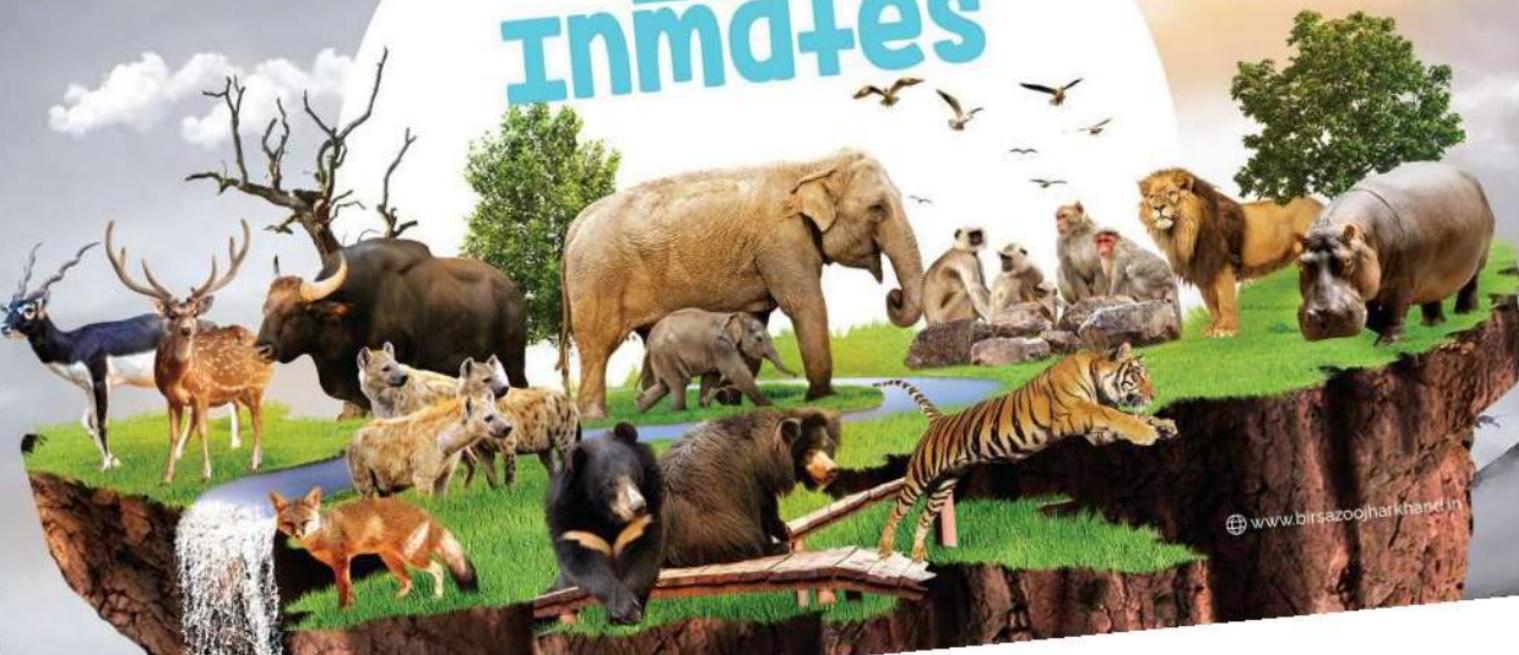




Meet your zoo inmates



www.birsazoojharkhand.in



BHAGWAN BIRSA BIOLOGICAL PARK

Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park, Ranchi, popularly known as Bhagwan Birsa Zoo, Ranchi is one of the most beautiful and progressive zoos in India, having 104 hectare of area of mildly undulating topography with natural dry deciduous Sal forests & water bodies in and around it. Most of the inmates of the zoo live in open, large moated areas surrounded by natural vegetation which provides them the naturalistic habitat and environment.

The park is pride of Jharkhand and is one of the major tourist attractions, with an annual foot fall of about 8 lakhs. The zoo houses about 1500 number of wild animals representing 91 different species of Mammals, Reptiles and Birds. The animals live in an environment which is similar to their natural habitat and the same helps them grow and breed well. The major breeding species are Himalayan Black Bear, Sloth Bear, Leopard Cat, Royal Bengal Tiger, Jungle Cat, Jackal, Fox, Stripped Hyena, Spotted Deer, Barking Deer, Sambar, Nilgai, Black Buck, Indian Gaur, Hippopotamus, Gangetic Gharial, Emu, Ostrich, Indian Peafowl and different species of pheasants.

The zoo is managed by Jharkhand Zoo Authority, an autonomous body and the annual plan of zoo is approved by the governing body. The funds of the authority consist of grants from the state government, revenues received from visitor ticket sales and other miscellaneous revenues.

The Biological Park also has an aquarium which is perhaps the largest fresh water aquarium in the country housing about 1500 number of fishes representing 120 Sps in 58 display tanks, with an annual footfall of about 1.5 lakh visitors.

