

World Animal Day

October 2023 Edition

FEATURE ARTICLES

- Climate Change and Endangered Animals
- Snow Leopards: The Ghosts of the Mountains
- The Kashmiri Hangul: A Critically Endangered Stag
- The Blind Tiger of the Ganges
- Uncertain future of traditional Yak-based livelihoods among Monpa Community of Arunachal Pradesh
- Shared Space: Coexisting with Primates in India
- When Elephants and Humans Meet
- Conserving Winged Wonders of Cities
- Butterfly: Or should they be called Flutter-by?
- The Travancore Tortoise
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FOREST FACTS

5 empowering young leaders involved in various initiatives with significant achievements

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- EcoXplorers 2023 - Inter-college Quiz Competition | October 22
NIMHANS Convention Centre
- Forests of Life Festival 2023 | November 02 - 14
Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

VIDEO

Guardians of the Forests: Interaction with Jagat Singh "Jungli"



FORESTS of LIFE

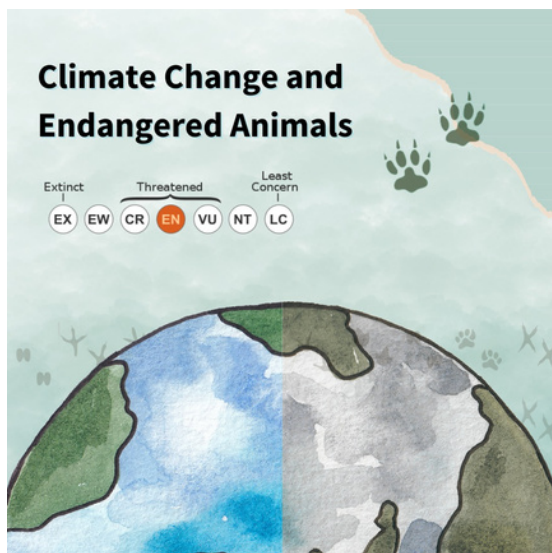
October 2023, Newsletter

World Animal Day is commemorated on **October 4th** each year to celebrate animal rights and their welfare with the collective aim to bring together people who are promoting the improved treatment and welfare of animals, both in the wild and on farms.

We are in the middle of what many refer to as the sixth mass extinction. More than a million species are at risk. Only among animal species the current rate of extinction is the highest when compared to the mass extinctions in the earth's history. Many of the fauna featured in this edition of the newsletter are endangered owing to human impacts such as habitat destruction, consumption patterns and climate change. With every animal endangered we are weakening the web of life that is critical for our own survival on this planet. But it is not just important to protect animals because they are critical for the ecosystems on which we humans depend. Every creature is a masterpiece of nature—from the butterfly to the tortoise to the snow leopard. As humans we consider ourselves to be a notch, nay several notches, above because of our uniqueness as a species to appreciate beauty. Animals like the majestic tiger invoke our awe and wonder. Animals such as elephants have been an inspiration for our art and folklore. Birdsong fills our days with music many of us love. So much of what makes us human is connected to the animals around us.

This year's theme Great or Small, Love Them All highlights the importance of all beings, great and small, allowing the opportunity for even the most overlooked animals to be appreciated for what, and who they are. We hope that on this World Animal Day we can celebrate animals in our lives and pledge to ensure their protection and welfare into the future.

Let's all contribute in making the world a better, kinder place for animals.



Climate Change and Endangered Animals

Today, we are going to embark on an exciting educational journey to learn about the twin challenges of climate change and endangered animals that our world is facing. Imagine a world where animals like polar bears, pandas, tigers, or dolphins are no longer with us...

[Read more >>](#)



Conserving Winged Wonders of Cities

Birds have been part of our culture, art, folklore, and entertainment for thousands of years. They also provide crucial ecosystem services (such as pollination, seed dispersal, scavenging, pest control, etc) and are...

