



# BIODIV News

Volume : 2 ■ Issue : 6 ■ Jan - March, 2011 A Quarterly e-Newsletter



Sandi Lake, District Hardoi

## Contents

	Pg. no.
1. International year of Forests- 2011	2
2. Panchpallav	3
3. Akshay Vat at Vyas Gaddi, Naimisharyanya, Sitapur District	4
4. Parijat tree in Barabanki District	5
5. 5th Board Meeting -10 March, 2011	7
6. Biodiversity Management Committees	9
7. Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2010	11
8. Wetland Day Celebrations - 2nd February, 2011	12-17
9. World Sparrow Day - 20th March, 2011	18-20
10. Conferences, Trainings and Tours	21
11. Newspaper clippings	22-27
(i) International	22
(ii) National	24
(iii) State	27

## Editorial

### Esteemed Readers,

The UN General Assembly has declared 2011-2020 as the United Nations Decade on biodiversity. This decade is a vehicle to support the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is also a worldwide celebration of everything we stand to lose by doing nothing and everything we stand to gain by changing our ways. The year 2011 is also the International Year of Forests. Forests contain some of the planet's most vibrant ecosystems and are essential to the survival and well being of all 7 billion of us!! Forests are disappearing partly because they are undervalued and our economy fails to recognize ecosystem services provided by intact forests and standing trees.

Speaking of trees, this issue includes write-ups on the *Panchpallav*, *Akshay vat* in Sitapur District and *Parijat* tree in Barabanki district. In subsequent issues this year we will try to cover such trees of cultural significance found in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

In addition, the year 2011, is also the also commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention. This issue includes the activities organized by the Board on the International Wetland Day celebrated on 2 Feb, 2011. The World Sparrow day (WSD) was celebrated on 20th March, 2011 to raise public awareness about the problems faced by this species in its daily fight for survival.

International news includes the findings of the Dr A.D. Barnosky et al. at the UC Berkley about the sixth mass extinction that is already underway and is different from the others due to its anthropogenic cause. National headlines are about cancellation of Bt maize trails in Bihar even as the moratorium on commercialization of Bt Brinjal stands. Also in the National headlines was the Tiger census report showing the National numbers to be about 1706, about 295 higher than the last count of 1411 in 2005. The State of Uttar Pradesh has shown a marginal increase in their numbers. But the report also states that the total Tiger area has shrunk from nine million hectares to seven million hectares. The existing 39 tiger reserves represent around one third of our high-density forest area. Counting endangered species is tedious and at times dangerous. One thing is certain however without reliable, transparent and credible numbers, we have no idea if we are saving nature!

- Editors

# 1-International Year of Forests -2011



**F**orests cover about 31 per cent of the land on Earth, around 4 billion hectares, and contain more than two-thirds of the world's terrestrial species. The Amazon basin alone is home to an estimated 25 per cent of all land-based species.

- 53 per cent of the world's forests are found in just five countries: Brazil, China, Canada, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.
- More than 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods; forests are home to an estimated 300 million people around the world.
- 80 per cent of people in developing countries rely on traditional medicines, up to half of which originate from plants found mainly in tropical forests.
- Forest biodiversity is the basis for more than 5,000 commercial products, from aromatic oil distilled from leaves to herbal medicines, food and clothing.
- Three quarters of the world's accessible fresh water comes from forested watersheds; forests purify drinking water for two-thirds of the major cities in developing countries.
- Forest biodiversity is being lost at an alarming rate: up to 100 animal and plant species are lost every day in tropical forests.
- 36 per cent of the total forest area is covered by primary forests-i.e. forests comprised of native species where the ecological processes have not been significantly disturbed by human activity. Primary forests have decreased by more than 40 million hectares since 2000, mostly due to logging and agricultural expansion.
- The rate of deforestation has slowed somewhat over the past decade; yet each year, approximately 13 million hectares of the world's forests, an area the size of Greece or Nicaragua, are lost or degraded. Deforestation and forest degradation in primary tropical forests, which are of high biodiversity value, continue at an alarming rate: around 6 million hectares per year.
- Emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation may contribute more than 15 per cent to annual global greenhouse gas emissions.
- It is estimated that up to one billion hectares, or about one quarter of all forest lands, are in need of restoration to improve their productivity and delivery of ecosystem services; restoring these forest landscapes would have enormous benefits for sustainable development.
- Globally, more than 460 million hectares of forests, 12 per cent of the total forest area, are designated for the conservation of biodiversity as their primary function, an increase of 32 per cent since 1990.

Over the next ten years, from 2011-2020, countries all over the world are taking action to help save the variety of life on Earth so that we can live more in harmony with nature. Our wellbeing is dependent on the health of our ecosystems. This decade is critical, as it is the timeframe for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity agreed in Nagoya Japan in October 2010.

Living in harmony  
with nature



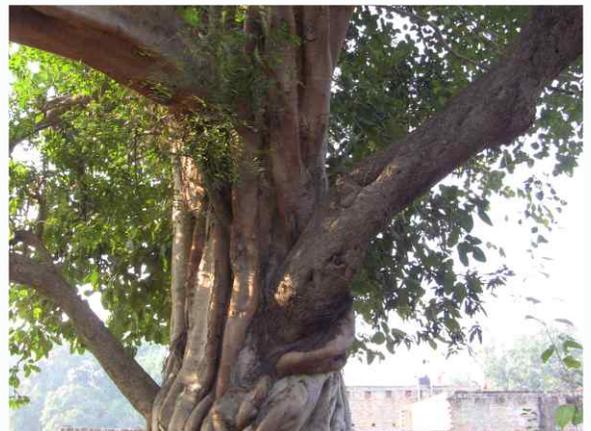
United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

## 2-Panchpallav

“Panchpallav” usually refers to an aggregate of five sprigs or shoots. Trees of the Panchpallav are a habitat to numerous species of life. Usually people plant all the five trees in the same pit. As a result, the fast growing ones overtake the others and the weak ones eventually die out. Hence, it is advisable to plant all the five separately. “Pallav” actually means leaves, so the leaves of these five trees make the Panchpallav. A few types of Panchpallav species are listed below as per their cultural significance:

1. **For Vedic prayers:** Commonly , the five species include Aam( Mango- *Mangifera indica*), Bargad (*Ficus benghalensis*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Pakad (*Ficus lacor*) and Gular (*Ficus glomerata*). In vedic puja, these five leaves are used to establish the “kalash” for prayers.
2. **For Tantric prayers:** The Narad Puran lists Kathal (Jack fruit- *Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Aam (Mango- *Mangifera indica*) , Bard/ Bargad (*Ficus benghalensis*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) and Bakul (Maulshri- *Mimusops elengi*) .
3. **For Gandha Karma (Fragrance /medicinal preparation) :** Aam (*Mangifera indica*), Jamun (*Syzigium cumunii*), Kaith (*Feronia limonia*), Bijora neembu (*Citrus medica*) and Bel (*Aegle marmelos*) are referred to as *Panch pallav*.
4. **For relief from disorders in the mouth:** A gargle with the decoction (*kadha*) of the leaves of parval (*Trichosanthus dioica*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Jamun (*Syzigium cumini*), Aam (*Mangifera indica*), Chameli (*Jasminium grandiflorum*) are recommended.

We found a *Panch-pallav* tree in Sitapur district about 100 meters from the *Vyas Gaddi* shrine at Nemisharanya with Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Aam (*Mangifera indica*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Bargad (*Ficus benghalensis*) and Jamun (*Syzigium cumunii*). The pictures of this tree(s?) are as presented in this article.



Neem, Am , Jamun, Bargad, Peepal

# 3-Akshay Vat at Vyas Gaddi, Nemisharanya, Sitapur District



1. Main trunk of the Banyan tree 2 & 3 Woody aerial roots, 4. Main trunk of the tree

The *Vyas gaddi* is a popular tourist religious spot located at Naimisharyanya in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh. It is said that it was here that Sage Ved Vyasa divided the Vedas and created the Puranas. A big banyan tree is located here, believed to be very old. Botanically known as *Ficus benghalensis*, and belonging to the family Moraceae, the tree is a native of India. The fruit is like a small fig but is not edible and is red when ripe. Fruit-eating birds disperse the seeds of Banyans. The seeds germinate and send down roots towards the ground, and may envelop part of the host tree or building structure with their roots. The leaves of Banyan tree are large, leathery, glossy green and elliptical in shape. In Hinduism, the Banyan tree is considered sacred and is called "*vat vriksha*" and is also known as *Bargad*, *Vatavriksh*, and *Barh*.

The area around the main stem is found to be cemented as seen in the picture. The tree has spread out laterally to cover a wide area. A number of aerial prop roots that have now become woody trunks grow around the main tree (over 10). Some construction work was seen around the woody aerial roots that had reached the ground and established themselves. Though there is religious sentiment to cutting any part of this tree, we did observe some light pruning work going on.

# 4-Parijat tree in Barabanki District



A view of the Parijat (*Adansonia digitata*) tree at Barabanki

This "Parijat" tree is located in village *Birolia (Kinthur)* of Barabanki district on the Kotwadham road. The village is named *Kinthur* after *Kunti* of Mahabharat. The scientific name of this tree is *Adansonia digitata*. Also called *Gorakh imli* or vilayati imli (fruits taste like tamarind). The tree is very wide at the bottom as seen in the pictures. On March 16, 2011 the staff of UPSBB visited this site. The CBH (Circumference at Breast Height) of the tree was taken and found to be about 12 meters or 39.5 ft.



Flowers of *Adansonia*

The tree *Adansonia digitata* belongs to the family Malvaceae. Of African origin this tree is also called

Baobab, Dead rat tree, Monkey bread tree, Upside down tree. It is called the "*Dead Rat Tree*" because its furry fruits resemble rats strung up by their tails. Some people also refer to this tree as "*Kalpa vriksha*". The baobab tree is sometimes known as the "upside-down tree" due to its massive, cylindrical trunk, short branches and deep, far-ranging root system that makes it appear to have been planted upside-down. It is a tree of dry regions. The baobab is leafless for seven to eight months of the year. It can grow up to 25 meters

tall and can live for several thousand years. The smooth trunk of the baobab can reach a diameter of 60 feet. Its branches grow up to 75 feet tall and are pinkish gray or copper in color. Leaves grow to 5 inches long with three to seven leaflets. The tree bears sweet-scented 5- to 7-inch drooping flowers on long stems; the pulpy fruit is 6 to 10 inches long and 4 inches wide.

**Significance of this tree in Africa:** The baobab tree is the traditional meeting place for African community members to exchange information, share news and discuss problems. The tree's wide-spreading branches offer shelter from the sun and rain, and encourage conversation and interaction. The tree's longevity makes it a familiar landmark in community life. The African baobab also has significance as a religious symbol. As one of the longest-lived trees -- some carbon-dated back 2,000 years, according to Ohio State University -- it is associated with the divine and eternal. Almost every part of the tree is used, elevating its importance as a gift from God for the survival of the community. The large, hollowed-out trunks are used as burial chambers, and the tree is often used as a backdrop in African stories that convey moral principles.

**Significance of this tree in Hindu mythology:** It is said that Arjun brought this tree from heavens and Kunti used to offer and crown Shivji with its flowers. The other saying being, that Lord Krishna brought this tree for his beloved queen Satyabhama. Historically, though these saying may have some bearing or not, but it is true that this tree is from a very ancient background. The tree is Dioecious that is; male and female flowers are found on separate trees. Seed will be produced only when both male and female trees are in vicinity of one another. The Lucknow zoo also has this tree near the serpentarium.



A view of the tree at Birotha village



Trying to get tape around the tree.



Measuring the circumference in feet.



Measuring the circumference in meters.

