



# IndiaWilds® Newsletter

Vol 7. Issue XII

December 2015

ISSN 2394 - 6946

## Inside this issue:

Poison in the Air	1
Conservation News	6
Book Review: Wildlife of India By E.P.GEE	9
Equipment Discussions	13
Natural History	16
Wilderness Updates - Bungkulung	19
Wildlife Photography	22

## Poison in the Air:

Amir Khusro, the famous poet had written a couplet which was famously used by Emperor Jehangir to describe the beauty of Kashmir “If there is heaven on earth, then it is this, it is this.” Delhi, the Capital city of India today, can be best described by paraphrasing Amir Khusro, “If there is Hell on Earth, it is this, it is this”.

Air, the single most important thing that any person, animal, bird, insects etc depends on to live, is so bad that it will not allow us to live. Neither will it allow us to die in peace.

The quality of air in Delhi is terrible. It is not only Delhi, but along with it there are twelve other cities in India that have abysmal air quality to get into the top 20 polluted cities in the world list. An ignominy in any other time, but not relevant for today’s politicians.

We have been writing about the sad state of affairs and campaigned for “Right to Clean Air” as one of our Fundamental Rights. Unfortunately, politicians despite their statements of support care less about air quality. (*IndiaWilds Newsletter Vol. 6 Issue I*)

<https://youtu.be/ioK3Q-ZzuZY>



© Sabyasachi Patra/www.indiawilds.com

*Right to Clean Air*



### **Knee-jerk Reaction:**

Finally the Delhi Government woke up due to the rebuke from the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. In their eagerness to show that they are working and also to cause some inconvenience to the ruling party at the Centre – with which the Kejriwal led party is at logger heads- the Delhi Govt. has announced that it will ban vehicles based on odd and even number plates from plying on the roads on alternate days.

Though the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has said that he is ready to do car pool with his fellow judges and immediately the Delhi Govt. seized it as a support to their muddle headed idea, forcing cars to ply on the roads on alternate days is a big mistake.

### **Pollution not only due to Vehicles:**

The first major mistake is that this action solely blames the automobiles for the pollution. This is farthest from the truth. The pollution levels in Delhi is a result of several factors key among which are dust from construction activities, burning of wheat stalk in the Punjab, pollution from factories apart from automobile pollution and lack of trees for absorbing the pollution etc. Infact, the Chief Justice of India has said that he brought the problem of wheat stalk burning to the notice of India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and still the problem is continuing.

### **Why is there so much of construction in Delhi, NCR and throughout India?**

The Government of India had launched the scheme to promote housing in India and started giving tax breaks. Today India is flush with buildings. Most of the people own multiple houses. The amount of unsold houses in inventory of builders is roughly six and half years in the NCR region as well as in Mumbai, Bangalore and many big cities of India.



Amit.Gupta/www.indiawilds.com

**Massive constructions in Nodia**

**Courtesy : Amit Gupta**

Greed is driving these construction business. At one point of time it was the case in China and now they have entire ghost cities ie fully constructed cities without anyone to buy or occupy those. A lot of places in the NCR region and other cities in Delhi have such constructions without anyone to buy. The construction of houses goes on every day with tremendous amount of dust and noise pollution. There is no body to monitor. If the Government stops giving tax breaks to people for buying houses, then this madness will stop. Unfortunately, the NDA Government is overtly sympathetic to the builder lobby and is more keen on regularising past constructions as was seen in the ESZ notification for Okhla which even modified the boundaries of the ecologically sensitive place to help builders.

[\(http://www.indiawilds.com/diary/indiawilds-newsletter-vol-7-issue-viii/\)](http://www.indiawilds.com/diary/indiawilds-newsletter-vol-7-issue-viii/)

There is supposed to be a housing shortage of 19 million houses in India as per the 2011 census. Interestingly 11.09 million houses are vacant in urban areas in India as per the 2011 census. The country needs affordable housing. However, the class of people who can benefit from the tax breaks associated with the housing loans take it multiple times to build several houses, a number of which remains vacant. The country has to bear the associated pollution of air, water as well as clearing/reclaiming land for construction.

The Government has to now act and remove the housing tax-breaks given to citizens. If a person has already taken the benefit of tax breaks related to housing once, then he/she should be barred from taking this again.

### **Who will enforce Odd-Even Car rule?**

Forcing cars to ply on alternate days based on whether their number plate is odd or even hasn't worked anywhere in the world. It won't work in Delhi either, more so because it is DELHI.

Delhi is a city which has been grappling with the frequent sexual attacks on women and children. Often infants have been raped and the police force is inadequate to protect. A lot of police men are engaged in VIP security. So the number of police for common men and women is way too less, as is often said by the police officers themselves. In such situation, who will monitor the traffic to enforce cars with odd and even number plates plying only on alternate days?

For most of the traffic violations, Delhi people as well as the police are adept at "settling it" ie bribe and move ahead. So this will be another inconvenience to pay some more money while you drive. Delhi is a city where everyday people from neighbouring states commute. It is financially not feasible for most of the people to travel by metro. A person coming from Noida has to change several times to reach his/her destination. Parking the car at the metro stations are way too expensive. So the overall cost of driving down is cheaper. Similar is the situation from Gurgaon to Delhi journey for commuters.

There are 55 million two wheeler users in Delhi. They are exempted from the alternate day arrangement. So pollution from the two wheelers will continue.

Most of the elites and wannabe elites in Delhi have multiple cars. Only a few executives at the lower rung are single car homes. So the people who have money will anyway drive to work in their cars. A very low percentage of people will car pool as driving to office in car is an ego issue in Delhi. Many of them would buy second cars, albeit used ones. So some used car

dealers will gain.

