SATPURA Saga

Volume 2 / April - June 2026

From Recovery to Resilience

FIRST SCIENTIFIC SURVEY

Reveals Healthy Mugger Population in Satpura

While Satpura Tiger Reserve is celebrated for its thriving tiger population and rich terrestrial biodiversity, its freshwater ecosystems have remained relatively unexplored. To bridge this knowledge gap, Satpura Tiger Reserve conducted its first systematic Mugger Crocodile Population Survey during **13–17 May 2026** across the Kamti and Churna Ranges. Covering 46.3 km of nocturnal boat transects along the Tawa Reservoir and 21 inland waterbodies through daytime surveys, the exercise documented **73 Mugger Crocodiles, including 52 individuals in the Tawa Reservoir system and 21 individuals in inland ponds, dykes, and wetlands**.

The survey revealed that Satpura's aquatic habitats support a breeding Mugger population and that inland waterbodies play a critical role as nursery habitats. Muggers were recorded from **11 of the 21 surveyed waterbodies,** with Renipani Talab supporting the highest concentration of young crocodiles, including four yearlings and one juvenile, highlighting its importance for recruitment. The coexistence of Mugger Crocodiles with the Gangetic Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia gangetica*) in several wetlands further reflects the ecological health of these freshwater ecosystems. At the same time, observations of crocodiles congregating near fishing gillnets underscore the need for targeted protection measures to reduce accidental mortality.

More than a population count, this landmark survey establishes the first scientific baseline for long-term monitoring of Mugger Crocodiles in Satpura Tiger Reserve. The findings will guide future conservation planning, annual monitoring, habitat management, and protection of critical breeding and nursery habitats. By expanding its conservation focus from forests to freshwater ecosystems, Satpura Tiger Reserve has taken another significant step towards safeguarding the full spectrum of biodiversity that makes this landscape one of India's most remarkable protected areas.





A FLOATING SHIELD FOR SATPURA'S RIVERS



In a pioneering initiative to combat plastic pollution in one of Central India's most pristine forest landscapes, Satpura Tiger Reserve, in collaboration with the Pachmarhi Cantonment Board and the Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), with support from BNP Paribas, has installed the region's first Floating Trash Barrier. Pachmarhi, the only hill station located within the landscape of a tiger reserve, receives lakhs of tourists and pilgrims every year. During the monsoon, plastic waste generated in the town is washed into streams that flow through the reserve before joining the Denwa River and eventually the Tawa Reservoir, an important freshwater source for the region. The innovative floating barrier has been strategically installed at a major drainage channel to intercept plastic waste before it reaches these ecologically sensitive waterways. Unlike conventional barriers, it adapts to changing water levels while allowing the free movement of fish, otters, crocodiles, and other aquatic wildlife beneath it, ensuring that conservation does not come at the cost of ecological connectivity.

The initiative reflects Satpura Tiger Reserve's commitment to protecting not only its forests and flagship wildlife but also the health of its freshwater ecosystems. Long-term maintenance of the barrier, including waste collection, segregation, and scientific monitoring, will be undertaken by the Pachmarhi Cantonment Board, while camera traps and regular inspections will evaluate its effectiveness. The project also serves as a model for addressing plastic pollution at other vulnerable locations, including the Nagdwari pilgrimage route, where seasonal waste poses similar challenges. By preventing plastic from entering rivers at its source, this collaborative effort marks a significant step towards safeguarding Satpura's rivers, wetlands, aquatic biodiversity, and the communities downstream that depend upon these lifelines.

A NEW CHAPTER IN RIVER BIRD CONSERVATION

Indian Skimmers Breed in Satpura

The sandy islands of the Tawa Reservoir in Satpura Tiger Reserve have long attracted the graceful Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*), one of India's most endangered riverine birds. While forest staff and bird enthusiasts had occasionally observed breeding behaviour in previous years, the 2026 breeding season marks the first time nesting has been systematically documented through scientific monitoring, GPS mapping, continuous videography, photography, and detailed field observations. This comprehensive documentation provides the first robust scientific evidence of the species' breeding ecology in the Satpura landscape and establishes an important baseline for future conservation. Globally, only about **2,450–2,900** mature Indian Skimmers remain, making every breeding colony crucial for the survival of this Endangered species.

