

Indian Wildlife Ecology Conference 2026
10-12 July 2026

Friday, 10 July 2026

Time 08:00–09:00	Registration (Venue: Sanghvi Library)
Time 09:00–09:30	Opening Session (Jayashree Ratnam, Somak Raychaudhury, Vivek Menon) Moderators: Anupama Ambika and Bindu Raghavan Dr. Reddy's Auditorium

Time 09:30–11:00	Paired Plenary 1 (Jahnvi Joshi and Mahesh Sankaran) Mahesh Sankaran — NCBS-TIFR: Global change and the future of India's montane grasslands Jahnvi Joshi — CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad: Examining the evolutionary processes shaping species richness and composition of woody plants in the Western Ghats Moderator: Geetha Ramaswami Dr. Reddy's Auditorium
Time 11:00–11:30	Tea Break
Time 11:30–13:30	Symposia and Open Sessions
Room AC03-005 Time 11:30–13:30	S1 - Ecological degradation in the Anthropocene: Detection, estimation, and the consequences for ecosystem function Chairs: Ghazala Shahabuddin, Ashoka University; Meghna Krishnadas, National Centre for Biological Sciences-TIFR (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by Q&A)

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Multiple land-use legacies drive divergent floristic recovery in tropical rainforests over decadal timescales despite shared landscape context	A. P. Madhavan Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru
2.	Plant traits, neighbourhoods, and herbivore network structure mediate elevated herbivory at semi-arid forest edges	Upasana Sengupta Ashoka University, Haryana
3.	Forest Fire-Induced Habitat Loss and Fragmentation in Uttarakhand Himalaya Using Satellite Remote Sensing	Tazmin Sultana Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
4.	Detecting ecological degradation using NDVI breakpoints in Western Himalayas	Abhishek Kumar ICAR National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi
5.	Resilience and Recovery of Degraded Himalayan Oak Forests: Role of Dispersal Traits, Habit and Habitat	Ghazala Shahabuddin Ashoka University, Haryana
6.	Impacts of livestock herbivory on successional mangroves in the Nicobar Islands	Thirumurugan V Madras Christian College, Chennai

Room AC04-004 Time 11:30–13:30	S3 - Conservation and coexistence: Multidimensional learnings from primatology Chairs: Honnavalli N. Kumara, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India; Santanu Mahato, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India; Arijit Pal, Food and Land Use Coalition India (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Responsible and ethical experimentation can offer unique insights into conservation ecology, behavior, and cognition – Lessons from Indian primatology	Sayantan Das University of Mysore
2.	Working with secondary data: Developments, Possibilities and Concerns	Zakhiya Pulukkoll Cheriandilakath National Institute of Advanced Studies
3.	Beyond fragmentation: Differential demographic responses of primate species to anthropogenic changes in the Anamalai Hills, Western Ghats	Santanu Mahato Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India
4.	Unlikely Friends? Coexistence Strategies of Macaques and Street Dogs in Shared Anthropogenic Landscapes	Arijit Pal Food and Land Use Coalition India, WRI India
5.	The Bonnet Macaque One Health Project	Praneetha Monipi Adhvaya: Beyond Barriers
6.	Ecology of urban dwelling rhesus macaques (<i>Macaca mulatta</i>)	Taniya Gill Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)
7.	Socio-ecological drivers of human behavioral responses to Himalayan langur (<i>Semnopithecus schistaceus</i>) encounters in human-dominated landscapes	Diganta Mandal Indiana University/Centre for Ecology Development and Research

Room AC03-003 Time 11:30–13:30	S5 - Canids at the crossroads: Coexistence and conflicts in urbanizing India Chairs: Nishant Kumar, National Centre for Biological Science-TIFR; Thinkpaws Foundation; University of Oxford; Priyanka Justa, Wildlife Institute of India and Neeraj Mahar, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; Yavdendradev V. Jhala and Arjun Srivathsa, National Centre for Biological Science-TIFR
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Paws, claws, and midlife flaws: how two canid species shaped my science and life (15 minutes)	Chandrima Home Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Manipal Academy of Higher Education
2.	Removal, Replacement, and Resilience: Revisiting the Vacuum Effect in Free-roaming Dog Population (15 minutes)	Harish Tiwari IIT Guwahati
3.	Reassessing livestock depredation: Insights into human–dhole interactions in Kanha Tiger Reserve (12 minutes)	Aditya Rana Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
4.	Sociocultural Dimensions of Human-Jackal Coexistence in Urbanizing Assam, Northeast India (12 minutes)	Priyanka Borah Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), MAHE
5.	Free-ranging dog movement and habitat use in a protected human-wildlife landscape in South India (8 minutes)	Sanjana Vadakke Kuruppath Independent Researcher
6.	Damage Does Not Dictate Attitude: Conditional Tolerance Toward Indian Grey Wolves in Agro-Pastoral Landscapes. (8 minutes)	Avril Sahana Amanna Wildlife Institute of India
7.	Chai and Chennai: Insights from long-term studies of dholes in forest–agroforest mosaics in South India (20 minutes)	Arjun Srivathsa National Centre for Biological Sciences–TIFR