Why don't people take the public transport?

Delhi is a state with terrible public transport system. The metro in certain areas is as crowded as the Mumbai local second class compartments with limb if not life, being at danger. The auto rickshaws are a law unto themselves and fleece the customers. The radio taxis really bomb your wallet. So people in Delhi have no where to go without their own vehicles. Unfortunately, the politicians as a breed are never known to attack the problem. Instead they react to symptoms and pat themselves in the back for their hair-brained ideas.

Unfortunately, the quality of air in Delhi and in many other Indian cities has reached alarming levels and has induced a panic like situation. We humans are not known to come out with logical solutions when we are in a panic mode. Traces of it can be clearly seen when the Hon'ble Supreme Court has banned new registration of diesel vehicles with more than 2L engines. Unfortunately an attempt has been made to brand one fuel and technology type as a villain forgetting that the main villain is the quality of fuel in this country. There appears to be no effort to dramatically tighten the technology standards ie moving to Bharat VI from Bharat IV. Fortunately, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has not forgotten the problems due to construction and has said that enforcement agencies need to ensure that norms of CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) are enforced by use of curtains and other devices at construction sites. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court needs to be briefed that the curtains often put up at the construction sites are not effective and dust due to construction is all pervasive. Since the construction mafia and the enforcement authorities are always hand in glove, who will the citizens complain?

The email ids and phone numbers of the enforcement authorities of various cities have to be put up in public hoardings so that citizens can complain. Else, the majority will continue to suffer silently.

The silver lining in the Supreme Court order is giving a deadline to the Delhi Government to procure vacuum cleaning vehicles for Delhi before 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016. Hopefully our roads will be a bit cleaner.

In view of this, despite the grand standing by various politicians, and Supreme Court making interventions, there is not likely to be any improvement in the quality of air on a sustainable basis, unless the Hon'ble Supreme Court is properly guided about the root causes of pollution and it forces the Government to act. Till then, insurance companies will come out special insurance packages for cancer, bronchitis and other air pollution related diseases, air purifier companies will start scaling up their businesses and make merry and the people of Delhi, rich and poor alike will continue to suffer. And the Government, as usual, will be absent when its presence is really required.

### **Poisoned air affecting Foetuses:**

The Poisoned Air of Delhi is impacting the growth of foetus in pregnant women finds a study conducted in the Sir Ganga ram Hospital in Delhi by Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) & London School of Hygiene.

This study had a big sample size of 10,565 births in the hospital and the real-time air quality data of nearby monitoring sta-

tion was linked with each birth to analyse the effect. The study found that CO, NO<sub>2</sub> and other toxic gases impact the growth of the foetus and also lead to premature births.

The poisoned air not only affects us but also affects our future generations. If the Government is serious that it has to first make “Right to Clean Air” as our fundamental right and start acting to clear the core problems that results in poisoned air.

---

## Conservation News

### Climate Change Agreement in Paris

In the recent memory, seldom a name of a city evoked the spectre of death as well as hope in quick succession. Soon after militants mowed down innocent people in Paris and the world was drowned in sadness, the Conference of Parties was hosted by Paris, which gave the world some hope in the form of an agreement to contain the global warming to below 2 degrees.



The whole world has hailed the climate change agreement in Paris where more than a hundred heads of States and thousands of negotiators were huddled in for days together engaging in negotiating to protect their own petty interests whereas the whole world is burning, getting hotter and hotter and hurtling down the path of irreversible climate change.

According to principles of negotiation, in a long drawn negotiation, most of the times the buyer is loathe to let it go and buys into a sub-optimal deal. That is precisely what happened in the Conference of Parties COP-21 at Paris.

The poor and developing nations have all along blamed the developed industrialised world for being the lead cause of global warming. Now the global warming leading to impacts like rising sea levels is going to inundate many low-lying nations, islands and cities bordering the seashore and has naturally have these nations worried. With hardly any money at their disposal to fight the impact of climate change, these countries are rightly aggrieved when the developed world wants to wriggle away from any commitment for funding the war on climate change.

Since 2009 it has been said that the developed countries are going to create a 100 billion US dollars fund by 2020 to help in mitigation efforts. However, in the month of October this year, just before the COP-21 was to start in Paris, the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) – an organization funded by 23 developed countries - issued a statement that more than half of the 100 billion dollars has been already pledged. While this statement found ready ap-



## Conservation News

plause in the developed world, there were eyebrows raised.

India's climate Economic Affairs Ministry did an analysis (<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2015/nov/p2015112901.pdf>) and tore apart this claim of OECD that \$57 billion dollars of aid has been pledged in 2013-2014. In the foreword to the report, Shri Shaktikanta Das wrote *"At best, the OECD report is at least partly right: 'there remains significant work to be done to arrive at more complete and accurate estimates in the future'. That could well have been the title of the OECD report. There are some issues as to why there was so much rush to produce a document with inflated numbers, what has been termed as 'green-washing' of finance. We need to do better. At this time, the actual cross-border flows from 17 special climate funds since their inception are some USD 2.2 billion. This was reported by relatively independent and credible sources, as disbursements of climate change finance from developed to developing countries. This is far from the USD 100 billion a year goal"*.

Later at Paris, in the dying moments when the climate change agreement text was about to be approved, US raised an objection and forced changing of the draft agreement claiming a typo. In the original draft it was mentioned that "Developed countries shall continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets". The word should was mentioned for developing countries. However, US wanted to dilute it by changing the word shall to should. All parties in the conference were forced to agree as they felt any agreement is better than none. So the final change in the article 4 in page 21 was adopted as follows "Developed country Parties shall continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances".