During routine boat patrolling in April 2026, forest staff recorded a flock of Indian Skimmers on an exposed sandbar in the Tawa Reservoir. Subsequent monitoring documented 15 individuals, four active nests, and **12 eggs**, with the birds nesting alongside River Terns and Small Pratincoles on the reservoir's seasonal sandbars. To minimise disturbance while ensuring continuous monitoring, solar-powered cameras were installed and local community members, along with frontline forest staff, were engaged as "Nest Guardians." Their dedicated efforts provided valuable insights into courtship behaviour, nest construction, incubation, and the challenges faced by this ground-nesting bird.

The study also highlighted the fragile nature of the species' breeding success, documenting threats from natural predators such as Golden Jackals and recording the successful hatching of one chick. More importantly, it demonstrates that the Tawa Reservoir offers high-quality breeding habitat for the Indian Skimmer and other colonial riverine birds. By combining the experience of frontline staff, local community participation, and modern monitoring technology, Satpura Tiger Reserve has added a significant chapter to the conservation of one of India's rarest birds. The documentation provides a strong scientific foundation for long-term monitoring and reinforces Satpura's growing role in conserving not only iconic mammals but also the extraordinary diversity of its freshwater ecosystems.

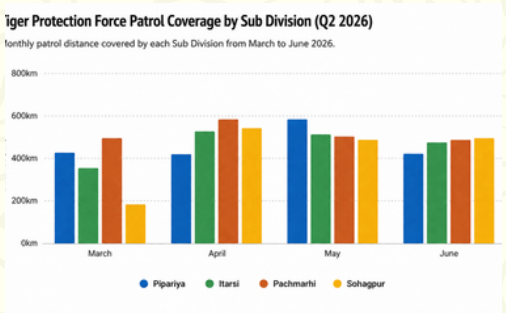




COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION

Tiger Protection Force of Satpura

Satpura Tiger Reserve has significantly strengthened its frontline protection strategy by transforming its Tiger Protection Force (TPF) from a single centralized team into a decentralized, technology-enabled force comprising 24 locally recruited watchers organized into four operational units covering Pachmarhi, Itarsi, Sohagpur, and Pipariya Sub Division of STR. Operating under the direct supervision of the respective Assistant Directors, these units provide continuous surveillance across sensitive tiger habitats, critical corridors,





pilgrimage routes, and reserve boundaries. This system incorporates operational flexibility allowing manpower to be reinforced in high-risk areas during periods of heightened vulnerability, such as the summer months in the Bori Sanctuary. The integration of M-STrIPES has further modernized protection by enabling GPS-based patrol monitoring, real-time route tracking, and scientific assessment of patrol coverage, ensuring that every sensitive beat receives systematic surveillance.The impact of the revamped TPF has been remarkable. Between March and June 2026, the force covered **7,450.7 km** on foot patrols across the reserve, with May recording the highest monthly coverage of **2,072.7 km**, reflecting intensified pre-monsoon vigilance. Beyond routine patrolling, the teams strengthened barrier checks, vehicle inspections, intelligence gathering, monitoring of critical water sources, and anti-poaching operations while engaging forest-fringe communities through awareness campaigns and counselling during Mahua collection season. By recruiting local youth as frontline watchers, Satpura has not only enhanced protection but also built a strong community-based intelligence network that transforms local residents into active partners in wildlife conservation. This innovative model demonstrates how technology, community participation, and decentralized management together can create a stronger, smarter, and more responsive protection system for one of India's most important tiger landscapes.

