar, A., Ghosh, S. and Banerjee, D. 2025. Major Dipteran Pollinators: Hoverflies (Diptera: Syrphidae). pp 21–53. In: Ghosh, S. and Banerjee, D. (eds.), *Pollinators: Life, Biology and Threats*. Published by Springer, Singapore.
3. Roy, B., Sengupta, J., Naskar, A., Ghosh, S. and Banerjee, D. 2025. Biodiversity of Big-Headed Flies (Diptera: Pipunculidae). pp. 55–62. In: Ghosh, S. and Banerjee, D. (eds.), *Pollinators: Life, Biology and Threats*. Published by Springer, Singapore.
4. Roy, B., Sengupta, J., Naskar, A., Ghosh, S. and Banerjee, D. 2025. Insect Pollinators: Biodiversity. pp. 1–20. In: Ghosh, S. and Banerjee, D. (eds.), *Pollinators: Life, Biology and Threats*. Published by Springer, Singapore.

## ABSTRACTS

1. Pramanik, D., Banerjee, D. and Naskar, A. 2025. Forest litter dwelling Soldier fly (Diptera: Stratiomyidae) community differs between Tropical evergreen and Tropical moist deciduous forest of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. **In:** International Seminar-cum-Workshop on Frontiers in Chemistry, Biology, and Colloidal Science, Organized by Department of Chemistry & Zoology, under the Aegis of IQAC Sundarban Hazi Desarat College (Pathankhali, WB, India), pp. 42
2. Das, M., Banerjee, D. and Naskar, A. 2025. Ecological Assessment of the composition of Forensic Flies (Insecta: Diptera) from Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary, West Bengal, India. **In:** International Seminar-cum-Workshop on Frontiers in Chemistry, Biology, and Colloidal Science, Organized by Department of Chemistry & Zoology, under the Aegis of IQAC Sundarban Hazi Desarat College (Pathankhali, WB, India), pp. 42
3. Chowdhury, M., Banerjee, D. and Naskar, A. 2025. First Record of the Genus *Thambemyia* Oldroyd, 1956 (Diptera: Dolichopodidae: Hydrophorinae) including two new records of species from West Bengal, India. **In:** Book of Abstract, International Seminar-cum-Workshop on Frontiers in Chemistry, Biology and Colloidal Science, organised by Department of Chemistry & Zoology under the Aegis of IQAC, Sundarban Hazi Desarat College, Pathankhali, WB, India, pp. 42.
4. Roy, B., Banerjee, D. and Naskar, A. 2025. First records of two phytophagous hoverflies of the genus *Eumerus* Meigen, 1822 (Diptera: Syrphidae) from Eastern India. **In:** International Seminar-cum-Workshop on Frontiers in Chemistry, Biology, and Colloidal Science, Organized by Department of Chemistry & Zoology, under the Aegis of IQAC Sundarban Hazi Desarat College (Pathankhali, WB, India), pp. 42
5. Mukherjee, K., Naskar, A. and Banerjee, D. 2025. Enhancing vector surveillance in the Andaman and Nicobar Archipelago, India: four new island records of *Culicoides* (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae). **In:** International Seminar-cum-Workshop on Frontiers in Chemistry, Biology, and Colloidal Science, Organized by Department of Chemistry & Zoology, under the Aegis of IQAC Sundarban Hazi Desarat College (Pathankhali, WB, India), pp. 42
6. Kar, O., Naskar, A. and Banerjee, D. 2025. Species assemblage of necrophagous flies (Insecta: Diptera) from wet markets of Kolkata megacity, West Bengal, India. **In:** International Seminar-cum-Workshop on Frontiers in Chemistry, Biology, and Colloidal Science, Organized by Department of Chemistry & Zoology, under the Aegis of IQAC Sundarban Hazi Desarat College (Pathankhali, WB, India), pp. 42.
7. Swain, S., Kumbhar, M.M. and Suman, D.S. 2025. A study on phylogenetics and population genetic diversity of *Aedes vittatus* (Diptera: Culicidae) in India through mitochondrial COI gene. **In:** Odisha Research Conclave 2025, Berhampur University, Odisha, India, 27–29 November, Pp. 233.
8. Swain, S., Kumbhar, M.M. and Suman, D.S. 2025. Enhancing diagnostic accuracy in vector surveillance: Integrating geometric morphometrics in medical entomology to differentiate *Aedes* (Diptera: Culicidae) vectors. **In:** the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Vector Borne Diseases: Innovations to Impact, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha, India, 21–23 November, Pp. 176.
9. Samantaray, R.K., Bhattacharya, M. and Suman, D. S. 2025. Components of Biological Essential Oil (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) with *Aedes aegypti* Acetylcholinesterase: In Silico Molecular Docking and ADME Analysis. **In:** the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Vector Borne Diseases: Innovations to Impact, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha, India, 21–23 November, Pp. 155.