There were intense pressures from the oil producing nations, however, the good thing about the COP-21 was the clear direction that fossil fuels need to be reduced. So there would be some action regarding harvesting clean energy. An international solar alliance has been formed between countries with the secretariat at New Delhi. USA, France and India have also jointly launched Mission Innovation to develop green technologies.

More and more countries are waking up to the reality of climate change. Unfortunately, the democratic party in USA continues to deny that Climate change and is against any move towards climate change mitigation efforts. Hopefully there would be increased pressure from countries who believe in climate change and from activists to collectively force the non-believing countries or developed countries who are loathe to implement their Intended Nationally determined contributions (INDCs).

Hopefully the world can together achieve the target agreed in Paris to limit the global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial era.

## **IndiaWilds App for Android Mobile**

---

In India most of the internet penetration is happening through mobile phones. And the existing users who have access to desktops and laptops are becoming much more mobile then they used to be a few years ago. So to raise awareness and reach out to more people we need to adapt ourselves and make IndiaWilds easily accessed through a mobile phone using android OS.

Today, I am pleased to announce that we have created a mobile phone app so that people can access IndiaWilds anytime, anywhere without being tied to a computer. No need to type. One can access at the click of a button.

We have developed this app through Business Compass LLC a company based in Randolph, New Jersey, United States so that we create a good app.

Awareness is the first step before a person can become a champion of wildlife. I hope this will help us in reaching out to more people to raise awareness and make a real impact on the conservation landscape. If you have an android device then please download the app from this link:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.businesscompassllc.indiawilds>

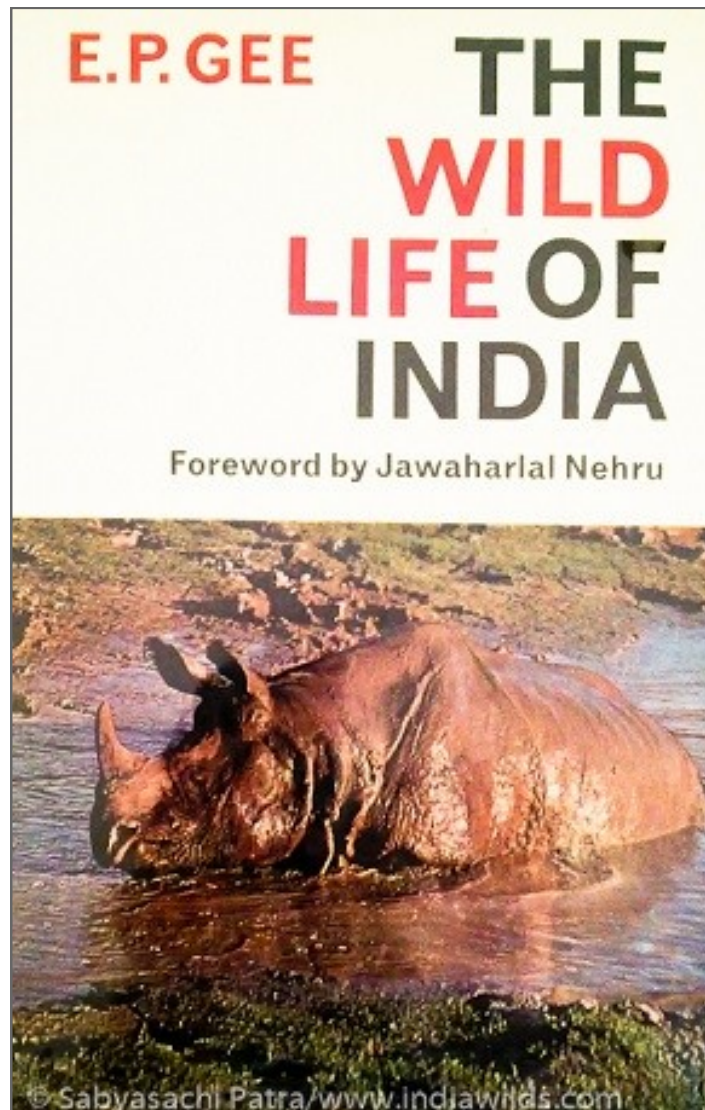
---



## **Book Review -**

### **The Wildlife of India by E.P.GEE**

I have been looking for a copy of this famous book “The Wild Life of India” by E. P. Gee for a long time and finally found a collectors version in US. This was first published in the USA by E. P. Dutton & Company, INC in 1964. This book was printed in Great Britain.



### **Foreword by Jawaharlal Nehru**

Not many books can claim to have the foreword written by the first Prime Minister of India. However, E. P. Gee's book with Foreword written by the then sitting Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru speaks volumes about the book as well as the author's importance in those times. The foreword was signed on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1964 and hardly three months later there was the sad demise of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1964. Nevertheless, the foreword is extremely thought provoking and contains thoughts that is relevant even today.

## **Book Review -**

Nehru starts the foreword by writing “Wild life ? That is how we refer to the magnificent animals of our jungles and to the beautiful birds that brighten our lives. I wonder sometimes what these animals and birds think of man and how they would describe him if they had the capacity to do so. I rather doubt if their description would be very complementary to man. In spite of our culture and civilisation, in many ways man continues to be not only wild but more dangerous than any of the so-called wild animals”.