GUARDIANS OF NATURE'S CLEAN-UP CREW

Summer Vulture Estimation 2026



Often called **Nature's Sanitation Workers**, vultures play an indispensable role in maintaining healthy ecosystems by rapidly disposing of animal carcasses, preventing the spread of diseases such as anthrax, rabies and botulism, and maintaining ecological balance. As one of Central India's most important breeding landscapes for resident vultures, Satpura Tiger Reserve conducts an annual **Summer Vulture Estimation,** the most appropriate season for assessing resident populations because migratory vultures have already departed by March–April. This enables accurate estimation of breeding pairs, nesting success, juvenile recruitment and annual population trends, providing a reliable scientific baseline for long-term conservation planning. Prior to the survey, Satpura Tiger Reserve organized three intensive training programmes across Madhai, Bheemkund and Matkuli, where **137 frontline staff** were trained in vulture identification, nest monitoring, survey protocols and standardized data collection, ensuring uniformity and scientific accuracy in the estimation.

The synchronized survey, conducted on **22–23 May 2026**, covered all known nesting cliffs, roosting sites and potential vulture habitats across the reserve. The first day's survey recorded **245 vultures (227 adults and 18 juveniles) along with 198 active nests,** while the repeat survey documented **315 vultures (285 adults and 30 juveniles)** with the same number of active nests, reflecting a healthy and stable breeding population. The presence of a substantial number of juveniles and nearly two hundred active nests is an encouraging indicator of successful breeding and habitat quality within the reserve.

The findings reaffirm Satpura Tiger Reserve as one of Central India's most significant strongholds for resident vultures. Beyond estimating numbers, the annual summer survey provides vital insights into breeding success, nesting habitat protection and long-term population trends, enabling evidence-based conservation and management. Through scientific monitoring and the dedicated efforts of frontline staff, Satpura continues to strengthen conservation efforts for these critically important scavengers, whose survival is essential for the health and resilience of our forest ecosystems.







BUILDING CAPACITY

for Snake Conservation in Satpura



Snakes are among the most misunderstood yet ecologically important components of forest ecosystems, playing a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by regulating rodent populations and serving as indicators of healthy habitats. Recognizing the need for scientific documentation and informed conservation of these often-overlooked reptiles, **Satpura Tiger Reserve,** in collaboration with the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, organized a two-day **Workshop and Training on Diversity and Population of Snakes on 21–22 April 2026.** Conducted by WII scientists and researchers, the programme trained **108 frontline** forest personnel, including field staff, rescue squad members and territorial staff, in snake identification, ecology, monitoring techniques, safe rescue protocols and ethical handling practices. Participants were also provided with a field identification booklet to strengthen their capacity during routine patrolling and rescue operations.

The initiative extends far beyond classroom training. To facilitate continuous learning and real-time biodiversity monitoring, a dedicated WhatsApp-based citizen science platform has been established for frontline staff. Forest personnel now regularly upload **GPS-tagged photographs** of snakes encountered during patrols and rescue operations, which are scientifically verified by the WII research team. These geo-referenced observations are generating the first systematic database on the diversity, distribution and occurrence of snakes across Satpura Tiger Reserve, while simultaneously enhancing the skills and confidence of frontline staff.

This innovative collaboration represents a significant step towards integrating scientific research with day-to-day forest management. By transforming frontline forest personnel into active contributors to biodiversity monitoring, Satpura Tiger Reserve is laying the foundation for long-term snake conservation, strengthening ecological knowledge, and promoting coexistence with one of nature's most misunderstood yet indispensable groups of wildlife.

STRENGTHENING CONSERVATION CAPACITY

for the Endangered Indian Skimmer

The **Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*),** one of India's most endangered riverine birds, depends on undisturbed sandbars and healthy river ecosystems for successful breeding. Protecting this flagship species requires not only habitat conservation but also a thorough understanding of its unique ecology and monitoring techniques. To strengthen the scientific capacity of its frontline workforce, Satpura Tiger Reserve organized a **Workshop-cum-Field Training on Indian Skimmer Monitoring on 19 June 2026 at Madhai.** The programme, attended by forest officers and frontline staff, was conducted by renowned ornithologist **Dr. Parveen Sheikh of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).** The training focused on the species' ecology, breeding behaviour, nesting habitat requirements, monitoring protocols, identification of threats, and best practices for minimizing disturbance during the breeding season.

