

ZSI E-News

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Cover: Striped Tiger; *Danaus genutia* (Cramer, [1779])

Courtesy: ZSI, HQ, Kolkata

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from the Director's Desk

Dear Colleagues and Esteemed Readers

I am pleased to present the April 2025 edition of Zoological Survey India's monthly E-News, which highlights the latest accomplishments, advancements, and discoveries in research and faunal exploration. This dynamic and informative issue reflects our steadfast commitment to excellence in faunal research, exploration, and documentation. Each page embodies the passion, dedication, and scientific rigor with which our researchers and collaborators are pushing the boundaries of zoological knowledge. From significant taxonomic breakthroughs to essential conservation initiatives, this edition encapsulates the essence of our collective efforts to understand, protect, and celebrate India's rich and diverse biodiversity. The E-News not only highlights recent achievements and scientific progress but also reinforces the spirit of innovation and collaboration that characterizes the Zoological Survey of India.

The 21st meeting of the Research Advisory and Monitoring Committee (RAMC) was held on 24th and 25th April 2025 in Ranthambore, Rajasthan. During this meeting, the ZSI warmly welcomed the RAMC members and expressed appreciation to Chairperson Dr. Nandita Chatterjee, IAS (R), Advisor to UN Secretary General, former Member (A) Central Administrative Tribunal, and former Secretary to Government of India, Ms. Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary,

MoEFCC, Government of India, and all RAMC members for their active participation. During this month, scientists and researchers at ZSI have successfully identified a total of 1355 species from diverse faunal communities. This includes the discovery of seven new species, consisting of two new collembola species, two new hemiptera species, two new hymenoptera species, and one new pisces species. It is particularly noteworthy that two genera of hymenoptera and three species of collembola have been newly recorded in India.

Through such consistent and creative documentation, we fortify our commitment to preserving the natural heritage of our nation for future generations. May this publication inspire ongoing exploration, informed conservation, and a deeper connection with the living world around us. I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to all those who contributed to this publication for their meticulous work in compiling and presenting our findings with accuracy and clarity. Their commitment guarantees that our research reaches a wide audience, enhancing awareness and appreciation for India's distinctive and priceless wildlife, particularly regarding faunal communities. I encourage all readers, scientists, students, and nature enthusiasts to engage with this edition and join us in our pursuit of scientific discovery and biodiversity stewardship.

Jai Hind,

Dr. Dhriti Banerjee

Director

5th May 2025
Kolkata

HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL

Survey tours were conducted to Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A total of 599 species of faunal communities belonging to Collembola, Diptera, Ephemeroptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Mantodea, Mollusca, Odonata, Orthoptera, Nematelminthes, Platyhelminthes, Pisces, and Zooplanktons were identified. Apart from these, 16 species of archaeological specimens were identified. A total of five species belonging to Collembola, Hemiptera,

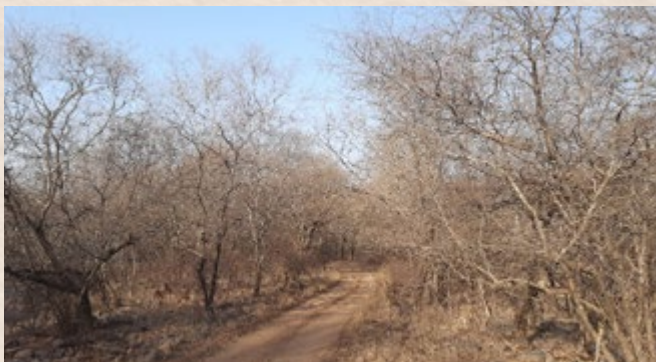
and Hymenoptera was described new to science. A total of two genera of Hemiptera and three species belonging to Collembola were recorded for the first time from the country. A total of 40 species of Collembola, Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Pisces, and Platyhelminthes were augmented to National Zoological Collections (NZCs). Identification and advisory services were rendered to four different educational institutions.



Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan



Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan



Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan



Zoological Survey of India, Headquarters, Kolkata

NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

A total of 93 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Odonata, Araneae, Lepidoptera, Mollusca, Reptilia, and Pisces were identified. An exhibition on the progress of the implementation of official language at NERC, Shillong was arranged for the visit of the Parliamentary Committee on the 25th April at Marriott Hotel, Shillong. Scientists of the centre reviewed a Ph.D. thesis and participated as experts in the field visit to the proposed Mawtneng Biodiversity Heritage Site, Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya organised by the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board on 10th April 2025. A paper was presented in the National Conference on “*Bioresource Research, Management and Sustainability*” organized by B. Borooah College, Guwahati, on 22nd to 23rd April 2025 by Dr. Bhaskar Saikia, Asstt. Zoologist of the centre. Students from Pachhunga University College, Aizawl, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati, Girijananda Chowdhury University, Guwahati, and Dr. S. D. Biju, Prof. Delhi University visited the Centre.



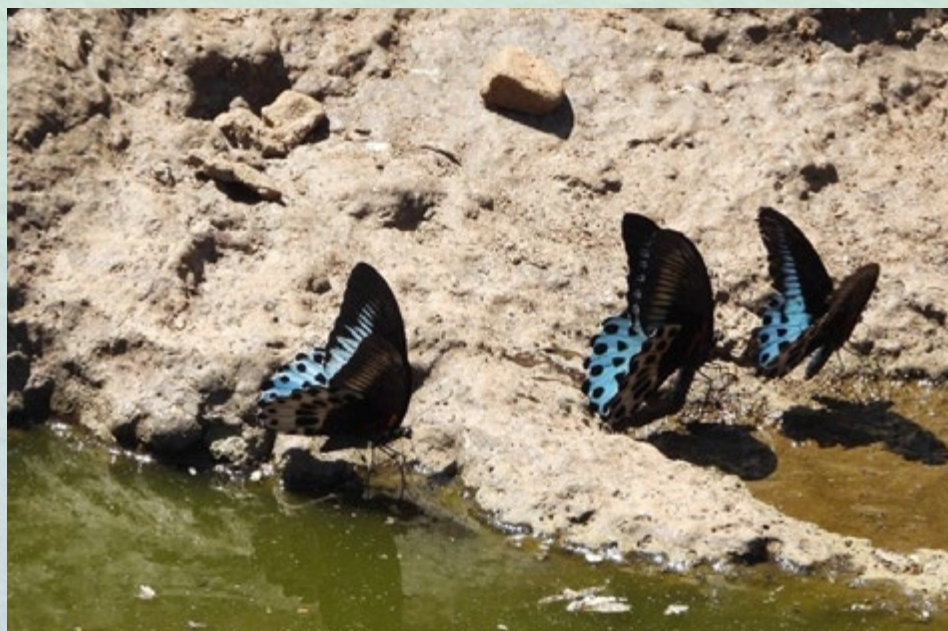
Indian roundleaf bat *Hipposideros lankadiva* Kelaart, 1850 roosting inside a cave



