

Attending to our neighbours beckon: An Initiative to create a better home for urban wildlife through multivariate study and management approach (Interim Report)



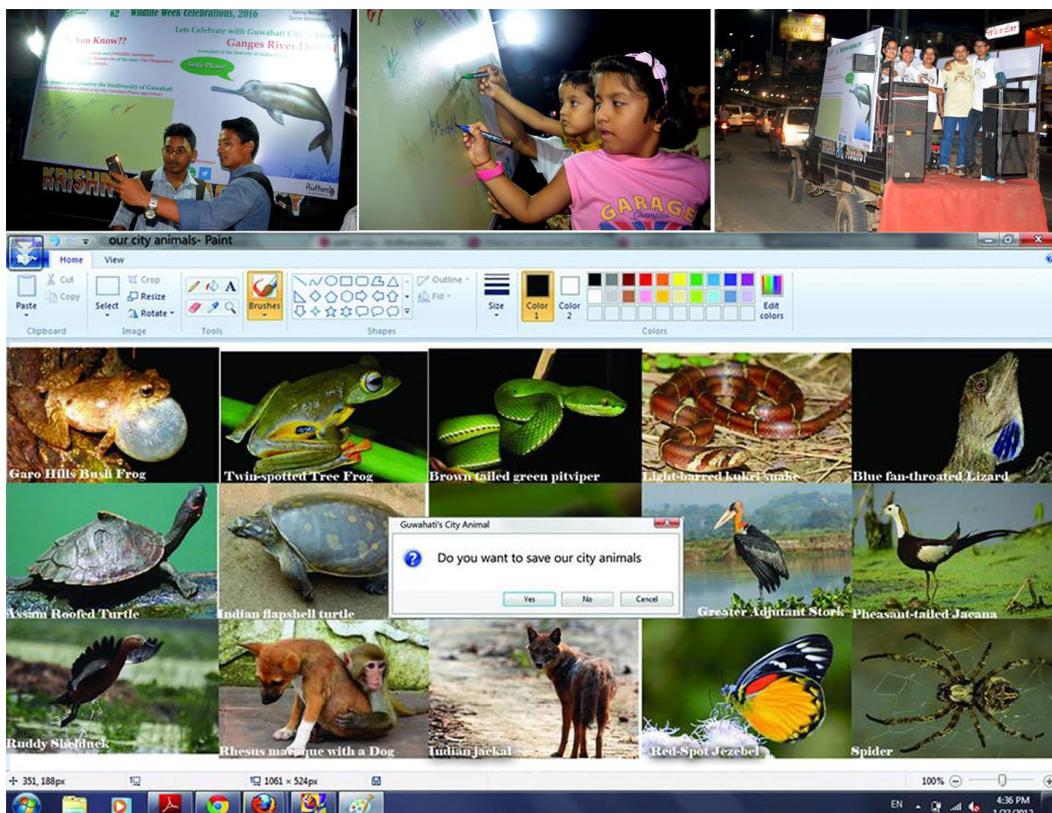
Independence Day walk (15th August, 2016) to promote urban biodiversity



Snake bite management workshop for Border Security Force Officials at Panisagar, Tripura



Quiz Competition in Assam State Zoo for School Students on Occasion of Wildlife Week, 2016



Awareness drive on wheels on Occasion of Wildlife week



Student biodiversity programme in Cotton Collegiate School, Guwhati in presence, District Commissioner (Kamrup metropolitan district)



Reptilian capacity building and strategy development programme for higher forest officials of Manipur forest department.

Campaign to promote city's biodiversity
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Oct 7: As part of the Wildlife Week celebrations, Help Earth and Kamrup (Metro) administration today carried out a promotional drive across the city using a decorated van depicting the urban biodiversity of Guwahati city.

"The van has photographs of a number of animals found in the city's reserve forests and wildlife sanctuaries as well as in the urban landscape. It's a promotional drive on urban biodiversity conservation, targeting the children in particular, so that they develop sensitivity towards our urban wildlife," Jayaditya Purkayastha of Help Earth said.