 **31**
Mammals



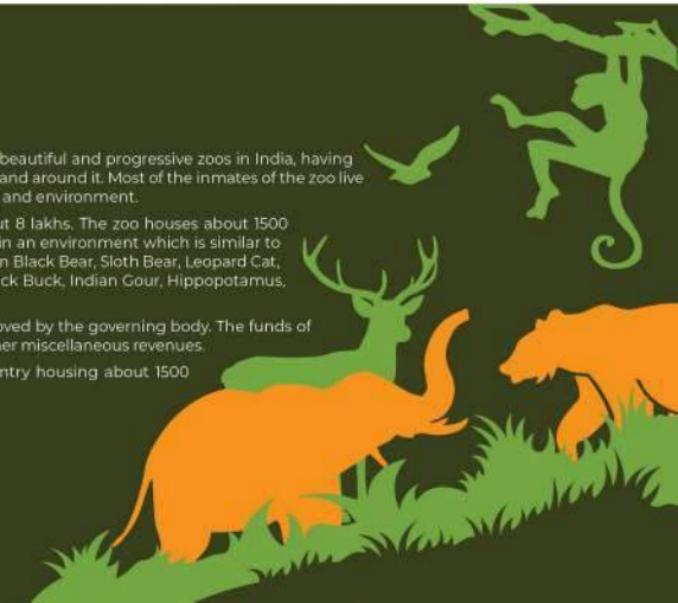
41

Birds



19

Reptiles

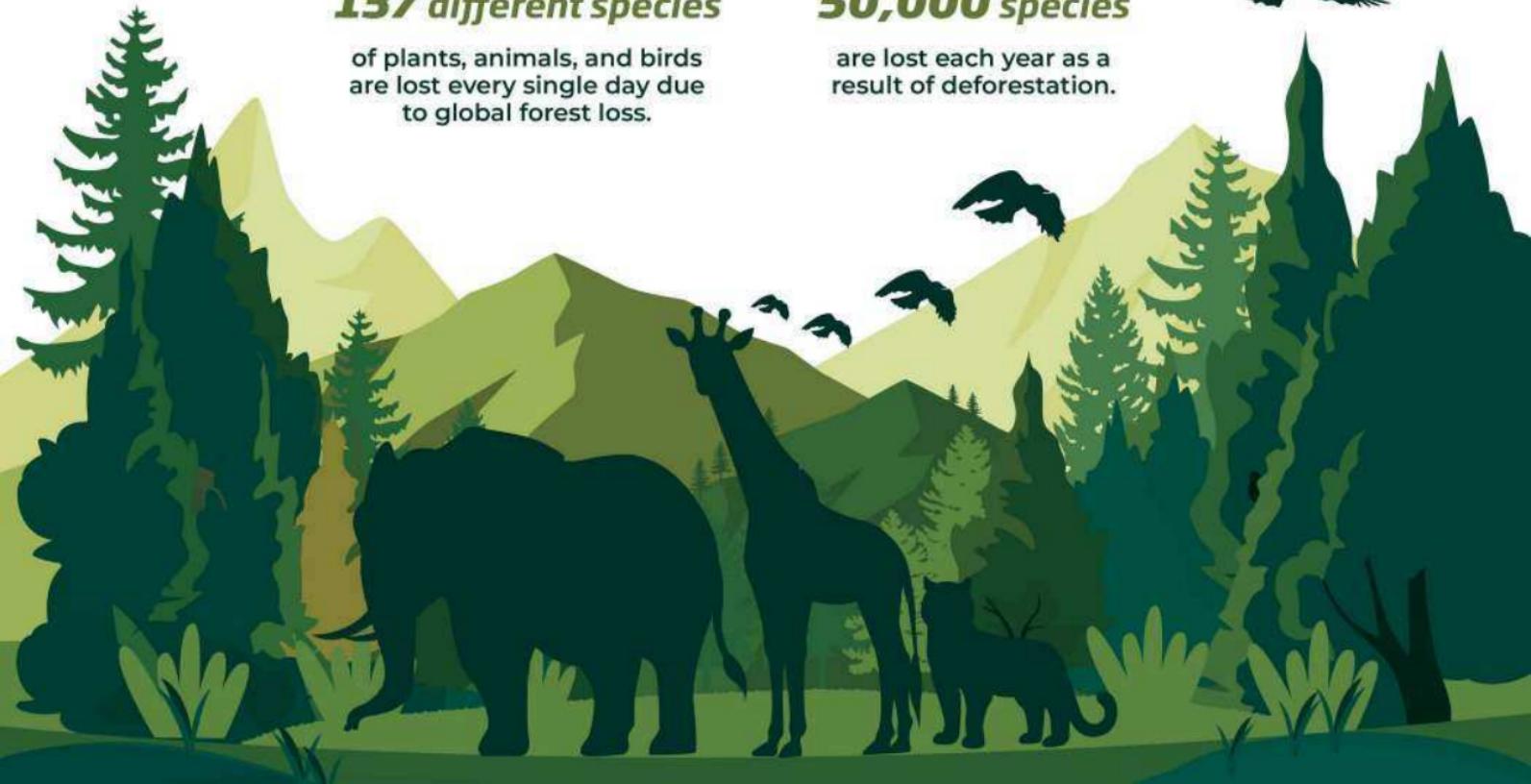


137 *different species*

of plants, animals, and birds
are lost every single day due
to global forest loss.

