

THE NATURE VOLUNTEERS





PRINCIPAL FOUNDERS



ABHILASH KHANDEKAR Vice President & Founder Secretary

BHALU MONDHE (Padma Shri)
President

Bhalu Mondhe has been an avid nature lover for over 50 years now. He is an acclaimed wildlife photographer. Besides being a professional lensman, he is also a painter and sculptor. His love for photography took him places. He first visited the Kanha National Park to photograph tigers and enjoy the verdant jungle, much before it was formally declared a tiger reserve under the Project Tiger of 1972.

His long stints in Europe and America made him a confirmed environmentalist. So conserving nature is his second nature! His untiring efforts helped protect and conserve a severely threatened bird habitat and wetland called Sirpur Lake, Indore, along with its flora and fauna. Twenty five years down the line, Bhalu Mondhe, is a well known name in the fields of environment, wetland protection and bird watching. He was awarded the prestigious civilian honour Padma Shri in 2016.

Abhilash Khandekar, founder secretary of TNV, moved on with his profession of journalism to different cities and states but kept learning more about environment, wildlife, ornithology to keep contributing to TNV. A former member of the MP State Wildlife Board (2009-2019), he was nominated on Central Zoo Authority in 2017 for three years (2017-20), MOEFCC. He has worked on the Panna Tiger Expert Committee, that went into the causes of the complete decimation of the big cats from the Panna landscape. A prolific writer on environmental issues, wildlife and urbanisation, he produced and anchored a highly popular TV programme Astitva (2015-2019) on the LSTV in Hindi to promote environmental consciousness among masses. He and Mr Mondhe have coauthored books such as Birds of Sirpur, Vultures of Panna and Birds of Indore. The duo of Mondhe & Khandekar is the moving force behind TNV, an NGO which has grown in size and has widened its scope of work with a dedicated team of environment lovers as true volunteers.

Mr Khandekar was elected unopposed the President of MP Cricket Association (MPCA) in October 2019. An author and journalist, he divides his time between New Delhi and Bhopal and is known as one of the top environment journalists of India.



VISION

To have a well- protected, healthy and beautifully green environment around us.

MISSION

To conserve birds and their habitats; secure wetlands and their biodiversity and constantly work with people and governments to protect wildlife, to improve upon our natural ecology and urban chaos while ensuring happiness of trees, animals and people!



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear friends,

"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children." - John James Audubon

The environmentally restless TNV and its team of dedicated volunteers, was quite busy with various activities throughout 2019 and even in 2020, in spite of the Dev Kumar Vasudevan pandemic and the resource crunch we are facing, we managed to remaine committed to our mission.



Secretary

Some of our activities in the recent past include: A well-attended day long workshop on 'How to be a birding buddy' was conducted by Ms Garima Bhatia and Ms Abhisheka of ebird at GSIMR Indore on 7 April 2019 and soon after that the annual World Environment Day 2019 celebrations were held at Sirpur Lake on 5 June in which 100 school children participated. Shri Jayantilal Bhandari was the chief guest who called upon citizens to work for environment conservation to the best of their abilities.

The highlight of the year gone by was the book launch function of the much-awaited Birds of Indore brought out by TNV. The Minister for Urban Administration Shri Jaivardhan Singh was the chief guest on the occasion. Shri Yashwant Rao Holkar of Maheshwar presided over the function. Shri Jitendra Singh Raje, IAS, Executive Director, EPCO, Bhopal was the guest of honour. Dr Satish Pande, a leading ornithologist and environmentalist of India and the founder of the ELA Foundation Pune, was the special guest. It was a very well attended function and everybody present appreciated the end result of over three years of hard work by our dedicated team. TNV could not have published such a wonderful book containing detailed information about 267 species of birds and about the various birding hotspots of the district without the help of the Indore Municipal Commissioner Shri Asheesh Singh, IAS, and from EPCO, Bhopal. We thank them profusely for their invaluable help.

The 6th Annual Environment Lecture (AEL VI), conducted by TNV on 26 December 2019, was delivered by Dr. K.S. Gopi Sundar, Director SarusScape, International Crane Foundation and a global authority on cranes and wetlands. He spoke on "SarusScape: Conserving Water Birds in Agricultural Areas." It was a most enriching, informative and educational talk. The Pritamlal Dua auditorium overflowed and the audience heard him with rapt attention. He also visited Yashwant Sagar Lake with TNV members after more



than two decades. His observations on the sarus crane here in 1998 had led to this site receiving the coveted IBA (Important Bird and Biodiversity Area) status from Birdlife International (UK). Some years ago as many as 58 sarus cranes were clicked in a single frame by our president Shri Bhalu Mondhe at this very wetland which now needs proper tending and conservation, being the sole sarus habitat in this region. TNV now proposes to concentrate on Yashwant Sagar Lake.

