

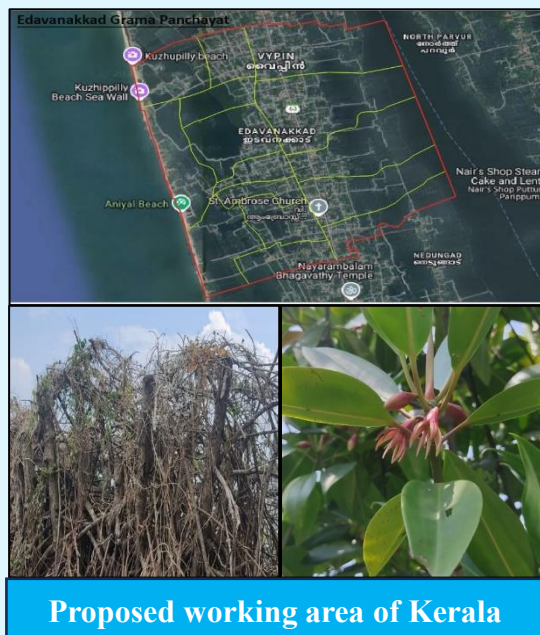
## E- Monthly Newsletter

### Restoring Resilience: Anitha KT's Mangrove BioShield Project

This quarter marked another inspiring chapter in WNE-India's journey to nurture ideas that unite science and community for a sustainable future. Among the shortlisted projects, one initiative stood out for its vision, community focus and nature-based solutions.

We are proud to introduce Anitha KT, the recipient of the [WNE-India Startup Grant](#) for the second quarter. Her project, "Establishment and Restoration of Mangrove BioShield in Coastal Areas of Edavannakkad Panchayath," blends scientific knowledge with local wisdom and collective action.

Her project restores degraded mangrove stretches, engages youth in conservation and weaves environmental protection into community life. Anitha's work embodies the resilience, collaboration and hope that WNE-India seeks.



Proposed working area of Kerala

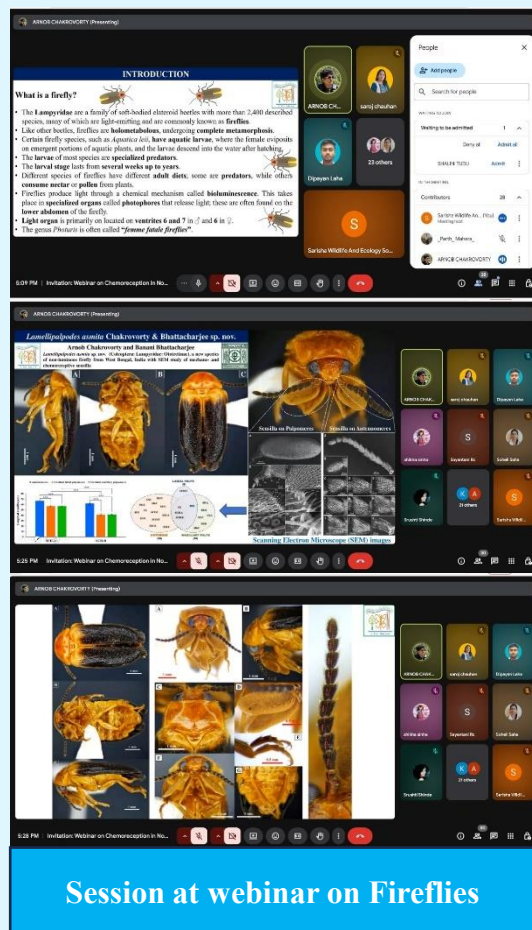
### Exploring the Hidden World of Non-Luminous Fireflies

On 10th September 2025, WNE-India successfully hosted a webinar on "Chemoreception of Non-Luminous Fireflies with Emphasis on Insect Sensilla: A Case Study on Lamellipalpodes (Lampyridae: Otoretinae)." The session brought together curiosity, science and engaging discussion around a fascinating yet lesser-known aspect of insect biology.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our distinguished speaker, [Mr. Arnob Chakrovorty](#), Research Scholar at the Cytogenetics and Molecular Biology Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Kalyani, and Secretary & Founder of [iForNature](#) – Nature Club, Kolkata. His expertise and passion illuminated the session, making complex concepts both accessible and engaging.