50,000 *species*

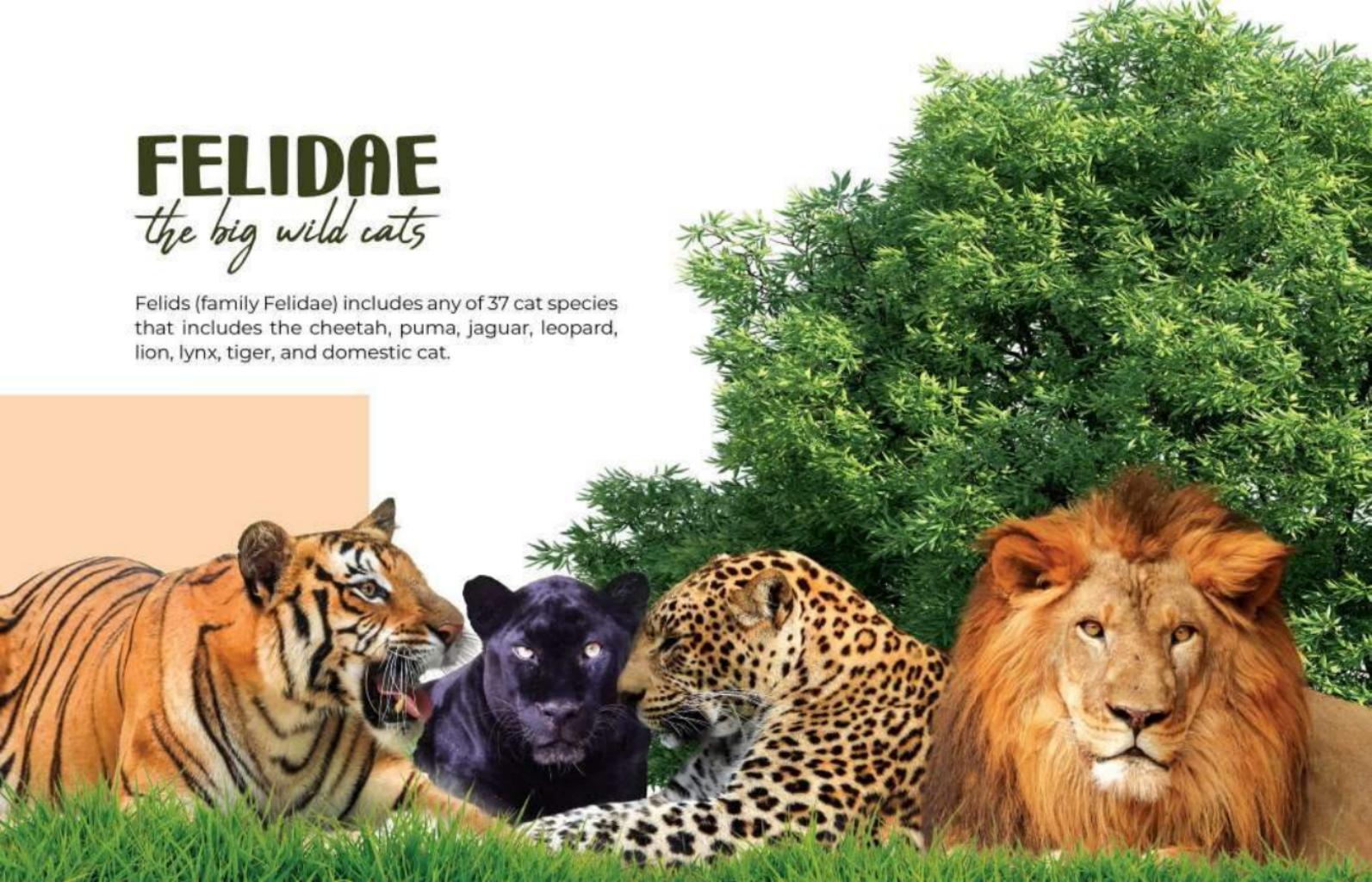
are lost each year as a
result of deforestation.



FELIDAE

the big wild cats

Felids (family Felidae) includes any of 37 cat species that includes the cheetah, puma, jaguar, leopard, lion, lynx, tiger, and domestic cat.



BENGAL TIGER

(Scientific Name: *Panthera tigris tigris*)

General Description:

Bengal Tiger stripes are unique to each individual and act just like human fingerprints do. Tiger is unsocial (solitary) animal typically come together only for the duration of the mating season. The tiger is classified into nine subspecies, three of which (Javan, Caspian, and Bali) are extinct. The remaining six subspecies include the Bengal, Indo-Chinese, South China, Amur, and Sumatran tigers.

Average Life Span: 10-15 years (in wild)

Weight: Adult males weigh 160-190 kg, while females weigh 110-120 kg.



WHITE TIGER

(Scientific Name: *Panthera tigris tigris*)

General Description :

This is the same species of Bengal Tiger. The White Tiger is a leucistic pigmentation variant. If it's white with black stripes and has blue eyes, this coloration is caused by a genetic mutation called leucism and is specific to the Bengal tiger.

Average Life Span: 10-15 years (in wild)

Weight: Males weigh 160-190 kg, while females weigh 110-120 kg.

HYBRID LION

(Scientific Name: *Panthera leo* ssp.)

General Description:

Hybrid Lion is a crossbreed between any of five species—tiger, lion, jaguar, leopard & snow leopard—in captivity. The hybrid Lion present at "Bhagwan Birsia Biological Park", is a crossbreed between Asiatic lion and African Lion.

Average Life Span: 18 years.

Weight: Males weigh 180–230 kg, while female weighs around 165 kg.



ASIATIC LION

(Scientific Name: *Panthera leo persica*)

General Description :

Asiatic lion is one of the most amazing, and powerful big cats found in India. The *Panthera Leo*'s population of lion in India, found in Gujarat. More precisely, Asiatic Lions are now confined to Sasan Gir National Park in Gujarat, India. The most unique characteristics of Asiatic Lions are the longitudinal fold of skin that runs along its belly. Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions.