Gaudy Baron *Euthalia lubentina* Cramer, 1779 from Mizoram

WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

Survey tours were conducted to South Gujarat from 15th to 18th April 2025 and to Bhavnagar and adjacent coastal areas from 23rd to 25th April 2025 in connection with vetting of CRZ Report prepared by GUIDE for ports and port cities of the state. A total of 72 species of faunal communities belonging to Amphibia, Araneae, Crustacea, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Blattodea, Mollusca, Myriapoda, Platyhelminthes, Pisces, and Solifugae were identified. Identification and advisory services were rendered to three institutions and three manuscripts were reviewed by the scientists of the centre during this month. A total of ten DNA barcodes submitted to NCBI. A total of 367 students from various educational institutions visited the museum of the centre during this month.



Blue Mormon, *Papilio (agenor) polymnestor* Cramer, 1775



Habitat Harishchandragad fort

CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

A survey tour was conducted to the Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh from 31st March to 7th April 2025. A total of 81 species of faunal communities including Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Reptilia, Decapoda, and Mollusca were identified. The centre participated in Techno fest and exhibition 'Abhikalpan-2025' organised by IIITDM, from 11th to 13th April 2025. One Identification and Advisory Service was rendered to Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishavidyala, Jabalpur. A total of 152 visitors including Mr. Nitin Joshi, Director, Survey of India, Jabalpur, Dr. P. M. Sureshan, Emiratus Scientist from ZSI, WGRC, Kozhikode, and students from different institutions visited the museum of the centre. Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist of the centre was nominated by Rajbhasha Vibhag, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi as Chief invigilator of examinations for Rajbhasha exams of Central India.



Axis axis (Erxleben, 1777), Cheetal observed in Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh



ZSI, Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur participated in Techno fest and exhibition 'Abhikalpan-2025' organised by IIITDM.

DESERT REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

A total of 73 species of faunal communities belonging to Gastropoda, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, and Pisces were identified. Identification and Advisory Services were rendered to BGSB University,

Rajouri (J&K), and Narsingh Mehta University, Junagarh, Gujarat. A total of fifteen visitors visited the museum of the centre.



Cheetal- *Axis axis* (Erxleben, 1777) at Gir N.P.



Spotted Dove- *Spilopelia chinensis* (Scopoli, 1786) at Gir N.P.

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

A total of 64 species of faunal communities belonging to Phthiraptera, Coleoptera, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Pisces, Amphibia, and Reptilia were identified. "Mission LiFE Programme- Save Water, Save Electricity, Cleanliness Drive" was organized by the centre for creating awareness among common people and by planting saplings under the initiative of Hon'ble PM of India "Ek Ped Maa Kae Naam Campaign" in the Matri Van of the centre with Nature Guide trainees of Chakrata Forest Division, Uttarakhand, and M.Sc. Zoology students of Dhanauri P.G. College, Haridwar on 7th April 2025; B.Sc. Forestry Students of DBS Global University, Uttarakhand on 15th April 2025; B.Sc. Forestry Students of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi held on 23rd April 2025; Forester Trainees of Haryana Forest Training Institute, Sohna, Haryana and students of Sanskriti University, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh on 24th April 2025 and M.Sc. Zoology Students of Department of Zoology, University of Ladakh on 26th April 2025.



Sapling plantation by students of Ladakh University in the MATRI VAN of ZSI, NRC, Dehradun



Group photo with Faculty and students of Ladakh University at ZSI, NRC, Dehradun

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A total of 146 species of faunal communities belonging to Crustacea, Ephemeroptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Psocoptera, Mollusca, Amphibia, Aves, and zooplankton were identified. Sixteen Sub-Inspectors of

Fisheries and two Inspectors of Fisheries from the Fisheries Staff Training Institute, Nandanam, Chennai, visited and training was imparted on freshwater and marine fish fauna.



Freshwater Crab



Rosy Starling, *Pastor roseus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

GANGETIC PLAINS REGIONAL CENTRE, PATNA, BIHAR

A total of 62 species of faunal communities belonging to Protozoa, Insecta, Mollusca, and Fishes were identified during this month. An awareness programme on malnutrition was organized on 21st April 2025, in which Dr. Aditya Kumar and Dr. Kamini Sinha (Gynaecologist) shared insights on health policies and programmes. World Earth Day was celebrated at the centre, where Prof. Tripti Gangwar, Coordinator of the Department of Environmental Sciences & Environment & Water Management, A. N. Collage, Patna, and Prof. Prem Kumar, Head, Prem Youth Foundation and News Editor and General Secretary of the Bihar Working Journalist Union, Patna were present and shared their perspectives on environmental stewardship.



Glimpses of Earth Day 2025, organised at ZSI, GPRC, Patna



Glimpses of Poshan Pakhwada 2025 organised at ZSI, GPRC, Patna

HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN, HIMACHAL PRADESH

A total of 75 species of faunal communities belonging to Lepidoptera, Trichoptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, and Pisces were identified. A total of six DNA barcodes of Lepidoptera have been submitted to NCBI. Four research articles and a Ph. D. thesis were reviewed by the scientists of the centre. The Poshan Pakhwada, a two-week long

nutrition awareness campaign was organized by the centre at Government Primary School, Saproon, Solan on 23rd April 2025 as part of the nationwide initiative to raise awareness about nutrition, good hygiene practices, and healthy lifestyles among children and the community.