10. Das, R., Swain, S., Acharya, S., Samantaray, R.K. and Suman, D.S. 2025. Molecular Taxonomy of Prevalent Mosquito Vectors in Odisha Via DNA Barcoding. In: the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Vector Borne Diseases: Innovations to Impact, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha, India, 21–23 November, Pp. 184.

## POPULAR ARTICLES

1. Khan, I.A. and Kumar, A. 2024. Sighting of a partially leucistic Blue Whistling-thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* in Dehradun, India. *BUCEROS*, **29**(2): 23–24.
2. Kumar, A. and Khan, I.A. 2024. Erythrism in House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. *BUCEROS*, **29**(2): 21–22.
3. Chowdhury, A. D. and Roy, D. 2025. When the world was one: The epic story of Gondwana. In *The Zoo Coterie*. Published by Department of Zoology, Scottish Church College.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, attended a Workshop, addressed by the Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC, on enhancing Communication Strategy for Citizen Outreach on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi; attended the Commemoration of 150 years of "Vande Mataram" at ZSI Headquarters on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025; attended 9<sup>th</sup> Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Workshop–2025 under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) Project, held in physical mode on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, Uttarakhand; attended meeting with CPWD officials and O/C, Building of ZSI/HQ in the presence of Head of Office regarding building renovation and other necessary discussions on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025; was invited to the 116<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Technical Committee under Chairmanship of the Additional Director General of Forests

(Wildlife) and the Chairperson, Technical Committee at office of Central Zoo Authority on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025; was invited to participate in the 'Waynad Bird Festival' from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology at Puliarmala near Kalpetta, Kerala in the name of India's birdman, Dr. Salim Ali; presented the progress of activities in detail, made by ZSI during April 2025 to September 2025 on new identified species, taxonomic studies and surveys and highlighted the revised primary and secondary objectives of the ZSI in 22<sup>nd</sup> Research Advisory and Monitoring Committee (RAMC) meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Diamond Harbour, West Bengal; was invited to the National One Health Conclave 2025 on behalf of the National One Health Mission (NOHM) of the Government of India, on 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; was invited to be a member of the Advisory Committee and online meeting for the two-day SaGAA VIII (Science and Geopolitics of Arctic and Antarctic) Leadership Conference themed 'Confrontation to Collaboration in a Fractured World: Science | Business | Policy' organised on 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025; graced the International Conference on Integrating Organic and Natural Farming Models for Sustainable Agriculture as the Special Guest on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 at North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC), Prayagraj organised by K.L. Foundation, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh and this conference aims to unite researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to share innovations and policies that promote eco-friendly, cost-effective, and resilient farming systems; Chaired the Half Yearly Progress Monitoring Committee meeting for the Regional Centres of Zoological Survey of India from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at ZSI/EBRC, ZSI, Gopalpur-on-sea to evaluate the Scientific, Accounts and Administrative Progress made during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and featured the release of Mosquito