Average Life Span: 18 years.

Weight: Males weigh 180–230 kg, while female weighs around 165 kg.

LEOPARD

(Scientific Name: *Panthera pardus*)

General Description :

Leopards are predominantly solitary animals that have large territories. While male territories are larger than females and tend to overlap, individuals usually only tolerate intrusion into ranges for mating. Leopards tend to have distinctive dark spots called rosettes, which create beautiful patterns against their otherwise light fur. Like cats kept as companions, leopards will growl when angry and purr when content. They have various vocalisations such as a rasping cough which they perform to announce their presence to other leopards.

Average Life Span: About 12-15 years.

Weight: Males weigh 65-75 kg, while female weighs 50-60 kg.



BLACK LEOPARD

(Scientific Name: *Panthera pardus*)

General Description :

Black leopards however have dark fur which makes it difficult to see the spots. They appear almost solid black and are often called black panthers. Melanism in leopards comes from a mutation that knocks out a gene that regulates the production of melanin. This causes an over production of pigment which turns the coat black.

Average Life Span: 12-15 years

Weight: Males weigh 65-75 kg, while female weighs 50-60 kg.

CANIDAE

the ferocious canids

Canidae (canid) is a biological family of dog-like carnivorans, colloquially referred to as dogs, and constitutes a clade. Wild Canids includes wolves, foxes, jackals and other extant and extinct species.



INDIAN FOX

(Scientific Name: *Vulpes bengalensis*)

General Description :

The Bengal fox, also known as the Indian fox, is a species of Asian foxes endemic to the Indian subcontinent. Bengal foxes are usually monogamous and form pair bonds that may last for their lifetime. The Bengal fox is native to the Indian subcontinent. It also inhabits the Himalayan foothills and the Terai area of Nepal, through to southern India and from eastern and southern Pakistan to the east of India and southeastern Bangladesh.

Average Life Span: About 2-5 years.

Weight: 1.5 lbs. (680 grams).



GOLDEN JACKAL

(Scientific Name: *Canis aureus*)

General Description :

Golden jackals are omnivores. These opportunistic foragers have a rather diverse diet. They feed on a wide variety of animal species such as young gazelles, hares, reptiles, ground birds and their eggs, fish, frogs as well as insects. The usual diet of golden jackals also includes various fruits. During the winter months, they frequently eat rodents. Golden jackals have a monogamous mating system with females, fiercely defending the territory from other females. Golden jackals are key scavengers in their home range. In order to protect the pups from predators, the female jackal changes the location of the den every two weeks.

Average Life Span: 12 years

Weight: 8-10 kg.

INDIAN WOLF

(Scientific Name: *Canis lupus pallipes*)

General Description :

The Indian wolf is a subspecies of the Grey wolf that ranges from Southwest Asia to the Indian Subcontinent. Indian wolves are found in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Israel, Turkey, Iran, and Syria. They live in open grasslands, thorn forests, and scrublands. Indian wolves are monogamous and mate for life.

Average Life Span: 14-16 years

Weight: Males: 30-80 kg, female: 23-55 kg.



STRIPED HYENA

(Scientific Name: *Hyaena hyaena*)

General Description :

Adult Striped hyena females are dominant over males and aggressive toward other females. Striped hyenas have jaws that are strong enough to crush the parts of carcasses left behind by other animals: teeth, bones, hooves, and horns. The bite pressure of an adult hyena can be as strong as 800 pounds per square inch (which is 50 kilograms per square centimeter). Striped hyenas are monogamous, and males help females establish their den, raise the young and feed their mate when the cubs are born. Striped hyenas are primarily scavengers.

Average Life Span: About 12 years.

Weight: 22-55 kg (Adult).



HYAENIDAE

the laughing beasts



BEARS

the wild teddies

Bears are carnivoran mammals of the family Ursidae. They are classified as caniforms, or doglike carnivorans.





SLOTH BEAR

(Scientific Name: *Melursus ursinus*)

General Description :

Sloth bears are the only bears that constantly carry their babies on their backs. Nostrils of Sloth bears can close completely, thus protecting the animals from dust or insects when they raid termite nests or beehives.

Average Life Span: 40 years.

Weight: Male: 180–230 kg; Female: about 165 kg.

HIMALAYAN BLACK BEAR

(Scientific Name: *Ursus thibetanus*)

General Description :

Asiatic black bears are polygynandrous, with two or more males mating with two or more female bears. A social hierarchy based on the age and body weight of the males means that only larger males are able to mate with the females. Asiatic black bears are omnivores and mainly eat fruit, berries, seeds, nuts, honey, grasses, invertebrates, fish, birds, rodents, other small mammals, as well as carrion.

Average Life Span: About 24 Years (in wild)

Weight: 90–150 kg.



ANTELOPES

the quick runners

The term antelope is used to refer to many species of even-toed ruminant that are indigenous to various regions in Africa and Eurasia.



BLACKBUCK

(Scientific Name: *Antilope cervicapra*)

General Description:

The blackbuck is a species of antelope with a slender and elegant body. The blackbucks have pointed and delicate hooves. They possess narrow, sheep-like muzzles and short tails. Horns are found only in males. Both males and females have white underparts including the insides of the legs as well as a white ring around their eyes. During their lives, male blackbucks gradually become darker. The horns of males are ringed at the base, twisted in a spiral with up to four turns. Blackbucks are social animals, living in herds that include from 5 to 50 individuals. They have polygynous mating system, where one male mates with more than one female.

