



# 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

21-22 September 2023

PROGRAMME



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India



# Programme Annual Research Seminar

21 – 22 September 2023

## SEMINAR CHAIRPERSON

**Dr. Rajesh Gopal**

*Chairman, Training Research and Academic Council (TRAC)*

## INAUGURAL SESSION

<b>09:30 - 09:35</b>	Welcome	Dr. Bitapi C Sinha <i>Research Coordinator</i>
<b>09:35 - 09:40</b>	Opening Remarks	Shri Virendra Tiwari, IFS <i>Director</i>
<b>09:40 - 10:00</b>	Research activities and accomplishments	Dr. S. Sathyakumar <i>Dean</i>
<b>10:00 - 10:10</b>	Release of Publications	
<b>10:10 - 10:20</b>	Remarks	Shri Bharat Jyoti, IFS <i>Director IGNFA</i> <i>Guest of Honour</i>
<b>10:20 - 10:30</b>	Inaugural Address	Dr. Rajesh Gopal, IFS <i>TRAC Chairman</i> <i>Chief Guest</i>
<b>10:30 - 11:15</b>	Group Photograph and Tea	

## DAY 1: 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023

### Technical Session I – LEAD TALKS

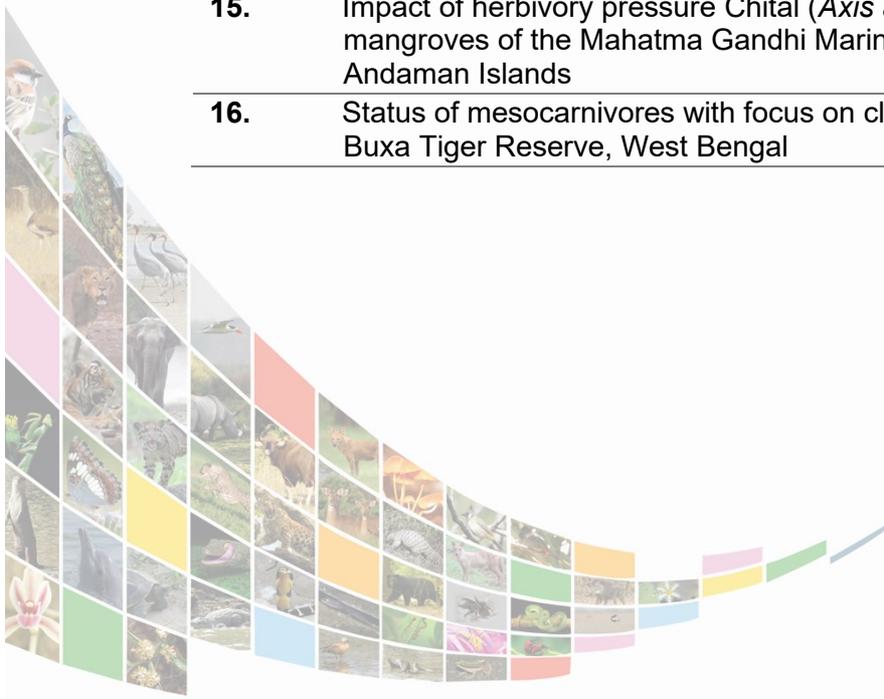
**Chair** : **Dr. Erach Bharucha**  
**Co-Chair(s)** : **Dr. Saket Badola & Dr. S. Sathyakumar**  
**Session Facilitator** : **Dr. Anukul Nath**

<b>11:15 - 11:30</b>	Status of tigers in India	Prof. Qamar Qureshi
<b>11:30 - 11:45</b>	Development as conservation opportunity: Linear infra-structure through sensitive habitats	Dr. Bilal Habib
<b>11:45 - 12:00</b>	Milestones and miles ahead in conserving the Great Indian Bustard	Dr. Sutirtha Dutta
<b>12:00 - 12:15</b>	The Blind Sentinels of India's Rivers: Status of river dolphins in India	Dr. Vishnupriya K.
<b>12:15 - 12:30</b>	Facilitating evidence-informed decision-making to conserve India's natural heritage: The interface of economic prosperity and ecological integrity	Dr. Gopi G. V.
<b>12:30 - 12:45</b>	Bringing back Cheetah to India	Prof. Qamar Qureshi
<b>12:45 - 13:00</b>	Q & A Session, Comments by Session Chairs	
<b>13:00 - 14:30</b>	<b>Lunch and Poster Session</b>	