[Read more >>](#)

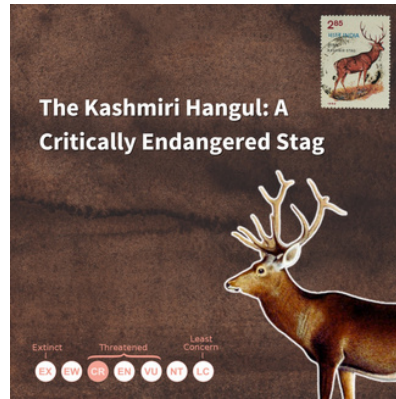
Wildlife Stories



Snow Leopards: The Ghosts of the Mountains

Have you ever heard of snow leopards? They are amazing animals that live in the high mountains of Central and South Asia. They are also called the ounce or the ghost cat because...

[Read more >>](#)



The Kashmiri Hangul: A Critically Endangered Stag

The Kashmiri hangul, also known as the Kashmir stag, is a subspecies of Central Asian red deer that is endemic to Kashmir and surrounding areas. It is the only surviving Asiatic member of the red...

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Uncertain future of traditional Yak-based livelihoods among Monpa Community of Arunachal Pradesh

Local communities in the Himalayas have been sustainably utilizing diverse natural resources with the..

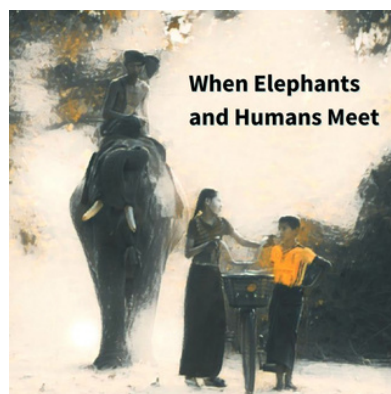
[Read more >>](#)



Shared Space: Coexisting with Primates in India

Indian forests are home to some of our own closest genetic relatives from a fascinating group called primates. Some well-known examples of primate species are the rhesus macaque...

[Read more >>](#)



When Elephants and Humans Meet

At times, a peculiar situation arises where elephants and humans find themselves in a bit of a predicament. It is somewhat akin to two friends accidentally stepping on each other's toes during a...

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The Blind Tiger of the Ganges

The Gangetic river dolphin, also called the tiger of the Ganges, inhabits primarily the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna river system of India and Bangladesh. Dolphins are usually marine, but some can be found in rivers like...

[Read more >>](#)

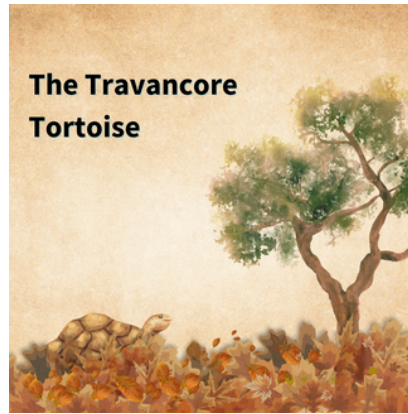


A Curious Visitor

A Curious Visitor

Let me tell you a story! That too of a curious visitor! I was living in one of the most urbanised areas of Bangalore city when this happened. It was also when the first wave of COVID-19 hit us. We were all restricted inside our houses...

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The Travancore Tortoise

The Travancore Tortoise

The Travancore tortoise is a medium-sized animal with a brown and black shell that resembles leaf litter. This helps the tortoise stay camouflaged from predators such as leopards and dholes. It is a species that is endemic to...

[Read more >>](#)



Butterfly: Or should they be called Flutter-by?

Butterfly: Or should they be called Flutter-by?

If you ask me, butterflies should have been called flutter-bys. After all, that is what they do—flutter by like an “aimless petal in the wind” according to the poet and novelist Maxwell Bodenheim. Unlike other insects’, which..

[Read more >>](#)





Azim Premji University

**NOVEMBER
2-14, 2023
BENGALURU**

FORESTS of LIFE

- Forests of Life festival is open to all
- Free registration and exhibit viewing
- Follow us @azimpremjiuniv on Instagram and Facebook

Scan QR to register:

Contact:
Vidya 99597 36249
Aswathy 97172 62638



website: <https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/forests-of-life> | mail: forestoflife@apu.edu.in

[Click here to register >>](#)

5 empowering young leaders involved in various initiatives with significant achievements



Garvita Gulhati (21)

Climate Leader

Contributions: Founder of India's largest youth led organisation "Why Waste?," with the aim to change people's mindsets towards water by building simple solutions to solve the global water crisis. Their movement helped conserve several millions of water across restaurants over the years.