He also says “...life would become very dull and colourless if we did not have these magnificent animals and birds to look at and to play with. We should therefore, encourage as many sanctuaries as possible for the preservation of what yet remains of our wild life. Our forests are essential for us from many points of view. Let us preserve them. As it is, we have destroyed them far too much. It is true that as population grows, the need for greater food production becomes necessary. But this should be by more intensive cultivation and not by the destruction of the forests which play a vital part in the nation’s economy”.

The book “The Wild life of India” has twenty chapters which not only talks about his experiences in various wild life sanctuaries in India but also details the state of flora and fauna during those times, the prevailing thought about wild life and its preservation.

The author was a wild life photographer of repute with his black and white photographs as well as coloured photos showing not only his composition but also the sharpness of his images. Photographers of the digital age, addicted to indiscriminately pressing the shutter button of their cameras like profligate hunters of yore indiscriminately pressing their trigger buttons, can learn a thing or two by simply watching E. P. Gee’s photographs contained in this book.

## **Hair-raising encounters**

“The Wild Life of India” also contains some hair-raising encounters. In the first chapter E. P. Gee mentions an interesting conversation with Colonel R. W. Burton. “Formerly well known as a big game hunter, he was then over eighty, a small, frail but erect and commanding person, who had spent most of his retirement in India, championing the cause of India’s ever-dwindling wild life. During his adventurous career one leg had become shortened and one eye had the lower lid hanging down with a scar just below it. As soon as we began talking I asked him about the misadventure which had left this mark.

He grinned. “I once followed up a wounded bear, crawling on my knees into its cave. It seized my head in its jaws”. He seemed to be reflecting on the recklessness of youth, and of things that had happened long ago. “Did you have your rifle with you?” I asked. “Yes, my rifle was pointing at the bear’s chest. Had I pulled the trigger the bear’s jaws would have clamped hard shut and finished me off”. A pause. “Then what happened?” I asked. “I still did not fire. I yelled loudly, and the bear let go. I then retreated quickly to safety,” he thus concluded, and the conversation turned to wild life preservation.”

From this example one can understand that this book is written in a first person account detailing many of his conversations, travels, experiences and hence will capture the imagination of not only the wild life enthusiast but also layman, young and old alike.

He describes one of his own near brush with death in the chapter “The Rhino of Kaziranga” when he was returning on foot from photographing in a machan. He writes “We had not gone more than a hundred yards when there was a noise nearby, and with a panicky “Rhino coming!” both my men, who were aged about twenty, disappeared down the track, seemingly breaking all Olympic records. At their age, I could have run even faster. But I knew that a rhino can soon catch up with the fastest of humans. However, I also started to try and escape. The track was wet and slippery and much depressed in places by three-toed rhino and large circular elephant footprints.

## **Book Review -**

After about ten yards, I did the best possible thing I could have done. I slipped and fell down, flat on my face, with the rhino very close at hand. I knew that an Indian rhino, unlike a wild elephant, will not continue its attack on a fallen victim, and I quickly rolled sideways off the track into the grass and remained perfectly still.

The rhino thundered past. After about twenty minutes the grass parted and one of the men, who had come back by a long detour, asked if I was all right. We then together went along the track, on to the main road and called to the other man. After a long time he emerged, too frightened to talk. Then, at last, he described how he had eventually thrown himself into a thick clump of grass, and how the rhino had stood over him breathing heavily before going on its way". (page 162-163)

### **Rhino Sounds:**

E. P. Gee has also described his observations on the sounds produced by the rhinos. "Several writers on animals have described the Indian Rhino as only uttering one noise, a grunt! I have heard four different noises: a roar or a bellow when newly captured, a snort when excited or disturbed, a grunt when not disturbed and a peculiar whistling sound at the time of courting and mating. I think it is the female which makes this whistling sound, while the male grunts; but I notice that several sportsman-writers of the old days have described a whistling noise made by a mortally wounded rhino". (page 158)

E. P. Gee also has some acute observations about the cattle lifters: "the arm-chair reader living in a city may perhaps be invited to reflect that a tiger has a right to live and that to do so it must kill some live animal about twice a week; that wild herbivores animals in the forests have become scarce, so a tiger will come out and kill domestic stock anyway; that the tiger is a very selective creature, and will kill the healthier and younger animals and overlook the useless and aged if it has the chance to do so; that there is an alarming surplus of every kind of domestic stock in India, from buffaloes down to goats, which are consuming all the vegetation and doing their level best to turn the country into a desert as many parts of North Africa and the Middle East have become...." (Page 64)

### **On Jim Corbett:**

"It was Jim Corbett and a society of the U.P. (then the United Provinces) who originated the effort to preserve India's wild life in the early thirties. I corresponded with him and contributed to *Indian Wild Life*, a magazine which was published then.

Unfortunately this movement and the magazine did not flourish, and by the time the second world war came both had suffered the very same fate from which they were trying to preserve the rarer animals – extinction.

.... A cutting of my article (on Hailey Park) also chanced to be sent to Jim Corbett in Kenya, and a letter came from him in February 1955".

Jim Corbett wrote "There was great opposition (from sporting interests) to the formation of the park and as soon as Hailey left, the District Officials combined and reduced the area of the park from 180 to 125 square miles...Now that the Uttar Pradesh Government is taking an interest in wild life I am hoping it will be possible to restore the fifty-five square miles to the Park".

In 1957 Hailey Park was later renamed Corbett National Park and a dam was constructed on the Ramganga river just below the Park boundary inundating large part of the Park.

## **Book Review -**

### **Leopard in Andamans:**

“The position of the chital and the leopards in the Andamans is being carefully watched, so that a balance can be maintained. When I met the Chief Conservator of Forests of those islands, he told me that a third female leopard might have to be introduced, as the chital were still increasing. In February 1960 six pairs of spotbill ducks and eight pairs of peafowl were also introduced there”.