The van also carries information on the city's biodiversity, including the fact that Guwahati has eight reserve forests, two wildlife sanctuaries, 18 forested hills, Deepor Beel, the State's lone Ramsar Site, etc., within the city's municipal limits. The pictures of the wildlife included the Gangetic river dolphin, turtles, leopards, monkeys, frogs, snakes, lizards, etc.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

BSF gets lesson in snakebites

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GUWAHATI: Jawans of the Border Security Force (BSF) posted along the heavily forested India-Bangladesh border in Tripura not only have to fight smugglers and infiltrators, they also have to ward off snakes.

Rising instances of snakebites among BSF personnel compelled the paramilitary force to organize an awareness workshop at its sector headquarters at Pansagar in North Tripura on Monday. Herpetologists trained jawans on dealing with snakebites and taught them how to distinguish venomous reptiles from non-poisonous ones.

With no prior knowledge in herpetology, jawans posted at the Pansagar sector would often find themselves helpless in cases of snakebites. The area is thickly forested and has an abundance of cobras, vipers and kraits.

A Guwahati-based expert, who was part of the workshop, told TOI that several jawans had even died of snakebites in Pansagar earlier and the situation turned worse every monsoon. "They had no idea about snakes. We equipped them with knowledge about how to treat snakebites," said herpetologist Jayaditya Purkayastha.

"BSF said it had no records about the frequency of snakebite cases. The jawans would mostly resort to treatments from

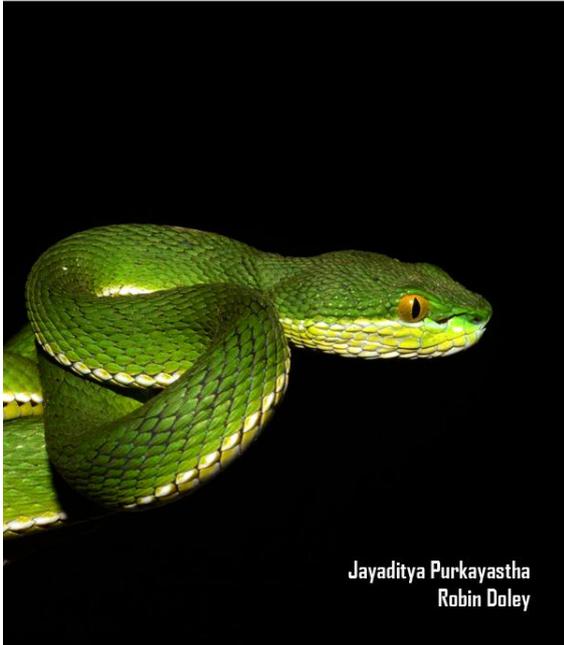
The Times of India 21 September, 2016

The Assam Tribune, 8 October, 2016

Media Coverage

A field guide to

Snakes of Assam



Jayaditya Purkayastha
Robin Doley

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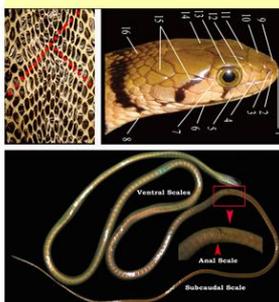


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Front Cover: *Trimeresurus erythrorus*



Top Left: Dorsal scale rows of *Naja naja*. Red dots indicate the procedure of counting the dorsal scale rows.

Top Right: 1: Rostral 2: Nasal 3: Nostril 4: Loreal 5: Supralabial 6: Infralabial 7: Postocular 8: Ventral 9: Internasal 10: Prefrontal 11: Frontal 12: Preocular 13: Supraocular 14: Parietal 15: Temporal 16: Dorsal

Bottom: Ventral, Anal and Subcaudal scales of *Dendrelaphis proarcus*.

The book "A field guide to Snakes of Assam" completed

Publications

Sengupta, S., Purkayastha, J., Das, M., Baruah, B.K. (2016): Herpetofaunal Assemblage of Deeporbeel Ramsar site of Assam, India. Research Journal of Contemporary Concern. 10-11 (B): 52-57

Purkayastha, J., Doley, R. (2016): A field guide to snakes of Assam (booklet)

Purkayastha, J., Basak, S. *Hoplobatrachus litoralis* (Anura: Dicroglossidae) in India (Hamadryad: in review)

Purkayastha, J. A preliminary checklist of herpetofauna occurring in Rowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura, India (Checklist: in review)