Achievements: Diana Award from the charity in honour of the late Princess of Wales.



Aditya Mukherji (19)

Environmentalist

Contributions: At the age of 14, a social media video of a hurting turtle while extracting plastic straw from its nose impacted his life. He is now an ambassador and volunteer for various initiatives to fight against plastic pollution, aims to promote waste management systems, and plants and nurtures urban mini forests.

Achievements: The Diana Award 2021, Activist By Plastic Free Awards UK & Surfers against Sewage 2021, AatmaNirbhar Champion Award 2020 by Govt Of India, Eco-Hero Award 2020 (Action for Nature UK), Earth Day Network Rising Star (by Earth day Network Asia) 2020, The Innovator of the Year Award 2018, 2021. Identified as one of the 7 youth environmentalists to watch out for apart from Greta Thunberg by the BBC News, Letter of Appreciation by Secretary Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change| MoEFCC Mr. C K Mishra IAS.



Licypriya Kangujam (11)

Environmentalist

Contributions: At the age of 7, she raised her voice against climate change and disaster risk reduction and continues to give awareness talks at International forums, TED talks, run school campaign etc. She donated her savings to the child victims of Kerala floods in 2018.

Achievements: Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Children Award (2019), World Children's Peace Prize (2019), Rising Star of, Earth Day Network (2019), Global Child Prodigy Award (2020), Noble Citizen Award (2020), TN Khoshoo Memorial Award by Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (2020), National Youth Day Award by Bharat Seva Samvad (2021), CNN News18 Water Heroes (2021), Forbes India 30 Under 30 Special Mentions (2021), International Women's Day Award by Government of Delhi (2021).



Aarav Seth (14)

Climate Activist

Contributions: At the age of 8 formed "We rise together" foundation. Over these years, he planted more than 5000 trees in Delhi and created community level engagements to spread awareness, provided low-income women with sanitary pads, donated books etc.

Achievements: Awardee of National Water Hero Award in the month of June, by Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.



Ridhima Pandey (15)

Climate Activist

Contributions: Since 2013 advocates climate change action, as remediation towards the unfortunate death of 1000 people and 10000s who lost their homes due to floods and landslides in Uttarakhand. She has also raised her voice to ban plastic, clean the Ganga river etc.

Achievements: Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice.

References

<https://explorer-directory.nationalgeographic.org/garvita-gulhati>; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridhima_Pandey#Background;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Licypriya_Kangujam; https://wikitia.com/wiki/Aditya_Mukherji; <https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle-interviews-youth-environmental-activist-aditya-mukherji>; <https://www.newindianexpress.com/good-news/2021/nov/10/this-17-year-old-from-gurugram-aims-to-reduce-consumption-of-single-use-plastic-2381700.html>;
<https://www.sociostory.org/impact-stories/meet-young-activist-aarav-seth-who-believes-in-each-one-teach-one-to-plant-one>; <https://youtu.be/V1wI02EEf6Q>

Bengaluru Bannerghatta Biological Park, Karnataka

Bengaluru, Karnataka
An area of over 260.51 square kilometres



About The Park

- Bengaluru Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBBP) was carved out of **Bannerghatta National Park (BNP)** in 2004.
- India's **first butterfly park**, also the largest was opened to public in 2006 at BNP.
- The park is known for offering thrilling experience with **safaris**, that takes you to interiors of the forest.
- The park is involved in **conservation and breeding programs**, including the rehabilitation of rescued animals.