**Reference: 1.** African Baobab Tree Information at < [http://www.ehow.com/info\\_8404196\\_african-baobab-tree-information.html](http://www.ehow.com/info_8404196_african-baobab-tree-information.html)>

## 5- Fifth Board meeting, 10 March 2011



### Key Issues:

1. The Board approved the detailed guidelines for eligibility, project appraisal, implementation, evaluation, monitoring and release of grants for projects to be submitted to the Board.
2. The Board approved the following projects :
  1. **Germplasm exploration, assessment and documentation of Fish Biodiversity of Uttar Pradesh.** The implementing agency for this project is **National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow.**
  2. **Exploration and documentation of cucurbits biodiversity and its implication in Uttar Pradesh.** The implementing agency for this project is **Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Faizabad**
  3. **Inventorization, Impact Assessment and risk communication of Invasive fish species in Uttar Pradesh.** The implementing agency for this project is **National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow.**
  4. **Enumeration of lichens of Uttar Pradesh.** The implementing agency for this project is **National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow**
  5. **Monitoring of roosting and breeding sites of vultures in Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun and Mahoba district of U.P.** The implementing agency for this project is **University of Lucknow, Lucknow**
  6. **Status Survey of Bengal Florican in the grasslands of Uttar Pradesh.** The implementing agency for this project is **Wild life Institute of India, Dehradun.**
  7. **Assessment and Preparation of an Illustrated Resource Inventory of underutilized Wild Edible Plant Resources in terai region of Uttar Pradesh.** The implementing agency for this project is **National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow**
  8. **Annotated and Coloured Checklist of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Uttar Pradesh.** The implementing agency for this project is **University of Lucknow, Lucknow.**



9. **Documentation of Plant Diversity through Literature Survey for Development of Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Database Information System (UPBDIS)**. The implementing agency for this project is **Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany, University Road, Lucknow**
10. **Compendium of microbial biodiversity**. The implementing agency for this project is **National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms, ICAR, Maunath Bhanjan, U.P.**
11. **Use of ITK (Indigenous Technology Knowledge) and experiences in crop production and protection in Vindhayn region of Eastern Uttar Pradesh**. The implementing agency for this project is **Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi**

Power point presentations were made by the Principal Investigators of all projects to the Board.

### Red-crowned Roofed Turtle

*Batagur kachuga* (Gray 1831); Family Geoemydidae, Asia: Bangladesh, India (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal), Nepal, IUCN, Red List: CR, Critically Endangered A1cd, CITES: Appendix II, as *Batagur* spp.



The last known stronghold for this large river turtle (up to 60 cm carapace length) is on the Chambal River in central India. No more than approximately 500 adult females remain of a species that once had a very large range.

## 6-Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC's)

In accordance with Uttar Pradesh Biological Diversity Rules, 2010, Rule 21, Biodiversity management Committees have been constituted in Saidapur Devkali (District Lakhimpur kheri) , Nanpara Dehat (Dist Baharaich) , Baihar , District Chitrakoot , Bhitauli Kalan, District Barabanki . The details of the BMC's formed this year are as follows:

### **Nanpara Dehat , District Baharaich**

The Biodiversity Management Committee of Nanpara Dehat , District Baharaich was constituted on 07.12.2010 in a meeting organized in the village as per guidelines of the Biological diversity Act , 2002 and UP state Biological Diversity Rules, 2010. The constitution of the committee was as follows:



*Village meeting Nanpara dehat*

1	Chairperson	Om Prakash Sharma	Kangdan Hata, Nanpara Dehat, Vikas Khand, Balha, Bahraich
2	Member	Shiv Prakash Porwal	Shivpur Road, Nanpara Dehat
3	Member	Shyam Lal Patel	Hakim Purwa, Nanpara Dehat
4	Member	Chet Ram Pandey	Bhajja Purwa, Nanpara Dehat
5	Member SC/ST	Vinay Bharti,	Bhajja Purwa, Nanpara Dehat
6	Member Women Rep.	Km. Arti Arya	Kangdan Hata, Nanpara Dehat
7	Member Women Rep.	Km. Sanyogita Sharma	Kangdan Hata, Nanpara Dehat

### Baihar , District Chitrakoot

The Biodiversity Management Committee of Baihar, District Chitrakoot was constituted on 19.01.2010 in a meeting organized in the village as per guidelines of the Biological diversity Act , 2002 and UP state Biological Diversity Rules, 2010. The constitution of the committee was as follows:

1	Chairperson	Ram Lakhan	Baihar, Block- Karvi, Chitrakoot
2	Member	Sri Sushil Kumar	Baihar, Block- Karvi, Chitrakoot
3	Member SC/ST	Sri Mohan Lal	Baihar, Block- Karvi, Chitrakoot
4	Member SC/ST	Sri Badri	Baihar, Block- Karvi, Chitrakoot
5	Member	Sri Gore Lal	Baihar, Block- Karvi, Chitrakoot
6	Member Women Rep.	Smt. Saroj,	Baihar, Block- Karvi, Chitrakoot
7	Member Women Rep.	Smt Rakhi,	Baihar, Block- Karvi, Chitrakoot

### Bhitauli Kalan, District Barabanki

The Biodiversity Management Committee of Bhitauli kalan , District Chitrakoot was constituted on 03.03.2011 in a meeting organized in the village as per guidelines of the Biological diversity Act , 2002 and UP state Biological Diversity Rules, 2010. The constitution of the committee was as follows:

1	Chairperson	Smt. Pushpa Yadav	Bhitauli Kalan, Block- Banki, Distt. Barabanki
2	Member SC/ST	Sri Barsati	Dallu Khera, Majra- Bhitauli Kalan, Block- Banki, Distt. Barabanki
3	Member SC/ST	Sri Santosh	Dallu Khera, Majra- Bhitauli Kalan, Block- Banki, Distt. Barabanki
4	Member	Sri Ram Sajeevan	Bhitauli Kalan, Block- Banki, Distt. Barabanki
5	Member	Sri Sandeep	Jarwa, Majra- Bhitauli Kalan, Block- Banki, Distt. Barabanki
6	Member Women Rep.	Smt Sunita	Bhojpur, Majra- Bhitauli Kalan, Block- Banki, Distt. Barabanki
7	Member Women Rep.	Smt Kiran Devi	Jarwa, Majra- Bhitauli Kalan, Block- Banki, Distt. Barabanki

## Trees

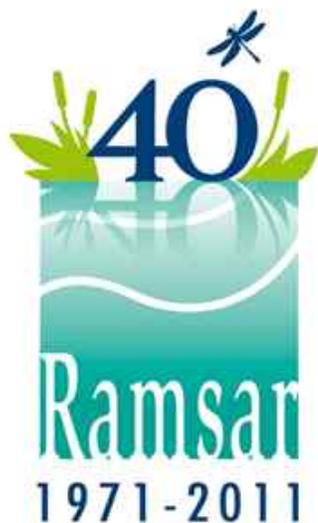
**Trees just stand around all day and sun themselves and rest.**

**They never walk or run away and surely that is best.**

**For otherwise how would a squirrel or robin find its nest?**

**..... Aileen Fisher**

## 7- Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2010 :



1. It calls for the constitution of a **Central Wetland Regulatory Authority**, chaired by the Secretary, MoEF &, as expected, members from various Govt ministries like Agriculture, Water Resources, Tourism, Social Justice, Central Pollution Control Board as well as four experts from the fields of hydrology, limnology, ornithology & ecology. Some of these expert names nominated by the government without any transparent process do not inspire confidence. The authority has 3 year tenure.
2. It seeks to regulate wetlands which include **Ramsar Wetlands**, and what it calls '**Protected Wetlands**' which include ecologically sensitive wetlands, wetlands in protected areas, UNESCO sites or wetlands near UNESCO sites, wetlands above the elevation of 2500 meters with area above 5 ha or, wetlands or wetland complexes below the elevation of 2500 meters, but with an area more than 500 hectares or any other wetlands suggested by the Central Wetland Regulatory Authority.
3. **Restrictions** on activities within the wetlands include reclamation, setting up industries in vicinity, solid waste dumping, manufacture or storage of hazardous substances, discharge of untreated effluents, any permanent construction, etc.
4. **Regulated Activities** (which will not be permitted without the consent of the state government) include hydraulic alterations, unsustainable grazing, harvesting of resources, releasing treated effluents, aquaculture, agriculture, dredging, etc.
5. The **major functions** of the authority include **identification of new wetlands for conservation**, ensuring that the Rules are followed by the local bodies, issue clearances, etc.
6. The State Governments are to submit a '**Brief Document**' about the wetlands in their state which qualify for protection under the Rules. The Authority will then assess the wetland and if accepted, the Central Government shall notify it as a 'Protected Wetland'.
7. Any appeals against the decision of the Authority can be made to the National Green Tribunal .

The Rules have a wide ranging definition of what is a wetland, "wetland means an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters and includes all inland waters such as lakes, reservoir, tanks, backwaters, lagoon, creeks, estuaries and man made wetland and the zone of direct influence on wetland that is to say the drainage area or catchment region of the wetlands as determined by the authority but does not include main river channels, paddy fields and coastal wetlands".

# 8- Wetland Day Celebrations

2nd February 2011

The theme for this year's Wetland Day was "Forests for water and wetlands". On World Wetland Day, an essay competition was organized for students of class V to XII. The topic was "Importance of Wetland Conservation". For the graduates, the topic of essay was "Forests for Water and Wetlands-Importance, Current uses and Challenges in Wetland Conservation".

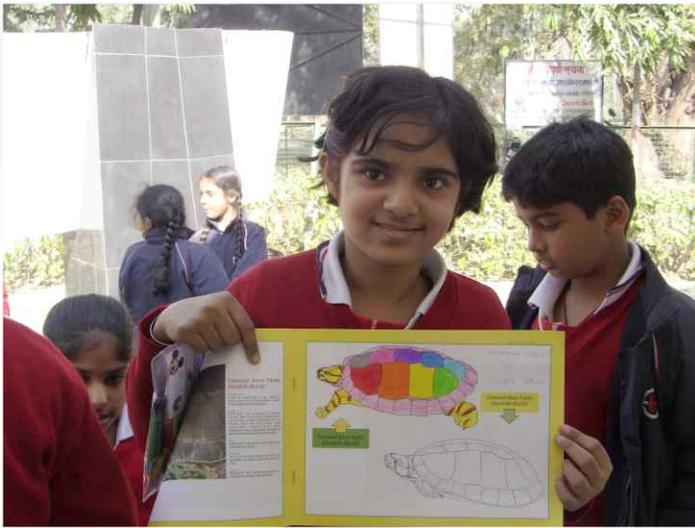
A poster competition was also organized for the senior section with the topic "Forests for Water and Wetlands". In addition to this, a field trip was organized for students of Study Hall School on 27th Jan, 2011 in which 119 students of class IV took part. On 28th Jan, 2011, another topic was organized for students of class V of the same school. The Turtle Survival Alliance provided coloring books to the students on this occasion.