Room AC04-005 Time 11:30–13:30	OS1 - Evolutionary Biology: Linking Genomes, Traits, and Landscapes Chairs: Kritika Garg and Preeti Hebbar
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	What's up with the Black Tigers?: Evolutionary Dynamics of the Pseudomelanistic Tiger Population	Abhijit Santra National Centre for Biological Sciences
2	When morphology misleads: Convergent morphology and species-group polyphyly in the army ant genus Aenictus Shuckard, 1840	Bikash Sahoo National Institute of Science Education and Research
3	Divergent venoms among two closely related co-distributed centipede species, Scolopendra morsitans and S. hardwickei in tropical Asia	Aditi CSIR-CCMB
4	An Integrative Landscape Genomics Framework To Disentangle Spatial Evolution	Vivek Premnath Suranse Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
5	Assessing the influence of macrohabitat on the genetic structure in two widespread amphibians of India	Preeti Hebbar Manipal Academy of Higher Education
6	The genomic legacy of Asiatic Cheetah from the Indian subcontinent	Kritika M. Garg Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali
7	Phylogeography of Great Hornbill	Pooja Yashwant Pawar Nature Conservation Foundation

Room AC04-304 Time 11:30–13:30	OS2 - Species distribution and landscape ecology Chairs: Aritra Kshettry
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	Bridging data gaps in squirrel distribution: Importance of community-collected data	Swati Udayraj Independant Researcher
2	Distribution, density and environmental correlates of reptiles on threatened montane rock outcrop in the northern Western Ghats	Vaishnavi Apte Nature Conservation Foundation
3	Terrain, Habitat, and Connectivity: A Landscape-Level Analysis of Himalayan Tahr in Western Himalayan Landscape	Jayant Gupta Amity Institute of Forestry and Wildlife, Amity University Noida
4	Ecological Dynamics of Himalayan Brown Bears in the Trans-Himalayan Region	Niazul Hassan Khan Wildlife Institute of India / Wildlife Protection Department, Ladakh
5	Symphony of Shadows: Decoding Nyctibatrachus Microhabitat Preferences Through Structural Equation Modelling in the Western Ghats	Priyanka Desai Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research (BVIEER)
6	Bat fauna of Lakshadweep archipelago: diversity, distribution and roosting ecology	Irfan Mubarak P Nature Conservation Foundation
7	Habitat Fluctuations in Bats in the Indian Subcontinent in response to Historical Climate Change	Ratnesh Karjee Ashoka University

Room AC04-301 Time 11:30–13:30	OS7 - Human-Wildlife interactions and livelihoods Chairs: Ravi Chellam and Venkat Ramanujam
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	Anthropogenic Mortality of Leopards in Agricultural Landscapes of Bijnor, Northern India	Shivam Chauhan Department of Wildlife Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
2	Community Values and Social Norms shape human behaviour toward elephants in shared human-elephant landscapes	Shikhar Srivastava Ashoka University
3	Responses of Elephants to Community-Led Deterrents in Bandhavgarh Landscape, Central India	Rajashekhar Niyogi Wildlife Research and Conservation Society, Pune
4	Women, Forests, and Leadership: Ecologies of Care and Resilience in the Central Indian Himalayas	Kavya Pandey Centre for Wildlife Studies
5	Adopting methodological plurality to understand elephant agency in shaping human-elephant conflict in North Bengal	Akashdeep Roy Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
6	Understanding Negative Human-Wildlife Interactions and How Elephants Act as Facilitators for Sympatric Herbivores to Access Forage Rich Agri-fields	Sahil Das Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment, Education and Research (BVIEER), Pune
7	When hunting traps become conservation tools	Bahar Dutt Shiv Nadar University

Time 13:30–15:00	Lunch
Time 15:00–17:00	Symposia and Open Sessions
Room AC04-005 Time 15:00–17:00	S6 - Grasslands and savannas - understanding fundamental drivers and predicting impacts of environmental changes Chairs: Mayank Kohli, National Centre for Biological Sciences-TIFR; Jayashree Ratnam, National Centre for Biological Sciences-TIFR; Mahesh Sankaran, National Centre for Biological Sciences-TIFR (each talk will be 12 minutes, followed by Q&A)

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Relative importance of protection and habitat in determining species' abundances in an Open Natural Ecosystem	Swapna Lawrence Wildlife Institute of India
2.	Understanding grassland specialist abundances in northern Deccan ONEs and consequences of agricultural intensification for bird conservation	Samakshi Tiwari Nature Conservation Foundation
3.	The Historical Dynamics of the Shola Forest-Grassland Mosaic System in the Western Ghats across glacial-interglacial cycles	Praveen P Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati
4.	Woody Thickets and Subsidized Predators: Reassembling Faunal Communities in Indian Grasslands	Chetan Misher Wildlife Conservation Trust, India
5.	Dominant species mediate temporal grassland stability under short-term warming	Anish Paul Biodiversity and Ecosystems Ecology Research Laboratory, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, India; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA
6.	Valuing traditional literature as archives of biocultural histories could catalyze tropical savanna conservation	Ashish Nerlekar IISER-Pune
7.	Conservation Politics and Ecological Insights: The Grazing Ban in Sikkim	Rashmi Singh IIT Hyderabad

Room AC03-005 Time 15:00–17:00	S7 - The economics of wildlife conservation Chairs: Sumeet Gulati, University of British Columbia (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Making markets for ecosystem services: Lessons from the Bobolink Project	Anwesha Chakrabarti Krea University
2.	From “criminals” to conservationists: Pardhis and the Wildlife Protection Act	Chinmayi Srikanth Indian Statistical Institute Delhi
3.	Burden of mortality and morbidity caused by snakebites contribute to economic loss in a rural population in India	Swapnil Kiran CSIR - Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology
4.	Empathy for Elephants: Investigating Household Wealth Disparities and Divergent Perspectives Towards Elephants in Southern India	Dr. Simran Prasad Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS)
5.	Community Forest Management and Biodiversity: Evidence from Bird Counts in Nepal	Agnij Sur Economics and Planning Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi
6.	Human-wildlife interactions and the economics of crop loss outside protected areas in North-Western Himalaya.	Mehreen Khaleel Cluster University, Srinagar