The webinar offered participants valuable insights into the unique biology of non-luminous fireflies, the role of insect sensilla in chemoreception, and case study findings on Lamellipalpodes. It also highlighted the broader implications for understanding insect behaviour and advancing research in this field.

We are deeply grateful to all participants whose active presence and thoughtful discussions enriched the session. Together, we continue to nurture curiosity and spread knowledge about the wonders of nature and science.



## Editorial

*Across India, the landscape is transforming as plantation drives breathe new life into degraded lands, aiming to create a cleaner and healthier environment. Through Bana Bandhu we are leading these plantation drives, planting thousands of trees to actively absorb carbon dioxide, release fresh oxygen and reduce the carbon footprint, slowing the pace of climate change. Trees act as nature's quiet guardians — filtering polluted air, enriching the soil, preventing erosion, conserving groundwater and sustaining the water cycle. As green cover expands, birds, insects and wildlife return, restoring biodiversity and strengthening fragile ecosystems.*

*This quarter, with the support of the WNE-Startup Grant, we are expanding our plantation efforts nationwide. In Kerala, the focus is on mangrove plantations, whose dense roots shield coastlines from erosion, revive wetlands, nurture marine life, capture carbon, and support local livelihoods. This initiative tells a powerful story of resilient coasts, thriving biodiversity and a greener, more sustainable tomorrow.*

## From Superstition to Safety: The Mission of a Sarpa Sathi

Every rescue tells a story of courage, compassion and commitment. As part of our mission to protect both people and wildlife, we are preparing to take our work to the next level. By embracing science and technology, we aim to make snake rescues more effective, help more people in need and reduce tragic deaths caused by snakebites. At the same time, we continue our daily efforts to dispel superstitions and spread awareness, so that communities learn to coexist peacefully with these remarkable creatures.

Our teammate [Md. Umar](#), a proud [Sarpa Sathi](#) from Karnataka, embodies this spirit of service. In just the past three months, he carried out 56 snake rescues across Mysore and its outskirts. He rescued a wide variety of snakes, including Spectacled Cobras, Russell's Vipers, Checkered Keelbacks, Indian Rat Snakes, Common Wolf Snakes, Bronzeback Tree Snakes and Common Kukri Snakes. About 70% of them were non-venomous, while the remaining 30% were venomous. In every rescue, Umar acted with skill and care, ensuring the safety of both the snakes and the people.



Rescued Spectacled Cobra and Russell's Viper



Releasing the rescued serpent species into the safety of the habitat



## Kankatti, the Undisputed Queen's reign at Chakradhara...

- Story by Pratik Mahapatra

In March 2011, three months later after the submission, Kankatti returned to Chakradhara. What happened next, was probably beyond everyone's imagination. In a terrible fight, Langrhi was killed and Kankatti was found devouring some of the body parts of Langrhi – a graphical illustration of cannibalism in tigers was caught in the lenses probably for the first time! This was a terrible shock to everyone's eyes for sure.

Despite losing the left eye and having a torn ear in her previous battle with Langrhi, Kankatti turned out to be unstoppable. Gradually, she became the undisputed queen of Chakradhara. Langrhi's cubs sought refuge in the Kithauli zone, where they were provided with meals by the park authorities. Kankatti was settled down in Chakradhara and, gifted the park with her first litter of three cubs – two females and a male – in September 2011, fathered by Bamera. They literally became the real bonanza of the park. Everyone coming to Bandhavgarh wanted to see this flourishing family. Sadly, this picture of contentment was shattered immediately after a few months when her two female cubs were killed by an invading male, unknown to everyone. Her male cub (later named Mr X, or Chhota Bamera) fled.

In early 2014, Kankatti once again became a mother. Again, three cubs were born – one male and two females as per the reports. It seemed that her battle with Langrhi was chronicled as a matter of bygone days and everything was pretty settled. No sooner than Kankatti managed to renovate the familial peace, another storm blew a massive punch. In order to save her cubs from the same invading male who killed the two cubs of her first litter, she once again put herself in a risky fight against the invader. This time, the consequence was grimmer - the undisputed queen lost her battle and succumbed to death caused by massively inflicted wounds by the male. Furthermore, her male cub from this litter to found dead nearby, almost certainly killed by the new intruder. Her cubs were five-month-old, completely depended on her when the massacre took place - there was no question of survival on their own. But soon enough two surviving cubs were rescued from a den site; they were absolutely shocked and terrified by the doldrums. A vet was called and the health condition of the cubs were thoroughly examined. Unfortunately, it was too late for one of the little females as she passed away, soon after the medical check-up.

