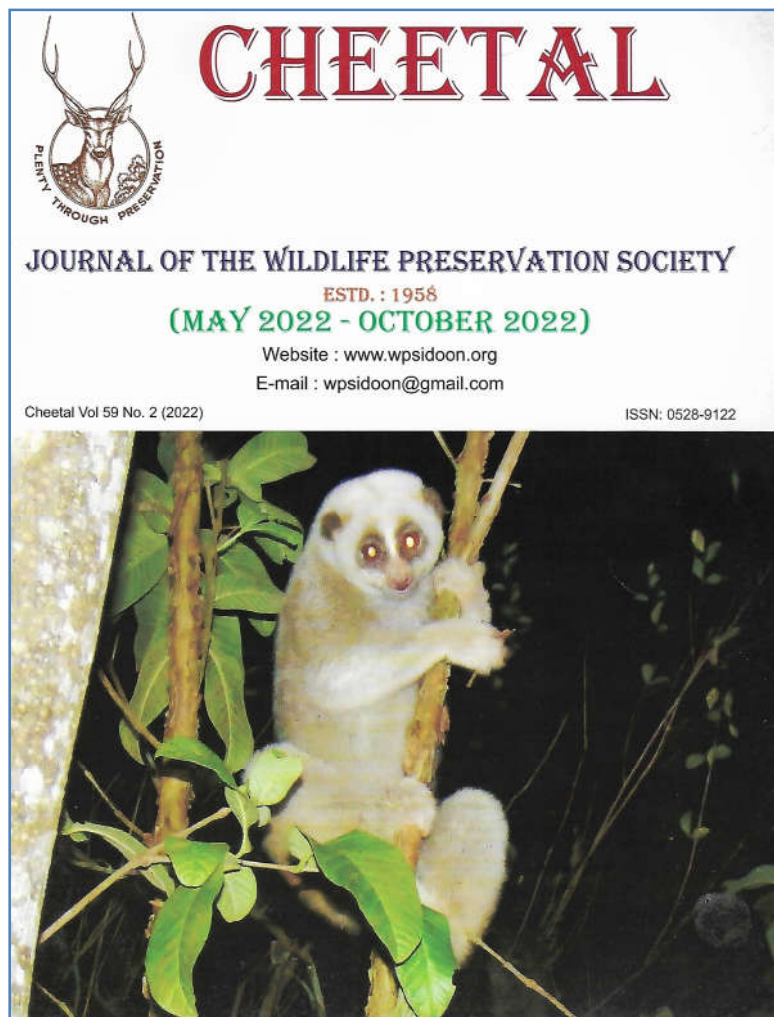


**Dr. Nabajit Das's** research paper published as  
**KEY ARTICLE**

Including Dr. Das's own photo of Bengal slow loris  
published in cover page of journal.



‘CHEETAL’, a journal of the wildlife preservation society, Dehradun, India, one of oldest journal in India published from 1958 till date, has recently published (Vol 59: No: 2, 2022) a research article on Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*) written by **our Faculty Dr. Nabajit Das** , which appears as a key article in the said journal. It is also stated that the cover page photograph of the journal is Bengal slow loris, which was captured by Dr. Das. The ‘CHEETAL’ journal has been catalogued in the Library of Congress, Washington, USA.



## CONTENTS

(i)	Cover Photos		2
(ii)	Editorial		3
1.	<b>The Endangered Bengal Slow Loris (<i>Nycticebus bengalensis</i>) Going to Be Extinct Before we Realize it Exists!</b>	Nabajit Das K.A.I Nekaris P. C. Bhattacharjee	4
2.	<b>A Rapid Bird Survey in Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary</b>	Deep Smita Nath, Bablu Dey, Mehtab Uddin Ahmed, Gulzar Hussain Sarkar, Amarjyoti Nath, Rupak Sutradhar, Biru Goyary, Parag Patgiri, Hilloljyoti Singha	14
3.	<b>Lessons While Shaping Tiger Research (1979 - 2003) in Similipal</b>	L. A. K. Singh	29
4.	<b>Mammalian Diversity of Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha, India</b>	Nimain Charan Palei, Bhakta Padarbinda Rath, Phalguni Sarathi Mallik	43
5.	<b>Elephants in Assam: Challenges and Opportunities</b>	Ritesh Joshi Kanchan Puri	55
6.	<b>Ex Situ Breeding of Lions - A Success Story</b>	Rakesh Kumar Singh, Utkarsh Shukla, Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Mohammad Nasir Shesh Narayan Mishra	61
7.	<b>African Lion in India? An Account of the First-Ever Transcontinental Translocation of a Large Carnivore</b>	Shashank Yadav	67
8.	<b>My Tryst with Snakes in Jammu and Kashmir</b>	Aaliya Mir	79
9.	<b>Tal Chhapar</b>	Pankaj Kapoor	84
10.	<b>Mahakaal Baba</b>	Vinod Rishi, IFS (Rtd.)	89
11.	<b>Wildflowers of Aravallis in Banaskantha District</b>	Khyati Singh	94
12.	<b>Book Review : Nomads of the Himalayas An Epic Journey to the World of Pastoral Gujjars in Rajaji's Kingdom</b>	Dr. Rashmi Kant Shukla, IFS (Rtd.)	96
13.	<b>Guidelines for Authors</b>		98
14.	(a) Activities		100
	(b) New Life Members		106
	(c) The Wildlife Preservation Society (Executive Body)		107
	(d) The Wildlife Preservation Society (The Aims and Objects)		109
	(e) Membership Form		111
	(f) Audit Report		113