## Students of Study Hall School, Gomti Nagar at Nawabganj coloring turtles on the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2011, Feb 2



**"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water"**

**-Loran Eisely, The Immense Journey, 1957**



Courtesy (coloring book): Turtle Survival Alliance

### List of Prize Winners World Wetland Day (February 02, 2011)

#### Essay Competition Category- V to VIII

Topic: **Importance of wetland conservation in Uttar Pradesh**

S. No.	Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the School	Class
1	Ist Prize	Pratibha Shakya	R L B Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Lucknow	VIII-A
2	IIInd Prize	Rajat Mani Tripathi	C M S, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	VIII-B
3	IIIrd Prize	Maithrey Bishnoi	C M S, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	VIII-B
4	Consolation	Prerna Sharma	R L B Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Lucknow	VII-C
5	Consolation	Ujjwal Goel	C M S, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	VIII, Sec-B

#### Category- Senior Group (IX to XII)

Topic: **Importance of wetland conservation in Uttar Pradesh**

1	Ist Prize	Shweta	R L B Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Lucknow	IX-A
2	IIInd Prize	Preeti Prajapati	R L B Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Lucknow	IX- H/M
3	IIIrd Prize	Nitesh Kashyap	Study Hall, Vinay Khand-2, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	XI Science
4	IIIrd Prize	Anukriti Gupta	Scholar's Home, Vipul Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	XI- Com.
5	Consolation	Shivam Khare	Study Hall, Vinay Khand-2, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	XI Science
6	Consolation	Priya Gupta	R L B Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Lucknow	IX-A

**“Ramsar is the oldest global environmental treaty and it is specially focused on one ecosystem – wetlands. ”**

### Category- Graduate Group

Topic: **Forests for water and wetlands- Importance, Current uses and challenges in wetland Conservation**

Sl. No.	Prize	Name of the Student	Class	Name of the College/University
1	Ist Prize	Rhythm Singh	M.B.A.-IIInd Semester	Lucknow University, Lucknow
2	IIInd Prize	Faizia Tabassum	-	Department of Zoology, Shia P.G. College, Lucknow
3	IIIrd Prize	Shama Parveen	B.A. Ist year	Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Girls Degree College, Lucknow
4	IIIrd Prize	Tapti Nigam	-	Department of Zoology, Shia P.G. College, Lucknow
5	Consolation	Shalini Dixit	B.Com Ist year	Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Girls Degree College, Lucknow

### List of Prize Winners - Poster competition Category- IX to XII

Topic: **Forests for Water and Wetlands**

Sl. No.	Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the School	Class
1	Ist Prize	Chitra Vishwakarma	R L B Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Lucknow	X-D (E/M)
2	IIInd Prize	Aakriti Pal	R L B Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Lucknow	X-B (E/M)
3	IIIrd Prize	Chanda Singh	R L B Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Lucknow	IX-A (E/M)
4	Consolation	Kritika Modi	R L B Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Lucknow	IX-A
5	Consolation	Rishu Rai	H.A.L. School, Faizabad Road, Lucknow	IX-D
6	Consolation	Sarita Nishad	T.D. Girls Inter College, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	XI-B

**"In every glass of water we drink, some of the water has already passed through fishes, trees, bacteria, worms in the soil and many other organisms, including people.....living systems cleanse water and make it fit, among other things, for human consumption."**

**-Elliot A. Norse, in R.J. Hoage ed., Animal Extinctions, 1985.**



1st Prize, Chitra Vishwakarma,  
Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Lucknow



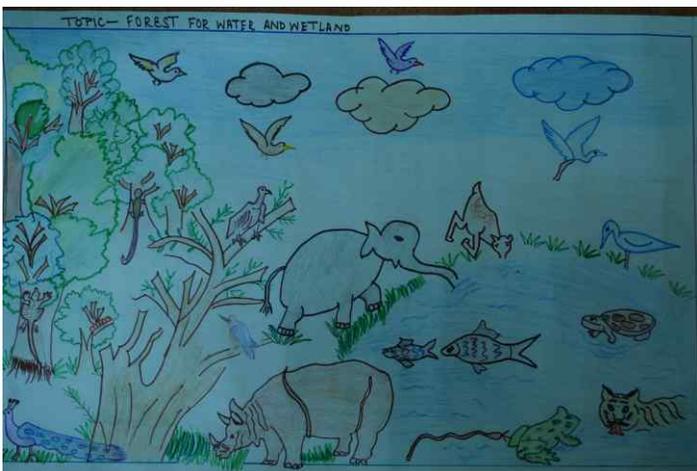
11nd Prize, Akriti Pal, Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School, Lucknow



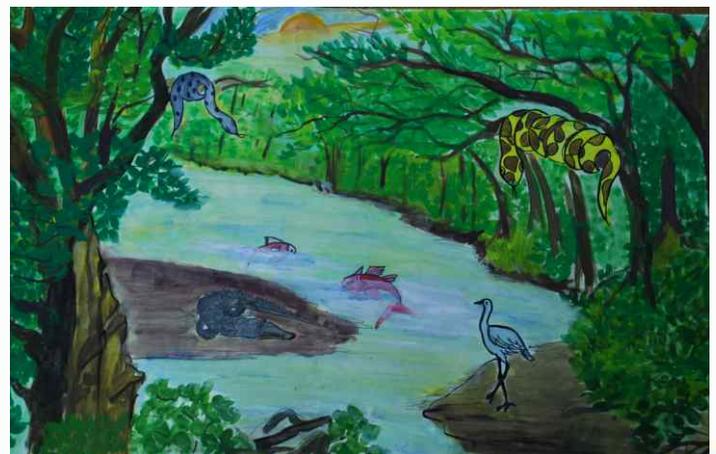
111rd Prize, Chanda Singh, Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School,  
Lucknow



Consolation, Kritika Modi, Rani Laxmi Bai Memorial School,  
Lucknow



Consolation, Rishu Rai, H.A.L. School, Faizabad Road, Lucknow



Consolation, Sarita Nishad, T.D. Girls Inter College, Gomti Nagar,  
Lucknow

## Category- Senior

Topic: **Forests for Water and Wetlands**

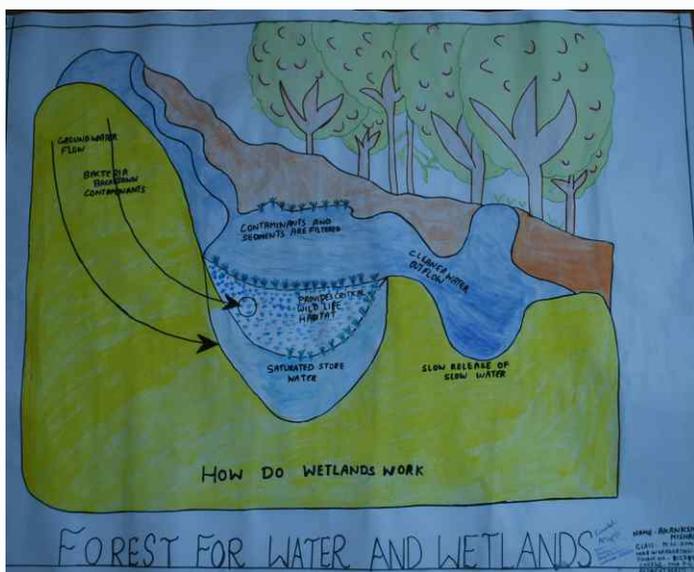
Sl. No.	Prize	Name of the Student	Name of the School	Class
1	Ist Prize	Anandita Singh	Lucknow University, Lucknow	MBA HR & IR IInd Semester
2	IInd Prize	Ruchi Saxena	Lucknow University, Lucknow	MBA (MS)- IInd Semester
3	IIIrd Prize	Akansha Mishra	Shia P.G. College, Lucknow	M.Sc. Sem IV



Ist Prize, Anandita Singh, Lucknow University, Lucknow



IInd Prize, Ruchi Saxena, Lucknow University, Lucknow



IIIrd Prize, Akansha Shia P.G. College, Lucknow

## Did you know...

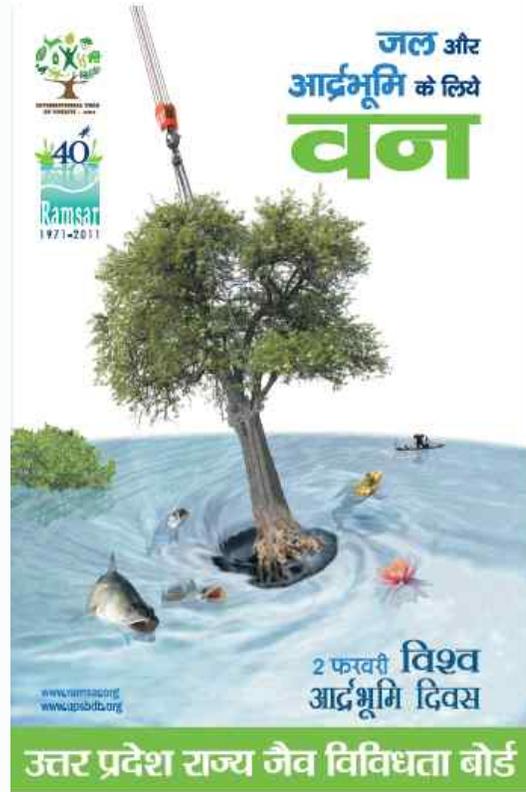
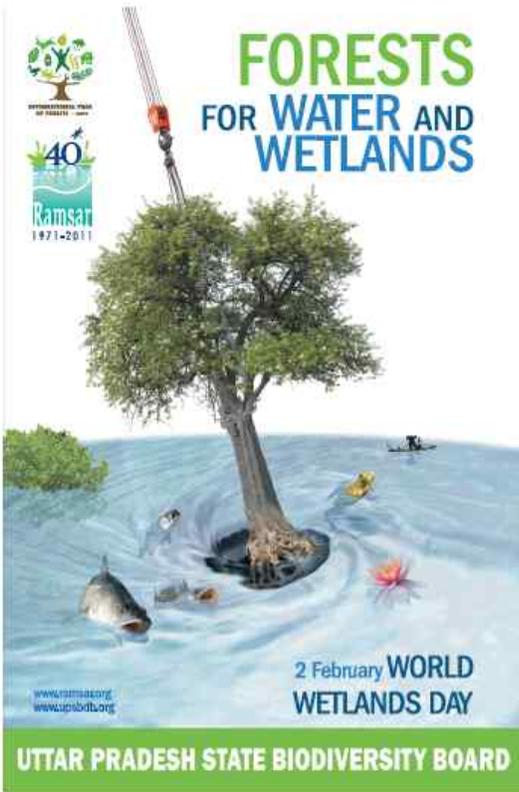
- Forests are home to 300 million people around the world?
- Forests cover 31% of total land area?
- The livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests?
- Primary forests account for 36% of forest area?
- For every one-degree temperature rise, 10% of species are predicted to become extinct globally.

**“Wetlands have a poor image.....yet they are among the Earth’s greatest assets.....mankind’s water logged wealth.”**

**-Edward Maltby, Water logged Wealth, 1986**

# POSTERS FOR WETLAND DAY

FEBRUARY 2011



# POSTERS FOR STATE SYMBOL

FEBRUARY 2011

**State Symbols of UTTAR PRADESH**

<p><b>State Tree - English Name:</b> Ashok, <b>Hindi Name:</b> Ashok, <b>Local Name:</b> Sita Ashok, <b>Scientific Name:</b> Saraca asotica</p> <p>एशोक (शाक्य) का अर्थ है 'शोक'। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है।</p>  <p><b>State Tree</b></p>	<p><b>State Flower - English Name:</b> Flame of the Forest, <b>Hindi Name:</b> Palsah, Dhak, Tom, <b>Scientific Name:</b> Dalbergia sissoo</p> <p>एशोक (शाक्य) का अर्थ है 'शोक'। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है।</p>  <p><b>State Flower</b></p>
<p><b>State Bird - English Name:</b> Indian Sarus Crane, <b>Hindi Name:</b> Sarus, <b>Scientific Name:</b> Grus indicus</p> <p>एशोक (शाक्य) का अर्थ है 'शोक'। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है।</p>  <p><b>State Bird</b></p>	<p><b>State Animal - English Name:</b> Bharatmugha (Bharatmugha Swamp Deer), <b>Local Name:</b> Bharatmugha, <b>Scientific Name:</b> Rucervus maddoni</p> <p>एशोक (शाक्य) का अर्थ है 'शोक'। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है।</p>  <p><b>State Animal</b></p>
<p><b>State Fish - English Name:</b> Rohu, <b>Hindi Name:</b> Rohu, <b>Scientific Name:</b> Cirrhilabrus</p> <p>एशोक (शाक्य) का अर्थ है 'शोक'। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है। यह एक बहुत ही पुराना वृक्ष है। इसकी लकड़ी को 'शोक' कहा जाता है।</p>  <p><b>State Fish</b></p>	<p><b>U.P. State Biodiversity Board</b> East Wing, Floor, AdBlock, PICUP Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow (U.P.) - 226 010 Phone: (0522) 406746, 2306451</p>

**उत्तर प्रदेश के राज्य चिन्ह**

<p><b>राज्य पक्षी</b></p>  <p>राज्य पक्षी</p>	<p><b>राज्य वृक्ष</b></p>  <p>राज्य वृक्ष</p>	<p><b>राज्य पुष्प</b></p>  <p>राज्य पुष्प</p>
<p><b>राज्य पशु</b></p>  <p>राज्य पशु</p>	<p><b>राज्य मछली</b></p>  <p>राज्य मछली</p>	<p><b>30 प्र० राज्य जैवविविधता बोर्ड</b> पिपि विंग, पृथिवी कक्ष, ए-ब्लॉक, पि.यू.पी. भवन, विभूति खण्ड, गौमती नगर, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.)-226 010 फोन : (0522) 406746, 2306451</p>

**The Ramsar Convention**  
 “40 years of caring for Wetlands”  
 160 contracting parties, 1904 wetlands of international importance.