MAMMAL SPECIES	REPTILE SPECIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elephant, Leopard, Bison, Chital, Sambar, Porcupine, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rat snake, Cobra, Python, Tortoise, Land monitor lizard, Crocodiles Viper, etc
BIRD SPECIES	FLORA SPECIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peafowl, Wood peckers, Sunbirds, Cuckoos, Drongos, Quails, Flycatchers, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian rosewood, Solid bamboo, Red date, White fig, Indian kino, Sandalwood, etc

MEET THE CUB WHISPERER

Savitri Amma is the caretaker of the zoo hospital and a mother figure to all the injured and orphaned cubs. She has nurtured over 80 cubs since 2002 and due to the excellent care and facilities more cubs continue to come. In these days, where we hear stories of human animal conflicts, she is an inspiration and sets an example for coexistence.

Reference - <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/karnataka/bengaluru/this-caretaker-at-bannerghatta-biological-park-has-a-special-connection-with-wild-cubs-1224672.html>



BEST TIME TO VISIT

The winter season between October and June is considered the best time to visit Bengaluru Bannerghatta Biological Park, due to the delightful weather condition.



NEAREST AIRPORT

Bengaluru International Airport is the nearest airport (70 Kms)

Visit the website

https://bannerghattabiologicalpark.org/about_park.html

**FORESTS
of LIFE**

**Azim Premji
University**

Jungle Artworks

October, 2023

We invite you to showcase your artistic talent on on topics ranging from the diversity of wildlife and their natural habitats, animal rights and welfare, posters or maps that depicts the geographic distribution, migration patterns and conservation status.

[Submit here >>](#)

**GUARDIANS OF
THE FORESTS**

JAGAT SINGH CHAUDHARY

Guardians of the Forests: Interaction with Jagat Singh "Jungli"

Watch this exclusive interaction with Jagat Singh "Jungli," an environmentalist from Uttarakhand, in which he talks about the significance of mixed forests and how his efforts have helped communities thrive around these forests.

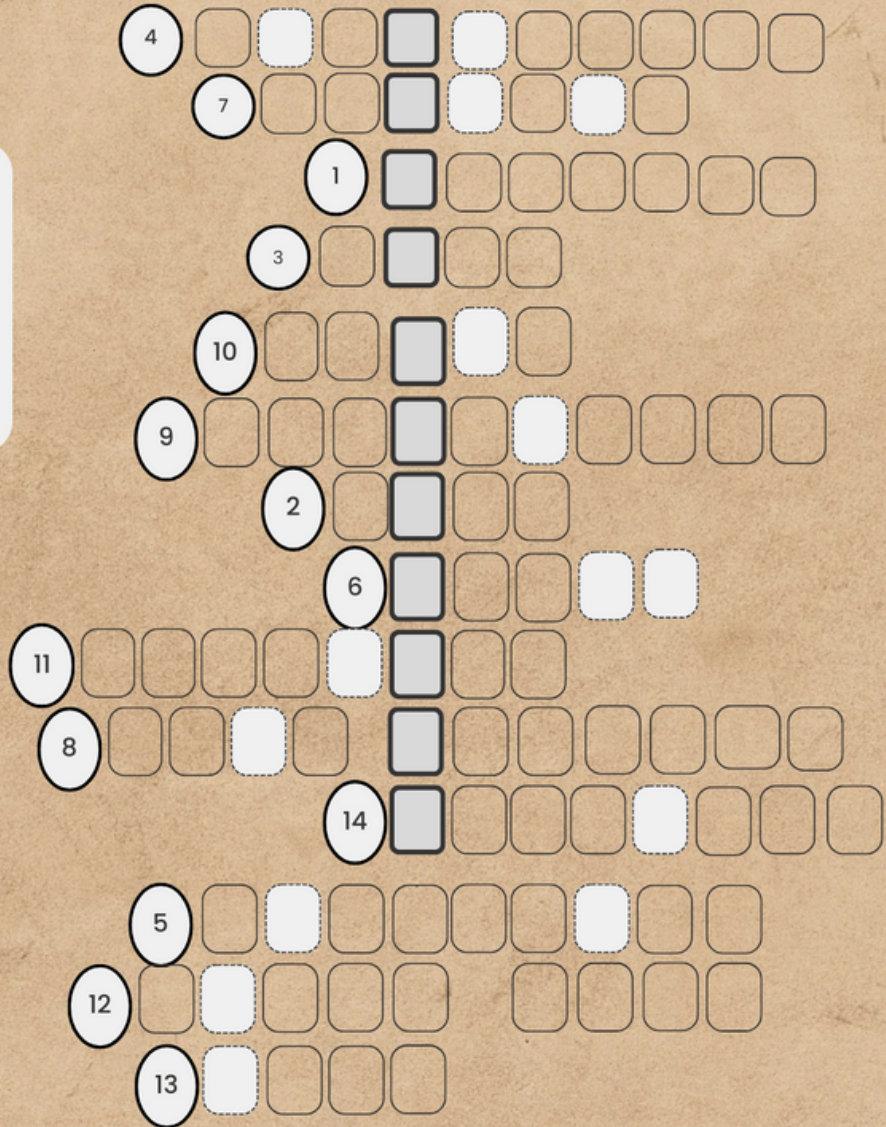
[View here >>](#)