Average Life Span: 10-15 years. | Weight: 20-50 kg



WHITE BLACKBUCK





NILGAI

(Scientific Name: Boselaphus tragocameleus)

General Description :

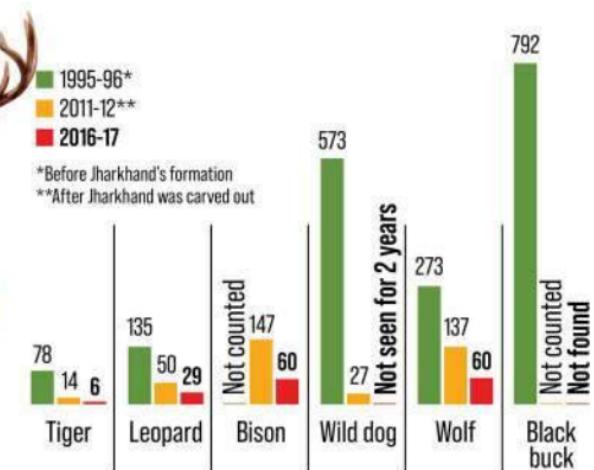
The nilgai is the largest Asian antelope and is native to the Indian subcontinent. Nilgai are active mainly during the day. They are social animals and live in groups. Nilgai are herbivores (graminivores, folivores). They prefer to graze for grass and herbs but will also browse for leaves and buds. Their diet includes a variety of plants such as leaves, seeds, fruits, flowers, stems, and buds. The name "nilgai" comes from the fusion of the Hindi words nil ("blue") and gai ("cow"). The word was first recorded in use in 1882.

Average Life Span: 15–21 years. | **Weight:** 50–100 kg.



Depleting footprints

Experts say Jharkhand is suffering from 'empty forest syndrome' triggered by mismanagement of sanctuaries and rampant mining.

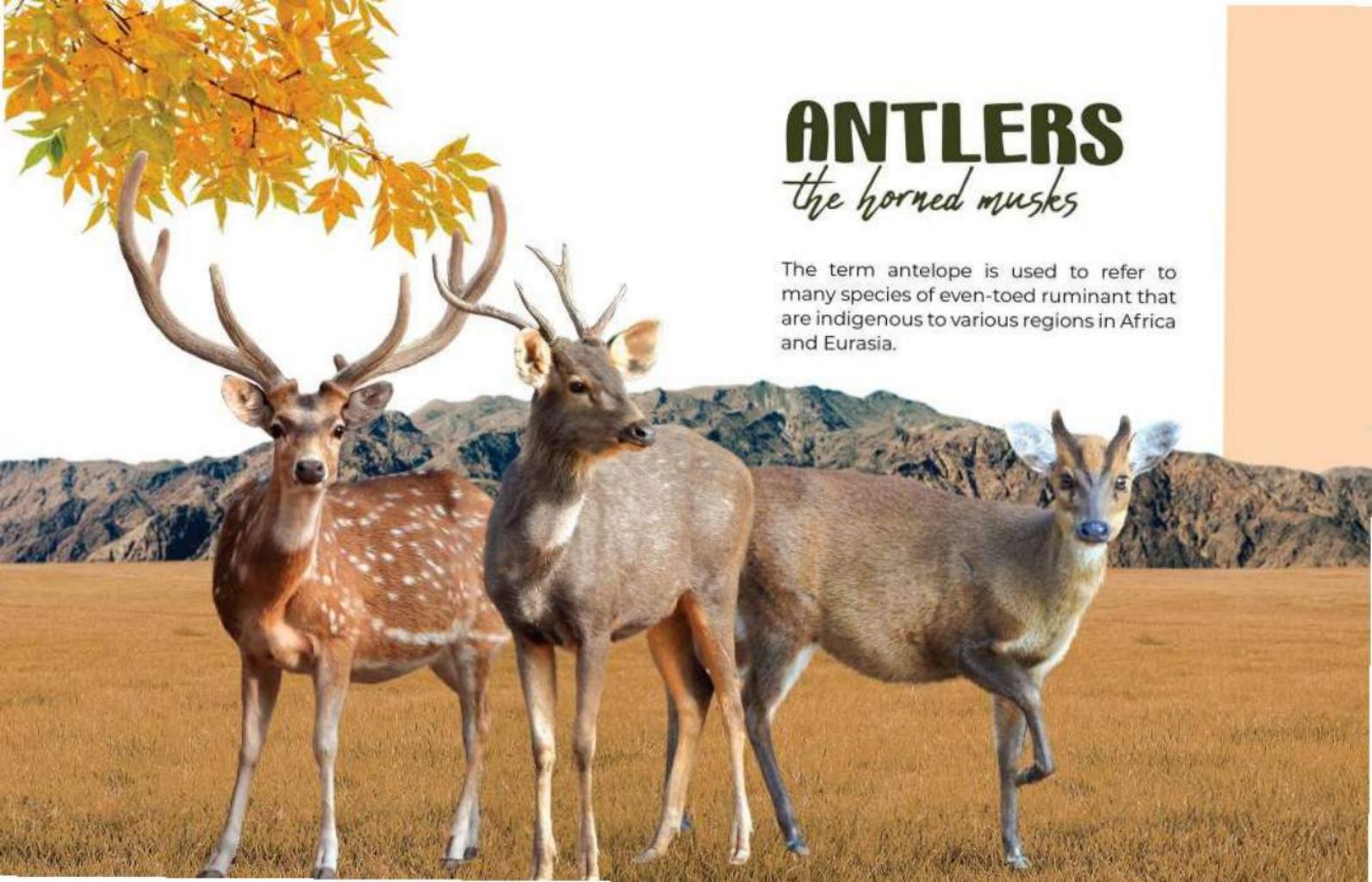


Jharkhand forest area

Area in Sq. Km.