# 9-World Sparrow Day- 20 March 2011- Celebrating the common biodiversity around us.



The diminutive **house sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) is perhaps one of the earliest birds you can remember from your childhood. It is a species of passerine bird of the sparrow family Passeridae. It has feathers mostly in different shades of brown and grey. They love to feed on food grains and worms. It is popularly known as *goriya* in Hindi and *Chriya* in Urdu. Unfortunately, the house sparrow is now a disappearing species. But like all other plants and animals which were once abundant and are now facing an uncertain future, their numbers are also declining across their natural range.

The **World Sparrow Day (WSD)** was celebrated on 20th March across the globe to raise public awareness about the decline of the house sparrow and throw light on the problems faced by the species in its daily fight for survival. The rationale for celebrating World Sparrow Day was not only to commemorate the event for a day but to use it as a platform to underscore the need to conserve sparrows as well as the urban biodiversity. A request was given out in newspapers of the state to the public requesting them to get out of their homes, on 20th March, 2011, between 7am and 7.30am in the morning and count the number of sparrows that one could see near their homes and send it to the Board at [upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com](mailto:upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com). Despite it being Holi, the festival of colours, the support to us in our efforts to spread awareness about urban biodiversity was encouraging.

## PRESS CLIPPINGS OF SPARROW DAY

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW  
SUNDAY, MARCH 20 2011

शुक्रवार 13

WORLD SPARROW DAY

### Save them now, only you can do it!

**HT Correspondent**  
#reporterdesk@hindustantimes.com

**LUCKNOW:** Today is World Sparrow Day. Before you set out to play Holi with your friends, spare half-an-hour from your schedule and watch out for sparrows. Count the ones you see near your house between 7am and 7:30am and send it to [upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com](mailto:upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com).

But you may be in for a surprise as you may not be able to spot any. Why? The World Sparrow Day (WSD) is being celebrated across the globe to raise awareness about the decline of the house sparrow and throw

**SAVE YOUR SHOEBOX**  
WANANASI: If you have brought new shoes this Holi, don't throw away the shoebox, once empty. Empty shoeboxes make an ideal nest for sparrows, the most common species of birds which now needs to be conserved and which is considered a good omen for progress and prosperity. 04

light on the problems faced by the species in its fight for survival. Says Pratibha Singh, IFS, UP State Biodiversity Board: "You may not come across a single sparrow. The aim to celebrate World Sparrow Day is not only to commemorate the event but to use it as a platform to underline the need to conserve sparrows as well as the urban biodiversity." "We understand it is Holi, the festival of colours, but hope you will support us in our effort to spread awareness about urban biodiversity," Singh said. The diminutive house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is perhaps one of the earliest birds you can remember from your childhood. It is a species of passerine bird of the sparrow family Passeridae. It has feathers mostly in different shades of brown and grey. They love to feed on food-grains and worms. It is popularly known as 'Goriya' in Hindi and Chriya in Urdu. Unfortunately, the house sparrow is now disappearing. Like all other plants and animals that were once abundant and are now facing an uncertain future, their numbers are also declining across their natural ranges. Citizens can do their bit in the conservation of the bird. By doing simple things like providing home, water and food, the birds can be saved. "Putting water in a bowl or plate on the terrace or balcony of the house will save a lot of thirsty birds from dying in summers. Birds require water for bathing and a water pot in the balcony will help birds meet this ecological need as well," she said. Keeping little bins or broken rice in an open space will provide them food. However, things like these should be done with religious regularity as birds have the natural affinity to return to the same place each time they feel the need for food, water or shelter, she said.

## आइये बचाएं गौरैया को

**‘वर्ल्ड हाउसस्पैरो डे’ आज**

रविवार, 19 मार्च (बुध): बाबू जगदल पुरानी गली है जब बच्चों में से छुपकर गली पर होते थे। इनमें रोहनचन्द, सुखदेह होते थे। गौरैया गिनका-गिनका बटोरकर इन जगहों पर अपना इलाका बनाती थी। बच्चे के लिए अनाज के दाने पर की रसोई, धरामदे व छत पर सूखाने के लिए फैले अनाज, खेत-खलिान से तो मिल ही जाते थे, लोग भी पक्षियों लिए दाना-धानी रखते थे। खड़ी बाबा कहते हैं कि वहाँ के नीचे खुलने का राज गौरैया का 'सहचरण' ही था। जमाना बदला तो छायों की 'जगह खीरेर' की जगह आ गयी। तकनीकी की वजह से तो गौरैया के लिए 'गिनका' बनाना मुश्किल। सुपरकॉन्क्रीट में रोहनचन्द को जगह मिलानेवाला काम खतरा करता है। अनाजपुंजी विकसित की रसोई में ही इसका भोजन करने वाली रस पक्षिया का खाना हो नहीं रहा। यही कारण है कि कच्चे परों के आसपास में सहचरणे वाली यह पक्षिया अब सुन्दरप्राय प्रजाति की श्रेणी में है। इसकी संख्या में लगातार गिरावट हो रही है। गौरैया को बचाने के लिए सच्ची फ्री जुड़ना होगा। पत्रा है रिपोट-

**आज सुबह गिनें गौरैया**

अगर आप इन खबर को सुबह सात बजे से पहले पढ़ रहे हैं तो ध्यान दें। गौरैया की लगातार कम होती संख्या पर लोगों का ध्यान आकर्षित करने के उद्देश्य से उत्तर प्रदेश जैव विविधता बोर्ड ने शुक्र पावन की है। बोर्ड ने अधिकाधिक से अपील की है कि विश्व गौरैया दिवस 20 मार्च को सुबह बन्दे उदें। सुबह सात से साढ़े सात बजे तक गौरैया को देखें और उनकी गिनती करें। इसके बाद इन संख्या को [upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com](mailto:upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com) पर भेज कर दें।

**यह न करें**

- घर की छत, धरामदे या किसी खुली जगह पर कचरे या दूध फाल डालें। यह गौरैया के लिए खतरा भोजन है।
- दूध के साथ किसी भी तरह के साबुन मिश्रण को गली के जगह डालने से भी बचाव करनी है।
- गौरैया दाना के बगल पेंसिलों में भी आसरा से रहती है। इसके लिए घर के बाहर में पाल लाने पर लक्ष्मी के दिन में कलम वार सेटमिटर का छेद करके रखवें। गौरैया इससे आसरा भोजन करने के लिए आती है। बाजार से नेस्टहाउस खरीदकर भी प्रयोग में लाया जा सकता है।

**यह न करें**

- गौरैया के लिए कभी बाली खाना न रखें। पानी भी गंद न हो।
- घर में शिकल खाने या गमले लगा रहे ही तो उनमें रासायनिक कीटनाशकों का प्रयोग न करें। इनके प्रयोग से मरने वाले कीड़े खरब गौरैया अपने बच्चों को पिलाने के लिए से जल्दी है।
- लीकज गौरैया के बच्चे इतने जल्द से जल्द पैदा होते हैं।
- अगर घर में गौरैया से पीसल का रसा ही ले रहे छेड़ें नहीं। नही दूसरे लोगों को दिखाने।

cb 71

# Don't let the chidiya fly away forever

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

If you live in an apartment block, after you have read this story walk into your balcony or look out of the nearest window and try to spot a sparrow. It is more than likely that you shall fail to spot one.

The once ubiquitous common house sparrow, given to much raucous chirping and nesting in the nooks and crannies of our homes, has now become near extinct in cities and towns. Deprived of food, shelter and security, the sparrow population has dwindled alarmingly.

Old-fashioned houses have given way to high-rise buildings which have robbed sparrows of their traditional nesting spaces. Open green areas have disappeared, robbing sparrows of their natural diet of seeds and insects. Rampant use of pesticides has ensured gardens and lawns are insect-free.

Microwave radiation from cell towers that dot urban, semi-urban and rural areas, is believed to have rendered sparrows infertile, vastly reducing their ability to breed. Strange as it may sound, the switchover to unleaded petrol has resulted in the release of chemicals in the air that kill insect species which sparrows feed their broods.

Ironically, sparrows prefer to live close to human habitations. But the preferred lifestyle of our times denies them the very right to live.

While the disappearance of the house sparrow has gone unnoticed in India's cities, where

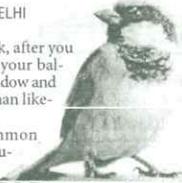
there is least concern for either environment or ecology, it has caused sufficient concern in the West. Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has included the house sparrow in the 'Red List' of endangered avian species.

March 20 has been designated World Sparrow Day to make people aware of the imminent extinction of sparrows and urge them to stave off what would be a huge loss to both mankind and the animal world.

The good news is that official and voluntary organisations are now sufficiently concerned to get into the act of saving the sparrow. To raise awareness, the Postal Department has released a commemorative stamp on the small grey-brown bird.

In Bangalore, where sparrow sighting is a rarity, 10,000 free nesting boxes will be distributed, with more to follow. The Bohras have formally adopted a 'Save the Sparrow' campaign to be led by community elders. Nature Forever, a Nashik-based NGO, has gone online ([www.natureforever.org](http://www.natureforever.org)) and offers inexpensive feeders and nesting boxes that serve to bring nature to your city home.

Meanwhile, everybody can come to the aid of the house sparrow by putting out feed (bajra) and water on a window sill. And a nesting box in the balcony. With a little bit of help from city dwellers, the chidiya can escape the list of extinct species.



**WORLD SPARROW DAY**

## डेली न्यूज़

लखनऊ, रविवार, 20 मार्च 2011



सीसीपी टायर

लखनऊ, 21 मार्च (आई) : कुछ लोग ऐसो धारणा रखतें कि चिड़ियाँ केवल तभी तब तक जीवित रहेंगी जब तक कि वे अपने प्राकृतिक वातावरण में हों। यह धारणा सच है, लेकिन हमें यह भी याद रखनी चाहिए कि चिड़ियाँ हमारे शहरों में भी जीवित रह सकती हैं। हमें केवल उनके प्राकृतिक वातावरण को बनाए रखना ही नहीं है, बल्कि हमें उनके प्राकृतिक वातावरण को बनाए रखने में मदद करनी चाहिए।

# शहर में बसेरा तलाशती गौरैया

विश्व गौरैया दिवस आज

गौरैया का वैश्वीकरण भी बढ़ता जा रहा है। वैश्वीकरण का मतलब है कि कोई क्षेत्र व्यापक रूप से विदेशी प्रजाति से भर जाता है। इसका मतलब यह है कि हमारे शहरों में गौरैया की संख्या में तेजी से वृद्धि हो रही है। गौरैया की संख्या में वृद्धि के कारण शहरों में गौरैया की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है। गौरैया की संख्या में वृद्धि के कारण शहरों में गौरैया की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है।

## ऐसे बचा सकते हैं अपनी गौरैया को

- घर के लॉन पर गुरुदूमा आकारों का बचपन गौरैया को रखने की जगह मिले।
- विदेशी पेड़-पौधों की बजाय देशी पेड़ लगाए। विशेष रूप से आम और बेत पौधे।
- गौरैया में अन्न बहाने के अलावा घर के छत पर या फिर आँगन में दाने खाने विकसित गौरैया को खोज मिले।
- छत पर कटोरी में पानी भर कर रोज़ रोज़ गौरैया को पानी पिलाने।
- जंगल क्षेत्रों में अणुकार दवा प्रयोग पक्षी को शहरों से बाहर मुक्तता का सकता है।