AELs conducted by TNV have become an important feature of the environment calendar of the city and nature lovers keenly look forward to this event. During earlier AELs, the citizens of Indore benefitted from talks delivered by experts such as Ms Archana Godbole (2014), Dr Asad Rahmani (2015), Shri Manu Bhatnagar (2016), Shri Salil Tambe (2017) and Dr Ravi Singh, CEO-WWF India (2018). TNV's aim has been to create much needed environmental awareness among the masses through such exclusive lectures focussing on a given topic.

In February 2020, TNV conducted a well attended 3-day photography exhibition at the Dua Auditorium showcasing the outstanding works of the globally acclaimed wildlife photographer Shri Rajesh Bedi, New Delhi. Some of the beautiful exhibits were seen for the first time in the city, specially those of elephants from the Rajaji National Park and tigers from the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. TNV was honoured when its founder Mr Abhilash Khandekar was invited by the MoEFCC to conduct a few sessions at the CoP-13 at Gandhinagar in February 2020. The Conference of Parties was organised by the UN agency CMS (Convention on Migratory Species) which drew hundreds of experts from all over the world to Gujarat. From March 2020 onwards we have been conducting limited activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic. TNV has also been conducting virtual talks on birding for students.

TNV pledges to continue its activities to monitor and protect the environment and we thank all individuals and organizations including EPCO Bhopal, IMC Indore and the MP Forest Dept who support us in our mission. We also appeal to various individuals, industrial houses and other patrons to come forward to extend their support to TNV.

ABOUT TNV

The Nature Volunteers (TNV) is a leading conservation movement NGO and a not-for-profit organisation, functioning from Indore, MP. It celebrated its silver jubilee in 2016-17. TNV is a registered organisation with a top track record of variety of works such as wetland conservation, bird habitat protection, save tiger campaign, raising environment and climate issues at national and international fora, publishing books to create awareness in the masses, organising bird watching camps, participating in vulture counts, and so on. Much before the climate change and environment degradation emerged as global challenges, TNV had started its modest field work in these areas.

Indore's famous Sirpur Lake, which is about 120 years old, was a natural bird habitat but fell on bad days due to the negligence of its owners, the Indore Municipal Corporation

(IMC). TNV, led by its president - an acclaimed environmentalist, Mr Bhalu Mondhe (Padma Shri), took upon itself to conserve the wetland and its flora and fauna.

Upon his return from Germany,

Mr Mondhe found his hometown Indore in the grip of growing pollution and urban chaos. To get away from this polluted and frenzied city, he took off to his favourite 'outing' spot - Sirpur. But he was in for a rude shock! The state of the once-beautiful, sprawling Sirpur Lake unfolded a picture far removed from his wonderful school boy memories. Trees being felled, water contaminated, garbage heaps, leaves and timber being burnt and anti-social elements vitiating the environment. Sirpur appeared nobody's priority or responsibility. A person who chose Indore over Düsseldorf, was quite disturbed to see the appalling state of the Lake. He soon, along with his young journalist friend AbhilashKhandekar, then working with Free Press Journal as a sports correspondent, set up The Nature Volunteers (TNV) -- "an informal pressure group of environmentally restless people". Their love for the city and its well being was a common point of interest. They teamed up to save Sirpur. It was 5th June 1992. Since then their untiring multi-pronged efforts have resulted in the lake and its biodiversity being protected completely.

It took them and their colleagues almost 15 years of sustained efforts which brought back to life the sprawling Lake, the biggest chunk of carbon sink around Indore and ensured it regained its pristine glory.

The complete conservation of Sirpur Lake, as an urban water body, is now a well known success story across the country. It also has recently got an international recognition. Sirpur has been declared an 'Important Bird Area' (IBA) by the international body, Birdlife International, London, on the recommendation of BNHS. We refer to it as the Sirpur Bird Sanctuary (SBS) in reverence to the 140 colourful species of resident and migratory birds.

HELP US CONSERVE - PARTICIPATE AND DONATE हमारी सहायता करें - सहभागी बनें और दान करें

Help us in our mission to conserve birds and their habitats, secure wetlands and their biodiversity, protect wildlife, improve upon our natural ecology and urban chaos while ensuring the well being of flora and fauna. Your participation and donation will help us fulfil our vision of a well protected and healthy environment for all.