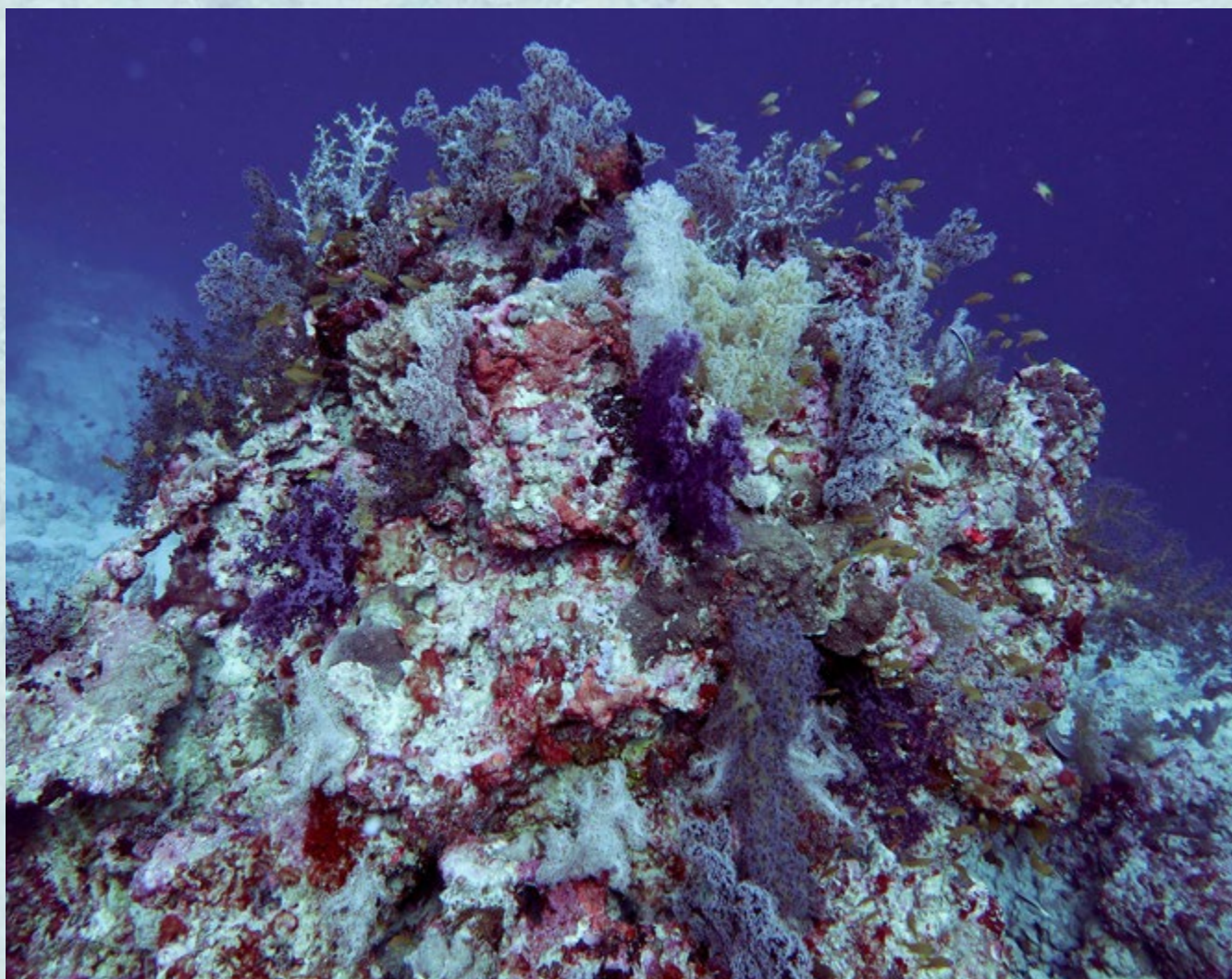


Glimpses of activities organised by HARC, ZSI, Solan during Poshan Pakhwada on 23rd April 2025 at Govt. Primary School, Saproon, Solan.

MARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A survey tour was conducted to Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 1st to 12th April 2025 under the project '*Deep-sea Condrithyans of India: Taxonomy, Distribution, Biology and Current Status under the Deep Ocean Mission*'. A total of 51 species belonging to different faunal groups were identified during this month. Identification and Advisory

services were rendered to two Institutions and two law enforcement agencies. A total of sixty seven people including trainee inspectors from Tamil Nadu Fisheries Department visited the museum and marine aquarium of the centre.



Octocorals in the outer reef slope of Kavaratti atoll

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

Three long-term surveys were conducted to Great Nicobar Island from 1st to 30th April 2025 and from 1st to 18th April 2025, and Shaheed Dweep (Neil Island) from 11th to 19th April 2025 to study the Marine and Terrestrial faunal diversity. Local surveys were conducted to Burmanallah, Marina Park, Chidiyatappu, Beodnabad, Minnie Bay and Attam Phar to study the terrestrial fauna and Marine Fauna. A total of 216 species of faunal communities belonging to Arachnida, Mammalia, Coleoptera, Aves, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Reptilia, Annelida, Decapoda, Chordata, Echinodermata, Mollusca, and Platyhelminthes were identified. Two Identification and Advisory services were rendered to the Department of Environment and Forest, and to the A & N Police. World Earth Day was celebrated at the centre on 22nd April 2025. Capacity Building Program on Nutrition and Ecosystem Awareness was conducted on 22nd April 2025 at Wimberlygunj, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Another Capacity Building Programme on Biodiversity was conducted in Little Andaman at eleven schools, engaging over 346 students from Class I to Class X during 6th to 11th April 2025 and Mission LiFE awareness programs were conducted at eleven different schools and colleges in Little Andaman from 6th to 11th April 2025.



Acropora monticulosa (Bruggemann, 1879)



Xestospongia testudinaria Lamarck, 1815

SUNDERBAN REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING, WEST BENGAL

A total of 48 species of faunal communities belonging to Chordata, Arthropoda, and Mollusca were identified during this month.