The classroom sessions were complemented by an intensive field visit to the Indian Skimmer breeding habitat, where participants gained practical exposure to nest monitoring, habitat assessment and field-based conservation techniques. The programme highlighted the importance of systematic monitoring in understanding breeding success, habitat use and emerging conservation challenges, while equipping field staff with the knowledge required to safeguard one of Central India's most significant breeding populations of this Endangered species. By integrating scientific expertise with field-based capacity building, Satpura Tiger Reserve continues to strengthen evidence-based conservation and empower its frontline staff to play a pivotal role in the long-term protection of India's remarkable riverine biodiversity.







SCALING TECHNOLOGY

for Landscape-Level Wildlife Protection

Recognizing that effective wildlife conservation extends beyond the boundaries of protected areas, Satpura Tiger Reserve, organized a **Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on M-STrIPES on 29 May 2026** at the CCF Office, Narmadapuram in the presence of CCF Narmadapuram and Field Director STR. The programme brought together 50 frontline forest personnel and 10 computer operators from 10 territorial forest divisions across the Narmadapuram landscape namely Narmadapuram, Raisen, Obaidullahganj, Sehore, Harda, Rampur Bhatodi, Bhopal, Burhanpur, North, South and West Betul. Designed to create a pool of master trainers, the workshop equipped participants with the knowledge and practical skills required to train field staff within their respective divisions, thereby facilitating the large-scale adoption of the Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-STrIPES). Through classroom sessions and hands-on demonstrations, participants were trained in digital patrolling, GPS-based route tracking, wildlife observation recording, field data collection, data synchronization and report generation.

The initiative marks an important step towards standardizing technology-driven protection across the Satpura landscape, including Territorial Forest Divisions (ToTR areas), where many wild animals regularly move outside protected areas. Expanding M-STrIPES to these forest divisions will strengthen monitoring of wildlife corridors, improve habitat surveillance, enhance anti-poaching efforts and generate reliable spatial data for evidence-based management. By adopting the Training of Trainers approach, Satpura Tiger Reserve has created a sustainable capacity-building model that will ensure the rapid dissemination of digital monitoring skills, ultimately strengthening wildlife protection and conservation at a landscape level, beyond the boundaries of the tiger reserve.

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY CELEBRATION

at Satpura Tiger Reserve

Endangered Species Day was observed on **15 May 2026 at Madhai, Kamti,** reaffirming Satpura Tiger Reserve's commitment to conserving its remarkable biodiversity. Home to several globally and nationally threatened species—including the Tiger, Hard-ground Barasingha, Indian Skimmer, White-rumped Vulture, Long-billed Vulture, Lesser Adjutant, Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl and numerous other rare flora and fauna—Satpura represents one of Central India's most important conservation landscapes. Addressing the frontline staff, the Field Director, Satpura Tiger Reserve, emphasized that the survival of these species depends on healthy habitats, scientific monitoring and strong field protection. The programme sensitized forest personnel to the growing threats of habitat degradation, climate change, wildlife crime and human-induced disturbances, while reinforcing their pivotal role in safeguarding endangered species. By celebrating the occasion with frontline staff, Satpura Tiger Reserve recognized them as the true custodians of its rich natural heritage and strengthened their resolve to protect the landscape's unique biodiversity for future generations.