Source: Jharkhand Govt. archive, state wildlife census, experts

A photograph of three antelopes standing in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains. In the top left corner, there is a branch with vibrant orange and yellow autumn leaves. The antelopes are of different species: one on the left with white spots, one in the center, and one on the right with large, upright ears.

ANTLERS

the horned musks

The term antelope is used to refer to many species of even-toed ruminant that are indigenous to various regions in Africa and Eurasia.

SPOTTED DEER

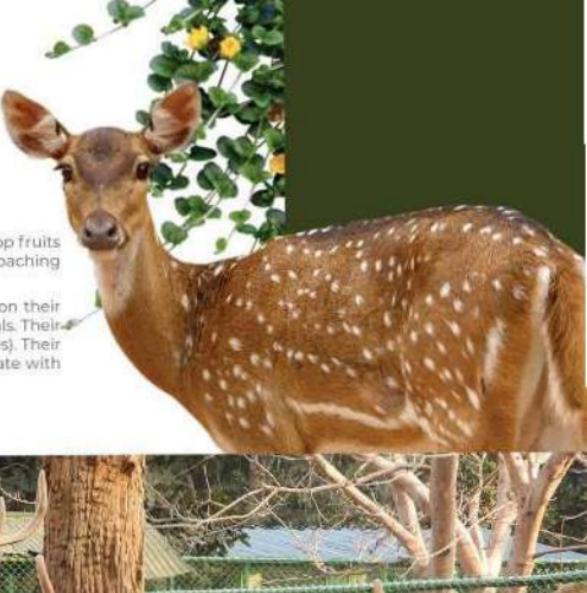
(Scientific Name: *Axis axis*)

General Description:

The Axis deer often graze near trees where langurs live. One of the reasons they do it is that sometimes langurs drop fruits that the Axis deer feed on. Another reason is that due to their higher position, langurs can warn the deer of approaching predators. They also lick and eat their shed antlers that contain nutrients.

The Axis deer is a beautiful mammal with a spotted body and short tail. Both males and females have markings on their bodies; the markings are white, running in rows along the length of their bodies. Axis deer are highly sociable animals. Their herds can contain 6-30 individuals, two or three of them being stags. Axis deer are herbivores (graminivores, folivores). Their diet usually consists of grasses, flowers, and fruits, fallen from the trees. Axis deer are polygynous: a male can mate with more than one female. When mating season comes, males start bellowing, indicating the beginning of breeding.

Average Life Span: 15 years. | **Weight:** Mature males can weigh up to 98 to 110 kg (216 to 243 lb).





SAMBAR

(Scientific Name: *Rusa unicolor*)

General Description:

Sambar deer are light brown or dark with a grayish or yellowish tinge. Sambar are nocturnal or crepuscular animals and rest during the day under the cover of heavy forest. Sambar are polygynous, meaning that one male mates with multiple females. Males are very aggressive at the time of the breeding season. They guard their breeding territory and attract female deer by means of vocal displays and smell.

Average Life Span: 20 years in the wild and up to 26 years in captivity.

Weight: 100 to 350 kg (220 to 770 lb).



BARKING DEER

(Scientific Name: *Muntiacus muntjak*)

General Description :

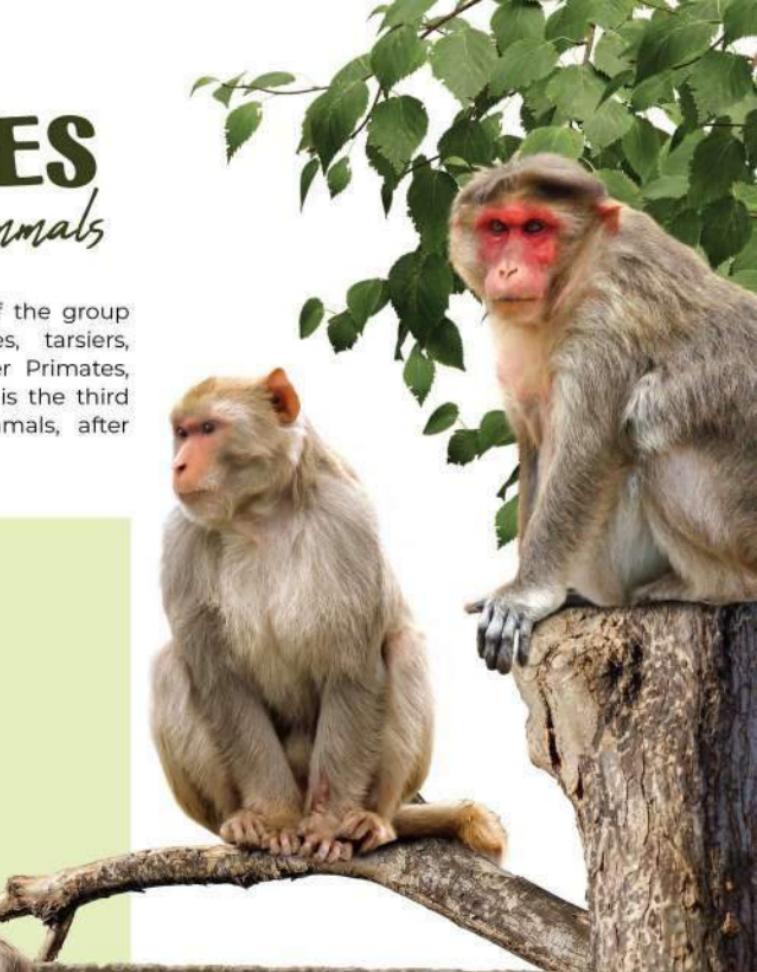
The name "Muntjac" means "small deer" and originates from the Sudanese word "menceok". They are also widely known as "barking deer", due to their unique cry that sounds like a dog's bark. People often misunderstand the Muntjacs' bark. Their groaning sound leads to the formation of many paranormal stories amongst the locals. A Muntjac deer's antlers are shed each year. Indian muntjacs are polygynous animals, males often fight between one another for possession of a harem of females. Indian muntjacs are amongst the oldest known deer species, with their fossils date back 15 to 35 million years ago.