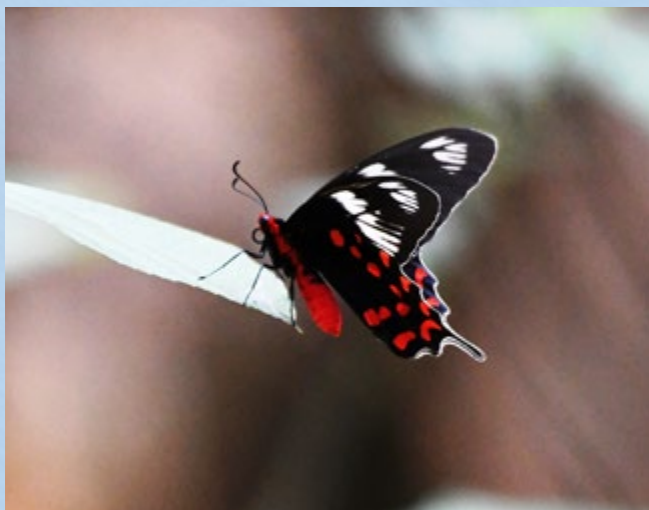
FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

A faunistic survey was conducted to Sirpur Lake, Yeshwanth Sagar, and Sakhya Sagar Lakes in Madhya Pradesh from 18th March 2025 to 3rd April 2025. A total of 91 species of faunal communities belonging to Fishes, Aquatic Coleoptera, Aquatic Hemiptera, Branchipoda,

and Reptilia were identified during this month. Twenty-six DNA sequences were submitted to NCBI. Mission LiFE and Swachhta Hi Seva Special Campaigns 4.0 were conducted to generate awareness among people.



Charadrius dubius Scopoli, 1786 (Little Ringed Plover)



Pachliopta hector (Linnaeus, 1758) (Crimson Rose)

WESTERN GHATS REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA

A survey tour conducted to Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala from 31st March to 11th April 2025. A total of 125 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate Amoeba, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Arachnida, and Pisces were identified. One species of Hymenoptera:

Trigonalidae was described as new to science. One Identification and advisory service was rendered to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Amritsar region, Punjab. A total of 197 visitors visited the museum of the centre.



Survey team at Periyar Tiger Reserve

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

A total of 158 species of different faunal communities were identified. A total of ten DNA barcodes were uploaded in the NCBI. Museum of the centre was visited by students and teachers of various educational institutions.



Mass emergence of Olive ridley sea turtles at Rushikulya rookery



Students from Nagaland University

ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH



Talicada nyseus (Guérin-Ménéville, 1843)

A total of 111 species of faunal communities belonging to Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, and Pisces were identified. One species of pisces was described as new to science. One Identification and Advisory Service was rendered to Zoology department, B. Barooah College, Guwahati. World Earth Day was celebrated at the centre under the theme, "Our Power, Our Planet".



Observation of Earth Day 2025 at Himalayan University, Jollang, Arunachal Pradesh on 22nd April 2025 organized by ZSI, Itanagar

MARINE AQUARIUM AND REGIONAL CENTRE, DIGHA, WEST BENGAL

Local survey tour was conducted to Champa estuary and Hospital ghat, West Bengal on 19th and 25th April 2025. A total of 48 species of faunal communities belonging to Mollusca, Isopoda, Stomatopoda, Nematoda, and Crustacea were identified. A total of nine gDNA and

nine PCR products have been amplified. A total of five manuscripts including a Ph. D. thesis were reviewed. A total of 14273 visitors including students from four educational institutes of different states visited the museum of the centre.



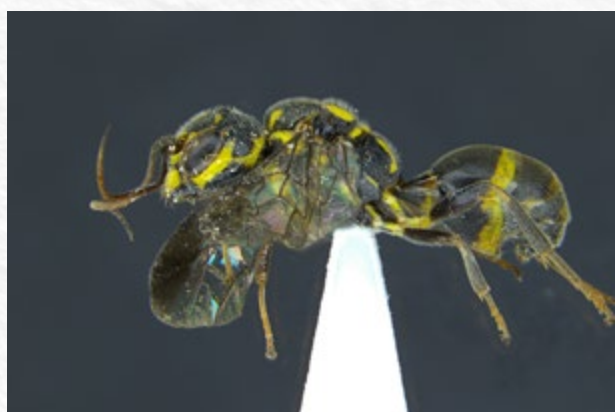
Vepricardium asiaticum (Bruguère, 1789)

NEW DISCOVERIES

NEW SPECIES



Glyptothorax palakkadiensis Singh & Kosygin, 2025



Taeniogonalos manickavasagami Sankararaman, Amal & Girish Kumar, 2025



Brachygaster bangalorensis Rameshkumar & Kazmi, 2025



Megacyphoderus unedentimucronatus Mandal & Mandal, 2025



Cyphoderus bihariensis Roy, Mandal & Suman, 2025

New Records



Isotomurus punctiferus Yosii, 1963



Lepidocyrtus (Lepidocyrtus) himalayanus Yosii, 1971



Willowsia cassagnai Zhang, 2015

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Saha, P. C., Hassan, M. E., Banerjee, D., Dash, S., Mondal, R., Jahan, S. and Kushwaha, S. 2025. An Account of Reduviidae (Insecta: Hemiptera: Heteroptera) From Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand India. Pp 81-91. In: Tiwari, S., Patel, Y.K., Jahan, S., Bhatnagar, P.S., Kushwaha, S., and Kulshrestha, R. (Eds.), *Food Technology and Sustainable Biodiversity*. Published by Rathore Publication, New Delhi. (ISBN: 978-93-48121-76-9).
2. Saha, P. C., Hassan, M. E., Banerjee, D., Dash, S., Mondal, R., Jahan, S. and Kushwaha, S. 2025. An Account of Superfamily Lygaeoidea (Insecta: Hemiptera: Heteroptera) From Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, India. Pp 92-108. In: Tiwari, S., Patel, Y.K., Jahan, S., Bhatnagar, P.S., Kushwaha, S., and Kulshrestha, R. (Eds.), *Food Technology and Sustainable Biodiversity*. Published by Rathore Publication, New Delhi. (ISBN: 978-93-48121-76-9).
3. Saha, P. C., Hassan, M. E., Banerjee, D., Dash, S., Mondal, R., Jahan, S. and Kushwaha, S. 2025. An Account of Miridae (Insecta: Hemiptera: Heteroptera) From Dalma WLS, Jharkhand; India. Pp 109-120. In: Tiwari, S., Patel, Y.K., Jahan, S., Bhatnagar, P.S., Kushwaha, S., and Kulshrestha, R. (Eds.), *Food Technology and Sustainable Biodiversity*. Published by Rathore Publication, New Delhi. (ISBN: 978-93-48121-76-9).