PROTECTING WILDLIFE FROM EMERGING DISEASES

Canine Distemper Awareness and Vaccination Drive

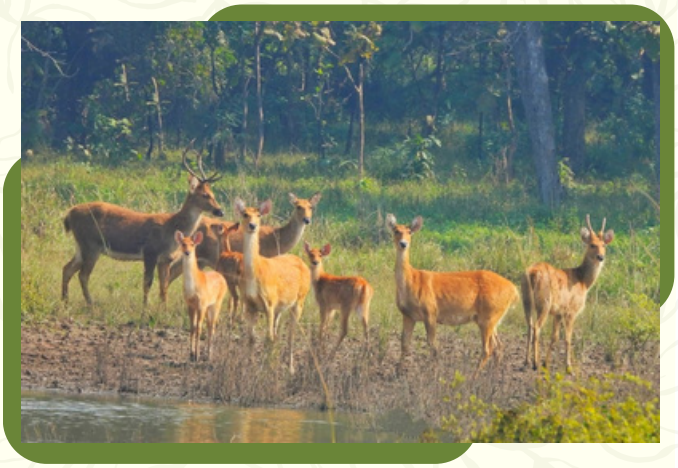


Emerging infectious diseases pose a growing threat to wildlife conservation, particularly for endangered carnivores living in protected areas. Recognizing the risk of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)—a highly contagious disease transmitted primarily through stray and feral dogs that can infect tigers, leopards, dholes and other wild carnivores—Satpura Tiger Reserve launched a comprehensive awareness and prevention initiative during the training programmes. Through interactive sessions conducted for frontline forest staff, participants were sensitized to the ecology of the disease, vulnerable wildlife species, early symptoms, surveillance protocols and rapid reporting mechanisms. Lessons from previous CDV outbreaks in Central India reinforced the importance of proactive disease surveillance as an integral component of wildlife conservation.

Building on this capacity-building initiative, Satpura Tiger Reserve initiated a large-scale vaccination campaign for stray and feral dogs in villages adjoining the reserve under the guidance of the Wildlife Health Officer. The campaign combines preventive vaccination with community awareness through village meetings and information campaigns, creating a protective buffer against disease transmission from domestic animals to wildlife. So far, **27 fringe villages have been covered, with nearly 1,200 stray and feral dogs** identified for vaccination, and the programme is progressing successfully across Matkuli, Bagra Buffer, Pipariya Buffer, East Pachmarhi, Tawa Buffer and Denwa Buffer ranges. By integrating scientific disease surveillance, frontline capacity building, community participation and preventive healthcare, Satpura Tiger Reserve is strengthening its landscape-level approach to wildlife health and ensuring a safer future for its iconic carnivores.

RECONNECTING LANDSCAPES

Barasingha Reclaim a Historic Corridor



The successful reintroduction of the Hardground Barasingha in Satpura Tiger Reserve has entered another significant chapter with the reaffirmation of a functional wildlife corridor between its growing metapopulations. From 135 Barasingha translocated from Kanha Tiger Reserve, the population has now grown to **300+,** reflecting the success of effective conservation, habitat restoration, and scientific management. Building on this achievement, the reserve intensified its focus on corridor development during 2025–26, strengthening previously identified movement routes while also identifying new linkages to ensure long-term connectivity between Barasingha populations.The efforts have already yielded encouraging results. In June 2026, a herd of Barasingha was recorded using the Kukra–Pattan Corridor, a route that was last documented to be used in 2023. The renewed use of this corridor confirms that it has become a live ecological corridor, enabling safe movement between habitats and promoting genetic exchange among the reserve's metapopulations. This milestone highlights the importance of landscape connectivity in wildlife conservation and marks another achievement in Satpura Tiger Reserve's pioneering Barasingha recovery programme, bringing the species one step closer to establishing a resilient, self-sustaining population across the landscape.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

An Innovative Leopard Rescue

What began as a routine hunt ended in a life-threatening ordeal when an adult leopard accidentally fell into a water-filled open well while chasing a stray dog near an agricultural field in Multai Range, South Betul Division, on **26 June 2026**. With relentless rain, darkness and treacherous conditions making an immediate rescue unsafe, the operation was postponed until dawn. The following morning, the Satpura Tiger Reserve Rescue Team, working alongside the South Betul Forest Division, carefully assessed the situation and made a crucial decision to avoid chemical immobilization, recognizing that anaesthesia in a water-filled well could have been fatal for the exhausted animal.

Instead, the team adopted an innovative rescue strategy. A camp cot was lowered into the well to provide the leopard with a resting platform, followed by a specially designed trap cage, which was patiently guided into position without causing distress. After nearly three hours of meticulous planning, teamwork and technical precision, the leopard safely entered the cage and was successfully lifted to safety without injury to either the animal or the rescuers. Following a thorough veterinary examination confirming its good health, the leopard was released back into a suitable forest habitat. The rescue stands as a remarkable example of scientific decision-making, innovation and the unwavering commitment of frontline forest staff to give wildlife a second chance.