- Surveillance Technology: an AI based software to identify mosquito species using their sounds, developed by ZSI and the team Protiomix-NIST, Brahampur; was invited to an Ordinary Meeting of the Board of Studies of the Department of Zoology held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at in the Seminar Library of the Department of Aligarh Muslim University; was invited to the meeting regarding the discussion on Research Proposals under the Chairmanship of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(APCCF) (PAN & Bio-Diversity) through virtual mode to discuss the research proposals received from different Research Organizations/Academic Institutions/Ph.D. Scholars/NGOs (list of proposals attached) so that same can further be submitted to CWLW HP for the grant of permission.
2. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist- F, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, offered comments for the MoU between Zoological Survey of India and Kamla Nehru Institute of Sciences on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025; attended the Biodiversity Monitoring meeting for Great Nicobar Island chaired by PCCF, A&N Islands on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025; provided inputs for the draft MoU between the Government of the Republic of Angola and Government of the Republic of India in the field of Environment and submitted to the MoEFCC on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025; convened the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of RAMC for ZSI on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Diamond Harbour, West Bengal with the capacity as Member Secretary; delivered a brief lecture on the River Ganges with biodiversity perspectives during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of RAMC for ZSI on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Diamond Harbour, West Bengal; served as a Member Secretary of the Scientific Committee of the Half Yearly Progress Monitoring Committee meeting for RCs held from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at ZSI EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea.
  3. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist- F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, attended the Great Nicobar Island monitoring meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025; attended the Executive Committee meeting of Andaman Science Association at ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025; attended the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) at ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025; attended meeting with Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), in connection with the Great Nicobar Projects on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025; attended 22<sup>nd</sup> Research Advisory and Monitoring Committee meeting from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Dimond Harbour, Kolkata; attended and presented the progress of the ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, in the Half Yearly Monitoring Meeting held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  4. Dr. Jayasree Thilak, Scientist-F, ZSI/SRC, Chennai, attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of SLS & International conference on “*Life Sciences for Human Sustainability with special emphasis on Control of Vector- Borne Diseases*” at Syed Ammal Arts & Science College, Kottampuli, Ramanathapuram (TN) from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  5. Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Scientist- F, ZSI/ HARC, Solan, attended Wildlife Board meeting under chairmanship of PCCF and HoFF, J&K on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  6. Dr. Basudev Tripathy, Scientist- E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, conducted a field visit from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to discuss with the Divisional Forest Officers of Marine Protected Areas of Northern Andaman and to participate for evaluation of MPAs as a member of the MEE-CMPA-Team2.
  7. Dr. A.S. Kalawate, Scientist- E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended a meeting on Marine Biodiversity Project Monitoring Committee meeting organized by Maharashtra Gene Bank (Special Cell) Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board, Nagpur, Maharashtra on virtual mode on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025; attended a meeting on SAsISG subnetwork formation organised by Zoo Outreach Organisation on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025 on virtual mode; attended a webinar on Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace organised as part of Karmayogi Saptah-National learning week provided

- by Capacity Building Commission on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
8. Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist -E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, attended “Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave [ESTIC-2025], from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India, under the category of Young S &T Leaders [below 45 years; attended a discussion on the Indian marine biodiversity review paper organised by CSIR, NIOT, DOM on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  9. Dr. S.D. Gurumayum, Scientist- E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, along with Dr. Vikram Delu, Scientist-B, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended the state research advisory committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at PCCF -CWLW office and gave valuable inputs.
  10. Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Research Advisory and Monitoring Committee (RAMC) of ZSI, under the chairpersonship of Dr. Nandita Chatterjee, former IAS, on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025, at Diamond Harbour, West Bengal; attended the Half-Yearly Progress Monitoring Committee Meeting: Regional Centre, under the chairpersonship of Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, in dual mode from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025, at Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Gopalpur.
  11. Dr. Mrinal Kumar Das, Scientist- D, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, attended the Research Advisory Committee Meeting (RAC), Department of Environment and Forests on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  12. Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist-D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, provided detailed Inputs for draft MoU with in the field of Environment as required for Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change through ZSI/HQ; attended a meeting on Handling ‘marginal/atypical’ reef systems in the Global coral reef RLE assessment organized by IUCN on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 virtually; attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Research Advisory and Monitoring Committee Meeting of ZSI at Diamond Harbour, West Bengal on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025; deputed to attend Global Assessment of Ecosystem Red List of Coral Reef– South Asia Regional Assessment organized by IUCN in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025.
  13. Dr. Atanu Naskar, Scientist- C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Research Advisory and Monitoring Committee (RAMC) of ZSI, under the chairpersonship of Dr. Nandita Chatterjee, former IAS, on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025, at Diamond Harbour, West Bengal; attended the Half-Yearly Progress Monitoring Committee Meeting: Regional Centre, under the chairpersonship of Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, in dual mode from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025, at Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Gopalpur.
  14. Ms. Debashree Dam, Scientist- C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the Annual program of Chaltakhali Ray Gunakar Bharat Chandra Institution, Howrah, West Bengal on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 as a Chief Guest and delivered a lecture on the occasion and also inaugurated the Science Laboratories of the school and interacted with the students; attended the RAMC meeting held at Diamond Harbour from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  15. Officer-in-Charges from Regional Centre and Scientists from ZSI/HQ attended a meeting with Joint Secretary, MoEFCC on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for the celebration of Constitution Day.
  16. Mr. C. Surendar, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended Marine Ecosystems Challenges and Opportunity (MECOS 4) an international Symposium held in ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi during 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and presented a poster with title “*Sea Cucumbers of India: Ecological Role, Red List Status, and Conservation Challenges*”.