पिक्षयों और उनके आवासों को संरक्षित करने, आर्द्रभूमि और उनकी जैव विविधता को संरिक्षत करने, वन्यजीवों की रक्षा करने, वनस्पितयों और जीवों की भलाई सुनिश्चित करते हुए हमारी प्राकृतिक पारिस्थितिकी और शहरी अराजकता में सुधार करने के हमारे मिशन में हमारी मदद करें। आपकी भागीदारी और दान हमें सभी के लिए एक अच्छी तरह से संरिक्षित और स्वस्थ वातावरण की हमारी हिष्ट को पुरा करने में मदद करेंगे।

The Nature Volunteers

Bank of Baroda,

AB Road, Indore

SB Account No.-12010100015777

IFSC Coad - BARBOCOLIND (Fifth Character is Zero)







January 2019 - SDPS Students Visit to Sirpur: About 100 students of the school visited the lake and were taken on a birding trail.





January 2019 - RRCAT Bird Survey: A team from TNV Indore conducted a bird survey at the Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore. Many of the scientists and other staff also participated.





February 2019 - World Wetland Day : Smt. Smita Bharadwaj, IAS, Managing Director MPFC, was the chief guest at a simple function in which Shri Sudhindra Mohan Sharma was the keynote speaker.





April 2019 - How to be a birding buddy : A day-long workshop was conducted at GSIMR Indore by Ms Garima Bhatia and Ms. Abhisheka of ebird.



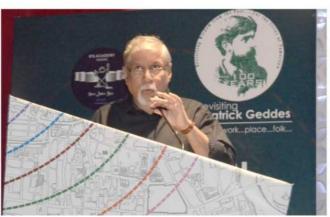


June 2019 - World Environment Day was celebrated at Sirpur Lake: More than 100 school children attended a bird watching session. Shri Jayantilal Bhandari was the chief guest.



July 2019 - Bank of Baroda Tree Plantation Programme was held at Sirpur Lake in which senior officers of the bank participated.





September 2019- Revisiting Patrick Geddes: A Three-Day International Conference was held at School of Architecture, IPS Academy, Indore, India on 26-28 September 2019. During this conference TNV President Padma Shri Bhalu Mondhe and Vice President Shri Abhilash Khandekar presented a set of the two-volume work 'Town Planning Towards City Development: A Report to the Durbar of Indore' by Sir Patrick Geddes to Ms Marion Geddes, the granddaughter of Sir Patrick Geddes.

Shri Abhilash Khandekar also delivered a talk during the conference.



September 2019- At a function organised in Indore our president Padma Shri Bhalu Mondhe presented the then Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Kamalnath a copy of our publications 'Birds of Indore' and a set of the two-volume work 'Town Planning towards City Development: A Report to the Durbar of Indore' by Patrick Geddes.





September 2019 - Birds of Indore launched: Urban Development Minister, Govt. M.P., Shri Jaivardhan Singh was the chief guest of the function while Shri Yeshwant Rao Holkar presided over it. Jitendra Singh Raje, (IAS) ED EPCO, Bhopal and Dr Satish Pande, top ornithologist from Pune, were the special guests of the impressive book launch ceremony at Hotel President, Indore.





October 2019 - Bird Photography Exhibition: This was conducted at the Pritamlal Dua Hall. Eminent photographers of Indore displayed their work. Famous wildlife photographer Kaustubh Rishi delivered a talk on Bird photography. A large number of photographers participated in the show, including..

Bhalu Mondhe, Ajay Gadikar, Kaustubh Rishi, Ritesh Khabia, Vipul Saxsena, Sachin Matkar and Pravar Morya.





November 2019 - Kuno Bird Survey: Members of TNV attended this survey in Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in district Sheopur, MP.





December 2019 - Dr. K.S. Gopi Sundar delivering the VIth Annual Environment Lecture
The Nature Volunteers at Pritamlal Dua Auditorium.

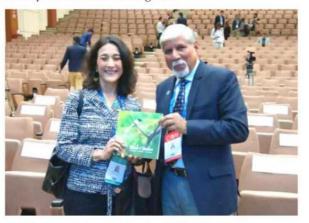
He spoke on **SarusScape**: **Conserving Water Birds in Agricultural Areas.** A most enriching, informative and educational talk. The hall overflowed and the audience listened with rapt attention.





February 2020 - World Wetland Day was celebrated at Sirpur Lake. Smt Aryama Sanyal Director, Indore Airport was the chief guest





February 2020 - Vice President Shri Abhilash Khandekar participated in the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) from 17th to 22nd February, 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. He presented the secretary general of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Ms Martha Rojas Urrego a copy of our publication Birds of Indore.





February 2020 - Exhibition of Wildlife Photography by Shri Rajesh Bedi, India's veteran and globally acclaimed photographer. Sajid Lodi explaining the exhibition to Collector Shri Lokesh Jatav, IAS and his wife.





June 2020 - World Environment Day: Due to the restrictions imposed for prevention of Covid 19 a few members of TNV visited Sirpur Lake for a bird watching session and tree plantation.