Room AC04-004 Time 15:00–17:00	S12 - Advancing biodiversity monitoring and conservation through eDNA Chairs: G Umapathy, CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology; Mukesh Thakur, Zoological Survey of India (each talk will be 20 minutes, followed by 5 minutes Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Environmental DNA for Biodiversity Monitoring in India: Status, Opportunities and Challenges	G Umapathy CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad 500007, India
2.	Metabarcoding Approaches for Unraveling Soil Fungal Communities in the Western Ghats, India: Conservation Implications and Future Directions	Manikandan Ariyan Institute of Ecology and Earth Science, University of Tartu Tartu, Estonia
3.	Invisible to visible: Unravelling aquatic biodiversity of the Eastern Ghats using environmental DNA	Dr. Manisha Ray CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad 500007, India
4.	Optimization of sedaDNA metabarcoding approach to investigate changes in the natural environment in deep time at Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, southern India	Ramya Bala Prabhakaran National Institute of Advanced Studies

Room AC03-003 Time 15:00–17:00	S18 - Conservation of river ecosystems Chairs: J.A. Johnson, Wildlife Institute of India; Biju Kumar, University of Kerala; Ruchi Badola, Wildlife Institute of India (each talk will be 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Stakeholder Engagement Through Capacity Building for Riverine Wildlife Conservation	Alankrita Sharma Wildlife Institute of India
2.	Dancing without a floor: A tale from the Western Ghats' montane streams.	N V Rajiv Wildlife Conservation Society India
3.	Catchment-Driven Soil Erosion Dynamics and Implications for River Ecosystem Services in the Lower Narmada Basin	Soumyadeep Choudhury The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
4.	Cascading effects: Stream macroinvertebrate communities in different land use types in the headwaters of River Aghanashini in the Western Ghats	Deepti Bajaj Ashoka University

Room AC04-303 Time 15:00–17:00	OS3 - Animals in Changing Landscapes Chairs: Jagdish Krishnaswamy and Umesh Srinivasan
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	Bird community assembly across a disturbance gradient in a forest-agriculture landscape of Northeast India	Biang La Nam Syiem Conservation Initiatives
2	Effects of Shade Management on Bird Communities and Habitat Use in Coffee Agro-Forestry Systems of the Western Ghats	Sanath R M Nature Conservation Foundation
3	Fragmented yet vital: Impact of urban green patch size and structure on avian diversity in Pune, India	Vaidehi Mehta Bharti Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune
4	Impacts of land use on bird communities in the Western Himalaya: Insights from a two-decade-long monitoring program	Sidharth Srinivasan Georgia Institute of Technology and Nature Conservation Foundation
5	Fragmentation and surrounding land use shape bird communities in semi-arid grasslands of eastern Pune, India	Varsha WII-SACON
6	Faunal Diversity of Vertebrate Pests in AgroHorticultural Ecosystems of Sub-Montane Punjab	Dr Vinay Singh Punjab Agricultural University- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pathankot
7	Spatial Drivers of Human–Leopard and Human–Tiger Conflict Across South Asia: A Regional Meta-Analysis	Anish Banerjee, Think Wildlife Foundation

Room AC04-301 Time 15:00–17:00	OS4 - Patterns and Processes in Community Ecology Chairs: Kartik Shanker
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	Living Together by Living Apart: Co-existence in two sympatric lizards	Dimpi A. Patel Wildlife Institute of India

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
2	Canopy gaps as diversity hotspots: Succession of vegetation and crab communities in mangrove canopy gaps of the Andaman Islands, India	Perarivalan Wildlife Institute of India
3	Forest Type Shapes the Architecture of Spider-Ant Trophic Networks in Himalayan Forests	Ashirwad Tripathy Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
4	Assessing five-year tree mortality in a dipterocarp wet evergreen forest of Western Ghats	Drishya KV French Institute of Pondicherry
5	Conspecifics depress seedling survival more strongly in wetter forests	Meghna Krishnadas TIFR National Centre for Biological Sciences
6	In search of elusive sawfish along the west coast of India	Mayuresh Gangal Nature Conservation Foundation
7	Niche partitioning among sympatric macaques in Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary	Dhiraj Kumar Das Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Tamil Nadu.