PAPERS

1. Abedin, I., Kamalakannan, M., Mukherjee, T., Singha, H., Banerjee, D., Kim, H.W. and Kundu, S. 2025. Eco-Spatial Modeling of Two Giant Flying Squirrels (Sciuridae: Petaurista): Navigating Climate Resilience and Conservation Roadmap in the Eastern Himalaya and Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspots. *Life*, **15**: 589.
2. Abitha, J., Debnath, R., Shabnam, A. and Dinesh, K.P. 2025. A Novel Host Association of *Telenomus remus* Nixon, 1937 (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae), Evidenced by Molecular Studies. *Journal of the Entomological Research Society*, **27**(1):175-188.
3. Das, A.K., Mohapatra, S.K., Tripathy, B., Swain, A. and Mohapatra, A. 2025. Do Olive Ridley Turtles Select Mates Based on Size? An Investigation of Mate Size Preference at a Major Arribada Rookery. *Ecosphere*, **16**(4): e70264.
4. Das, R., Saha, P.C., Khanra, S. and Dash, S. 2025. New state records of Pyrrhocoroidea (Insecta: Hemiptera: Heteroptera) from Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, India. *International Journal of Zoology and Applied Bioscience*, **10**(2): 40-45.
5. Dash, S, Pal, A. and Saha, P.C. 2025. Assessment of Pentatomoidea in Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, India: Faunal Composition, Abundance and Distribution. *Indian Journal of Ecology*, **52**(2): 273-282.
6. Dubey, A. K. and Evans, G. A. 2025. *Covidaleyrodes flos*, a new whitefly genus and species (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) infesting an endemic woody climber, *Artabotrys speciosus* (Magnoliales: Annonaceae) in the Andaman Islands, India. *Zootaxa*, **5620**(2): 379-388.
7. Dubey, A. K. and Kousalya, L. 2025. Description of a new species of *Aleuroclava* Singh (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) from the Andaman Islands, India. *Pan-Pacific Entomologists*, **101**(1): 10-14.
8. Kamalakannan, M., Thakur, M., Marimuthu, N., Pramanik, S. and Banerjee, D. 2025. Museum Specimens Reveal the Taxonomic Distinctions Among South Asian Treeshrews. *Ecology and Evolution*, **15**: 10.
9. Kumar, V.M.S., Kumar, A., Kumari, V. and Ranjan, R. 2025. Assessing Fish Invasions in the Ganges: Molecular Detection and Surveillance of Juvenile Invasive Species Using DNA Barcoding. *Journal of Applied Life Sciences International*, **28**(3): 54-60.
10. Mandal, P., Mandal, G. P., Suman, K. K. and Bhattacharya, K. K. 2025. First record of the genus *Megacyphoderus* (Collembola: Entomobryidae) with a new species and two new records of Collembola from India. *Oriental Insects*: 1-21.
11. Mazumdar, S., Mandal, P. and Mandal, G. P. 2025. *Isotomurus punctiferus* Yosii, 1963 (Collembola: Isotomidae), a new record to India with its taxonomic account. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, **125**(1): 19-24.
12. Pal, A., Lis, J.A., Dash, S., Subba, A and Rider, D.A. 2025. A new combination in *Coridius* Illiger, 1807 (Hemiptera:

- Pentatomoidea: Dinidoridae), rediscovery of the type specimen and solving of a nomen dubium. *Zootaxa*, **5618**(2): 289–294.
13. Pandher, M.S. 2025. First record of *Anisocentropus ulmeri* Malicky, 1998 (Insecta: Trichoptera: Calamoceratidae) from India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, **125**(1): 29–31.
 14. Paunikar, S.D. 2025. Species Composition and Diversity of Odonata Fauna in Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Mandsaur and Neemach district of Madhya Pradesh. *International Journal of Researches in Biosciences, Agriculture and Technology*, **13**(1): 187–195.
 15. Purkayastha, J., Asem, B. M., Lalremsanga, H. T., Das, M., Warjri, H., Thongni, G., and Bohra, S. C. 2025. Comments on the systematics and morphology of *Smithophis bicolor* (Blyth, 1855) (Reptilia: Squamata: Natricidae) based on topotypical specimens from Meghalaya, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, **17**(4): 26803–26813.
 16. Rameshkumar, A., Kazmi, S.I., Yeshwanth, H.M. and Barua, A. 2025. Description of a new species of *Brachygaster* Leach (Hymenoptera: Evaniidae) from India with a key to species. *Zootaxa*, **5618**(1): 137–139.
 17. Saikia, U., Ruedi, M. and Chakravarty, R. 2025. An update on the status of some Data Deficient bat species in India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, **17**(4): 26864–26871.
 18. Sankararaman, H., Amal, S. and Girish Kumar, P. 2025. Description of a new species of *Taeniogonatos* Schulz (Hymenoptera: Trigonalidae) from South India with an updated key to Indian species. *Zootaxa*, **5621**(3): 326–334.
 19. Singh, P. and Kosygin, L. 2025. *Glyptothorax palakkadiensis*, a new species of catfish (Teleostei: Sisoridae) from Kerala, Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Natural History*, **59**(17–20): 1383–1393.
 20. Sunil J., Dubey A. K., Gupta, A. and Sushil, S. N. 2025. First reports of the genera *Leptopulvinaria* Kanda and *Pulvinarisca Borchsenius* (Hemiptera: Coccothorax: Coccidae) from India, with descriptions of two new species. *Zootaxa*, **5618**(4): 571–583.