लखनऊ, 22 मार्च 2011 दैनिक जागरण

# चू-चू करती आई चिड़िया...

लखनऊ, 21 मार्च (आई) : कुछ लोग ऐसो धारणा रखतें कि चिड़ियाँ केवल तभी तब तक जीवित रहेंगी जब तक कि वे अपने प्राकृतिक वातावरण में हों। यह धारणा सच है, लेकिन हमें यह भी याद रखनी चाहिए कि चिड़ियाँ हमारे शहरों में भी जीवित रह सकती हैं। हमें केवल उनके प्राकृतिक वातावरण को बनाए रखना ही नहीं है, बल्कि हमें उनके प्राकृतिक वातावरण को बनाए रखने में मदद करनी चाहिए।



गौरैया की संख्या में वृद्धि के कारण शहरों में गौरैया की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है। गौरैया की संख्या में वृद्धि के कारण शहरों में गौरैया की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है।

आजकल हमारे शहरों में चिड़ियाँ की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है। चिड़ियाँ की संख्या में वृद्धि के कारण शहरों में चिड़ियाँ की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है।

- गौरैया की चहचहाहट से खुलती है-गीद
- जैव विविधता बढ़ाई से लोगों ने बांटो अनुभव

हमारे शहरों में चिड़ियाँ की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है। चिड़ियाँ की संख्या में वृद्धि के कारण शहरों में चिड़ियाँ की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है।

## WORLD SPARROW DAY TODAY

# Save your shoebox, it's a treasured home for somebody

Anuraag Singh  
anuraag.singh@hindustantimes.com

**VARANASI:** If you have bought new shoes this Holi, don't throw away the shoebox, once empty. Empty shoeboxes make an ideal nest for sparrows, the most common species of birds which now needs to be conserved and which is considered a good omen for progress and prosperity of human beings. On the occasion of World Sparrow Day on Sunday, which this year coincides with the festival of colours, Holi, president of Science Bloggers Association (Lucknow) Dr Arvind Mishra, who also heads state fisheries department in Varanasi appealed to all households not to throw away empty shoeboxes, but treasure them as they rendered ideal nests to sparrows, whose population has reportedly dwindled by up to 80 per cent in India.

"In this concrete era, with skyscrapers dominating cities and towns in India, there is hardly any crevice or empty space in houses where sparrows can nest and lay eggs to increase their population," Mishra told HT on Saturday.

Empty shoeboxes rendered ideal nesting space to sparrows, particularly as their breeding season was fast approaching, he said. "By keeping shoeboxes in innocuous spaces in houses, people can give these birds an ideal self-made nesting space, as spar-

rows inherently love a habitat in close proximity of humans."

Mishra informed that the sparrow population had dwindled by up to 80 pc, and it was high time households started conserving the friendly birds, by at least giving them shoeboxes to make their nests.

Explaining the reasons for the dwindling sparrow population, Mishra said use of unleaded petrol triggered methyl nitrite in the environment, which killed insects and thus starved the sparrow population of their most favoured nutrition. Further, the ever increasing use of pesticides was also adversely affecting the sparrow population. Pesticide residues in the environment had been reported to make fragile the sparrow eggs, subsequently leading to birth of either stillborn sparrows or else weak ones, which died early, he said.

Mishra said March 20 was observed as World Sparrow Day, particularly due to efforts of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, England, Avon Wildlife Trust in England and the Eco-Sys Action Foundation in France. In India, the Save Sparrow campaign was being spearheaded by the Bombay Natural History Society, while ran awareness programme on March 20 annually to save the most auspicious and friendly bird, which liked to live in company of humans in houses, he said.



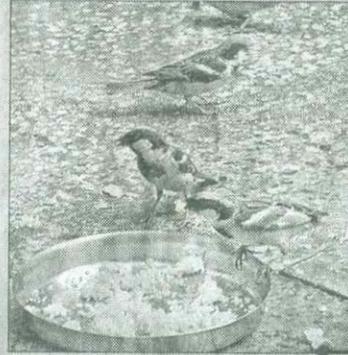
# होली की मस्ती में भूल न जाना गौरैया को

लखनऊ। होली के हड़दंग और मस्ती के बीच आज नहीं गौरैया को न भूल जाइएगा। पर्यावरण को संतुलित रखने की यह महत्वपूर्ण धुरी खोती जा रही है। ऐसे में इनके संरक्षण की सख्त जरूरत है। यह अपील है शहर के उन नागरिकों की, जो गौरैया को बचाने के लिए आगे आए हैं।

कर्तनिया घाट फाउंडेशन के वाइस प्रेसिडेंट सुरेश चौधरी के घर में आज भी सैकड़ों गौरैया की चहचहाहट सुनाई देती है। बीस वर्षों से पक्षियों की सेवा कर रहे सुरेश कहते हैं कि गौरैया का काम होना पर्यावरण की दृष्टि से ठीक नहीं है। ऐसा कहा जाता है कि शहरों में इलेक्ट्रिक और मैग्नेटिक फील्ड की किरणें इनकी प्रजनन क्षमता प्रभावित करती है, लेकिन कोई

रिसर्च न होने से इस कारण को माना नहीं जा सकता। उन्होंने कहा गौरैया जहां रहती है वही जगह उन्हें न मिले तो जाहिर सी बात है कि एक दिन विलुप्त हो जाएंगी। कुछ वर्षों में इनकी संख्या में करीब 90 प्रतिशत की गिरावट आई है।

ज्योतिषाचार्य अवध बैरागी भी 32 बरस से चिड़ियों को दाना दे रहे हैं। वे कहते हैं, इन्हीं के लिए घर में पेड़ लगवाए हैं। उन्होंने कहा गौरैया का कुन खाती हैं। दही जमाने वाले बर्तन में इनके लिए पानी रखता हूं। मेरे पास तोते भी झुंड में आकर बैठते हैं। कुछ ऐसा ही नजारा किरन भागव के घर का है। वे पति राम कुमार भागव के साथ दिन की शुरुआत इन्हीं पक्षियों के कलरवों के बीच करते हैं।



सुबह पांच के बाद यदि कमरा नहीं खुलता तो सैकड़ों चिड़िया इनके दरवाजे पर चोंच मारती हैं। वे कहती हैं, कुछ चिड़िया हमारे घर में 15-20

साल से रह रही हैं। प्रमुख सचिव वन्य जीव संरक्षण बीके पटनायक कहते हैं, सभी पक्षी कीड़े खाते हैं, जिससे इकोलाजिकल बैलेंस बना

## शहरों की ओर पलायन

पूर्व प्रमुख वन संरक्षक आरएल सिंह कहते हैं कि गौरैया अपना घोंसला नहीं बना पाती। आज यूं भी सीमेंट से बनने वाले घरों में कोई खाली जगह नहीं छोड़ी जाती। इसलिए ये गुम होती जा रही हैं। शहरों में गौरैया दाने और कोट पतंग खाकर जी रही है।

### आप भी कर सकते हैं प्रयास

आप भी अपने घर में गौरैया के लिए दाना और पानी रखें ताकि वह हमारे बीच से विलुप्त न हो जाए।

- छतों पर तिनकों के घोंसले बनाएं
- किसी पात्र में साफ पानी रखें
- चावल के टूटे दाने, काकून, बीज और दाने छत या मुंडेर पर रख दें।

रहता है लेकिन शहरीकरण के कारण ये लुप्त होने के कगार पर हैं। गौरैया के संरक्षण के लिए समाज के सभी लोगों को आगे आना चाहिए।

लखनऊ मंगलवार, 22 मार्च 2011 लखनऊ

## दिल में प्यार, आँगन में रखिए दाना, गौरैया चहचहाएगी!

शहरवासियों की विश्व गौरैया दिवस पर अनोखी पहल गौरैया की गणना कर जैव विविधता बोर्ड को भेजा ई-मेल

वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

लखनऊ

स्टडी हॉल में कक्षा 12 की छात्रा वार्तिका मेहरोत्रा के घर में गमलों के आसपास गौरैया फुदकती हैं। वह बताती हैं कि उनके परिवार की वर्षों पुरानी परम्परा है जिसमें पक्षियों के लिए दाना और पीने के लिए पानी रख दिया जाता है।

महिन्द्रा फाउनेंस कंपनी में अधिकारी अतुल कुमार गुप्ता के घर में उनकी पत्नी ने गौरैया के लिए घोंसला बना रखा है। इसमें वे गौरैया ही नहीं गिलहरियाँ और अन्य पक्षियों के लिए पानी और चावल के दाने नियमित रूप से रखती हैं।

तुषार मिश्रा के घर गुलाबी बोगेनवेलिया का पेड़ है। इसमें बड़ी संख्या में गौरैया रहती हैं। कभी-कभी बुलबुल का एक जोड़ा भी आ जाता है। कबूतर और दूसरे पक्षियों का भी आना-जाना लगा रहता है।

चेतन, वार्तिका, अतुल और तुषार उन दर्जनों लोगों में से कुछ नाम हैं जिन्होंने राज्य जैव विविधता बोर्ड की अधिकारी प्रतिभा सिंह को अपील पर होली के रोज रंग खेलने से पहले सुबह-सुबह उठकर विश्व गौरैया दिवस पर इस खूबसूरत पक्षी को न केवल गणना की बल्कि इनके कुछ बहुत खूबसूरत फोटोग्राफ भी खींच कर बोर्ड के ईमेल पर भेजे। प्रतिभा सिंह ने लोगों से सुबह सात बजे इस पक्षी को देखने और उनकी संख्या की जानकारी बोर्ड के ईमेल पर भी भेजने की अपील की थी। आईएफएस प्रतिभा सिंह अपील पर मिली



चारबाग स्थित चेतन मिश्रा के आँगन में रोज दर्जनों गौरैया फुदकती हैं। • हिन्दुस्तान



गौरैया को बुलाने की वार्तिका मेहरोत्रा और अतुल सिंह की कोशिश भी रंग लाई। • हिन्दुस्तान

प्रतिक्रिया से बेहद उत्साहित हैं। खासकर इसलिए कि लोगों ने होली के दिन रंग खेलने से पहले इस कर्तव्य को पूरा करने के लिए समय निकाला।

वार्तिका के यहाँ विश्व गौरैया दिवस पर इस पक्षी की संख्या करीब 10 थी तो अतुल सिंह ने करीब 50 गौरैया देखीं। तुषार मिश्रा ने नौ नर और आठ मादा गौरैया देखीं। अतुल ने बोर्ड को भेजे अपने ईमेल में लिखा है, 'सुबह जब मैं सोकर उठता हूँ तो खिड़की या दरवाजे पर चहचहाहट सुनाई देती है... ऐसा लगता हो कह रही हों कि मैं भूखी हूँ!' शेरवानी नगर सीतापुर रोड के रहने वाले डॉ. मुस्ताफा कमाल ने गौरैया तो नहीं देखीं लेकिन सुबह अखबारों में छपी अपील पढ़ने के बाद उन्होंने अंग्रेजी में एक कविता लिखकर बोर्ड को भेजी जिसमें उन्होंने गौरैया से जुड़ी बचपन की

यादें और आज हमारी जीवन शैली और तीर तुरीकों से रूठकर गायब हो जाने की पीड़ा को शब्द दिये हैं। डॉ. मुस्ताफा कमाल शिया पीजी कॉलेज के सेवानिवृत्त शिक्षक हैं। इसी तरह चीक के दर्जी की बगिया में रहने वाली देवयानी बाजोई के घर में एक पेड़ है जिसमें 100 से अधिक गौरैया हैं। उन्होंने लिखा है कि धार्मिक प्रवृत्ति के होने के कारण उनके पिता वर्षों से गौरैया व अन्य पक्षियों की देखभाल कर रहे हैं।...तभी ये यहाँ स्वच्छंद विचरण करती हैं। जेएनपीजी कॉलेज के शिक्षक आलोक मिश्रा, शक्तिनगर के फरहीन फारूकी, सहारा हॉस्पिटल की कंसल्टेंट डॉ. नीलम विनय निरालानगर में रहने वाले डॉ. मनीश खन्ना ने भी मेल भेजकर गौरैया के प्रति अपने लगाव और उनकी देखभाल के बारे में लिखा है।

## The Sparrow

A LITTLE bird, with plumage brown,  
Beside my window flutters down,  
A moment chirps its little strain,  
Then taps upon my window-pane,  
And chirps again, and hops along,  
To call my notice to its song;  
But I work on, nor heed its lay,  
Till, in neglect, it flies away.