### **Discovery of the Golden Langur**

E. P. Gee has been credited with the discovery of the Golden Langur and the species named after him as *Presbytis geei*. While giving details leading to the discovery, E. P. Gee mentions that before him two sportsmen had observed and written about it in the visitors logbook of the rest house near Jamduar. In 1953 E. P. Gee went to Jamduar and photographed as well as filmed the Golden langurs in the Sankosh river. He reported the existence of these langurs to Zoological Society of London and also showed the cine film in the IBWL (Indian Board of Wild Life) and at his request a Survey Party of the Zoological Survey of India was sent to investigate and collect some specimens. “The survey Party, headed by H. Khajuria, duly collected specimens...In his official description of this langur as a new species, Khajuria very kindly named it *Presbytis geei*, which I gratefully (but very humbly) acknowledge!”

### **Humorous incidents:**

E. P. Gee has also mentioned some humorous incidents in the book. In the chapter The Buffalo of Manas he writes “near the Manas Wild Life Sanctuary is a Rest House in which a wild bear once stayed. Shortly afterwards a Forest Officer stopped there while on tour, and found the place none too clean. Being of an imaginative turn of mind, he wrote in the remarks column of the Rest House register, “as the bungalow had previously been occupied by Brother Bruin, I had a lot of cleaning up to do”.

At the end of the financial year the accounts of the forest Division and relevant supporting books found the Audit Department less imaginative. “it appears,” wrote an official of that Department, “that the previous occupant did not enter name, designation and duration of stay in the book, and that he paid no rent. The rent should be realised from this occupant”. E. P. Gee then proceeds to mention another funny incident regarding the Audit department. His humorous side could also be seen in the chapter Wild Asses on the Rann. “On the last day I set up my photographic hide in some tall grass at a place where a herd of wild asses were expected to come to drink, a small freshwater pond. I was hoping to get a chance of observing them at close quarters. But the herd was much too clever. Once again a very strong conviction obsessed me that I, crouching uncomfortably in the hide in the heat of the day, was the “ass”. The other asses stood on the nearby skyline, lookout sentinels on the alert, cool and collected. Again only a run in the jeep on to the Rann, alongside galloping asses, could restore my self-respect. I think the asses quite enjoyed the gallop.”

“The Wild Life of India” is a must read for not only natural history students, but also for naturalists, scholars, wild life photographers and common man. One can find copies of this book online in [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). I am happy to have finally added it to my collection. I am sure many of you would also have similar feelings.

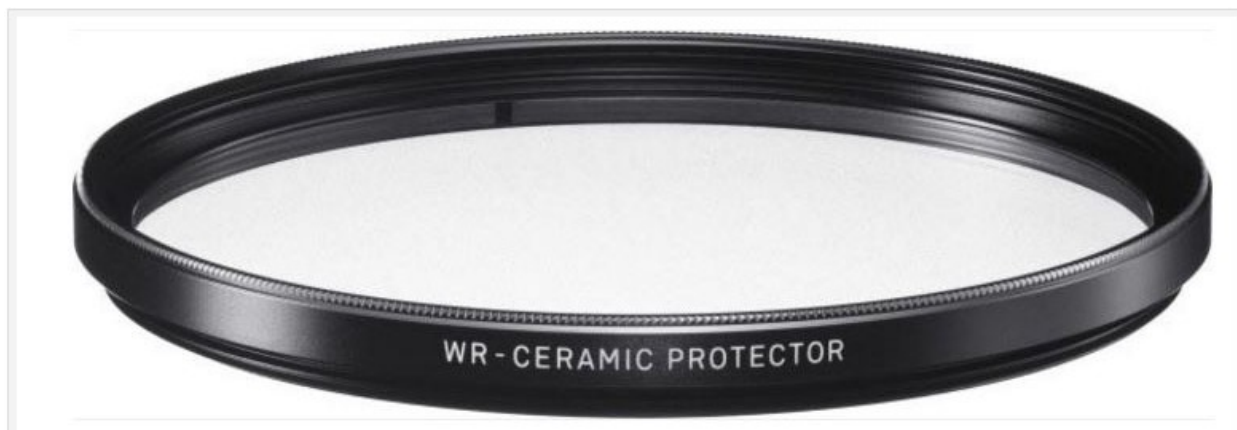
## Equipment Discussions -

### **Sigma Announces WP Ceramic Filters**

Sigma has announced, what it calls the world's first highly shock resistant and scratch resistant clear glass ceramic filter.

It says that the WR Ceramic Filter has roughly ten times the strength of a conventional filter and three times stronger than a chemically hardened glass filter.

Use of this filter will result in extremely high light transmission. The Water-repellent coating applied to the filter results in only 0.24% light from the visible spectrum getting reflected. This ensures minimum flaring and ghosting.



The WR Ceramic filters come in the size 67-105 mm. So all users of DSLR lenses as well as some cine lenses should be able to take benefit of these filters.

Sigma is yet to announce the pricing or availability of these filters.

I normally don't use any filters except polarisers. However, I would be very interested to check these filters because of the quality of light reflectance as well as strength. Sigma's video of the filter is shared here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3J-YpwzHw>

---

## Equipment Discussions -

### AJA Ki Pro Ultra

AJA has launched the Ki Pro Ultra, a file-based recorder capable of recording upto 4K 60p and able to play back with a built-in HD 720p resolution LCD monitor of 4.8" size.