Average Life Span: 211.2 months | **Weight:** 18 kg.

PRIMATES

the notorious mammals

Primates are the mammals of the group that includes lemurs, lorises, tarsiers, monkeys and apes. The order Primates, with its 300 or more species, is the third most diverse order of mammals, after rodents and bats.



RHESUS MACAQUE

(Scientific Name: *Macaca mulata*)

General Description:

The name "rhesus" is from the Greek "Rhesos," who was the King of Thrace who gave assistance to Priam at Troy. Audebert, who used the name for the species, declared that the word had no meaning. Rhesus macaques have specialized pouch-like cheeks, where they can temporarily hoard their food.

Average Life Span: 20–31 years.

Weight: 10–30 kg.



LANGUR

(Scientific Name: *Semnopithecus entellus*)

General Description:

The northern plains gray langur, also known as the sacred langur, Bengal sacred langur and Hanuman langur, Hanuman langurs belong to the group of Old World monkeys and the genus *Semnopithecus*, which also includes seven other species of gray langur such as the Kashmir gray langurs (*Semnopithecus ajax*), the Madras gray langur, or the tufted gray langurs (*Semnopithecus priam*), Tarai gray langurs (*Semnopithecus hector*), the Nepal Gray langurs (*Semnopithecus schistaceus*), the black-footed gray langurs (*Semnopithecus hypoleucus*), the Nilgiri langurs (*Semnopithecus johnii*), and the purple-faced langurs (*Semnopithecus vetulus*).

Average Life Span: 20–31 Years.

Weight: Males weigh an average of 37 lb (16.9 kg), while females weigh an average of 26 lb (11.7 kg).



MEGA HERBIVORES

the muscular hunks

The largest land mammals are constrained in their activities by their large body size, a theme that is emphasized in this account of their general ecology. These once abundant and widely distributed 'megaherbivores'- elephants, rhinos, hippos and giraffes - have all but gone extinct.



ASIATIC ELEPHANT

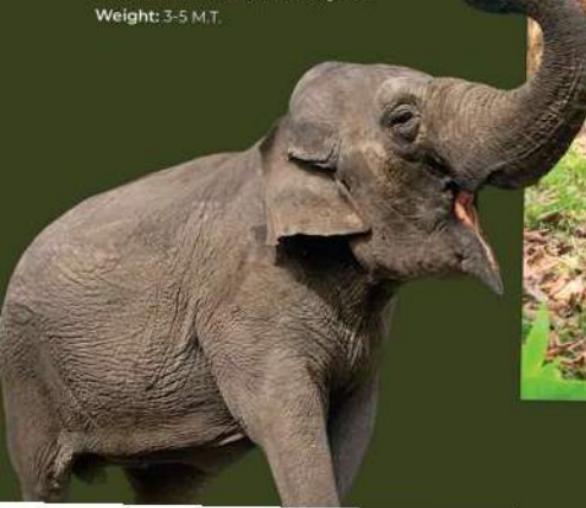
(Scientific Name: *Elephas maximus indicus*)

General Description:

The Indian elephant is a nomadic animal, endemic to mainland Asia. It's one of the 3 subspecies of the Asian elephant. The animal is considerably smaller than African elephants. Indian elephants travel constantly, staying in one place for less than a few days. The highest point of their body is on their head. Females of the Indian elephant lack tusks. In addition, females are distinguished by a finger-like process on the tip of their trunk. Indian elephants are both diurnal and nocturnal.

Average Life Span: About 80 years.

Weight: 3-5 M.T.



INDIAN BISON

(Scientific Name: *Bos gaurus*)

General Description:

Due to a highly-developed sense of smell, these animals are able to smell water at a distance of up to 3 miles away. The trunk of elephant can hold as much as 2 gallons of water. Elephants when have over 50,000 muscles in their trunk. Indian elephants usually have very little sleep when travelling in search of food. Elephants use touching to communicate with conspecifics. They are known to stroke and wrap their trunks. Meanwhile, older elephants discipline younger ones by trunk-slapping, kicking and shoving.

Average Life Span: About 26 years. | Weight: 700-1000 kg.