So birds of peace and hope and love  
Come fluttering earthward from above,  
To settle on life's window-sills,  
And ease our load of earthly ills;  
But we, in traffic's rush and din  
Too deep engaged to let them in,  
With deadened heart and sense plod on,  
Nor know our loss till they are gone.

– Anonymous

# 10-Conferences, Trainings and Tours



1. National Seminar on **“Status of Biodiversity –Matter of Global Concern”** on 21st February 2011 organized jointly by Department of Botany, Shiv Pati Post Graduate College, Sohratgarh and Sohratgarh Environmental Society, Siddharthnagar, U.P: Dr. Ram Jee Srivastava, Sr. Scientist attended the seminar as Chief Guest and delivered a guest lecture on **“Climate Change and Biodiversity Status-Major Environmental Issues”**. Souvenir/Abstracts of Papers was also released on this occasion.
2. **The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity in India:** Stakeholder consultations at AP Shinde Symposium hall, NASC, PUSA, New Delhi was attended by Pratibha Singh, DCF. It included sessions on Financing Biodiversity in India, Introduction to TEEB by Haripriya Gundimeda, the 6 step TEEB approach by Dr Madhu Verma, and Relevance of TEEB for stakeholders by Pavan Sukhdev. The panel discussion on the second day was on four broad topics:
  1. Millenium ecosystem assessment – biodiversity and economic well being connect :landscape approach
  2. Biodiversity- relevance of attaching economic values and range of valuation tools and their applicability
  3. Climate Change concerns and biodiversity conservation
  4. Various market and institutional solutions to conserve biodiversity ecosystem services
3. **National Conference on Conservation of Sacred Groves to protect Local Biodiversity**, February 12 to Feb 14, 2011: Chennai. Shri.RK Dubey , ACF, took part in the conference organized by the CPR Environmental Education Centre .The programme was inaugurated by Shri.R. Sundararaju, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Forest Department, Government of Tamilnadu at Puthupet. Dr. P.S. Ramakrishnan, INSA Honorary Senior Scientist, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, delivered the keynote address. During the conference, 38 eminent speakers presented their papers on specific issues of the sacred groves.
4. **Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau, Maharajganj and Gorakhpur** Forest Divisions of Uttar Pradesh-26th and 27th January 2011. Shri R.K. Dubey, ACF, visited different ranges of above mentioned forest divisions in Uttar Pradesh for formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC's) and to study the floristic diversity of sacred groves, if any, in the area.

# 11- Newspaper Clippings

## (i) International News

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 06, 2011

### This bird used its wings as weapon

Press Trust of India

letters@hindustantimes.com

**WASHINGTON:** Paleontologists have discovered a chicken-sized prehistoric bird which they say used its club-like wings as a weapon during a fight.

The bird, called Xenicibis, is believed to be a member of the ibis family and lived in the Jamaican region about ten thousand years ago, said the Yale University and Smithsonian Institution research team that made the discovery.



■ Xenicibis

According to the researchers, Xenicibis used its specialised wings like a flail, swinging its

upper arm and striking its enemies with its thick hand bones.

"No animal has ever evolved anything quite like this," said Nicholas Longrich of Yale University, who led the study.

"We don't know of any other species that uses its body like a flail. It's the most specialised weaponry of any bird I've ever seen."

As part of the new study, appeared in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B journal, the team analysed a number of recently discovered par-

tial skeletons of Xenicibis and found that the wings were drastically different from anything they had seen before.

"When I first saw it, I assumed it was some sort of deformity," Longrich said. "No one could believe it was actually that bizarre."

The bird, which was the size of a large chicken, is anatomically similar to other members of the ibis family except for its wings, which include thick, curved hand bones unlike those of any other known bird.

**Jan 6, 2011:** Xenicibis, a prehistoric bird and a member of the Ibis family used its specialized wings like a flail, swinging its upper arm and striking its enemies with its thick hand bones.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

### Frog last seen in 1874 found again

Chetan Chauhan

chetan@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** India's dwindling wildlife got a boost when biologists in Tamil Nadu found a frog after 136 years, the oldest rediscovery in the global wildlife history.

Five frogs lost 30 to 136 years ago have been found, earning India acclaim from International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Conservation International, two leading global wildlife groups.

The most amazing discovery is of the striking green fluorescent frog, known as Chalazodes Bubble-nest, which was last seen in south Western Ghats in 1874. Its only specimen in the world is in a British Museum.

"After 1874 the amphibian has now been seen in Kodayar, Tamil Nadu," said Dr S D Biju, biologist with



■ Chalazodes Bubble-nest found after 136 years.

HT PHOTO

Delhi University and coordinator for an ambitious project of department of science and technology to rediscover lost 50 Indian amphibian species. India has 321 recorded amphibian species of which 13% have been lost due to human interference.

The uniqueness of the Bubble-nest is its ash blue thighs and black pupils with golden patches and its

secret life, especially during the day inside the reeds. It is a frog, which does not go through the free-swimming tadpole stage.

The second discovery from south Western Ghats of Anamalai is the Dot-frog, named after Anamalai hills, where they were last seen 73 years ago. Now it has been found in Parambikulam area of Kerala.

A silent amphibian, Dot-frogs croak loudly only during monsoons, especially when its hiding places get filled up with water.

While the first two discoveries were by scientists, Delhi University graduate students rediscovered Dehradun Stream Frog after a gap of 25 years in Chakrata, Uttarakhand.

The fourth and the fifth rediscovery of Silent Valley Tropical Frog, last seen 30 years ago, and Elegant Tropical Frog, last seen 73 years ago, were in Kerala and Karnataka, respectively.

India launched Lost Amphibians Initiative with support of former cricketer Anil Kumble and other global partners in 2010 to trace 50 lost species, of which five have been rediscovered. "We are working towards finding the remaining 45," Biju said.

**Feb 17, 2011:** Dr S D Biju of Delhi University has reported the fluorescent frog, *Chalazodes bubble-nest* last seen in the Western Ghats in 1874! (After over 136 years!).

This is being done under the "Lost Amphibians initiative" with global partners to trace 50 species of which five have been rediscovered.

# Has the Earth's sixth mass extinction already arrived?

With the steep decline in populations of many animal species, from frogs and fish to tigers, some scientists have warned that Earth is on the brink of a mass extinction like those that occurred only five times before during the past 540 million years.

Each of these 'Big Five' saw three-quarters or more of all animal species go extinct.

In a study published today (March 3) in *Nature*, University of California, Berkeley, paleobiologists assess where mammals and other species stand today in terms of possible extinction, compared with the past 540 million years, and they find cause for hope as well as alarm.

## Risk of extinction

"If you look only at the critically endangered mammals — those where the risk of extinction is at least 50 per cent within three of their generations — and assume that their time will run out, and they will be extinct in 1,000 years, that puts us clearly outside any range of normal, and tells us that we are moving into the mass extinction

realm," said principal author Anthony D. Barnosky, UC Berkeley professor of integrative biology, a curator in the Museum of Paleontology and a research paleontologist in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

"If currently threatened species — those officially classed as critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable — actually went extinct, and that rate of extinction continued, the sixth mass extinction could arrive within as little as 3 to 22 centuries," he said.

## Not too late

Nevertheless, Barnosky added, it's not too late to save these critically endangered mammals and other such species and stop short of the tipping point. That would require dealing with a perfect storm of threats, including habitat fragmentation, invasive species, disease and global warming.

"So far, only 1 to 2 per cent of all species have gone extinct in the groups we can look at clearly, so by those numbers, it looks like we are not far down the road to ex-



**THE DANGER:** Critically endangered mammals are at a risk of going extinct in 1,000 years. — PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM

ting. We still have a lot of Earth's biota to save," Barnosky said. "It's very important to devote resources and legislation toward species conservation if we don't want to be the species whose activity caused a mass extinction."

Coauthor Charles Marshall, UC Berkeley professor of integrative biology and director of the campus's Museum of Paleontology, emphasized that the small number of recorded extinctions to date does not mean

we are not in a crisis.

"Just because the magnitude is low compared to the biggest mass extinctions we've seen in a half a billion years doesn't mean to say that they aren't significant," he said.

"Even though the magnitude is fairly low, present rates are higher than during most past mass extinctions."

"The modern global mass extinction is a largely unaddressed hazard of climate change and human activ-

ities," said H. Richard Lane, program director in the National Science Foundation's Division of Earth Sciences, which funded the research. "Its continued progression, as this paper shows, could result in unforeseen — and irreversible — negative consequences to the environment and to humanity."

The study originated in a graduate seminar Barnosky organized in 2009 to bring biologists and paleontologists together in an attempt to compare the extinction rate seen in the fossil record with today's extinction record. "These are 'like comparing apples and oranges,'" Barnosky said. For one thing, the fossil record goes back 3.5 billion years, while the historical record goes back only a few thousand years. In addition, the fossil record has many holes, making it impossible to count every species that evolved and subsequently disappeared, which probably amounts to 99 per cent of all species that have ever existed. A different set of data problems complicates counting modern extinctions.

Dating of the fossil record

also is not very precise, Marshall said.

"If we find a mass extinction, we have great difficulty determining whether it was a bad weekend or it occurred over a decade or 10,000 years," he said. "But without the fossil record, we really have no scale to measure the significance of the impact we are having."

To get around this limitation, Marshall said, "This paper, instead of calculating a single death rate, estimates the range of plausible rates for the mass extinctions from the fossil record and then compares these rates to where we are now."

Mammals were chosen as a starting point as they are well studied and well represented in the fossil record going back some 65 million years. Biologists estimate that within the past 500 years, at least 80 mammal species have gone extinct out of a starting total of 5,570 species.

The team's estimate for the average extinction rate for mammals is less than two extinctions every million years, far lower than the current extinction rate for mammals.

"It looks like modern extinction rates resemble mass extinction rates, even after setting a high bar for defining 'mass extinction,'" Barnosky said.

After looking at the list of threatened species maintained by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the team concluded that if all mammals now listed as 'critically endangered,' 'endangered' and 'threatened' go extinct, whether that takes several hundred years or 1,000 years, Earth will be in a true 'mass extinction.'

"Obviously there are caveats," Barnosky said. "What we know is based on observations from just a very few twigs plucked from the enormous number of branches that make up the tree of life."

"Our findings highlight how essential it is to save critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable species," Barnosky added. If most of them die, even if their disappearance is stretched out over the next 1,000 years, the sixth mass extinction will have arrived." — University of California, Berkeley

**Mar 3, 2011 :** There is little doubt left in the minds of professional biologists that Earth is currently faced with a mounting loss of species that threatens to rival the five great mass extinctions of the geological past. As long ago as 1993, Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson estimated that Earth is currently losing something on the order of 30,000 species per year — which breaks down to the even more daunting statistic of some three species per hour. Some biologists have begun to feel that this biodiversity crisis — this "Sixth Extinction" — is even more severe, and more imminent, than Wilson had supposed.

Palaeontologists characterize mass extinctions as times when the Earth loses more than three-quarters of its species in a geologically short interval, as has happened only five times in the past 540 million years or so. Biologists now suggest that a sixth mass extinction may be under way, given the known species losses over the past few centuries and millennia. Their results confirm that current extinction rates are higher than would be expected from the fossil record, highlighting the need for effective conservation measures.