This recorder is capable of recording Apple ProRes files upto the latest Apple ProRes 4444. You can record 4K in DCI or



UHD format as well as 2K and HD in various frame rates including 23.98p, 25p, 29.97p, 30p, 50p, 59.94p and 60p.

It has 3G-SDI, HDMI input and output options as well as option to connect via Fiber for powerful and efficient connectivity. Another 2k monitor can be connected via HD-SDI.

The built-in handle indicates its portability and can mounted on a rack.

The recording is made directly to AJA Pak SSD media with the largest being Pak1000 with 1TB SSD drive. One can also use Pak512 and Pak256 with capacities of 512 gb or 256gb respectively. However if you have CFast 2.0 cards, then you can use an adapter, which is available at an additional cost to record to CFast 2.0 cards.

The twin media drive bays help in seamless recording shifting from one to the other when the first drive is filled.

The AJA Ki Pro Ultra can be remotely controlled using the built-in RS-422 port.

The Ethernet port allows it access advanced remote control as well as control multiple AJA Ki Pro Ultras, especially in multiple camera recording situations.

### Detailed Specifications

- LCD size: 4.8" 1280 x 720 TFT LCD display
- Recording: 720p 60fps up to 4K DCI 60fps
- ProRes 422 Proxy to 444



- Recording Media: 2 AJA Pak Slots
- Video Input: HD/3G-SDI (SMPTE-292/296/424, 10-bit) (12-bit input supported processing is 10-bit) 4K DC/UHD 4:2:2 / 4:4:4 : 4 x BNC, Single Link 4:2:2 / 4:4:4 : 1 x BNC, Dual Link 4:2:2 / 4:4:4 : 2 x BNC, Dual Channel Fiber: 2 x Ports (optional SFPs required), 1 x HDMI 2.0
- Video Output: HD/3G-SDI (SMPTE-292/296/424, 10-bit) 4K DC/UHD 4:2:2 / 4:4:4 : 4 x BNC, Single Link 4:2:2 / 4:4:4 : 1 x BNC, Dual Link 4:2:2 / 4:4:4 : 2 x BNC, Monitor: 1 x BNC, Dual Channel Fiber: 2 x Ports (optional SFPs required), Version 2.0: 1 x HDMI 2.0 (4K DCI/UHD 50/60 fps in 4:2:0 8-bit format only)
- Audio Input — Digital: 8-channel, 24-bit SDI & HDMI embedded audio, 48 kHz sample rate, Synchronous // 8-channel, AES/EBU
- Audio Input — Analog: 8-channel, 24-bit A/D analog audio, 48 kHz sample rate
- Audio Output — Digital: 8-channel, 24-bit HDMI/SDI/Fiber embedded audio, 48kHz sample rate, Synchronous // 8-channel, AES/EBU
- Audio Output — Analog: Headphone: 1 x 3.5mm stereo mini jack, Dual Mono: 2 x RCA, 8-Channel: 1 x DB-25 (Tascam pinout) 24-bit D/A analog audio, 48kHz sample rate
- LTC Timecode BNC In/Out
- RS-422: 1 x DE-9 female connector with SONY 9-pin serial protocol
- Power draw: 65W Max
- Size: 8.64" x 9.34" x 3.31"
- Weight: 2.52 kg
- **Price: \$3995**

Buy: [http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/buy/AJA\\_Ki\\_Pro\\_Ultra/Ntt/AJA%2BK%2BPro%2BUltra/N/0/kw/search/BI/19990/KBID/13252/DFF/d10-v1-t12](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/buy/AJA_Ki_Pro_Ultra/Ntt/AJA%2BK%2BPro%2BUltra/N/0/kw/search/BI/19990/KBID/13252/DFF/d10-v1-t12)

---

## Natural History -

### **COUNTRY NOTEBOOK: M.Krishnan: 'BARKING DEER ( MUNTJAC) (Contd.)'**

**The Sunday Statesman: 13-December-2015 (shared by Shri. Saktipada Panigrahi)**

" SOME things are questions of opinion, and not of fact. I was moved to this thought by Mr. Mukul Chatterjee's letter (The Sunday Statesman, 23 April) on my note about BARKING DEER in the previous Sunday's magazine. He thinks the deer's alarm call is a true bark and shorter than a dog's -- I think is longer and much hoarser. Clearly a difference of opinion, easily explained -- in assessing the quiddity and length of a canine bark, Mr. Chatterjee and I are thinking, obviously, of different dogs!

But when he goes on to say that I have pointed out "that the Barking Deer is omnivorous", and adds "but this species is only known to be purely vegetarian"; I have every reason to doubt that any deer is prone to mixed diets", Mr. Chatterjee is raising a factual issue. And of course he is dead right in saying that deer are strictly vegetarian to the extent to which any mammal is vegetarian as a class.

LET me quote the offending passage from my note: "This little Deer is perhaps the choosiest feeder of its tribe -- and its diet is probably more omnivorous than that of other deer." I must confess that I feel greatly embarrassed by the latter part of this sentence, and surprised at myself -- in writing "Country Notebook" for almost a dozen years, I have not been guilty of a similar gaffe. As the sentence stands, it can have only one meaning, i.e, that while deer are in some degree omnivorous, the Barking Deer is perhaps more omnivorous than the rest. And that was not what I meant to say at all. What I meant was that while deer, in general, are vegetarian in their diet, perhaps the Barking Deer goes in for non-vegetarian fare occasionally.