Ashutosh Gokhale & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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UDIN: 20073693AAAACP9431

FORM NO. 10B

[See rule 17B]

Audit report under section 12A(b) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of charitable or religious trusts or institutions

We have examined the balance sheet of <u>THE NATURE VOLUNTEERS SOCIETY</u> [name of the trust or institution] PAN <u>AABAT4992Q</u> as at <u>31/03/2020</u> and the Profit and loss account for the year ended on that date which are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said Trust or institution. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of **our** knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In **our** opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the head office and the branches of the above named **trust** visited by **us** so far as appears from **our** examination of the books, and proper Returns adequate for the purposes of audit have been received from branches not visited by **us**, subject to the comments given below:

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view-

- (i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named trust as at 31/03/2020
- the case of the profit and loss account, of the profit per loss of its accounting year ending on 31/03/2020

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

Date : 14/10/2020 Place : Indore for ASHUTOSH GOKHALE AND COMPANY

Chartered Accountants

Ashutosh Gokhale (PARTNER) M. No. : 073693

FRN: 0008833C 206, MANAS BHAWAN, 11, RNT MARG, Indore-452001 MADHYA PRADESH

Branch Office: HN-30, Sterling Green View Phase II, Chuna Bhatti, BHOPAL - 462 016 (M.P.) Mob.: 98930-23989
Head Office: 49, Gokul Palace, Flat No. 102, Kshirsagar Colony, UJJAIN - 456 010 (M.P.) Phone.: 0734-4014536
E-mail: ashutoshgokhaleandco@yahoo.com,

The Nature Volunteers (As At 31st March 2020)

LIABILITIES	Amount (in Rs.)	LIABILITIES	Amount (In Rs.)
Capital		Fixed Assets	
Corpus Fund	69200.00	Camera	123000.00
		Printer	9800.00
		Mobile	5968.00
Reserve and Surplus		Investments	
Opening Balance : 358035.98	656241.48	Accrued interest on FDR	9406.00
		FDR with Bank of Baroda	400000.00
Add: Surplus for : 298205.50			
the year			
Current Liabilities		Current Assets	
		Cash And Bank	
Account Charge	10900	Bank balance with BOB	197746.98
Payable			
Audit Fees Payable	10900	Cash-in-Hand	1320.50
TOTAL	747241.48	TOTAL	747241.4

Profit & Loss A/c

The Nature Volunteers (As At 31st March 2020)

EXPENDITURE	Amount (in Rs.)	INCOMES	Amount (In Rs.)
To Accounting Charges	5900	By Donation	957730
		By Donation for Annual Environment	187500
To Annual Environment Lecture Account	24536	By Interest on FDR	9406
To Audit Fees	5900	By Interest of Refund	60
To Bank Charges	70.50	By Interest on SB account	15121
To Books & Periodicals	1500	A CONTRACTOR CONTRACTO	
To Book of Birds Launching Programme	565370		
To Computer Expenses	3410		
To Environment Programme and Exhibition	7070		
To Magnificent MP Conference Expenses	18525		
To Plantation Programme Expenses	23570		
To Rent	180000		
To Salary	30000		
To World Environment Day 2019	5760		
To Surplus - (Income over Expenditure)	298205.50		
TOTAL	1169817	TOTAL	1169817



TNV TEAM



Bhalu Mondhe Hon. President



Abhilash Khandekar Hon. Vice President



Dev Kumar Vasudevan Hon. Secretary



Vindhyeshwari Kumari Hon. Joint Secretary



OP Maheshwari Hon. Treasurer



Ajay Gadikar Ornithologist



Ravi Gupta Ec Member



Dilip Phadke Founder Member



Sudhir Soni Founder Member



Sunil Deshpande Founder Member



Vijay Rangnekar



Sajid Lodi



Abhyudaya Kelkar



Nilesh Bendre



Neeraj Bagwan

EYE ON FUTURE

- The construction of a wetland interpretation centre in the Sirpur Lake area, Indore, with the help of Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC).
- · Creating a Butterfly Conservatory.
- Launching Save Sarus Campaign at Yeshwant Sagar, Indore
- · Large scale awareness campaign for Lesser Florican in Dhar, Ratlam, Jhabua
- Annual certificate courses on ornithology.
- · Interventions in urban planning.
- · Renew save tiger campaign.
- · Intensive study of migratory patterns of birds at Sirpur.
- Creating a biodiversity Park like the Yamuna biodiversity park, Delhi.
- Mahseer Conservation Project in the Narmada river, Madhya Pradesh.
- Efforts for getting Sirpur Lake declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site by the Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board.
- Efforts for getting economic valuation of the Sirpur Lake done from IIFM, Bhopal.

BHALU MONDHE

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