[Read more >>](#)

Jungle Activity Corner

Decode the Secret Message

Unlock the secret message by naming the species in the crossword in the numerical order.



Secret Message: _____

[View Answers >>](#)

FORESTS of LIFE



Inter-College Quiz Competition

Azim Premji University is very pleased to invite you to join **ecoXplorers 2023**, the first Nature, Biodiversity and Forests Inter-College Quiz Competition organised as a part of our Climate Festival, Forests of Life 2023-24.

Themes

Planetary phenomena, climate change, biodiversity, urban ecology, and much more.

Who can apply?

Open to **undergraduate and postgraduate students** from all colleges and universities from any discipline.

Registration and participation is **free** - there is no charge.

Rules:

ecoXplorers 2023 is a Team event.

Each college/university can only send a **maximum of three teams** to the event - if there are more teams from a single institution, we will accept them on a first come-first served basis. Please bring your student IDs for verification.

Special highlights:

- Special round on nature in Bengaluru
- Audio-visual, buzzer and rapid fire rounds
- Audience questions (and audience prizes) too!
- Certificates of Participation for all participants

Medals, Book sets, Certificates and Cash prize for top 2 teams

- ₹10,000 per student for the winning team
- ₹7,500 per student for the second place team



October 22, 2023 | 8:15am to 12:30pm



NIMHANS Convention Centre, Bengaluru



Scan to register

Please register by
October 10, 2023

If you have any questions or need further information,
please do not hesitate to contact us at forestsoflife@apu.edu.in

[Click here to register >>](#)

Forests of Life Newsletter is a **monthly limited edition** newsletter curated by Azim Premji University, offering glimpses of our upcoming mega festival, Forests of Life, which will be held in the campuses of **Bengaluru from November 2 to 14, 2023**, followed by Bhopal in 2024.

In 2022, we launched the first in the nature awareness series, **Rivers of Life**, depicting the splendour of rivers across India through photographs taken by interns over a three month period. During the festival, we had 10000 school and college students from different corners of Karnataka who visited to explore different sections of the photo exhibition as well as interact with activists, researchers, folk artists, academics, and storytellers engaging young students in creating river stories.

Building on this success, this year, we launched Forests of Life, which is a celebration and journey through India's forests. Following a countrywide call, we selected a cohort of interns who have collectively travelled through more than **110 diverse forests** across the length and breadth of India. Each story they documented reveals different shades of the forest such as the forest-dependent livelihoods, the challenges of human-animal conflicts, the deep association of indigenous communities with nature and explores how forest resources can positively contribute to community wellbeing.

To ensure that this engagement goes **beyond** a 12-day festival, we initiated the Forests of Life Newsletter Series on **5th June 2023**, which is celebrated as the World Environment Day, to increase collective awareness and commitment to Save our Forests for a sustainable future. Each subsequent edition has been unveiled on significant forest-related dates throughout the year, celebrating **mangrove ecosystems, indigenous peoples, forest martyrs**, and currently, **the World Animal Day**.

This newsletter transcends age groups, covering diverse aspects of forests from ecology and biodiversity to climate change impacts. It's a repository of informative articles, videos, engaging puzzles, quizzes, and enchanting jungle stories. Artistic renditions from students across the country are featured in the **Jungle Artwork Corner** providing a visual narrative of forests based on monthly themes.