ABSTRACTS

1. Purushothaman, J., Hazarika, T.A., Abisha B., Baliarsingh, S.K., Banerjee, D. 2025. Integrating research and rescindable fishing adaptive to engage jellyfish fisheries as a sustainable approach to Blue economy: An Indian scenario. In: *Book of Abstracts, International Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Genomics and Sustainable Development*, organized by Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi from 9th to 11th April 2025.
2. Purushothaman, J., Hazarika, T.A., Abisha B., Baliarsingh, S.K., Banerjee, D. 2025. Environmental drivers and depth wise variability in mesozooplankton community structure in the glacially influenced Krossfjorden, Svalbard Archipelago. In: *Book of Abstracts, International Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Genomics and Sustainable Development*, organized by Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi from 9th to 11th April 2025.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, was invited to the 49th Meeting of Training Research & Academic Council (TRAC) of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to discuss about the research based agenda and key milestones achieved by WII, Dehradun during the F.Y. 2024–25 on 4th April 2025; was invited to the 113th Meeting of Technical Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife) and the Chairperson of Technical Committee on 16th April 2025; was invited to participate in a pivotal meeting under the chairpersonship of Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) at Narmada Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi on 24th April 2025; was invited by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) to attend a strategic meeting under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor (AS&FA) on 25th April 2025; attended the Review Meeting of all NIRANTAR institutes which were held on four verticals – Ecosystem Survey and Analysis; Research and Management of Ecosystem Service; Capacity Development Support; and Climate Change Support on 30th April 2025.
2. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist-F, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended meeting with CCU officials at APRC,

- Itanagar on 1st April 2025 to discuss about the construction progress of Himalayan Fauna Repository building; provided inputs to MoSPI Annual publication *EnviStats India 2025: Environment Statistics*, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 23rd April 2025; provided the inputs for Rajya Sabha's list of points for informal discussion on deforestation and climate change in Himalayan Region and sent to the MoEFCC; attended meeting with A&N Administration regarding the implementation of wildlife conservation plant related to the Great Nicobar Island Project held on 15th April 2025 chaired by PCCF, Andaman and Nicobar Islands; convened 21st Meeting of RAMC as Member Secretary at Ranthambore, Rajasthan on 24th and 25th April 2025; delivered a brief lecture on the Biodiversity and Conservation status of Aravalli Hills during the 21st meeting of RAMC held on 24th April 2025.
3. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-F, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, attended meeting as nominated by The Director, ZSI "*AGM Meeting of Wildlife Institute of India*" under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of MoEFCC Shri Bhupender Yadav ji held at MoEFCC, New Delhi on 22nd April 2025.
 4. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, attended a meeting on 9th April 2025 under the Chairmanship of DIG Forests, RT Division, MoEF&CC in connection with the one-week compulsory training courses for Indian Forest Officers (IFS) to be conducted in ANRC, ZSI in the month of October 2025 and December 2025; attended meetings under the Chairmanship of PCCF, A & N Islands in connection with the ongoing research and conservation projects in Great Nicobar Island on 16th and 21st April 2025; attended a meeting under the Chairmanship of PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, A & N Islands in connection with captive breeding the Narcondam Hornbill on 21st April 2025; attended and coordinated the 21st Research, Advisory and Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 24th and 25th April 2025 at Ranthambore, Rajasthan; attended a meeting with officials of Department of Environment and Forests, Government of Rajasthan in connection with the ongoing research programme of Desert Regional Centre, Jodhpur during 26th to 29th April 2025 at Jaipur and Udaipur, Rajasthan.
 5. Dr. Indu Sharma, Scientist- F, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur, attended the 21st RAMC meeting along with Dr. R. H. Raina, Scientist- E, Sh. Akhilesh Kumar, LDC and Sh. Vinod Meena, LDC on 24th and 25th April 2025, organized by ZSI, HQ, Kolkata at Ranthambore, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan; attended virtual meeting along with Dr. R. H. Raina, Scientist- E related to 110 Hours Hackathon held on 3rd and 30th April 2025.
 6. Dr. Anjum N. Rizvi, Scientist - E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, chaired meeting for the selection of research personnel of Externally funded project on 9th April 2025 at ZSI -Kolkata.
 7. Dr. R. H. Raina, Scientist- E, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur, attended 10th Meeting of the state Board for Wildlife of the Union Territory of Ladakh through virtual mode.
 8. S.D Gurumayum, Scientist - E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended 9th Meeting of the State-Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) held on 9th April 2025 at the Conference Hall, PCCF Office, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh as Expert member for Environmental Clearance of 4 proposals submitted to the department.
 9. Dr. Deepa Jaiswal, Scientist-E, ZSI/FBRC, Hyderabad, along with N. Naresh, Sr. Zoological Asst. and Mr. Amit Kumar, OS, attended meeting with the Director, CCMB at LaCONES, Hyderabad on 9th April 2025.
 10. Dr. Anil Kumar, Scientist-E, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, along with Dr. M. E. Hassan, Scientist-E, attended a meeting with the Vice Chancellor of Patna University to discuss Ph.D. student mentorship on 04th April 2025; attended a meeting with senior faculty members at IIT Patna to explore collaboration and scientific exchange through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 11th April 2025; attended a meeting with Dr. Shobha Shrivastava, Head of the Department of Zoology at Patna Women's College, to encourage student involvement in the forthcoming ZSI, Hackathon activities on 11th April 2025.
 11. Dr. B. Sinha, Scientist-E, ZSI/NERC, Shillong, participated in the 2nd Stakeholder Consultation workshop for Meghalaya State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) revision held at Shillong on 21st April 2025.
 12. Dr. K.K. Bineesh, Scientist - E, ZSI/MBRC, Chennai, attended the expert meeting at MoEF&CC on 23rd April 2025 to discuss the CITES proposals.
 13. Dr. J. Lyngdoh, Scientist-E, ZSI/NERC, Shillong, along with Dr. B. Sinha, Scientist-E, ZSI/NERC, Shillong, and S. Meena, attended the assessment meeting during the visit of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language on the 25th April 2025.