## TRAININGS ORGANIZED

1. Arachnida Section, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, organized a One Day Training Workshop on “Taxonomy and Conservation of Indian Spiders”, sponsored by the Anusandhan

- National Research Foundation (ANRF), under the ANRF- funded project “Diversity and Distribution Pattern of Ground-Dwelling Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) along the elevation gradients in Meghalaya” on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 for post graduate students of Zoology.
- ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, Organized Three Day Training Workshop on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Island Ecosystem for the Personnel of Other Services under the Forestry Training & Capacity Building sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India during 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025; Organized Three Day Training Workshop on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Island Ecosystem for the Personnel of Other Services under the Forestry Training & Capacity Building sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India during 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  - ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, organized a training programme to the students of SFRI, Itanagar on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2025; imparted an Internship Programme to 17 graduate students from Himalayan University, Itanagar from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

## TRAININGS ATTENDED

- Dr. J. S. Yogesh Kumar, Scientist- E, ZSI/SbRC, Canning, participated in a one-day seminar titled “Ecosystem Approach in Marine Fisheries Management and Certification Process”, delivered by Dr. K. Sunil Mohamad and organized by HCLF–MSSRF on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

## LECTURES DELIVERED

- Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist- F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, delivered three talks on ‘An overview of Biodiversity of A & N Islands’; ‘Marine Biodiversity of A & N Islands: An

Overview’; ‘Antarctica: A journey through everlasting ice in the three day training workshop on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Island Ecosystem’ under the Training for the Personnel of Other Services sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025; delivered three talks on ‘An overview of Biodiversity of A & N Islands’; ‘Marine Biodiversity of A & N Islands: An Overview’; ‘Antarctica: A journey through everlasting ice in the three day training workshop on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Island Ecosystem’ under the Training for the Personnel of Other Services sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India held from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

- Dr. K.P. Dinesh, Scientist- E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, delivered a one-hour lecture on “Importance of Indian Amphibian Conservation” to the M.Sc. first year integrated course for IDSS students at SPPU, Pune on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- Dr. Navneet Singh, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata delivered an invited lecture on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025 in a National Workshop organized by Govt M.H. College of Home Science and Science for Women (Auto.), Jabalpur.
- Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered two lectures on “General morphology and basic identification guide of spiders and contribution of ZSI in Indian spiders” and “Conservation status of Indian tarantulas listed in IUCN, the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 and CITES” in the ANRF-sponsored One Day Training Workshop on “Taxonomy and Conservation of Indian Spiders”; organized by the Arachnida Section, ZSI, Kolkata, on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- Dr. P. C. Pathania, Scientist- E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, delivered an invited talk on “Field Collection and Preservation of Insects” for PG students and teachers of the Dept. of Biosciences, Chandigarh University, Chandigarh-Ludhiana Highway, Gharuan, Punjab, on 07<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