- Almost 440 million years ago, some 85 percent of marine animal species were wiped out in the earth's **first known mass extinction**.
- Roughly, 367 million years ago, once again many species of fish and 70 percent of marine invertebrates perished in the **second extinction event**.
- Then about 245 million years ago, up to 95 percent of all animals—nearly the entire animal kingdom—were lost in what is thought to be the worst extinction in history- **the third extinction**.
- Some 208 million years ago, another (**fourth**) mass extinction took a toll primarily on sea creatures, but also some land animals.
- And in the **fifth mass extinction**, 65 million years ago, three quarters of all species—including the dinosaurs—were eliminated.

After each extinction, it took upwards of 10 million years for biological richness to recover. Yet once a species is gone, it is gone forever. The consensus among biologists is that we now are moving toward another mass extinction that could rival the past big five. This potential sixth great extinction is unique in that **it is caused largely by the activities of a single species**. It is the first mass extinction that humans will witness firsthand—and not just as innocent bystanders.

# Newspaper Clippings

## (ii) National News

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011

### New breeding centre soon for Siberian cranes at Keoladeo Park

The last pair of Siberian cranes was spotted here in 2002

Sunny Sebastian

**JAIPUR:** About a decade after the celebrated Siberian cranes ceased to visit the Keoladeo National Park near Bharatpur in Rajasthan, the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests is planning to take up a captive breeding programme for the rare birds in the same terrain. The last pair of Siberian cranes was spotted at the national park in 2002.

It is believed that the flock, which visited South Asia from distant Siberia every winter, is extinct, though there are a few birds left in two other flocks that migrate to Iran and China.

Union Environment and Forests Minister Jairam Ramesh, who was at the national park to attend a workshop on wetland conservation in connection with the World Wetland Day celebrations on

- It is believed the flock which visited South Asia from Siberia each winter is extinct
- There are, however, a few birds left in two other flocks that migrate to Iran, China

Wednesday, said the 29 sq. km. wetland's unique identity as the abode of Siberian cranes could be maintained with such a breeding centre.

"The Siberian crane was the identity of the park. The grown-ups have seen them here, but the young generation does not, any more, identify the place with those birds," Mr. Ramesh said.

Though the project is at a very preliminary stage at present, the Minister said initially the birds would be brought from a breeding centre in Belgium.

Experts, including those from the International Crane Foundation and the World-

wide Fund for Nature, would be involved in the programme.

"We will try to get the new flock reared here to follow the flyway of the wild Siberian cranes, which used to visit Keoladeo in abundance in the past century," he noted.

Mr. Ramesh also made known his intention to shift the lone tiger which intruded the bird sanctuary in October to the Sariska Tiger Reserve.

Ever since C.P.I. the first male tiger relocated to Sariska from Ranthambore, was found dead two months ago, allegedly due to poisoning, the opinion has been gaining

ground that T-7, the truant male tiger, should be moved to the tiger sanctuary, its rightful place.

The Minister said the shifting of the tiger could take place any time now. A team of experts from the Wildlife Institute of India would be sent to the park in February itself to tranquilise the tiger.

In fact, the irrepressible Mr. Ramesh tried to see the "rogue" tiger in Keoladeo during his current trip, but that did not materialise. T-7 had mauled a Range Officer in Ranthambore before setting out again on his wanderings towards the Rajasthan-Uttar Pradesh border.

"This tiger shifts its location almost daily. This day, it is seemingly in some other area," park field director Anoop K.R. told *The Hindu* from Bharatpur.

Mr. Ramesh hoped that with the funds allocated by

the Centre — Rs.52 crore — the inflow of 400 million cubic feet water would be ensured for the national park from the proposed Govardhan Drain Project. "I expect the park to receive the water from the Chambal River in another four-five months time," he said.

Mr. Ramesh also appealed to the officials from various States, who were present at the workshop, to get ready the details of the wetlands in their areas. At present, the country has 115 notified wetlands, for which the Centre is providing funds for upkeep, he noted.

The event was attended by Rajasthan's Principal Chief Conservators of Forests R.N. Mehrotra, U.M. Sahai and H.M. Bhatia, Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forests M.F. Farooqui and Adviser to the Ministry Siddharth Kaul.

**Feb 3, 2011:** The last pair of Siberian Cranes was last seen in Bharatpur Sanctuary, Rajasthan in 2002. Union Minister of Environment and Forests, attending a workshop on wetland conservation said the birds would initially be brought from a breeding center from Belgium. He also appealed to officers from various states to get ready details of wetlands of their areas. At present, the country has 115 notified wetlands for which the center provides funds for upkeep.

THE HINDU • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011

### Jairam cancels field trials of Bt maize

Minister's intervention came after Nitish said he was opposed to such trials

Gargi Parsal

**NEW DELHI:** Even as the moratorium on commercialisation of Bt brinjal stands, Union Environment and Forests Minister Jairam Ramesh has asked the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) to immediately withdraw its permission to Monsanto for field trials of Bt maize in Bihar.

Bt brinjal was the first, and maize is the second food crop for which the GEAC has given permission for field trials in India.

Mr. Ramesh's intervention came after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar told him personally that he was "opposed" to field trials of Bt maize — a food crop — in Bihar as he was not aware of the risks involved and wanted the GEAC to withdraw its permission.

**Letter to GEAC chief**

In a letter written to the GEAC chief on March 5, Mr. Ramesh said, "Bihar CM's

- Move comes even as moratorium on commercialisation of Bt brinjal stands
- Permission should be withdrawn for all States, not just Bihar: BKU leader

phone call reinforces my belief that biotech regulation, particularly in the field of agriculture (and food crops especially) cannot be a purely scientific enterprise.

"There are political considerations that will come into play and I use that term in its best people-oriented sense. Regulation in telecom or insurance cannot be equated with regulation in food crop-oriented biotechnology."

**A State subject**

In a significant move, the Minister has asked the GEAC to give a State government at least one month's time to agree or disagree with field trials for genetically-modified (GM) crops given the fact that agriculture is a State subject.

In fact, ideally, prior approval of the State concerned should be taken before allowing GM crop field trials.

**GEAC cleared**

**BT corn field trials**

The GEAC, in December 2010, gave permission for field trials of BRL-II of Bt corn developed by Monsanto at five locations for rabi 2011 — Bihar (two locations), Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Corn is considered an extremely important crop in Bihar.

India accounts for about three per cent of world maize

production. Bihar accounts for 10 per cent, after Andhra Pradesh (17 per cent), Rajasthan (14 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (12 per cent).

**'Absolutely shocking'**

Reacting to the permission given for Bt maize trials, Suman Sahai of Gene Campaign, who was awarded Padamshri this year, said, "This is absolutely shocking, coming as it does under the shadow of the review of Bt brinjal, the first food crop to be introduced in India. It is deceitful."

Kavita Kuruganti of Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture, expressed concern that "regulators and the government were not heeding democratic and scientific voices about safety aspects of GM crops."

Bhartiya Kisan Union general secretary Yudhvir Singh said: "Permission has been given surreptitiously. This is not right. We strongly oppose it. The permission should be withdrawn for all States, not just Bihar."

**Mar 9, 2011:** The Union Minister for environment and Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh has immediately asked the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee to withdraw its permission to Monsanto for field trials for **Bt Maize** in Bihar. The moratorium on commercialization of **Bt Brinjal** stands.

# In a first of its kind in Asia, an asylum for camels

Sunny Sebastian

**JAIPUR:** An exclusive asylum for ailing camels has come up at Bassi, 30 km from here on the Jaipur-Agra road. Reportedly the first of its kind in Asia, the Camel Rescue Centre, set up by voluntary agency Help in Suffering (HIS), will provide veterinary and rescue facilities to the Ship of the Desert which symbolises the State of Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Tourism Minister Bina Kak formally inaugurated the centre over the weekend. "This is a much-needed sanctuary for camels in the Jaipur neighbourhood. I appreciate the initiative," Ms. Kak said. The ELSU Foundation in Switzerland and the Animaux Secours in France have funded the project by way of donating the land and building costs.

The camel culture of Rajasthan is unique as, rather than a source of food, as is mostly the case outside India, the animal is only meant for transportation in this desert State. Apart from be-

ing an important and ecologically sound means of transport and traction, camels are also a major attraction for tourists. As per a recent estimate of the Pali-based LIFE (Local Livestock for Empowerment of Rural People) Network, the population of camels has halved during the past one decade — from over a million to less than 500,000, and the decline is still on.

The facilities at the centre include a clinic, hospital, feed storage place, a waiting area for camel owners, residences for vets and compounders, library and a laboratory. "The rescue centre is located in an area on the Agra road, where many camels live and work. The place needs veterinary and rescue facilities for these neglected animals and their owners," said project-in-charge and veterinarian Pradeep Singhal.

The centre will have 24-hour presence of a doctor and compounder. Eleven sheds, which can accommodate one camel each, are be-

ing prepared. The Rescue Centre has been designed and constructed by Ashima Gupta and Ravi Gupta as their donation towards assistance to camels.

HIS Managing Trustee Timmie Kumar informed that the centre, which was in the making for some time, would add to the health of camels in the area and improve the economic condition of camel breeders, who otherwise lack a support system in this fast changing world. Ms. Kumar said HIS, a registered animal charity organisation in Rajasthan since 2001, has been conducting camel welfare programmes to help the poorest and most marginalised village people, whose livelihood depends on their camel.

Over the decade the organisation has provided 42,000 treatments and de-worming of 17,500 camels. The HIS camel team has also fixed reflectors to nearly 12,000 camel carts, thus greatly reducing the likelihood of night time collision on the Jaipur-Agra road.

**Mar 15, 2011:** A camel rescue center has been set up at Bassi, 30 km from Jaipur to take care of camels. It includes a hospital, feed storage place, waiting area for camels, laboratory, residences for vets and compounders and a library. It will be run by the NGO HIS (Help In Suffering).

INDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW  
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011

## THE TIGER FAMILY IS GROWING

The number of big cats has grown, but their space is shrinking

# 1,706

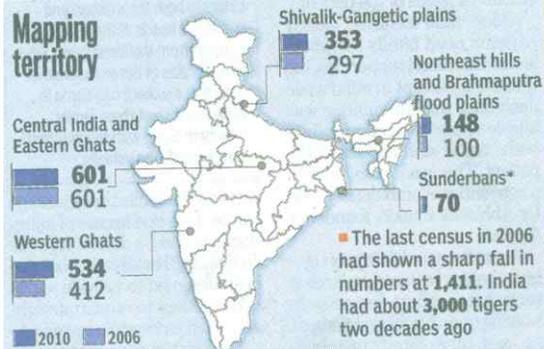
is the number of tigers in India, according to the latest count released Monday. It marks an increase of 295 from 2006



■ The three-phased census cost ₹9.1 crore.

FILE PHOTO.

### Mapping territory



### Big cat's li'l jump in UP

■ The tiger population has gone up from 109 to 118 in the state. 109

was counted during 2007 census. ■ The big cat's population in the Shivalik-Gangetic plane has gone up by 56. Earlier it was 297.

### Habitat a concern

# 72,800

 sq km

is the area in which tigers were found. Three years ago, the area was 93,600 sq km

■ Habitat could shrink further if the government goes ahead with new development projects. Environment minister Jairam Ramesh has sought more money for conservation of tigers and relocation » P7  
\*Included in the census for the first time

■ There has been 18% increase in the tiger population in Uttar Pradesh.

» P5

**March 29, 2011:** The latest Tiger count in the country has estimated the numbers to be around 1706. It marks an increase of 295 since the last count when the count was about 1411. This number has been derived after extensive analysis of data generated through camera traps and local prey population

# More tigers, less space

**COUNT** The number of big cats in India has increased from 1,411 to 1,706 in 4 years but their habitat has shrunk by two million hectares

**Chetan Chauhan**  
chetan@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Call it a tiger paradox. The number of tigers in India has increased from 1,411 to 1,706 in four years but the total tiger area has shrunk from nine million hectares to seven million hectares.