A SECOND CHANCE

and the Courage to Make the Hard Decision

Every rescued tiger deserves an opportunity to reclaim its place in the wild—but not every rewilding journey ends the same way. **One of the "Bhojpur Brothers," a young male tiger rescued from the Bhojpur** , in a human-dominated area of Obedullaganj Division. was given not one, but two carefully planned opportunities to return to a free-ranging life. Following his initial rescue, the tiger underwent rehabilitation and was released into the core forests of Satpura Tiger Reserve. However, instead of establishing a territory deep inside the forest, he repeatedly returned to human-dominated areas of the Narmadapuram Forest Division. In April 2026, the tiger was rescued once again and relocated to the core area, with the hope that he would gradually readapt to life away from human settlements.Despite months of monitoring and every possible management intervention, the tiger continued to prefer the



fringes of villages and agricultural landscapes. Although he did not cause any human casualties, his repeated presence near habitations posed a persistent risk of human–wildlife conflict. After careful scientific evaluation and with the approval of the Chief Wildlife Warden, the difficult but necessary decision was taken to rescue the animal once again and transfer him to Van Vihar National Park, where he could live safely without posing a risk to people or to himself. incorThis journey reminds us that rewilding is guided by science, patience and compassion—not certainty. Some rescued animals successfully rediscover their wild instincts and return to the forests where they belong. Others, despite the best efforts of wildlife managers, are unable to adapt to independent life in the wild. Conservation is not measured only by successful releases; it is also measured by the willingness to make responsible decisions when release is no longer in the best interest of the animal or public safety. The story of the Bhojpur Brother is therefore not one of failure, but of a sincere commitment to give every rescued tiger a fair second chance—and the wisdom to choose its welfare above all else.

MY WARD, MY RESPONSIBILITY

A Community-Led Cleanliness Initiative in Pachmarhi

Nestled amidst the forests of Satpura Tiger Reserve, Pachmarhi—the Queen of the Satpura Hills—is one of Central India's most cherished hill stations. While its breathtaking landscapes attract thousands of visitors every year, the growing pressure of mass tourism has also led to increasing challenges of plastic waste and improper garbage disposal. Recognising that preserving Pachmarhi's natural beauty requires active participation from every stakeholder, Satpura Tiger Reserve initiated a unique community-driven cleanliness campaign. Through a series of consultations with hoteliers, tourist guides, vehicle drivers, liaison departments, local residents, and frontline forest staff, a collaborative strategy was developed. The town's seven municipal wards were each entrusted to a Forest Guard, who became the ward's conservation ambassador. Tourist guides and drivers residing in the respective wards were integrated into the initiative, creating dedicated teams responsible for promoting responsible waste management and environmental stewardship within their communities.

The campaign soon evolved into a people's movement. Forest staff, guides, and drivers conducted regular awareness programmes, encouraging residents to use designated dustbins and inspiring tourists to leave no trace during their visit. Alongside education, action became the defining feature of the initiative. Frequent cleanliness drives were organised across forest trails, tourist routes, and iconic destinations such as Bee Fall, Reechgarh, and other scenic viewpoints, removing litter and reinforcing the message that every visitor shares the responsibility of protecting Pachmarhi's fragile ecosystem. By combining community ownership, environmental education, and consistent on-ground action, the initiative will strengthen civic responsibility and demonstrated that conservation extends beyond protected forests—it begins with the everyday choices of people who live in, work in, and visit this extraordinary landscape.