## COVER PHOTOS

### Front Cover ←

Bengal Slow Loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*)

Dr Nabajit Das ←

### Front Cover Inner

African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus jubatus*)

Devanshi Das

### Back Cover Inner

Jelly Fish (*Scyphozoa*)

Dr Megha

### Back Cover Outer

Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Devanshi Das

**Now all the previous issues of CHEETAL are available online. Kindly Scan the QR Code**



## Disclaimer

'Cheetal' - started in October 1958, is the Official Journal published by Wildlife Preservation Society. The journal is intended as a medium for communication and discussion of important issues that concern wildlife and environmental activity.

All articles published in 'Cheetal' including editorials, article, research papers observations and commentaries, letters to editor and book reviews are deemed to reflect the individual views of authors and not the official points of view of editors and executive members of the society. All articles have been edited by the authors and the details in the 'About the author' section have been given by the authors.

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The contributing authors are solely responsible for the accuracy of scientific contents particularly the scientific names of the species and statistical data mentioned in their articles. Authors are requested to send photographs related to the article and research paper (Example - If you are describing the findings related with fish or other animal, the photographs (colour) of that particular fish or animals, the location map or Special site (Lake, River, Pond, Field etc) must be given in the writeup).



## Editorial



These days news on Cheetah introduction is a talk of the town. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sh Narendra Modi on 17th September, 2022 at Kuno Palpur National Park, Districts Sheopuri-Morena, Madhya Pradesh released five female and three male African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus jubatus*) brought from Namibia, South-West Africa. It will be interesting to note that Cheetal April, 2022 has covered an article by Dr Divyabhanusinh on the history of Cheetah in India. Cheetal May, 1970 has a cover photo by Maharaja Kolhapur with a caption 'A pair of wild Cheetas in the Deccan jungles'. Three male litters of Cheetah were last seen at Sarguja and shot by Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo, King of Koriya, Chhatisgarh in 1947. Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus vinnatus*) was declared officially extinct in 1952 from India. The present issue of Cheetal has on front inner cover photograph of African Cheetah contributed by Devanshi Das.

Cheetal Wildlife Journal has once again come up with cover page photograph and a key article on an exclusive endangered species 'Bengal Slow Loris' contributed by Dr Nabajit Das. On behalf of the Editorial Board of Cheetal and Executive Vice President, I personally thank all our authors who have contributed their respective articles for the Cheetal Wildlife Journal. The contribution of scientific articles in the Cheetal Wildlife Journal on Bengal Slow Loris from North-East India by Dr Nabajit Das, Dr K.A.I. Nekaris, Dr Parimal C. Bhattacharjee, Guwahati; Dr Hillojyoti Singha, Bablu Dey, Deep Smita, Amarjyoti Nath, Biru Goyary, Parag Patgiri, Gulzar Hussain Sarkar, Mehtab Uddin Ahmad, Rupak Sutradhar from Kokrajhar on Bird Survey in Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam; Dr L.A.K. Singh from Bhubneshwar on Biodiversity Conservation in Simlipal National Park, Mayurbhanj, Odisha; Dr Nimain Palei, Bhakta Padarbinda Rath, Phalguni Sarthi Mallik on Mammalian Diversity of Badrama-Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Sambalpur, Odisha; Dr Ritesh Joshi and Dr Kanchan Puri from MoEF&CC, New Delhi on Elephants of Assam; Dr Rakesh Kumar Singh, Dr Utkarsh Shukla, Dr Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Dr Mohammad Nasir, Dr Shesh Narain Mishra on Ex-Situ Breeding of Lions at Lion Safari, Etawah from Uttar Pradesh. Contribution of popular articles by Ms Aaliya Mir from Srinagar, Kashmir on Snake catching skill; Sh. Pankaj Kapoor from Lucknow on Tal Chhapar Sanctuary (Churu), Rajasthan; Sh Vinod Rishi from Dehradun on Elephant at Duors of Sevoke, Darjeeling; Ms Khyati Singh from Dewas on Wildflowers of Aravallis, Banaskantha, Gujarat and Shashank Yadav from Gautam Budh Nagar on African Lion are highly appreciated.