## Technical Session II – Posters

Session Facilitator: Dr. Ashish Jha

S. No.	Title of Presentation	Presenter / First Author
1.	Jalmala Samvad: An Initiative towards river and its biodiversity conservation	Nidhi Singh
2.	Preliminary findings on the mammalian fauna in Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary	Mohd Raza
3.	Status and distribution of Red Panda in Northeast India: A preliminary assessment	Pujan Kumar Pradhan
4.	Truncated Lives: The bleak future of elephants in Coal-Rich landscape of India	Karthy S.
5.	Agrarian Avian Assembles: Exploring the relationship between heronries and agricultural land through citizen science	Alex Jacob
6.	Nesting population assessment of three species of critically endangered Gyps vultures across the Indian region	Harshal Waghmare
7.	Illustrating changes in avian composition across altitudinal gradients in selected Protected Areas of Himachal Pradesh	Arnab Chattopadhyay
8.	Status and distribution of mammalian fauna in the corridors of Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape, Assam, India	Mujahid Ahamad
9.	Roaring progress: A comprehensive update on strengthening tiger conservation in Nandhaur Landscape	Naveen Joshi
10.	Status of Indian Leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> ) in Palamau Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand, India	Rohan Desai
11.	Unveiling Dugong's culinary choreography: Foraging strategies in the ever-shifting seas of the Gulf of Kachchh's (GoK) Gujarat Reef Complex	Sameeha Pathan
12.	Bridging the Gap: A railway rethink for long-term Gibbon conservation	Rohit R. S. Jha
13.	"The Tale of Toxic Trails": Tracing contamination patterns of endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) in habitats of threatened apex predators in the Ganga River Basin	Richika Sah
14.	Pachyderms in Plantations - Ranging patterns and habitat use of Asian Elephants ( <i>Elephas maximus indicus</i> ) in an agroforestry landscape of southern Karnataka	Souritra Sharma
15.	Impact of herbivory pressure Chital ( <i>Axis axis</i> ) on the mangroves of the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Andaman Islands	Thirumurugan V.
16.	Status of mesocarnivores with focus on clouded leopard in Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal	Shekhar Sarkar



### Technical Session III - CARNIVORE ECOLOGY & HERBIVORES

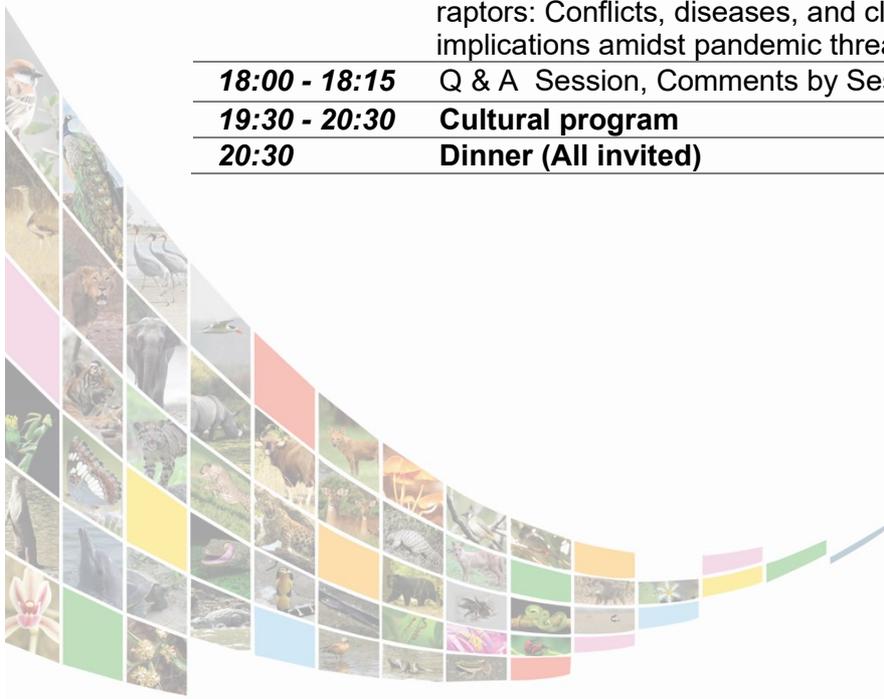
Chair : Dr. H. S. Negi  
Co-Chair(s) : Shri S. K. Singh & Dr. K. Ramesh  
Session Facilitator : Shri Varun Kher