Time 17:00–18:30	Special Interest Group Meetings
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Session	Room
SIG 1 Partnering for Connectivity Conservation: The Coalition for Wildlife Corridors (Divya Ramesh, Coalition for Wildlife Corridors)	AC04-004
SIG 2 Initiating a horizon scan: Developing ethical protocols for acoustic monitoring in wildlife and ecology research (Sarika Khanwilkar)	AC04-007
SIG 8 Macroecology and macroevolution research in India (Jahnvi Joshi, CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad)	AC04-1st Floor, Board Room
SIG 14: Establishing a community of practice to address illegal wildlife hunting and trade through integrated community surveillance and evidence-based protection (Jose Louies and Jimmy Borah)	AC04-309
<u>Special Session: Leveraging global policies for local conservation in India</u> Conversation with Vivek Menon (WTI) and Jagdish Krishnaswamy (IIHS); Moderator: Asmita Kabra (Ashoka University)	Dr. Reddy's Auditorium

Time 17:00–18:30	Poster Session and Tea
Time 19:30 onwards	Dinner at Student Dining Hall
Saturday, 11 July 2026	
Time 09:00–10:30	Paired Plenary 2 (Ashwin Viswanathan and Asad Rahmani) Dr. Reddy's Auditorium

	Asad Rahmani — BNHS, Mumbai: Emerging Threats to Indian Birds Ashwin Viswanathan — Nature Conservation Foundation: What Birds Can Teach India's Citizen Science Movement Moderator: Mahesh Rangarajan
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Time 10:30–11:00	Tea Break and Group Photograph
Time 11:00–13:00	Symposia and Open Sessions
Room AC04-009 Time 11:00–13:00	S9 - Wildlife diseases and significance for ecology and conservation Chairs: Bindu Raghavan, Wildlife Trust of India; Karthikeyan Vasudevan, Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by Q&A)

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Everything Everywhere All at Once: Limited effectiveness of dog-focused mitigation strategies on managing canine distemper risk among Trans-Himalayan carnivores	Divyajyoti Ganguly Nature Conservation Foundation; Manipal Academy of Higher Education
2.	Lessons learnt from studies on chytridiomycosis in amphibians: it is time to take the disease seriously	Karthikeyan Vasudevan CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology
3.	Feeding faith, fostering AMR (antimicrobial resistance): Identifying ecological determinants and implications on Rhesus macaques in Delhi	Nishant Kumar 1. NCBS (TIFR) Bangalore 2. Thinkpaws Foundation, Delhi 3. Department of Biology, University of Oxford.
4.	Investigating temporal coronavirus persistence, exposure, and diversity across life-history stages of bats	Darshan S National Centre for Biological Sciences - TIFR, Bengaluru

Room AC04-301 Time 11:00–13:00	S10 - State of biogeography, diversification and phylogeography research in the Indian subcontinent Chairs: Maitreya Sil, Jain University (Deemed-to-be University); Aniruddha Datta-Roy, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Patterns and drivers of diversification rates across geographic space in Western Ghats	Pragyadeep Roy CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology
2.	Variation in elevational influence in generating patterns of intraspecific genetic diversity and differentiation in individuals of <i>Philautus</i> frogs	Debjyoti Dutta Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune
3.	Origin, evolution, and speciation patterns of woody plants in Western Ghats, India	Abhishek Gopal CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
4.	Phylogenomic Insights into Lineage Divergence and Population Structure in the Indian Spectacled Cobra (<i>Naja naja</i>)	Paulomi Dam Kanunjna Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
5.	Contrasting biogeographic histories in co-occurring open-habitat birds of Peninsular India	Vishwa Jagati Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Tirupati
6.	Gulliver's shipwreck: a case of miniaturisation in the genus Asanada (Chilopoda, Scolopendridae)	Karunakar Majhi CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB)

Room AC04-005 Time 11:00–13:00	S11 - Can the paleosciences inform landscape and biodiversity conservation? Chairs: Ramya Bala Prabhakaran, National Institute of Advanced Studies; Renee Borges, Indian Institute of Science (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes Q&A) <i>followed by a discussion with Sahana Ghosh, Nature India</i>
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Mallotus-Macaranga pollen as proxies for forest dynamics and disturbance regimes	Mahi Bansal National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
2.	Who was the Malabar civet?	Uma Ramakrishnan National Centre for Biological Sciences, TIFR
3.	Fire-vegetation interactions in the high-elevation shola-grassland mosaic of the Nilgiris	Ramya Bala Prabhakaran National Institute of Advanced Studies
4.	The paleoecology of pollination and its relevance to contemporary pollination services	Renee M. Borges Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
5.	Three centuries of precipitation variability in the Kashmir Himalaya: a tree-ring reconstruction reveals temporal instability and extreme hydroclimate events	Rayees Ahmad Malik Department of Botany, University of Kashmir
6.	Restoration goals: Insights from antiquity and dynamics of forest-savanna mosaics in Central India during the Holocene	Meghna Agarwala Ashoka University, Haryana

Room AC04-008 Time 11:00–13:00	S19 - The farm-forest frontier Chairs: Asmita Kabra, Ashoka University; Budhaditya Das, Azim Premji University Ranchi (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Tree tenure in changing times: how communities navigating through and its effect on ecology - a case study on mahua trees	Abhijit Dey Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
2.	Misaligned Fire Narratives and the Political Economy of Livelihood Vulnerability in Central India	M. Amin Khan Dept. of Planning, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, GoI
3.	A unified model for testing possible causal hypotheses for farmer-herbivore conflict:	Mohini Patil Farmer and Independent Researcher
4.	Terra Natura: Property, territory, and ideology in (re)making the farm-forest frontier in India	Asmita Kabra Ashoka University, Haryana
5.	Connectivity Conservation, Livelihoods, and Building Relational Bridges	Amrita Neelakantan Network for Conserving Central India (NCCI) and Coexistence Consortium (CC)
6.	The case of the poached leopard and other (similar) tales: “conservation” in the Maikal Hills of Madhya Pradesh	R. Venkat Ramanujam Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence

Room AC04-304 Time 11:00–13:00	OS5 - Animal Interactions and Communication Chairs: Gururaja KV and Viraj Torsekar
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	The Social Butterfly: Partner Choice within Mixed-Species Aggregations of Tropical Papilionoidea	Shravani Deoghare Indian Institute of Science
2	Reef fish communities show differentiated response in the aftermath of two mass coral mortality events	Radhika Nair Nature Conservation Foundation
3	Inhabiting anthropogenic seas: a habitat study of coastal cetaceans of Mumbai	Mahi Mankeshwar-Modi Coastal Conservation Foundation
4	Social Cohesion and Herd Dynamics of Reintroduced Gaur in Sanjay Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh	Bhaskar Bhandari Wildlife Institute of India
5	Listening to the Night Whistler: Passive Acoustic Monitoring of the Gray Slender Loris in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve	Vandana Kannan Keystone Foundation
6	Vocal Behaviour Across Parturition in the Asian Elephant: A Case Study	Seema Lokhandwala IIT Guwahati
7	Thoracic Centralization and Abdominal-Mediated Temporal Stability: A Functional Map of the Mecopoda Song CPG	Vivek Dasoju Ashoka University

Room AC04-004 Time 11:00–13:00	OS6 - Animal behaviour and Physiology Chairs: Samira Agnihotri and Tanvi Deora
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	Changing Diets, Disrupting Guts? Seasonal Dietary Shifts and Gut Microbiome Dynamics in Indian Grey Wolves	Sara Kamat Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) 2. Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Information Technology and Biotechnology, Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University)
2	The winter behaviour and activity pattern of a non-hibernating, non-migrating small mammal in the Western Himalayas	Chandana M National Centre for Biological Sciences
3	Under the Influence: Parasitic Manipulation of Female Rock Agama Behaviour	Aaditya Gupta Ashoka University
4	Ecological Insights into the Feeding Habits of the Nilgiri Langur	Arjunan N Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian institute of Science, Bangalore.
5	Investigating reproductive biology of female mugger crocodiles (<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>) by using behaviour and endocrine measures	Brinky Desai Mahim Pandhi Wildlife Foundation
6	Noise-Induced Delay in the Dawn Chorus of the Common Tailorbirds in an Urban-forest Landscape	Akash Jaiswal TERI School of Advanced Studies

Time 13:00–14:30	Lunch
Time 14:30–16:30	Symposia and Open Sessions
Room AC04-009 Time 14:30–16:30	S14 - Behaviour under pressure: How disturbance shapes wildlife ecology Chairs: Ahmad Masood Khan, Aligarh Muslim University (each talk will be 8 minutes, followed by 2 minutes Q&A)

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Coexistence in a Crowded Landscape: Spatial and Temporal Ecology of Small Carnivores	Siddhi Damle Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore
2.	Feeding on the edge: Diet and Movement of Lion Tailed Macaques across forest-human interface in Kudremukh National Park	G Maria Christie Lawrencia Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune
3.	Scavenging behaviour of vertebrates at human-mediated carcass disposal sites in the Aravalli landscape of Haryana	Hitesh Kumar Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Anaikatty (Post), Coimbatore.
4.	The altered social behaviour of Asian elephants in a human-dominated landscape	Parvathi Krishna Prasad Conservation Initiatives, Deakin University
5.	Light Sleepers: Effects of Artificial Light at Night on the Behaviour and Physiology of the Indian Rock Agama	Nandita R Satish Indian Institute of Science, Karnataka, India

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
6.	Risk, Resources, and Repercussions: Context-dependent Costs of Fear in Desert Lizards	Mihir Joshi Indian Institute of Science
7.	Amber or white, dim or bright: Effects of artificial light at night on chameleon behaviour, morphology, and performance	Udita Bansal Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University
8.	“Beyond the ‘Super-Predator’ Paradigm: Attenuated Fear Responses to Human Presence in Himalayan Carnivores in India”	Pooja Chand Ashoka University, Haryana
9.	Edges of Risk: Behavioral Adaptation of Asian Elephants in a Mining-Dominated Landscape of Keonjhar, Odisha	Sibasish Sahoo Amity Institute of Forestry and Wildlife Science, Amity University, Noida
10.	Dynamics of scavenger visitation and competition at carrion resources in the Thar desert	Manas Shukla Wildlife Institute of India

Room AC04-008 Time 14:30–16:30	S15 - Biodiverse'city in the anthropocene: Pathways for resilient urbanscapes Chairs: Seshadri K S, Ashoka Trust For Research In Ecology And The Environment; Harish Prakash, GITAM University; Sudhira HS, GubbiLabs (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Avian Diversity and their Nesting Success Across Urban Wetlands of Bengaluru	Varsha Kari Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research (BVIEER)
2.	Pulled into cities: Resource stability drives flying-fox urbanisation	Ram Mohan Western Sydney University
3.	Insectivorous bat assemblage in Bengaluru city across levels of urbanization	Kunapareddy Kezia Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
4.	Ant genus diversity along forest-urban gradients of Guwahati	Prachaya Sarma Cotton University
5.	Examining ecological interactions between urban tree and vertebrate species in Bengaluru	Vallari Sheel North Carolina State University, USA
6.	Integrating remote sensing and bird atlas data to predict urban bird distributions within a west Indian city	Ankitha Jayanth Ahmedabad University, Gujarat