The other surviving cub was kept in an enclosure of 0.25 hectares. That happened to be her destiny until she was ready to cope with the independent life. Since the lone female had lost her mother, she was deprived of all the essential basics of hunting lessons that the cubs usually learn from their mother during the course of hunting. She was fed by the park conservancy with chicken and buffalo meat; occasionally with milk, supplemented with vitamin and essential nutritional elements. Gradually, she was turning out to be a promising adolescent. In the meantime, the authorities were concerned with the issue of finding out a befitting home for her along with a new escort. The undertakings went on according to the planning. To everyone's sheer joy, the news of a potential mate came, the beaconing prospect at Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve, just 150 kilometers away from her old home, Bandhavgarh.

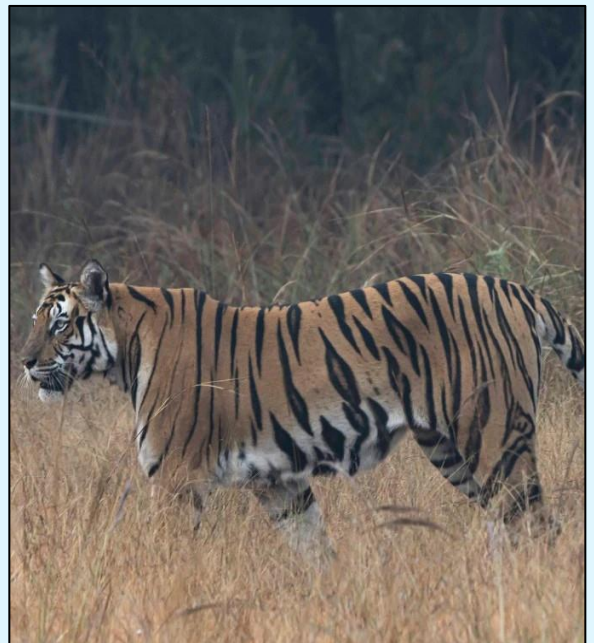


Photo Credit: INDIA TODAY

## Silent Roars: Madhya Pradesh's Growing Tiger Crisis

Madhya Pradesh, long celebrated as India's "tiger state," now faces an alarming wildlife emergency, with 36 tiger deaths reported this year alone. Disturbing incidents, a mutilated carcass discovered near Tawa and a tiger electrocuted by illegal farm wires in Sanjay Tiger Reserve — reveal the ruthless ingenuity of poachers.

These hunters increasingly target buffer zones, wildlife corridors, and farmland edges where surveillance remains weak, disguising their crimes as accidents. Conservationists warn that such relentless killings endanger not just the state's iconic big cats but also the delicate forest ecosystem they sustain. Urgent reforms are being demanded: intensified corridor patrols, tighter coordination with power utilities to dismantle live-wire traps, swift prosecutions for wildlife crimes, and real-time monitoring of every tiger death. Without decisive and united action, Madhya Pradesh's once-resounding roars could fade into silence, a haunting testament to the destructive reach of human greed.

To Know more , [Click Here!](#)



Photo Credit : INDIA TODAY

## A Lifeline for the Oceans: UN 'High Seas' Treaty Set to Begin

In a historic milestone for marine conservation, the UN's landmark High Seas Treaty has officially cleared the threshold for enforcement after receiving 61 ratifications, including Morocco and Sierra Leone as the latest signatories.

Formally known as the BBNJ Agreement, the treaty was adopted in June 2023 after nearly two decades of negotiations and will come into force in January 2026. Covering two-thirds of the world's oceans beyond national borders, it sets legally binding rules to conserve biodiversity, ensure fair sharing of marine genetic resources, establish protected areas and strengthen scientific cooperation.

UN chief, António Guterres, hailed it as a "historic achievement" and a vital response to the intertwined crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. UNEP's Inger Andersen called the ocean "the foundation of our existence," urging swift action to protect it. The treaty aligns with global efforts to safeguard 30% of land and sea by 2030, securing oceans for future generations.

To Know More , [Click Here!](#)



Under Water Marine Life