Gratitude towards our accomplished reviewers is extended for their valuable comments in enhancing the quality of articles. We welcome in the 'Cheetal Reviewer Board' the inclusion of learned Wildlife Veterinarian Prof. Dr Avadh Bihari Shrivastav, Former Director, School of Wildlife Forensic and Health, Jabalpur and Member of the Madhya Pradesh State Wildlife Board. We are thankful to Dr Asad Rahmani, Dr Parimal Chandra Bhattacharjee, Dr Mohan Ramachandran and Dr AB Shrivastav for contributing their reviewing scientific articles for the Cheetal.

The contribution of Dr Robert Bustard, Dr Sangeeta Khare, Dr Dushyant Singh Gaur, Dr Prashant Singh, Mr RD Singh Chandella and printing efforts by member Mr Mansoor Mazhar, Moradabad in bringing out the present issue of Cheetal is applaudable.

Society welcomes all new six life members Mr Prateek Wason from New Delhi, Mr Aditya Vikram Singh from Dehradun, Ms Khyati Singh Baghel from Dewas, Brig Mohit Nautiyal from Dehradun, Mr Prashant Kumar from Noida and Mr Devansh Brahma from Sonbhadra.

**Dr Rashmi Kant Shukla IFS (Rtd.)**

Editor-in-Chief

Member, State Board of Wildlife, Uttar Pradesh



# The Endangered Bengal Slow Loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*) Going to Be Extinct Before we Realize it Exists!

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## Abstract

The Endangered Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*) is the only strepsirrhine nocturnal primate species in north-east India. Bengal slow lorises are endemic primates and have high threat of extinction. In 2022, IUCN determined the species' conservation status as Endangered, meaning that more serious conservation efforts are needed. The species is distributed in nine different countries in Southeast Asia. In India, this species is found only in North-eastern states in tropical evergreen, semi-evergreen, tropical mixed deciduous, and sub-tropical broad leaf forests. The limited information on its status and ecology is the main hindrance to developing a conservation strategy for this species in India. It is one of the highly threatened species in the region due to hunting for meat and medicinal uses, illegal trade of its body parts, pet trade as well as severe habitat destruction. Understanding the behavioural ecology of primates is important for developing a conservation strategy, especially for endemic and endangered primate management outside conservation areas.

**Key words:** Slow loris, Endangered, Threatened, Conservation

## 1. Introduction:

Primates are amongst the most studied mammal species, but little is known of the Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*), a highly threatened nocturnal primate endemic to Southeast Asian countries. Lorisiformes are a group of nocturnal primates from Africa and Asia with five genera i.e. *Perodicticus* Bennett, 1831; *Arctocebus* Gray, 1863; *Loris* É. Geoffroy, 1796 and *Nycticebus*, É. Geoffroy, 1812. The genus *Perodicticus* (three species) and *Arctocebus* (two species) occur in west and equatorial Africa and, *Loris* (two species), *Xanthonycticebus* (one species) and *Nycticebus* (eight species) occurring in south, east and south-east Asia (Groves, 2001; Nekariss, 2013). In west-central Africa, *Perodicticus edwardsi* Bouvier, 1979 and *Arctocebus* occur in sympatry and in eastern Indochina, *Nycticebus bengalensis* (Lacépède, 1800) and *X. pygmaeus* Bonhote, 1907 occur in sympatry. All other species seem to have allopatric distributions.

The Lorisidae are represented by two species in India – *Loris lydekkerianus* (Slender loris) and *Nycticebus bengalensis* (Bengal slow loris) (Figure 1), which is endemic to south and Southeast Asia. The genus *Nycticebus* of infra order lorisiformes, native to South and Southeast Asia is one of the least studied Asian primates, owing to its nocturnal lifestyle, cryptic and its small body size (Groves, 1998; Srivastava & Mohnot, 2001). The Bengal slow

## About the Author



Dr. Nabajit Das is presently working as an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Zoology, B. H. College (Gauhati University), Howly, Assam. He has completed his PhD on the Ecology and behaviour of Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*), which was the first-ever long term study on this nocturnal primate in wild. He is also a recipient of one of prestigious fellowship 'Mirian Rothmands Internship Fellowship' from University of Cambridge, UK in 2009 and completed one month Internship programme in Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK. He is also an Adjunct Researcher of 'Nocturnal Primate Research Group' of Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK.

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Prof. Parimal Chandra Bhattacharjee, is the former Professor and head, in the Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, Assam. He has completed 25 research projects on primates, endangered birds, wetland and grassland ecology. He has guided 30 PhD scholars from Gauhati University and also other Universities in India. He is the member of IUCN –Primate SSC, State Wildlife Board, Biodiversity Board, Wetland authority of Assam. He was also a member of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). He was awarded life time achievement award from the Govt. of Assam for his contribution in Biodiversity and wildlife Conservation.

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