Room AC04-004 Time 14:30–16:30	S20 - Biological invasions in a changing world: From exciting science to challenging management Chairs: Alok Bang, Azim Premji University; Manzoor A Shah, University of Kashmir
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Biological Invasions in a Changing World: Global Perspectives, Indian Realities, and Future Challenges (25 minutes+5 minutes Q&A)	Zafar Reshi University of Kashmir
2.	The Problem of Plenty: How Over-Represented Biogeographic Regions Bias Regional Invasive Species Models (15 minutes talk+ 5 minutes Q&A)	Riya Pakhre University of Delhi
3.	Alien coffee modifies frugivore-mediated seed dispersal and regeneration in abandoned coffee agroforests, Western Ghats, India (15 minutes talk+ 5 minutes Q&A)	Abhirami C Nature Conservation Foundation
4.	Industrial Farming of Edible Insects in India: Biogeographic Trends, Ecological Risks and Regulatory Gaps (15 minutes talk+ 5 minutes Q&A)	Kaneez Fatima Azim Premji University, Bhopal
5.	Predicting Future Vector-Borne Disease Threats in the Kashmir Valley, India: An Integrated Ecological, Epidemiological, and Climate-Driven Perspective (15 minutes talk+ 5 minutes Q&A)	Tahir Gazanfar Integrated Disease Surveillance Program, Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir

Room AC04-301 Time 14:30–16:30	S4 - Integrating mixed methods for deeper insights in socio-ecological research Chairs: Swapna Nelaballi, Centre for Wildlife Studies; Sruthi Unnikrishnan, Centre for Wildlife Studies (each talk will be 10 minutes, followed by Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Blurry Boundaries: learnings from trans-disciplinary cross pollination	Samira Agnihotri The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU)
2.	Understanding spatial behaviour and its drivers: A case study from India	Abhishek Dudi Ashoka University, Haryana
3.	Integrating Ethnographic and Behavioural Approaches to Study Human-Dog Partnerships in Himalayan Pastoral Systems	Rashmi Singh Rana University of Technology Sydney
4.	Beyond Ecology: Socio-Political-Ecological Dimensions of Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence	Shweta Shivakumar Nature Conservation Foundation
5.	Adopting methodological plurality to understand elephant agency in shaping human-elephant conflict in North Bengal	Akashdeep Roy Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune
6.	A social-ecological assessment of the conservation potential of community-managed forests of Northeast India	Varun R. Goswami Conservation Initiatives
7.	Unraveling patterns and processes in socio-ecological systems through trans-disciplinary enquiries	Aritra Kshettry WWF-India
8.	Methods to the madness: Toolkits to leverage mixed methods research and data for biodiversity conservation	Kadambari Devarajan Independent Researcher

Room AC04-005 Time 14:30–16:30	S2 - Proximate mechanisms of animal behaviour Chairs: Maria Thaker, Indian Institute of Science; Ratna Ghosal, Ahmedabad University (each talk will be 12 minutes, followed by Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Thermal fluctuations affect embryonic physiology in a tropical agamid lizard	Amanda Ben Indian Institute of Science Bangalore
2.	From Song to Choice: Neural and Behavioural Correlates of Female Songbird Preferences	Titir Roy Indian Institute of Science Education and Research
3.	Ontogenetic stage divergence in morphology, activity and behavioral phenotypes of the hydrothermal vent crab <i>Xenograpsus testudinatus</i>	Jishnu Panamoly Ayyappan Institute of Marine Biology, National Taiwan Ocean University, Taiwan
4.	Linking visual sensitivity and social behaviour across light environments in green chromides (<i>Eetroplus suratensis</i>)	Chena desai Biological and Life Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University
5.	Comparative patterns of basking behaviour in mugger crocodiles across captive and free-ranging populations	Aditya Wadekar Biological and Life Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University
6.	More than Human Presence: Understanding the Drivers of Faecal Cortisol in Free-ranging Blackbuck Populations	Sofiya V M Indian Institute of Science
7.	Beyond Mistaken Identity: Using Proximate Mechanisms to Resolve the Paradox of Same-Sex Sexual Behavior	Viraj R. Torsekar GITAM University

Room AC04-304 Time 14:30–16:30	OS8 - Conservation Challenges and Interventions Chairs: Bilal Habib and H S Bargali
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	From Release to Establishment: Post-Release Ecology of Indian Grey Hornbills in Gir	Tanisha Dagur Wildlife Institute of India
2	Illegal Pangolin Trade in India (2020–2025): Will There Be Light at the End of the Tunnel?	Abhijit Konwar National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore
3	Saving Our Bhupathi's Purple Frog: conservation approaches for the critically endangered <i>Nasikabatrachus bhupathi</i>	Suchetana Gupta Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology
4	Reviving the Critically endangered Taxa: <i>Triplophysa kashmirensis</i> in Kashmir Himalayas: A Conservation Breeding & Habitat Restoration initiative	Irfan Ahmad Shera Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir.
5	Altered living conditions: A century in zoos. The case of the Lion-tailed macaque	Nilofer Begum Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
6	Quantifying local extinctions of western hoolock gibbons from Northeast India	Ezra Lawanker Rynjah Conservation Initiatives
7	Remnants and Restoration: Assessing Vascular Epiphyte Communities in a Fragmented Western Ghats Landscape	Keerthana M Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu

Time 16:30–18:00	Special Interest Group Meeting
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Session	Room
SIG 6 Invasive species - synthesising knowledge across (Geetha Ramaswami, Nature Conservation Foundation)	AC04-002
SIG 4 Increasing knowledge production through citizen science data (Shasank Ongole, Bird Monitoring Team, Nature Conservation Foundation)	AC04-007
SIG 10 The role of disease in human-wildlife interactions (Samira Agnihotri; Shomita Mukherjee; Ravi Chellam)	AC04-1st Floor, Board Room
SIG 11 Human-wildlife conflict in changing agro-ecological systems (Bhupinder Kaur Babbar, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana)	AC04-004
SIG 13 Storytelling and theatre - conservation outreach to non-technical public (Vikram Sridhar, Independent Researcher)	AC04-006
SIG 14: Establishing a community of practice to address illegal wildlife hunting and trade through integrated community surveillance and evidence-based protection (Jose Louies and Jimmy Borah)	AC04-309
<u>Special Session: How to get published (Led by Dr. Robin Vijayan (AC04-005))</u>	

Time 16:30–18:00	Poster Session (White box AC04-4th floor) and Tea
Time 18:00–19:30	<u>Panel Discussion: Dog gone? Socio-ecological and legal tensions surrounding free-ranging multispecies coexistence in India (Moderator: Nishant Kumar)</u> Dr. Reddy's Auditorium
Time 19:30 onwards	Gala Dinner at Student Dining
Sunday, 12 July 2026	
Time 09:00–10:30	Paired Plenary 3 (Anusha Shankar and Maria Thaker)

	Maria Thaker — IISc, Bengaluru: The hot and the hungry: Physiology as a lens to understand animal strategies in a challenging world Anusha Shankar — TIFR Hyderabad: Endotherm energetics in India: how little we know and what can we do about it! Moderator: Manjari Jain Dr. Reddy's Auditorium
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Time 10:30–10:45	Special address by Rohini Nilekani Moderator: Meghna Agarwala Dr. Reddy's Auditorium
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Time 10:45–11:15	Ajith Kumar Award for Outstanding Paper in Ecology Introducing the award: Jayashree Ratnam Dr. Reddy's Auditorium
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Time 11:15–11:30	Tea Break
Time 11:30–13:30	Symposia and Open Sessions
Room AC04-009 Time 11:30–13:30	S16 - Insects in a changing world Chairs: Pritha Dey, National Centre for Biological Sciences; Gauri Gharpure, Independent Researcher; Mansi Mungee, Azim Premji University (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes Q&A)

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Rutaceae-Lepidoptera-parasitoid Food webs along a gradient of agricultural management systems	Anaswar P Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
2.	Images to Insights: A Multi-Scale Investigation of Morphology-Environment Relationships in Moths	Divya Raj Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune
3.	Tracing Functions in the City: Patterns of Functional Diversity Changes in Ants	Ankita Sharma National Institute of Advanced Studies
4.	Light drives chemical defense-dependent insect herbivory on tree Seedlings in a fragmented tropical forest	Rishiddh Jhaveri Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB); National Centre for Biological Science (NCBS)
6.	Specialization of plant-insect herbivore interactions vary with fragmentation and resource acquisition strategy: Evidence from a tropical evergreen forest of India	Gayathri M National Centre for Biological Science (NCBS)

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
5.	Contrasting mechanisms for using humidity as cue for seasonal polyphenism in two tropical butterflies	Tarunkishwor Yumnam IISER Thiruvananthapuram & IISc Bengaluru

Room AC04-004 Time 11:30–13:30	S17 - Invasive plants and wildlife habitat: Mapping threats to India's ecosystems Chairs: Milind Bunyan, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment; VV Robin, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Tirupati (each talk will be 30 minutes)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Invasive Species Mapping Using Citizen Science	Keerthikrutha Seetharaman Independent
2.	Predicting invasion risk of <i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i> in the Himalayan region using native-range species distribution models and future climate scenarios	Rayees Ahmad Malik Department of Botany, University of Kashmir
3.	A Data-Driven Look at India's Alien Flora	Achyut Kumar Banerjee Azim Premji University

Room AC04-008 Time 11:30–13:30	S8 - A new era in Indian bat research & conservation Chairs: Rohit Chakravarty, Nature Conservation Foundation; Baheerathan Murugavel, Kerala Forest Research Institute & Vaaval-Centre for Indian Bat Research on Ecosystem Sustainability; Melito Pinto, GITAM Visakhapatnam (each talk will be 15 minutes, followed by Q&A)
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Knowledge shortfalls in South Asian bat conservation	Aditya Srinivasulu Zoo Outreach Organization
2.	Life inside the culm: CCTV insights into the activity patterns of bamboo bats in the southern Western Ghats	Sreehari Raman Kerala Forest Research Institute
3.	Foraging Ecology of the Critically Endangered <i>Hipposideros hypophyllus</i> in Kolar, Karnataka, India Using Radio Telemetry	Asmita Shukla Bat Conservation India Trust
4.	Roosting-caves selection of endemic and endangered <i>Rhinolophus cognatus</i> in tropical caves of Andaman Islands	Avimanyu Mukherjee Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India)
5.	Activity overlap and temporal segregation in sympatric bats in a Tropical island ecosystem	M K Shalini Pondicherry University
6.	Oh bat, where art thou? Drivers of insectivorous bat activity in an urban landscape	Melito Prinson Pinto GITAM Deemed to be University