WHEN PATIENCE MEETS INNOVATION

The Crocodile Rescue at Dhargaon



Wildlife rescue is often less about strength and more about patience, observation and the willingness to learn. In March 2026, following the death of a Barasingha fawn inside the Dhargaon Barasingha enclosure, two marsh crocodiles were detected in one of the enclosure's ponds. Their presence posed a serious threat to the vulnerable Barasingha population, making their safe capture an immediate conservation priority. What appeared to be a routine rescue soon turned into a demanding operation that stretched over several weeks. Conventional methods—including repeated netting, five cage traps, and the expertise of rescue teams from Sohagpur and Mandsaur—failed to capture the elusive reptiles, which remained submerged in deep, vegetation-choked ponds and rarely surfaced. Rather than giving up, the Satpura Tiger Reserve team relied on careful field observations. Staff monitoring the Barasingha noticed that the crocodiles surfaced briefly at a particular spot every day to bask before slipping back underwater. Using this insight, the local rescue team designed an innovative platform in the middle of the pond and repositioned the cage trap exactly at the crocodiles' preferred basking site. Within three days, both crocodiles were captured safely in separate cages and released into suitable natural habitat. Beyond the successful rescue, the operation became a valuable learning experience. Rescue teams from Satpura, Sohagpur and Mandsaur exchanged ideas, techniques and field experiences, enriching one another's understanding of crocodile behaviour and rescue strategies. The operation reaffirmed that in wildlife conservation, every challenge is also an opportunity to innovate, collaborate and learn—and that persistence often succeeds where conventional methods fail.

EK PED MAA KE NAAM" PLANTATION DRIVE

As part of the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, 2,000 saplings were planted on World Environment Day across patrolling camps, Eco-Development Committees (EDCs), offices, and residential premises within Satpura Tiger Reserve. The initiative reflected the Reserve's commitment to increasing green cover while fostering a sense of environmental responsibility among frontline staff and local communities. Preference was given to native tree species to strengthen local biodiversity, improve habitat quality, and enhance ecosystem resilience. The plantation drive reinforced Satpura Tiger Reserve's long-term commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable forest management.





WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION

at Madhai Gate, Satpura Tiger Reserve



On the occasion of World Environment Day, a cleanliness drive was organized at Madhai Gate, Satpura Tiger Reserve, in the presence of the Deputy Director, Satpura Tiger Reserve, with enthusiastic participation from forest staff, guides, Eco-Development Committee members, and local stakeholders. The initiative aimed to promote environmental stewardship, reduce plastic waste, and spread awareness about the importance of keeping natural habitats clean and healthy. As part of the celebrations, the Deputy Director, Satpura Tiger Reserve, also undertook a plantation activity, emphasizing the importance of increasing green cover and restoring ecological balance. The plantation symbolized a collective commitment towards biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable environmental management.

FLORAL DIVERSITY

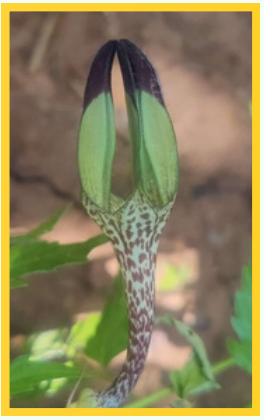
Drosera burmannii

Drosera burmannii is an ecologically important carnivorous plant found in fragile wetlands and grasslands. It traps tiny insects to obtain nutrients from nutrient-poor soils, an adaptation that helps it survive in challenging habitats. Its presence is an indicator of healthy, undisturbed ecosystems and highlights the importance of conserving wetland biodiversity.

Ceropegia vincaefolia

Ceropegia vincaefolia is a native plant of the Western Ghats, known for its remarkable pollination mechanism. Its flowers temporarily trap visiting insects, not for food, but to ensure effective pollen transfer. Once pollination is achieved, the flower reopens and releases the insect unharmed, allowing it to continue pollinating other flowers. The plant also produces edible tubers, making it ecologically and ethnobotanically significant.





UNSCRIPTED SATPURA

Through the Eyes of Its True Guardians

Every day, the frontline staff of Satpura Tiger Reserve witness extraordinary moments that often remain unseen by the outside world. To showcase these hidden stories, Satpura launched "Unscripted Satpura"—a unique initiative that empowers forest guards, watchers and field staff to capture the wilderness through their own lenses. After receiving basic wildlife photography training, these silent guardians have documented breathtaking images of wildlife behaviour, birds, insects, landscapes, seasonal changes and the countless natural wonders they encounter during their daily patrols.

More than a photography project, Unscripted Satpura nurtures a deeper sense of observation, pride and stewardship among frontline staff while creating an ever-growing visual archive of Satpura's rich biodiversity. Each photograph is an authentic story of patience, dedication and discovery, reminding us that the most compelling chronicles of the wild are often told not by visitors, but by those who protect the forest every single day.