14. Dr. Jasmine P, Scientist – E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the International Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Genomics and Sustainable Development (ICMBGSD-2025) organized by Dept. of Marine Biology, Microbiology and Biochemistry, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi from 9th to 11th April 2025.
15. Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist – E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, attended an online discussion meeting Hackathon 110 hrs, organized by ZSI, Hqs., Kolkata on 3rd April 2025.
16. Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist – D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended 21st RAMC meeting at Ranthambore from 24th & 25th April 2025; attended meetings in relation to ATS 2025 and Hackathon on 3rd, 17th, & 21st April 2025; provided reply on Data request for the publication 'EnviStats India 2025: Environment Statistics' for the MoEFCC as required through ZSI/HQ; prepared proposal on Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment studies for the Assessment of Biodiversity and the Preparation of Conservation & Mitigation Plan along the Proposed Alignment of Four Lining of NH-163 from Hyderabad [ORR near Appa Junction at design km.14+000 (existing km.14+000)] to Manneguda [design km.60+405 (existing km.59+500)], Telangana and submitted to the ZSI/FBRC, Hyderabad for further action; prepared replies of 15 questions pertaining to Division/ schemes/ programmes on Biodiversity conservation initiatives in NER in connection with the study Visit of the Parliamentary Committee on Estimates to Hyderabad, Kolkata and Itanagar for the MoEFCC as required through ZSI/HQ.
17. Dr. T. Kubendran, Scientist D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, participated in the 7th Poshan Pakhwada, Earth Day and Autism Awareness Month organized by Palaeozoology Division, ZSI, Kolkata on 23rd April 2025.
18. Dr. P. Girish Kumar, Scientist-D, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, attended a meeting via online as an expert of the Board of Studies in Zoology of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) Devagiri, Kozhikode on 22nd April 2025.
19. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, attended a meeting in the District Biodiversity Co-ordination Committee Meeting for the Identification and Declaration of District Biodiversity Species at the conference Hall of Kozhikode District Panchayat on 8th April 2025 organised jointly by District Panchayat, Kozhikode and the Kerala State Biodiversity Board; attended the Reconciliation Meeting at PAO, Kolkata from 14th to 19th April 2025.
20. Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist – C, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended Rajbhasha Parilamenrty committee meeting at ZSI, North East Regional Centre, Shillong from 20th to 27th April 2025; attended a meeting with Dr. Gurupada Mandal, Head of office, ZSI at ZSI Kolkata for future programmes of Rajbhasha on 21st April 2025.

TRAININGS ORGANIZED

1. ZSI/NRC Dehradun organized One Day Capacity Building Training Programme on topic entitled "*Status of Faunal Diversity in India w.s.r. to Indian Himalaya and efforts on their Conservation*" to Nature Guide trainees of Chakrata Forest Division, Uttarakhand and Zoology students of Dhanauri P.G. College, Haridwar held at the centre on 07th April 2025; conducted One Day Capacity Building Training Programme on topic entitled "*Status of Faunal Diversity and their Conservation in India*" to B.Sc. Forestry Students of DBS Global University, Uttarakhand held at the centre on 15th April 2025; organized One Day Capacity Building Training Programme on topic entitled "*Status of Faunal Diversity and their Conservation in India*" to B.Sc. Forestry Students of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi held at the centre on 23rd April 2025; organized One Day Capacity Building Training Programme on topic entitled "*Status of Faunal Diversity and their Conservation in India*" to Forester Trainees of Haryana Forest Training Institute, Sohna, Haryana and students of Sanskriti University, Mathura, U.P. held at the centre on 24th April 2025; organized One Day Capacity Building Training Programme on topic entitled "*Status of Faunal Diversity and their Conservation in India*" to M. Sc. Zoology Students of Department of Zoology, University of Ladakh held at the centre on 26th April 2025.
2. Palaeozoology Division, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, conducted a special program on 23rd April 2025 at HQ, ZSI, Kolkata on the theme, "*Nurturing Nature, Nurturing Health, Embracing Neurodiversity*" to celebrate 7th Poshwan Pakhwada, Earth day and Autism awareness month in which about 50 students from Autism Society, Kolkata and Sahapur Harendranath Vidyapith, Kolkata took part.

TRAININGS ATTENDED

1. Dr. P. C. Pathania, Scientist-E, ZSI/HARC, Solan, attended online webinar on McGuire Center's "Expanding Horizons in Lepidoptera Research" series talk on the topic entitled, Research on lepidopteran silks by Dr. Bert Foquet of the McGuire Center organized by Director, Curator, and Professor McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity Florida Museum of Natural History University of Florida, Powell Hall, 3215, Hull Road, Gainesville, FL 32611-2710 USA on 08th April 2025; attended online webinar on McGuire Center's "Expanding Horizons in Lepidoptera Research" series talk on the topic entitled, Fossils and Lepidoptera by Dr. Maria Heikkilä from the University of Helsinki, Finland being organized by Director, Curator, and Professor McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity Florida Museum of Natural History University of Florida, Powell Hall, 3215, Hull Road, Gainesville, FL 32611-2710 USA on 22nd April 2025.
2. Dr. Ranjana, Scientist-E, ZSI/SRC, Chennai, attended Three days' international online workshop on Basics of GIS and remote sensing from 1st to 3rd April 2025, organized by SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai; attended Webinar on Safeguarding Water Quality and Environment on 16th April 2025 organized by Analytik Jena India Pvt. Ltd.
3. Dr. Varadharaju, Scientist-E, ZSI/SRC, Chennai, attended webinar on "THE IPBES Impact: Connecting science, Nature and Youth action" on 2nd April 2025, organized by ATREE, Bangalore.
4. Dr. Jasmine P, Scientist-E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the Guided Hands on Training on Gas Chromatography (GC-MS) organized by Dept. of Chemical Oceanography, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi from 21st to 25th April 2025.
5. Dr. Anil Kumar Dubey, Scientist-E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, participated online in ANRF sponsored workshop "Taxonomy of Agriculturally Important Insects" held at Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi from 21st to 23rd April 2025; attended online Seminar on "Vulture bee microbiomes!" by Jessica Maccaro, University of California, Riverside, USA, organized by Essig Brunch, Pacific Coast Entomological Society, USA on 25th April 2025.
6. Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist - C, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended One-day training program on GIS at Survey of India, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on 09th April 2025.