© Sabyasachi Patra/www.indiawilds.com

Indian Deer -- and we have more species of deer than any other country -- live on grass and herbs, foliage, buds, fruits

and bark: occasionally they may eat tubers and bulbs and perhaps also lichen and similar plants. Anyway, their diet is entirely vegetarian. The Barking Deer, however, is said to indulge in less blameless fare once in a way.

Let me quote Dunbar Brander, whose accuracy in observation and report are above suspicion on this point. He says, "I once kept a Barking Deer as a pet, and an excellent one it made. Like many wild animals, it was much addicted to drinking hot water, and I can confirm the observations of others to the effect that they will eat meat." Clearly, what he means is that he can confirm, from the knowledge of his pet, what others have said about Barking Deer eating meat -- the sentence is not to be construed literally as meaning that Dunbar Brander can confirm that these others (who have observed the occasional non-vegetarian lapse of the deer) are given to meat-eating.

I find this confusion of pronouns, by a writer who has so justly been described as "notoriously accurate", strangely comforting; apparently, there is something about the MUNTJAK that makes naturalists, writing about it, careless in their language!

Dunbar Brander adds, " In fact, I once saw a Barking Deer in the jungle snuffing round a tiger's kill in a way that suggested that the wild animal might also be guilty of this practice." All this, of course, proves nothing. The behaviour of captive animals, especially in regard to what they eat, is no proof of their habits when wild. Dunbar Brander does not say that he saw the Muntjak feeding of the kill -- only that he saw it snuffing ( and he meant "snuffing" not "snuffling" or "sniffing") at the meat speculatively. The verdict must be the cautious Scots "not proven".

I myself missed narrowly missed recording the Barking Deer's occasional indulgence in non-vegetarian fare a few year's ago. I was then camped on a hilltop and one evening my factotum reported that a Bear was digging a termite mound barely a furlong away. Taking the only loaded camera available, I rushed to the spot: there, on the hillside some 40 yards from the edge of the plateau, there was a freshly demolished termite mound, but no bear. By screwing on an eyepiece to the detachable lens of my camera, it could be converted into an efficient telescope, and luckily I had the eyepiece with me. I sat behind a bush and scanned the hillside through the telescope for the bear, and found nothing. Presently, a full-grown male Barking Deer emerged from the bush cover and walked up to the termite nest: it put its muzzle to the freshly dug mound and began to lick and swallow something. Through the glass I could distinctly see the termites crawling on their rudely torn-up tunneled home, but the Deer's muzzle was hidden by a ridge and I could not actually see what it was licking up. Another minute, and this point would have been settled, for the Muntjak's muzzle would have cleared the obscuring ridge, but right then my companion remarked in a loud voice, "Look, the Jungle-Sheep eating white ants!" -- and without so much as a yap the deer disappeared into the cover. Subsequent inspection of the anthill was unrewarding, though I even tested the crumbled, blown earth (much to my companion's delight) and found it not saline but only muddy. "Not proven", Again.

I am unable, personally, to confirm Mr. Chatterjee's remarks on the gustatory appeal of Barking Deer meat being a vegetarian, but I can speak with authority on its aggressiveness when wounded or cornered. Mr. Chatterjee says that its hooves are its chief weapons, and that he has seen a man wounded by a Muntjak. All deer use their forefeet in defense, specially the hinds. The stags use their antlers both in defense and attack and often with decisive effect, but I doubt if the male Muntjak's hooked horns are much used in fighting. However, it has another potent weapon.

Let me quote Dunbar Brander on the point once more. "During the rut the males often fight fiercely and their chief weapons of offence are their long upper tusks. These are sharp and protrude about half inch from the gum. They are not fixed firmly into the jaw but are retained in a position by the surrounding tissues and can be moved and it is probable that the animals can control their position to a certain extent. The wounds these tusks are capable of inflicting are astonishing, and I have shot bucks, which have been fighting, with deep gashes on the face and neck. I have known them round on a fair-sized dog and inflict a wound on the back of its neck that if placed a little lower would probably have been fatal. When brought to bay, they show extraordinary courage and they would even stand up to a man."

On the Muntjak's method of attack, I can speak with more expert assurance than Dunbar Brander even. On the the inner aspect of my right thigh, just above the knee, there is a two-inch long scar. Acquired more than 30 years ago, when I was a schoolboy, for the first few years this honorable scar of battle was quite impressive, much longer and heavily ridged. It was caused by a male Barking Deer in a zoo. Feeling curious about the displayed tusks of this creature, I clambered over the fence and got into its little pen and when no one was looking, and tried to get hold of it by the horns. With one swift, sideway movement of the head, it inflicted a tearing injury with its tusk, and in record time I was on the right side of the fence again, my curiosity fully satisfied. I was in considerable pain and the wound bled copiously, but what alarmed me then was the thought that if any of the zoo staff got to know about my adventure, I'd surely get jailed for breaking the rules. I sneaked my way out, any my explanation for the wound, which needed stitches, was that having got accidentally locked in I had to climb the compound wall of the zoo to get out, and that one of the palings of the wall had caused the injury. The explanation was never questioned and long after I had reached mature adulthood I still stuck to the story when I had occasion to account for the scur -- curious how abiding one's early fears are!

I am now coming out with plain unvarnished truth in the interest of science. Barking dogs may not bite, but Barking Deer do. One last details about this surprising little animal. The Barking Deer is an Asiatic animal, limited to a few species distributed over China, India, Burma and Malaya and near abouts. But it is to be found wild in England, in Derbyshire and a few other localities, having been introduced and escaped from zoos, and what is more the Indian species and the smaller Chinese species have interbred in England!"