As the Forests of Life festival approaches, the next edition will capture the essence of the festival, and will include schedules, glimpses of the festivities, intern stories, forest art installations, forest diaries, and performances.

Stay tuned for the grand finale of this newsletter series, which we see as a tribute to the forests that sustain life on our precious planet.



Showcasing the Jungle Activity artworks submitted by the students across the country.

The Oriental School, Bhopal



Ridhima Kashyap, 8th



Aavya Arohi, 5th



Tanav Patel, 3rd



Deepika Tiwari, 10th



Pihu, 6th



Snigdha Upadhyay, 3th



Manvi Bagde, 3rd



Tista Saini, 3rd



Siddhiksha Pathya, 5th



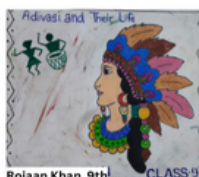
Harshita Dubey, 3rd



Jahnavi, 3rd



Chirag Birla, 10th



Rojaan Khan, 9th



Akash Yadav, 8th



Anvi Chaudhary, 3rd



Sarakshi Kashyap, 5th



Ridhima Kashyap, 10th

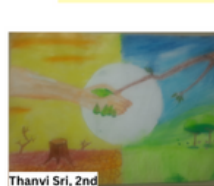
Mahathma Vidyalaya, Karnataka



Satvik Thakur, 3rd



Sakshi Das, 3rd



Thanvi Sri, 2nd



Lochana.S, 7th



Shanmukhi Lasya .G., 7th

Sunbeam School Lahartara, Uttar Pradesh



Riya Maurya, 10th



Rakshit Parasramka, 11th



Pragati Modi, 11th



Mugdha Jain, 10th



Krishna Singh, 12th



Jatin Arun Singh, 10th



Anjali Kedia, 11th

New Age Public School, Delhi



Md. Zaid, 11th



Armaan Ahamad, 11th



Hardik, 9th



Kajal Mariya, 8th



Madhvi, 9th



Ayush Kumar, 7th

Green Capital Public School, Karnataka



Thanoj S, 6th



Sagar, 5th



Mohan KP, 6th



Lekhana J Rama, 5th



Harshitha M, 5th

Mount Everest English High School, Karnataka



Shravani, 6th



Sushmitha, 6th



Maaz Baig, 6th



Navdeep, 6th

**HCL technologies,
Karnataka**



Amitha.D, UG

Mahatma Vidyalaya, Karnataka



Udai Kiran Aradhya, 4th



Thamsha, 7th



Vikas, 9th

**Star Public School ,
Karnataka**



Kulir Bera, 12th

**Sarada Devi Vidya Kendra,
Karnataka**



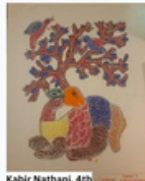
Kushal Gowda, 6th grade

**Bangalore international
school , Karnataka**



Noah Ilavenil, 8th

**Aurinko Academy,
Karnataka**



Kabir Nathani, 4th

Harvest International School, Karnataka



Anika Saxena, 5th



Pihu Goyal, 6th



Aditya Narayanan S, 6th

Ramagondanahalli Government Higher Primary School, Karnataka



Manvi R, 6th



Lakshita R N, 6th



Preeti Kumari, 6th



Dikshith R, 6th



Kruthika R, 6th



Preeti, 6th

**Ramagondanahalli
School, Karnataka**



Payal Biswas, 6th

**Kendriya Vidyalaya ,
Assam**



Eirene Basu, 3rd

**Notre Dame Academy,
Karnataka**



Raphael Norman, 4th

**Harvest International School,
Kodathi, Karnataka**



Vismaya Rajeev, 7th

**Ebenezer International
School, Karnataka**



Aditya Agrawal, 7th

[Click here >>](#)

For any queries, please write to forestsoflife@apu.edu.in and click below to get regular updates about the festival!

[Click here to view our previous editions >>](#)

To receive a regular newsletter or notification about upcoming events, please signup in the form in the link!

[Click here >>](#)