6. Dr. D.S. Chand, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, presented one paper on “*Impact on Orthoptera of Sunderban, West Bengal*” in the 19<sup>th</sup> AZRA International Conference on “*Environmental Shift Impact on Animal Biota, Food, Feed & Nutritional Security and Human Health*” at Institute of Agricultural Science, Bhubaneswar from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
7. Dr. Anil Kumar Dubey, Scientist- E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered an Invited lecture on “*Whitefly diversity in India with special reference to Andaman & Nicobar Islands*” during 19<sup>th</sup> AZRA International Conference on “*Environmental Shift Impact on Animal Biota, Food, Feed & Nutritional Security and Human Health*”, at Siksha ‘O’ Anusandhan (Deemed to be University), Institute of Agricultural Science, Bhubaneswar, Odisha held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
8. Dr. Rahul Joshi, Scientist- D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata delivered an invited lecture on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 in a National Workshop organized by Govt M.H. College of Home Science and Science for Women (Auto.) Jabalpur
9. Ms Debashree Dam, Scientist- C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture in virtual mode on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 on “*Fossils- Echoes of Prachin Dharohar*” as part of 5 days National workshop organized by M H College of Home Science and Science for women (Auto.) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with Zoological Survey of India on “*Taxonomy: Collection, Preservation, Identification, Taxidermy, Museology and GIS techniques*”.
10. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, attended the North Zone Wild Wisdom Global Challenge Quiz -2025 competition and delivered a lecture on ‘*Incredible world of Insects*’ to the participants of seventy selected school students of Northern Kerala at the Gundert Hall, Malabar Christian College, Kozhikode on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 organised by the World-Wide Fund for Nature and the One Planet Academy, Thiruvananthapuram.
11. Dr. Dola Roy, Scientist- B, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on “*Effects of Microplastic pollution on fishes*” in virtual mode on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 on “*Fossils- Echoes of Prachin Dharohar*” as part of 5 days National workshop organized by M H College of Home Science and Science for women (Auto.) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with Zoological Survey of India on “*Taxonomy: Collection, Preservation, Identification, Taxidermy, Museology and GIS techniques*”
12. Dr. K. Silambarasan, Scientist- B, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, delivered a talk on Fishery Resources of India with special reference to A & N Islands under the Training for the Personnel of Other Services sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025; delivered a talk on Fishery Resources of India with special reference to A & N Islands under the Training for the Personnel of Other Services sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India held from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
13. Dr. Sudhin P.P., PDF, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on “*Collection and preservation techniques of spiders*” in the ANRF-sponsored One Day Training Workshop on “*Taxonomy and Conservation of Indian Spiders*”, organized by the Arachnida Section, ZSI, Kolkata, on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
14. Mr. Supradipta Dutta, UGC-JRF, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on “*Spider web, ecology and behavior*” in the ANRF-sponsored One Day Training Workshop on “*Taxonomy and Conservation of Indian Spiders*”, organized by the Arachnida Section, ZSI, Kolkata, on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

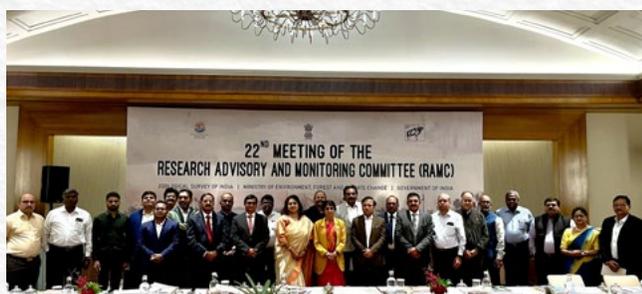
## PHOTO GALLERY



Director, ZSI with Mr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC and Dr. Nandita Chatterjee, IAS, Chairperson, RAMC



Members present at the Meeting Hall for the 22nd RAMC meeting



The delegates present at the 22nd RAMC meeting



Felicitation of DZSI by Dr. Gurupada Mandal, Scientist-E & Head of Office



DZSI with the Committee members of Half Yearly Progress Monitoring Committee Meeting



Felicitation of the Director, ZSI by Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Officer-in-charge, ZSI/EBRC



Observation of Samvidhan Divas on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025



Glimpses of One day Training Workshop on "Taxonomy and Conservation of Indian Spiders" held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at ZSI, Kolkata

## The Architect of Indian Nematology: A Monumental Legacy in Science and Scholarship

**A Tribute to Prof. M. Shamim Jairajpuri (1942-2024)**  
**Former Director,**  
**Zoological Survey of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**

The passing of Professor Mohammad Shamim Jairajpuri (M. S. Jairajpuri) marks the end of an era defined by unparalleled dedication to science, exceptional academic leadership, and a deep commitment to institutional development in India. Prof. Jairajpuri, celebrated widely as a dedicated man of science and a profound scholar, embodied a composite culture, and his life serves as an inspirational role model for young scientists worldwide.