14:30 - 14:45	Monitoring of tigers, co-predators, and prey in Vidarbha Landscape, Maharashtra.	Suman Koley
14:45 - 15:00	A decadal insight on population growth of tigers in Panna Tiger Reserve and their future	Supratim Dutta
15:00 - 15:15	Interaction patterns among predator guild of trans-Himalayas: What structures a carnivore community in dynamic anthropogenic landscapes?	Priyanka Justa
15:15 - 15:30	Demography of chital in moist deciduous forest of central India	Shravana Goswami
15:30 - 15:45	The Gully Boy of Junnar: Ecology of leopards in human-dominated landscape of western Maharashtra	Kumar Ankit
15:45 - 16:00	Mishmi Takin: Insights of a rare and least known bovid from Arunachal Pradesh	Gaurav P J
16:00 - 16:15	Restoring the Wild: Gaur's resilient return to Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve	Ritesh Vishwakarma
16:15 - 16:30	Q & A Session, Comments by Session Chairs	
16:30 - 17:00	Tea Break	

### Technical Session IV - AVIAN ECOLOGY

Chair : Shri. Arindam Tomar  
Co-Chair(s) : Dr. Gaurav Sharma & Dr. R Suresh Kumar  
Session Facilitator : Shri Ritesh Gautam

17:00 - 17:15	Tracking the Rain-bird: Satellite telemetry of Pied cuckoo ( <i>Clamator jacobinus</i> ) to understand it's migration pattern	Debanjan Sarkar
17:15 - 17:30	Ranging pattern through GPS-tracking of resident and migratory vultures of Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh	Dibyendu Biswas
17:30 - 17:45	Bird hazards to aircraft in Indian Air fields	Dr. Pramod P.
17:45 - 18:00	Ecological impacts of poultry waste on urban raptors: Conflicts, diseases, and climate change implications amidst pandemic threats	Dr. Nishant Kumar
18:00 - 18:15	Q & A Session, Comments by Session Chairs	
19:30 - 20:30	<b>Cultural program</b>	
20:30	<b>Dinner (All invited)</b>	



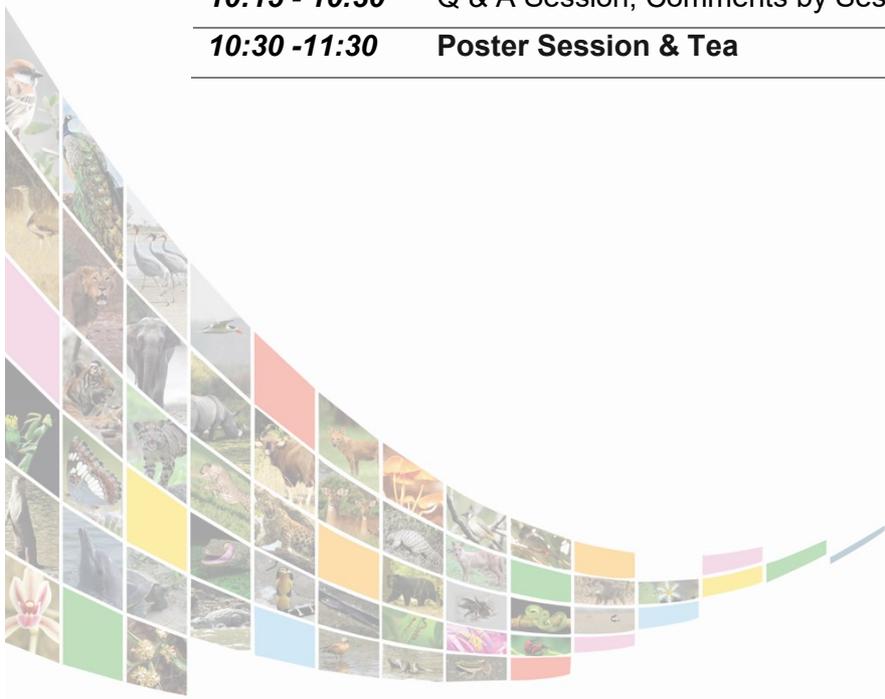
Day 2: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

### Technical Session V - SPEED TALKS

Chair : Dr. V. B. Mathur  
Co-Chair(s) : Shri S. K. Awasthi & Dr. Parag Nigam  
Session Facilitator : Dr. Ashish Jha