-M. Krishnan

This was first published on 21 May 1961 in The Sunday Statesman

---

## Wilderness Updates :

### Bungkulung - A pleasant treat to the eyes

**By Swagata Sarkar. Photographs by Samrat Sarkar**

It was around six o'clock in an early October morning; darkness was still prevailing in the thick forest covers of both sides of the Himalayan village road through which we were approaching slowly following a Green Magpie's call. For the last fifteen minutes it literally kept us busy being unaware of the other movement in the forest. Suddenly some movements on a tree trunk just beside the bamboo bush we were searching for the magpie grabbed my attention. 'Oh! This is a Hoary bellied squirrel'. Immediately the snap was taken and it revealed the 'Orange' hue on the belly instead of the 'Hoary'. The excitement picked up. This was rather an 'Orange bellied Himalayan Squirrel', which made our first day nature walk at Bungkulung a really memorable one.



**Orange bellied Himalayan Squirrel**

**Courtesy : Samrat Sarkar**

This lesser known, beautiful hamlet of Darjeeling district is just 50 km drive from Siliguri and is 15 km downhill drive from Mirik. Bungkulung is characterized by rising mountains, hilly terrains, woodlands, orange orchards, pineapple garden, along with paddy fields.

Bungkulung is slowly gaining its popularity as a bird lover's paradise though the number of actual species found here is still in unknown as the residents of the village are still unaware of their rich avifaunal treasure. Only one homestay run by Tara Rai and Kalpana Rai caters for basic foods and accommodation to the visitors.



## Wilderness Updates :

The last October we could manage to add two more days with weekend and searched for some weekend gateways in Darjeeling hills. All the three members of our group finally voted for Bungkulung.



During a couple of days' stay at Bungkulung we could sight the birds like Emerald Dove, Greater-Yellownape, Velvet fronted Nuthatch, Green Magpie, Common Stonechat, Hill Myna, Oriental Turtle Dove, Olive backed Pipit, Asian barred Owlet, Brown fish Owl, Grey Treepie, Scarlet Minivet, Blue bearded Bee-eater, Golden fronted Leaf-bird, Banded bay Cuckoo, Black winged Cuckoo-shrike, Lesser-necklaced Laughingthrush and very elusive Black Baza.

Scarlet Minivets with their vibrant red and yellow colours were frequently sighted foraging in flocks high up in the forest canopy. In contrary, spotting a common Green Magpie or a small group of Lesser necklaced Laughingthrush demanded a lot of patience as they had been rarely coming out of the scrubs and bushes; they had been foraging in. Their chatters and whistles and movements could be felt so clearly but having some decent shots of the birds demanded quite a bit of luck.

Now, I must share my amazing experience with the sighting of the other very elusive 'Black Baza', not nearly a single one rather a small group of 6 to 7. We could watch them early in the morning for two consecutive days at the same tree parching on the bare branches of that very tall tree they were seen engaged in preening, sometimes looking for a prey and one of them was actually photographed while 'regurgitating'. Some local people, when asked, said that they had noticed the birds earlier and perceived them as some species of jungle crow. Hence they were unable to enlighten us with specific information about these rare beauties.

Another rarity which made our trip to Bungkulung a special one is the 'Common Birdwing' butterfly. We were really amazed to see this very gorgeous butterfly at every nook and corner in the forest, specially around shrubs and bushy jungle. According to IUCN Red list this Swallowtail butterfly is an endangered one and it can boast of being one of the largest swallowtail butterflies in Asia and rapid habitat loss already have posed a threat to their survival. The Indian birthwort is facing rapid destruction due to conversion of forest area into agricultural land and due to depletion of the plants





essential for their feeding and breeding.



**Lesser-necklaced Laughing-thrush**

We left Bungkulung with the question in our mind that whether those Bazas were the residents of the forest or they were the passage migrants.

Later we came to know that they left Bungkulung after one month of roosting in that tree.

---

## **Wildlife Photography -**

**Drinking Habits of Rhesus Monkey in Sundarbans by Saktipada Panigrahi**



**Rhino by Abhirup Dutta Gupta**





## **Wildlife Photography -**

**Tigress in Kanda by Debasis Bose**



**Lone Elephant by Rajan Kanagasabai**



## Wildlife Photography -

### Grey Langur by Prashobh Ailyam Nair



### Black Shouldered Kite by Sucheth Lingachar





## **Wildlife Photography -**

**Shikra by Shyamala Kumar**



**Small Blue Kingfisher by Mangru Minz**



## Wildlife Photography -

### Spiderlings by Prajwal Ullal



I look forward to your inputs and support in preserving the last tracts of wilderness and wildlife left in our beautiful country. For other interesting articles and images check - <http://www.indiawilds.com/forums/>

To post in the IndiaWilds forums, you can register free of cost using your Full Name as user id at - <http://www.indiawilds.com/forums/register.php>

If you are already a member of IndiaWilds and have forgotten your user id and/or password you can mail [administrator@indiawilds.com](mailto:administrator@indiawilds.com)

Regards,

**Sabyasachi Patra**

Profile: <http://www.indiawilds.com/about.htm>

Contact: <http://www.indiawilds.com/contact%20us.htm>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/IndiaWilds/132629240481>

Diary: <http://www.indiawilds.com/diary/>

Equipment reviews: <http://www.indiawilds.com/diary/category/equipment/>

Forums: <http://www.indiawilds.com/forums/index.php>

Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/indiawilds>

**Publisher's address: -**

**Plot No. 1, Akarpuri Colony,  
Near Vaithal Temple, Old Town,  
Bhubaneswar, 751002  
Odisha  
Mobile - +919910900446**