He was an eminent Zoologist; Member of all top Indian Science Academies; Fellow of TWAS; Former Dean, School of Life Sciences, AMU; Founder Director, Centre for Agricultural Sciences, AMU; Former Director, Zoological Survey of India and Founder Vice-Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

This tribute draws upon the reminiscences, reflections, and appreciations gathered by his peers and former students, originally compiled in the book *Romance of*

*Research: Professor M. Shamim Jairajpuri (His life and Contributions to Nematology)*. The sources collectively paint a portrait of an extraordinary individual whose work ethic, intellectual rigor, and humane qualities elevated him from an ordinary background to a stature of national and international eminence.

### A Titan in Nematology and Zoology

Professor Jairajpuri's academic life was marked by sheer brilliance, dedication, and a relentless pursuit of excellence that led him to break several academic records. His reputation as a world-renowned scientist is primarily rooted in his monumental contributions to Nematology and Taxonomy.

### Early Academic Achievements

Born on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1942, Prof. Jairajpuri exhibited a trajectory of success early in his career at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). He secured a first division and second position in his M.Sc. (Final) Zoology examinations in 1961. He began his research work in 1961 on the taxonomy of plant and soil nematodes under the guidance of Dr. Ather H. Siddiqi. After completing his Ph.D. work in the minimum possible time allowed by the University, he submitted his Ph.D. thesis in April 1964.

In a remarkable series of achievements, Prof. Jairajpuri became the youngest research supervisor in the history of the University at the age of 24 years only, when he accepted a Ph.D. student under Dr. M. Rafiq Siddiqi. His scholarly work continued to impress, culminating in the award of the D.Sc. degree in Nematology in 1970 when

he was only 28 years old. He was the first D.Sc. awardee of the newly established Faculty of Life Sciences and was perhaps the youngest D.Sc. degree holder in India and possibly abroad at that time.

His primary academic specialization lay in the study of nematodes, though he also published substantially on biology, behaviour, biocontrol, ecology, ultrastructure, and developmental biology of nematodes. His pioneering taxonomic contributions focused particularly on nematodes belonging to the orders Dorylaimida and Mononchida. His enduring work on plant and soil nematodes has been characterized as monumental, securing him the reputation as the single largest contributor to the science of Nematology in India.

His academic record is phenomenal, comprising over 350 research papers (a majority published in peer-reviewed international journals, including over 80 papers in *Nematologica* and 40 in *Revue de Nematologie*) and some 20 books authored or edited. The classification systems he proposed for these animals are accepted by leading nematologists globally.

## International Recognition and Service Abroad

Prof. Jairajpuri's high standards and recognized expertise led to significant international engagements. He was a Fellow of major Science Academies in India and many prestigious Academies abroad.



In 1965, he participated in the First International Post-Graduate Nematology Course in Wageningen, the Netherlands. He was subsequently appointed as a Principal Nematologist at the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (CAB) International Institute of Parasitology at St. Albans, U.K., a highly lucrative position he held for nearly two and a half years starting in 1981.

Despite the comfortable life and well-equipped laboratory in the U.K., he decided to return to India. His objective was clear: "to get more global exposure, acquire the knowledge and come back to serve the country and his alma mater (AMU) with enriched vision". He turned down multiple fellowships and job offers from foreign universities due to his firm belief in the destiny of his country and his deep commitment to AMU. This decision exemplified his deep love for his nation.

## Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)

In 1989, he was appointed as the Director of the Zoological Survey of India, succeeding Dr. M. L. Roonwal. This appointment was viewed as a major success for ZSI due to his high academic excellence and international standing.

He took charge on February 20, 1989, and immediately set about reorganising the scientific and administrative setup. He provided immense guidance and was instrumental in advancing the scientific programs of the Survey, which were set to run until the year 2000. During his tenure, ZSI achieved remarkable improvements, including organizing a national symposium titled "Taxonomy in Environmental Management and Modern Biology". He passionately advocated for taxonomy and biodiversity conservation.

Within six months of joining ZSI, he had transformed it into an institute of excellence, procuring sophisticated equipment like the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) and WILD Stereoscopic Binocular Microscopes to upgrade the quality of research. His tenure, though relatively short (about three years), was characterized by

his vision, foresight, and ability to handle administrative complexities with a human touch.

He resigned from ZSI in 1991 to return to AMU to take on the challenge of establishing the Institute of Agriculture. Upon his return to Aligarh Muslim University in 1993, Prof. Jairajpuri accepted the immense challenge of becoming the Founder-Director of the newly created Institute of Agriculture.