#### 09:00 – 10:30 Speed Talks (5 Minutes Each)

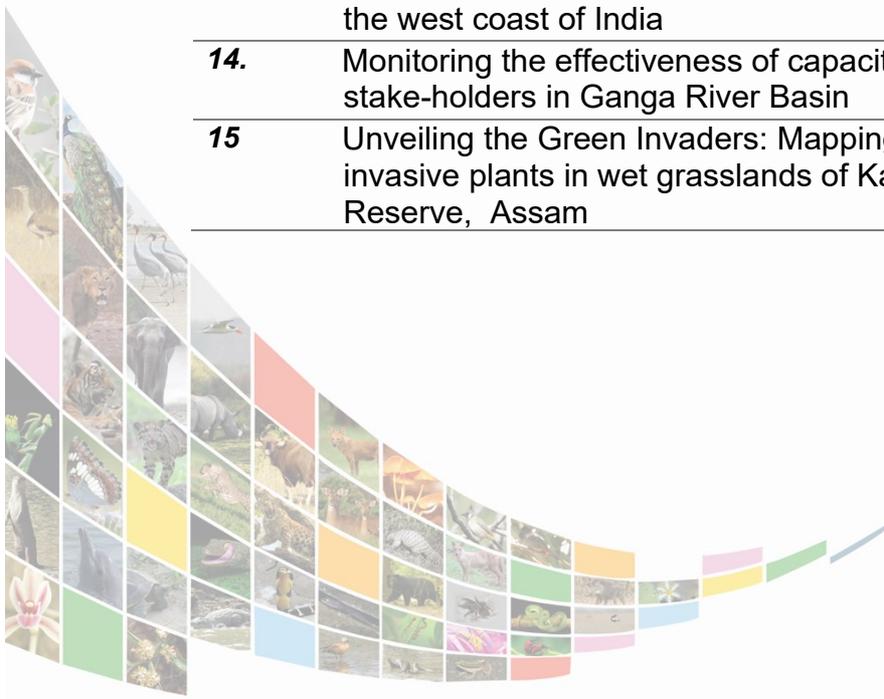
1.	Underwater soundscape: Acoustic response of Ganges River Dolphin in noisy environment	Gargi Roy Chowdhury
2.	Can data-driven machine learning approach aggrandize the connectivity analysis: An avenue to tiger connectivity in Eastern Vidarbha Landscape	Akshayi A. S
3.	Density estimation of ungulates using a robust method of population estimation in a semi-evergreen tropical rain-forest of North-East India	Surojit Moitra
4.	Integrative taxonomic approach in delineating cryptic herpeto-fauna diversity of Northeast India	Bitupan Bouruah
5.	Assessing dolphin oil bait fishing in Assam: A scientific inquiry	Dr. Sunny Deori
6.	The Simian amidst Sapiens: Ranging patterns and movement strategy of the synanthropic Rhesus macaque ( <i>Macaca mulatta</i> ) in a mosaic landscape in northern India	Uddalak Bindhani
7.	eDNA as a biodiversity monitoring tool	Bhawana Pant
8.	From Pixels to Conservation: Automating dugong and other marine mega-fauna detection through artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning	Sagar Rajpukar
9.	Occupancy and nest site selection of endangered Nilgiri Laughingthrush ( <i>Montecincla cachinnans</i> ) in the southern Western Ghats	Sujin N. S.
10.	Spatiotemporal habitat ecology of smooth-coated otter in the Bhavani-Noyyal River basin, Tamil Nadu.	Ankit Moun
11.	Unveiling the effects of elevation and disturbance through intermediate disturbance hypothesis: A case study of vegetation patterns from Churdhar Wildlife Sanctuary, Himachal Pradesh	Priyanka Sharma
<b>10:15 - 10:30</b>	Q & A Session, Comments by Session Chairs	
<b>10:30 -11:30</b>	<b>Poster Session &amp; Tea</b>	



## Technical Session VI – Posters

Session Facilitator: Dr. Anukul Nath

S. No.	Title of Presentation	Presenter / First Author
1.	Critically endangered river Terrapin <i>Batagur baska</i>	Amritha Balan
2.	A life less ordinary: Ganga Praharis Initiative	Amanat Gill
3.	Establishment of community resilience resource centre	Vinod Joshi
4.	Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)	Deepika Dogra
5.	Monitoring the vulnerability of mangrove vegetation and carbon stocks to sea level change in Andaman Islands	Shamna K. T.
6.	Utilising multi-platform remote sensing for canopy height estimation: Implications for carbon sequestration analysis	Kamna Pokhariya
7.	Bal Ganga Praharis: Tiny hands for nature conservation	Aarti Chauhan
8.	Floristic diversity, vegetation types and status of soil nutrients in Ladakh, Indian Trans Himalaya	Bushra Aimon
9.	A web-based decision support system (WEB-DSS) for visualizing, strategizing and formulating policies for climate change adaptation in the Indian Himalayan region	Ankit Singh
10.	Ecosystems in turmoil: A case study of disaster risk assessment at a pilot site of Kailash Sacred Landscape	Debaleena Chatterjee
11.	Navigating Valleys: A proposal to integrate lepidopteran ecology in Himalayan climate assessment	Irina Das Sarkar
12.	Coastal uplift and subsidence shape mangrove-associated brachyuran crab community across the Andaman Islands	Mayur Fulmali
13.	Nesting population assessment of sea turtles along the west coast of India	Parvathi Nambiar
14.	Monitoring the effectiveness of capacity building of stake-holders in Ganga River Basin	Sana Shaikh
15.	Unveiling the Green Invaders: Mapping dominant invasive plants in wet grasslands of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Assam	Umar Saeed