Room AC04-005 Time 11:30–13:30	S13 - Bioacoustic frontiers in behaviour, ecology and conservation Chairs: Manjari Jain, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali; Divya Panicker, Ashoka University; Satyam Gupta, Ashoka University
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1.	Effects of Opioid Neuromodulation on Singing and Song learning in Zebra Finches (15 minutes)	Soumya Iyengar BRIC-NBRC, Manesar, India
2.	When Seeing Failed, Listening Worked: From Wolf Howls to Bioacoustic Indicators for Habitat Management (15 minutes)	Sougata Sadhukhan Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune
3.	Bioacoustic Insights into Wetas, Katyids, and Tree Crickets of the Indian Subcontinent (15 minutes)	Swati Diwakar University of Delhi
	Combining acoustic and visual platforms to estimate Indian Ocean humpback dolphin population size (8 minutes)	Isha Bopardikar IISER Tirupati & Foundation for Ecological Research Advocacy and Learning (FERAL)
4.	Using bioacoustics to assess gibbon conservation status in community-managed forests of Northeast India (8 minutes)	Divya Vasudev Conservation Initiatives
5.	Detecting elephant vocalisations using CNN-LSTM in Dhenkalal Forest Division from acoustic recordings (8 minutes)	Devesh Bajaj Ashoka University, Haryana
6.	Context-dependent vocal repertoire and functional analysis of palm squirrel vocalisations	Rakesh Muni, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati
7.	Fantastic beasts and when to find them: evaluating the effect of environmental variables on katydid activity (8 minutes)	Dr. Chandranshu Tiwari Shyama Prasad Mukherji College for Women, University of Delhi
8.	Bioacoustic data with machine learning methods indicate synchrony in a songbird' breeding phenology across a climatically varied landscape (8 minutes)	Chiti Aravind Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati

Room AC04-301 Time 11:30–13:30	OS9 - Conservation in Shared Landscapes Chairs: Anish Andheria and Tanushree Srivastava
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	Estimating the cost of wildlife that Indian farmers pay	Milind Gajanan Watve Independent Researcher
2	Turning the Tide: Shifting Fisher Behaviour Toward Whale Shark Conservation Along Kerala's Coastline	Jithin Jose Wildlife Trust of India
3	Ethno-zoological usage of natural resources by the tribal communities of Meghalaya	Rakesh Ch Saha Pachhunga University College, Mizoram University

No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
4	Understanding the hunters: Traditional Hunting Practices and Profiles from Pualreng Wildlife Sanctuary, Mizoram, India	Antarika Paul Mizoram University
5	Comparative Population Genomics of Hipposideros Bats: Informing Urgent Conservation Strategies for Endemic Kolar Leaf-nosed Bat	Tanisha Singh Ashoka University and Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
6	Integrating breeding site distribution and pre-harvest fire-related mortality risk to guide leopard conservation in agroecosystems of South Gujarat, India	Rohit Chaudhary Department of Wildlife Sciences, Banda University of Agriculture and Technology
7	Empowering Communities to Protect Pangolins: Countering Pangolin Trafficking in Indo-Myanmar Border	Chingrisoror Rumthao Wildlife Trust India

Room AC04-304 Time 11:30–13:30	OS10 - Climate, Health, and Conservation Chairs: Sutirtha Dutta and Abhishek Ghoshal
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No.	Talk title	Presenting author / affiliation
1	Climate change mitigation in rangelands: Examining efficacy of afforestation in Indian grasslands for carbon sequestration	Jobin Varughese National Centre for Biological Sciences/ Centre for Pastoralism
2	Climate change or afforestation? Attributing five decades of tree cover expansion in the Himalaya	Niranjan Balagopal Ashoka University
3	Arid Frontiers: Why Biogeography Matters for Climate-Vulnerable Wildlife	Manasi Mukherjee Independent Researcher
4	Wildlife conservation with one health approach: current scenario based on field research	Bahar Baviskar Society for Wildlife Conservation, Education and Research
5	One Health digital platform for free-roaming dog enumeration, individual identification, vaccination monitoring and bite-response support	Harish Tiwari IIT Guwahati
6	Loss and gains in mangrove: A multi-disciplinary long-term evaluation of post-tsunami mangrove ecosystem recovery in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nehru Prabakaran WII
7	Interactive effects of grazing and elevation on functional trait variation in Himalayan forest grassland mosaics	Nasir Ul Islam University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar

Time 13:30–14:30	Lunch
Time 14:30–16:00	Special Interest Group Meetings

Session	Room
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SIG 5 Integrating intersectoral approaches for India's biodiversity policy: Green energy, agriculture, land use, and forest rights (Anish Banerjee, Think Wildlife Foundation)	AC04-007
SIG 7 Bird window collision in India - what do we know and where do we go from here (Peeyush Sekhsaria, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)	AC04-002
SIG 12 Innovating ecology: Technology for wildlife research (Prachi Mehta, Wildlife Research and Conservation Society; Malyasri Bhattacharya, ZSL EDGE and The Habitats Trust)	AC04-004
SIG 9 Conservation ethics and community engagement in India (Karishma Pradhan, Nature Conservation Foundation; Deepshikha Sharma; Shweta Shivakumar)	AC04-1st Floor, Board Room

Time 16:00–16:30	Tea Break
Time 16:30–18:00	<u>Panel discussion: Extinction of experience: The decline of field-based ecology (Moderator: Robin Vijayan)</u> Dr. Reddy's Auditorium
Time 18:00–18:30	Poster prizes and Concluding remarks (LS Shashidhara) Conference summary and Vote of Thanks (Manvi Sharma and Shivani Krishna) (Dr. Reddy's Auditorium)