The tiger estimation based on camera trap and DNA testing was done after a gap of four years and new areas such as Sunderbans and parts of Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Northeast were included for the first time.

Despite this, south India and Terai region in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh accounted for about 40% of tigers in India. South India now has the world's highest concentration of tigers whereas Corbett with around 220 tigers has the highest tiger density in a reserve.

There was no change in the number of big cats in the Central India — touted as the tiger capital — with decline in their num-

bers in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand and an increase in Maharashtra, which has surprised the wildlife experts.

"We don't agree with the number as of now," said P S Pabla, MP's Chief Wildlife Warden. There was also dissent on the estimation from Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Sunderbans, who doubted the methodology of the study. There were 150 tigers in Sunderbans as compared to 70 in the present estimation.

P R Sinha, director of Wildlife Institute of India, which conducted the estimation, said the number has been derived after extensive analysis of data generated through camera traps and local prey population. "The



number of tigers has to be in proportion to the prey available," he told HT.

On the science front, K Ullas Karanth, director Centre for Wildlife Studies, said the full process of how these tiger numbers were generated for individual tiger populations and landscapes, has not been made public in a scientifically acceptable manner. "Only one scien-

tific paper, which explains only a part of this protocol, has been published in 2011, based on data from the last round of estimation in 2007," he said.

"One in every four sq kms of tiger area has been camera trapped," Environment minister Jairam Ramesh said, after releasing the estimation at a global conference of tiger experts.

For Ramesh, the increase was a "mixed bag" as tiger home had fallen by about two million hectares and most tiger corridors were highly fragmented. It has resulted in more tiger deaths because of infighting and tiger-human conflict from Kaziranga in Assam to Corbett in Uttarakhand to Ranthambore in Rajasthan.

## MORE TIGERS IN SUNDERBANS

**NEW DELHI:** For a change, India and Bangladesh were on one wavelength saying the Wildlife Institute of India has failed to estimate tiger population in Sunderbans correctly. Sunderbans tiger reserve director Subrato Mukerjee said the tiger population on the Indian side of Sunderbans was much more than 70 as against the West Bengal government's estimate of 150. "The radio collar and camera trap did not work for months," he said.

His Bangladeshi counterpart raised a similar pitch saying that it would mean much lesser tigers in Sunderbans in Bangladesh, where estimate is of 250 tigers.

This forced V Jhala, the WII scientist, to explain the methodology but the two were not satisfied.

HTC

**We don't agree with the number as of now**

**PS PABLA**  
Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh

**The number of tigers has to be in proportion to the prey available**

**PR SINHA**  
director, Wildlife Institute of India

**They (tigers) need annual ecological monitoring for protection**

**K ULLAS KARANATH**  
director, Centre for Wildlife Studies

According to the second all-India tiger population estimation study, carried out in the designated 39 tiger reserves across the country, there has been an increase of 295 tigers in India. In the latest estimation, Karnataka has overtaken Madhya Pradesh, as the State with the most number of tigers. Tamil Nadu has seen a big jump, while Andhra Pradesh has gone down. More than 4,76,000 forest personnel were involved in data collection. Total cost of this count was Rs. 9.1 core.

## SALIENT FEATURES OF 2010 ASSESSMENT

1. Forest personnel involved in data collection: ~4,76,000
2. Number of forest beats sampled in Phase I: 29,772
3. Total distance walked in Phase I: ~6,25,000 km
4. More than 27,300 man-days of researchers
5. Total camera traps used: ~800
6. Total area camera-trapped: ~10,500 sq. km.
7. Number of individual tigers camera trapped: 550
8. Total cost: Rs. 9.1 crore

# Newspaper Clippings

## (iii) State News

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW  
TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011

# UP tiger count also on the rise

Pawan Dixit

pawan.dixit@hindustantimes.com

**LUCKNOW:** At last there is something to cheer about for the state forest officials. The overall tiger population has gone up in the state, albeit marginally.

From 109 in the 2007 tiger census, the feline population has gone up to 118 in the state, registering a marginal increase of nine tigers.

But this increase has been in the main tiger hubs of the state. These areas are Pilibhit, Kishanpur, Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur Kheri and Katerniaghat wildlife reserve. In the last census the feline count only in these areas was 95.

Union forest minister Jairam Ramesh released the Tiger Census report 2011 in New Delhi on Monday. The report states that the feline population in the Sivalik-Gangetic plane has gone up by 56, talking the total figure to 353. This region comprises more than 5000 sq km of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Bihar.

There is no state-wise break up of the feline population in the report. But principal chief conservator of forest (wildlife) BK Patnaik, while expressing satisfaction over the Tiger Census report, attributed several reasons behind the marginal increase in tiger population in the state.

"There is 18% increase in feline population in the state in areas famous for tiger popula-



tion which include Dudhwa National Park and its extended territories," Patnaik told HT over phone from New Delhi.

"In the last census, Sohagi Barwa region having substantial tiger population was included in Uttar Pradesh," he said adding, "But in this tiger census the region was bifurcated between UP and a portion of it went to the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar."

Offering another reason for overall marginal increase of tiger population in the state, Patnaik said, "The Sohelwa region at the Indo-Nepal border has a floating tiger population. As tigers in the region constantly move between India and Nepal, so their population in this region could not be ascertained," he added.

To keep the tiger count growing, the principal chief conservator of forest (wildlife) promised tough measures against poachers and encroachments in wildlife reserves in the state.

# Count Sparrows This Sunday

Also Called 'Gauraiya' That Nests In Residential Areas Is Disappearing Fast

**JOIN HANDS, SAVE SPARROWS**

**PLANT HEDGES HAVE ALL GONE**

This cutting down on places where sparrows could preen their feathers, rest, and hide from predators

Increased use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers has led to serious decline in number of farmland birds and house sparrow is no exception

Citizens have a major role to play in the conservation of the bird. By doing simple things like providing home, water and food, the birds can be saved. Water put in a bowl or plate on the terrace or balcony of the house will save a lot of thirsty birds from dying in summers.

Pratibha Singh, DFO, state biodiversity board, said, "There may be cases where people fail to spot even a single sparrow but, at least that will help them realise that common house sparrow is no longer that common."

The distinctive house sparrow (passer domesticus) is one of the earliest birds which all of us remember from our childhood days. Popularly known as 'Gauraiya', the bird that used to nest in residential areas is disappearing fast. The reasons are mostly man-made. The decrease in their numbers is uniform over the regions and areas. Statistically there has been a decline of one or two per cent with each passing year.

Citizens have a major role to play in the conservation of the bird. By doing simple things like providing home, water and food, the birds can be saved. Water put in a bowl or plate on the terrace or balcony of the house will save a lot of thirsty birds from dying in summers. Birds require water for bathing and a water pot in balcony will help birds meet this ecological need as well. Besides, keeping beira or broken rice in an open space will provide them food. However, things like these should be done with religious regularity as birds have the natural affinity to return to the same place each time they feed the need for food, water or shelter.

Notably, it was on the initiative of MoEF that March 20 was celebrated as the WSD for the first time in 2010. Presently, MoEF is funding a three-year project of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) on sparrow conservation. The project involves surveying urban landscapes and identifying suitable habitats for birds.

**YOU CAN SAVE THEM BY**

**Providing homes**

- By simply hanging a shoe-box in your balcony
- Drill a hole in it, about 4 cms in diameter and sparrows will take to it as their nest

**Providing water**

- Water in bowl or plate will save a lot of thirsty birds from dying in summers
- It will not need more than filling in fresh water every day
- Birds require water for bathing
- Water pot in your balcony will help birds meet this ecological need as well

**Providing food**

- Keep beira or broken rice in an open space
- Avoid feeding sparrows stale leftover
- But, if you do anyone of it, do with religious regularity
- Birds have the natural affinity to return to the same place each time they feel the need for food, water or shelter
- It might have flown miles to quench its thirst at your balcony pot...

**WORLD SPARROW DAY (MARCH 20)**

**ROBIN MULLICH**  
www.biodiversityboard.org

**Mar 18, 2010:** An appeal was made to the public through newspapers to count and report the number of sparrows they see on Sunday, March 20, to create awareness about the common sparrow.

# City feels for its feathered friends

**OVERWHELMING RESPONSE** Biodiversity board gets innumerable posts showing concern over dwindling population of sparrows

**Save them now, only you can do it!**

**A POEM**

Oh dear small sparrow, but where have you gone? Are you angry with our sins, with our tank, gun and jeep? Come back, oh my friends, I am waiting with love for you. Since infancy you were my joy, you used to come before my eyes. How I enjoyed it beyond my words, your chirping sounds had much to say. When I study needed you were like a child of this green or open, you have left me hollow my dear. Why you left me out at this stage? My house is waiting a distant look and home, if I have some harm, please return to it in your usual form, with your melody and sweet its last. — by Dr. Mustafa Kamal Sherawat

**What inspired me to write these lines was the news item on sparrows published in HT, Lucknow edition dated March 20, 2011.**

**Citizens can do their bit in saving the bird. By doing simple things like providing home, water and food, the birds can be protected.**

**DR. MUSTAFA KAMAL SHERAWAT, A BIRD LOVER**

**DR. SHEKHAR SHARMA, CONSULTANT WITH SAKARA HOSPITAL**

**What inspired me to write these lines was the news item on sparrows published in HT, Lucknow edition dated March 20, 2011. This exercise is just one example, which explains good participation by people.**

**DR. SHEKHAR SHARMA OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE BOARD**

**ROBIN MULLICH**  
www.biodiversityboard.org

**March 21, 2010:** The UP State Biodiversity Board got many responses from public about the sparrows they had seen and recorded.

## Population Estimate of Tigers in India, 2010

Sl. No	District	Total Number 2010	Lower SE	Upper SE
1.	Uttarakhand	227	199	256
2.	Uttar Pradesh	118	113	124
3.	Bihar	8	8	8
4.	Andhra Pradesh	72	65	79
5.	Chattisgarh	26	24	27
6.	Madhya Pradesh	257	213	301
7.	Maharashtra	169	160	196
8.	Orissa	32	20	44
9.	Rajasthan	36	35	37
10.	Jharkhand	10	6	14
11.	Karnataka	300	280	320
12.	Kerala	71	67	75
13.	Tamil Nadu	163	153	173
14.	Assam	143	113	173
15.	Mizoram	5	5	5
16.	Sunderbans	148	118	178
<b>Total</b>		<b>1706</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>1875</b>

**अपना सपना साकार कर**

**इलाहाबाद बैंक**  
पेश करता है

**त्योहारों पर विशेष उपहार**

प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क में 50% की छूट\*

- गृह ऋण**: ब्याज दर में 1.00% तक की छूट
- गृह सौज-सज्जा ऋण**: ब्याज दर में 1.00% तक की छूट
- डॉक्टरों हेतु व्यक्तिगत ऋण**: ब्याज दर में 1.50% तक की छूट
- सरल ऋण**: ब्याज दर में 1.50% तक की छूट
- कार ऋण**: ब्याज दर में 1.50% तक की छूट
- पेशानरों हेतु व्यक्तिगत ऋण**: ब्याज दर में 1.50% तक की छूट

जल्दी करें यह पेशकश 31 दिसम्बर, 2011 तक ही उपलब्ध

हम ऊँचा आपके साथ

**इलाहाबाद बैंक** **ALLAHABAD BANK**  
A tradition of trust  
www.allahabadbank.in

Published by:

**Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board,**  
East wing, Illrd Floor, A Block, PICUP Bhawan,  
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow  
Phone : 0522-2306491, 4006746  
Email: upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com

### Editorial Board

**Pratibha Singh**, IFS, UPSBB, Lucknow; **Dr. D. C. Saini**,  
BSIP, Lucknow; **Dr. Ram Jee Srivastava**, UPSBB, Lucknow;  
**Shri R.K. Dubey**, UPSBB, Lucknow; **Shri K. K. Tiwari**, UPSBB,  
Lucknow; **Shri Ashok Kashyap**, UPSBB, Lucknow.