### First Vice-Chancellor of MANUU

In 1998, Prof. Jairajpuri was appointed to what many considered his ultimate and most challenging assignment: serving as the First Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in Hyderabad.

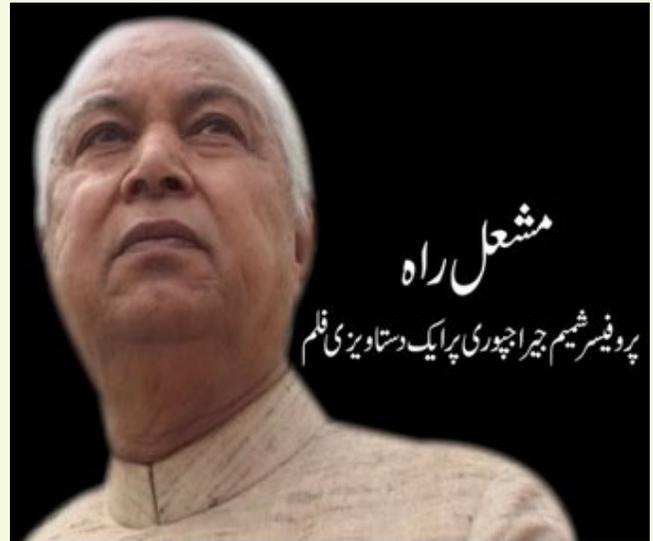
The selection of Prof. Shamim Jairajpuri, an eminent scientist and scholar “who is soaked in the composite culture of land that the Urdu language embodies,” was viewed as fortunate. Setting up a Central-National University from scratch, with Urdu as the medium of instruction, was seen as the “noblest but most difficult task” assigned by the Government of India. It was a task that required him to leave a flourishing science career and his family behind.

He accepted this mission with strong faith, self-determination, and extraordinary confidence. Within a short span of two and a half years, he managed to make significant progress. He established a network of centres across India, started a number of courses, and created three Regional and 31 Study centres across the country. His work in promoting Urdu as the language of Science, Technology, and University education was considered phenomenal. The initial and challenging task accomplished by Professor Jairajpuri was deemed crucial for the University’s eventual success and future rapid strides.

### A Teacher, Mentor, and Humane Individual

Beyond his impressive administrative and research portfolio, Prof. Jairajpuri is perhaps best remembered for

his warm, accessible, and highly principled personality. His qualities as a good teacher and a well-wisher of his students were praised universally. Professor Jairajpuri’s commitment to his students was profound, often going beyond the call of duty. He maintained a highly disciplined, yet encouraging, atmosphere in his laboratory. His research lab at AMU became a center of international repute in Nematology. He inculcated in his students the value of precision and perfection. He always sought to improve his students’ understanding, exhibiting “extraordinary tolerance and his eagerness to make his students understand the subject shall always remain beyond comparison”. He never discouraged a student’s idea, choosing instead to politely guide them to the highest standards. He emphasized hard work and adherence to international standards, ensuring that his students’ Ph.D. work was publishable in prestigious international journals.



He believed in creating an environment of “healthy research” where interactions broadened the vision and reduced the difficulties of research. He made himself available to students, often working late into the evening and remaining accessible even in the highest administrative offices like the ZSI Directorship or the Vice-Chancellorship, where he would still find time to discuss nematode research. He believed a student’s welfare and interest were paramount.

## A Lasting Legacy

He leaves behind a legacy defined by his immense stamina, enthusiasm, and passion for work, and his ability to motivate others while maintaining international standards and showing great accessibility and care for all his students. As former Prime Minister I. K. Gujral noted, Prof. Jairajpuri was both an eminent scientist and a scholar soaked in the composite culture of the land. His services to the scientific and student communities are expected to be celebrated and felt for many years to come. He was truly “All-in-One,” encompassing the roles of father, brother, teacher, guide, and friend. The impact of his tireless efforts continues to bear fruit across the institutions he served and in the lives of the many generations of scientists he trained.

***May his soul rest in peace***

**Dr. K. Venkataraman**  
**Former Director, ZSI**  
**and all his STUDENS and COLLEGUES.....**

**Note:** Anybody interested in writing Obituary on former Directors and Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India, may kindly send the write-ups with photographs to [enewsletter@zsi.gov.in](mailto:enewsletter@zsi.gov.in).