LECTURES DELIVERED

1. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-F, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, delivered a lecture on the topic entitled "Status of Faunal Diversity in India w.s.r. to Indian Himalaya and efforts on their Conservation" to Nature Guide trainees of Chakrata Forest Division, Uttarakhand and Zoology students of Dhanauri P.G. College, Haridwar on 7th April 2025; delivered a lecture on the topic entitled "Status of Faunal Diversity and their Conservation in India" to B.Sc. Forestry Students of DBS Global University, Uttarakhand on 15th April 2025; delivered a lecture on the topic "Status of Faunal Diversity and their Conservation in India" to B.Sc. Forestry Students of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi on 23rd April 2025; delivered a lecture on the topic entitled "Status of Faunal Diversity and their Conservation in India" to Forester Trainees of Haryana Forest Training Institute, Sohna, Haryana and students of Sanskriti University, Mathura, U.P. on 24th April 2025; delivered a lecture on the topic "Status of Faunal Diversity and their Conservation in India" to M. Sc. Zoology Students of Department of Zoology, University of Ladakh held at ZSI/NRC Dehradun on 26th April 2025.
2. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, delivered a talk on "Antarctica: A Journey through everlasting Ice" in the 21st Research, Advisory and Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 24th and 25th April 2025 at Ranthombore, Rajasthan.
3. Dr. K. A. Subramanian, Scientist - F, ZSI/SRC, Chennai, delivered an online lecture on *Freshwater Faunal Diversity and Conservation Challenges* at LiFE style for Environment Webinar Series in celebration of World Aquatic Animal Day 2025 organized by Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, Bangalore on 30th April 2025.
4. Dr. P. S. Bhatnagar, Scientist - E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture on "Concepts of behaviour and types of learning" to the Students from Loyola College, Chhattisgarh on 29th April 2025.
5. Dr. Anil Kumar, Scientist-E, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, delivered a lecture on the "Role of common mediational plants for Human health" in an event pertaining to Poshan

- Pakhwada 2025 organised at ZSI, GPRC, Patna on 21st April 2025; delivered a lecture on the "*Significance of tree-plantation for Healthy ecosystems*" in an event pertaining to Earth Day 2025, organised at ZSI, GPRC, Patna on 22nd April 2025.
6. Dr. M. E. Hassan, Scientist-E, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, delivered a lecture on "*Insights for the better earth and Environment*" in an event pertaining to Earth Day 2025, organised at ZSI, GPRC, Patna on 22nd April 2025.
 7. Dr. Aparna Sureshchandra Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, delivered guest lecture on Forensic Entomology on 15th April 2025 for MSc and PhD students of Forensic sciences at JSPM University, Wagholi, Pune.
 8. Dr. S.D. Gurumayum, Scientist – E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered a lecture on "*Our Power, Our Planet*" on Earth Day-2025, organised at Himalayan University on 22nd April 2025.
 9. Dr. S. D. Paunekar, Scientist – E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture "*on Collection, preservation and Identification and diversity of Lepidoptera (Moth)*" to the Students from Loyola College, Chhattisgarh on 29th April 2025.
 10. Dr. Anil Kumar Dubey, Scientist-E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered an Invited Lecture "*Taxonomy of Agriculturally Important whiteflies in India*" was delivered in ANRF sponsored workshop "*Taxonomy of Agriculturally Important Insects*" held at Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi from 21st to 23rd April 2025.
 11. Dr. P. Girish Kumar, Scientist-D, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a talk on '*Wasps*' at 'STEM SPARK A day of Science and Math' organized by Vagbhatananda Edu Project, ULCCS Foundation on 3rd April 2025 at Sargalaya, Iringal.
 12. Ms. Debashree Dam, Scientist – C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, delivered a lecture on '*Beach Cleaning and its importance in Environment Conservation*' as an invited resource person in a special program at Sun Bangla Television Studio at Kolkata on 21st April 2025.
 13. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a lecture on the '*Faunal diversity of Western Ghats*' to the teacher trainees of Sree Narayana College of Education, Mahe, Pondicherry U. T. on 2nd April 2025 at WGRC Kozhikode; delivered a talk on the theme of World Earth Day 2025 – "*Our Power, Our Planet*" to NCC cadets of Kozhikode district at the NCC Headquarters, West Hill, Kozhikode, on 23rd April 2025, as part of an event organized by the Social Forestry Division of the Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department, Kozhikode.
 14. Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist – C, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture for Hackathon on Biodiversity Conservation by Zoological Survey of India at ZSI CZRC on 5th April 2025; delivered a lecture Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur for ZSI on 6th April 2025; delivered a lecture during Field visit at Devtal region Jabalpur and at ZSI residential campus to the Home Science College Jabalpur interns on 9th April 2025; delivered a lecture on Fossils of Central India at ZSI, CZRC, Jabalpur stall at Abhikalpan, organised by IIITDM Jabalpur for awareness of Central India; delivered a lecture on fossils during the Visit of the Director, Madhya Pradesh Geo-spatial centre, Survey of India, Jabalpur at ZSI Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh on 18th April 2025; delivered a lecture on "*Collection, preservation and Identification of Invertebrates and Vertebrates*" to the Students from Loyola College, Chhattisgarh on 29th April 2025.
 15. Dr. V. M. Sathish Kumar, Scientist-C, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, delivered a lecture on the theme "*Our Power, Our Planet*" on the occasion of World Earth Day, at ZSI, GPRC, Patna on 22nd April 2025.
 16. Mr. Akhil Nair, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture on "*Collection, preservation and Identification and diversity of Lepidoptera (Butterfly)*" to the Students from Loyola College, Chhattisgarh on 29th April 2025.
 17. Shri. Sreejith S. Kumar, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a lecture on "*From Microbes to Mankind: Translating Biological Knowledge into Real-World Careers*" during the Madeenathunnoor Science Festival organized at Markaz Public School, Aikarappady, Malappuram on 22nd April 2025.
 18. Mrs. Akriti Singh, Senior Zoological Assistant, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, delivered a lecture on "*Prawn: Collection, Preservation and identification*" to M.Sc. Students from Home science college, Jabalpur as a part of their internship on 3rd April 2025.
 19. Mrs. Anjoo Dhar, Senior Zoological Assistant, ZSI/HARC, Solan delivered an interactive talk on healthy food habits and nutritional foods in Government Primary School, Saproon, Solan on 23rd April 2025 during the celebration of Poshan Pakhwada.
 20. Mr. Yomto Mayi, SRF, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, delivered a lecture on about the history and objectives of Z.S.I. on Earth Day celebration 2025, organized by ZSI-APRC, Itanagar at Himalayan University on 22nd April 2025.