## Technical Session VII - AQUATIC ECOLOGY

Chair : Shri S. S. Rasaily  
Co-Chair(s) : Dr. K. Sivakumar & Dr. J. A. Johnson  
Session Facilitator : Ms. Chinmaya Ghanekar

11:30 - 11:45	Dugong conservation in India: A review of progress and a glimpse forward	Swapnali Gole
11:45 - 12:00	Planning and management for aquatic species conservation and maintenance of ecosystem services in the Ganga River Basin for a clean Ganga – Learning and achievements	Dr. Shivani Barthwal
12:00 - 12:15	A Sound Solution: Pingers to reduce river dolphin mortality	Merin Jacob
12:15 - 12:30	An insight into ecological status of select Indian Rivers	Dr. Tanveer Ahmed
12:30 - 12:45	Where do solitary nesting Olive Ridley turtles go? Tracking the migratory journeys of turtles from the Maharashtra coast	Mohit M.
12:45 - 13:00	Q & A Session, Comments by Session Chairs	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	

## Technical Session VIII - MIXED BAG

Chair : Shri V. K. Uniyal  
Co-Chair(s) : Dr. Krishnendu Mondal & Dr. Gopi G. V.  
Session Facilitator : Shri Prashant Mahajan

14:00 - 14:15	Diverse, disguised, and delicate: Exploring herpetofaunal diversity in Arunachal Pradesh, India	Naitik Patel
14:15 - 14:30	Conservation Action Plan for Manipur's Brown-antlered deer or Sangai: An integrated approach.	Mirza Ghazanfarullah Ghazi
14:30 - 14:45	Chasing the unicornis: Evolutionary history, genetic health and their conservation	Shrewshree Kumar
14:45 - 15:00	Genomic studies on Rusty-spotted cat	Dr. Shomita Mukherjee
15:00 - 15:15	Landscape and patch attributes impacting the patterns of mammalian assemblages in the fragmented landscape of Ballari district, Karnataka	Asit Kumar
15:15 - 15:30	Present imperfect, future precipitous? Wildlife assemblages and impacts due to an upcoming railway infrastructure in a dry deciduous forest-scape of Jharkhand	Rohit R. S. Jha

<b>15:30 - 15:45</b>	Assessment and monitoring of climate change effects on wildlife species and ecosystems for developing adaptation strategies in the Indian Himalayan Region: Bridging NMSHE-Phase I and II	Dr. Vineet Dubey
<b>15:45 - 16:00</b>	A safe place to cross the road: Use of crossing structures by wildlife in a tiger landscape and implications for multi-species road impact mitigation	Akanksha Saxena
<b>16:00 - 16:15</b>	Coherence of local institutions in securing people-park interface around	Manisha Ashraf
<b>16:15 - 16:30</b>	Mangrove vegetation response to the coastal uplift and subsidence caused by 2004 Tsunami in the archipelago of Andaman and Nicobar, India	Anoop Raj Singh
<b>16:30 - 16:45</b>	Q & A Session, Comments by Session Chairs	
<b>16:45 - 17:30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	

## CONCLUDING SESSION

**Chair** : **Dr. Rajesh Gopal, Chairman, TRAC**  
**Co-Chair** : **Shri Virendra R Tiwari, Director, WII**  
**Session Facilitator** : **Dr. Bitapi C Sinha**

<b>17:30 - 18:00</b>	Comments on the Annual Research Seminar	
<b>18:00 - 18:10</b>	Comments by Director WII	Shri Virendra Tiwari <i>Director</i>
<b>18:10 - 18:30</b>	Photographic Competition Awards	Dr. Bitapi Sinha, <i>Research Coordinator</i>
<b>18:30 - 18:45</b>	IARS& ARS Best Presentation/ Poster/ Speed talk Awards	Dr. Bitapi Sinha, <i>Research Coordinator</i>
<b>18:45 - 19:00</b>	Concluding remarks	Dr. Rajesh Gopal <i>Chairman, TRAC</i>
<b>19:00 - 19:15</b>	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Bivash Pandav, <i>Associate Research Coordinator</i>

## Day 3: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023

<b>10:00 - 13:00</b>	<b>Training, Research and Academic Council (TRAC) Meeting (For members only)</b>
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