HIPPOPOTAMUS

(Scientific Name: *Hippopotamus amphibius*)

General Description:

The Common hippo is a very large mammal, which name comes from the ancient Greek and means "river horse". Hippos are recognizable for their barrel-shaped torsos, wide-opening mouths with large canine tusks, nearly hairless bodies, pillar-like legs, and large size. Despite their stocky shape and short legs, these animals are capable of running 30 km/h (19 mph) over short distances. Nostrils of this animal are located on the head top. When the hippo submerges, its nostrils remain below the water surface, allowing the animal to breathe. Hippo's skin produces an oily, pink-colored substance, which moistens the animal's body and protects the skin from sun rays.

Average Life Span: About 47 years. | Weight: 1400-3200 kg.

SMALL CATS

the wild pussies

These wild cats are the small wild member of the cat family (Felidae) native to Eurasia and Africa. There are some three to five subspecies. The name wildcat is also used as a general term for feral domestic cats and for any of the smaller wild species of the cat family.



LEOPARD CAT

(Scientific Name: Prionailurus bengalensis)

General Description:

The leopard cat is a small wild cat native to continental South, Southeast, and East Asia. Since 2002 it has been listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List as it is widely distributed although threatened by habitat loss and hunting in parts of its range.

Average Life Span: 13-15 years.

Weight: 3-4 kg.

JUNGLE CAT

(Scientific Name: Felis chaus)

General Description:

Jungle cat is widely distributed in India in open forests and scrub. It is found practically all over the Peninsula from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin.

Average Life Span: 15-20 years.

Weight: 2-16 kg (4.4-35.3 lb).



PROCUPINE

the thorned rodent



(Scientific Name: *Hystrix indica*)

General Description:

The various species cover a vast area, occurring through the Indian subcontinent, to China, the Ryukyu Islands in southern Japan, south to Southeast Asia to Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea, Australia, and Islands of the Indian Ocean, and the South China Sea.

Average Life Span: About 20 years.
Weight: 11-18 kg.



CROCODILES

the hard scaled reptiles

Crocodiles or true crocodiles are large semiaquatic reptiles that live throughout the tropics in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Australia



MUGGER CROCODILE

(Scientific Name: *Crocodylus palustris*)

General Description :

This animal's scientific name of 'Crocodylus palustris' has the meaning "crocodile of the marsh". This is aptly chosen since this species is very fond of the slow-moving waters that are typically found in marshy environments. The webbed feet of crocodiles are not used to propel it through the water, but instead, allow it to make sudden moves and fast turns and to initiate swimming. Webbed feet assist the animal in shallower water where it sometimes walks around.

Average Life Span: 60 years. | Weight: 40- 200 kg.



GHARIAL

(Scientific Name: *Gavialis gangeticus*)

General Description :

The Critically Endangered gharial is an unmistakable crocodile on the brink of extinction. It has long, thin jaws which it uses to catch fish and males have a large, bulbous growth, known as a 'ghara', on the tip of their snout.

Average Life Span: 60 years

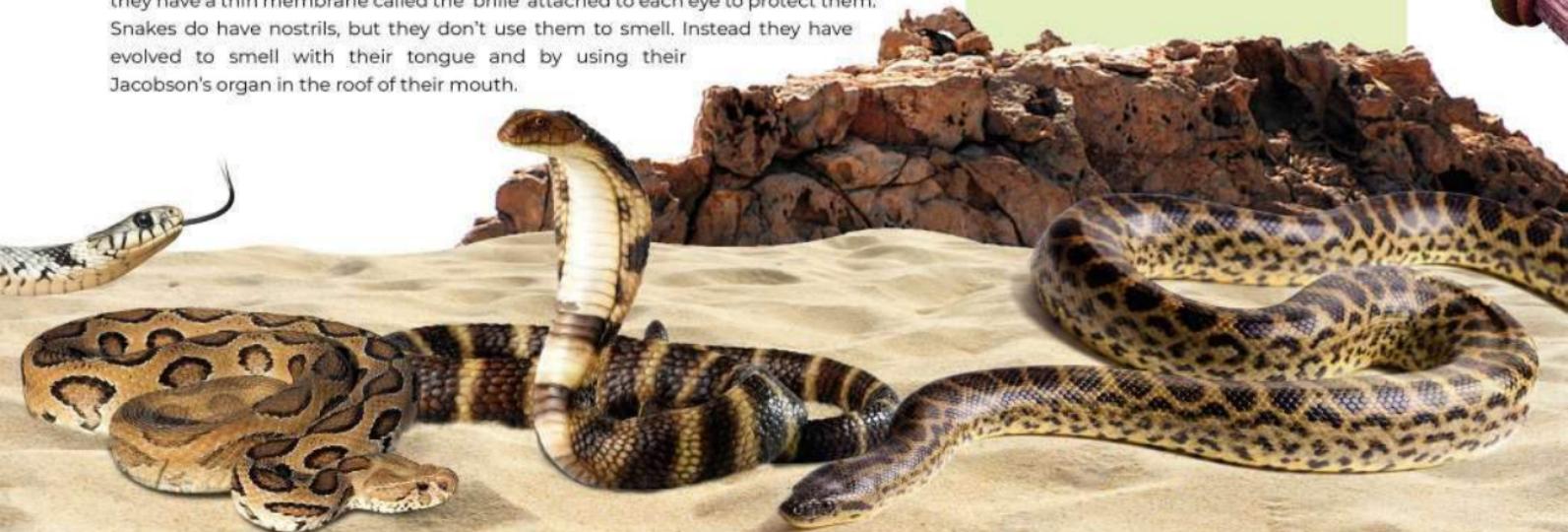
Weight: Adult males weigh about 160 kg (350 lb) on average.

SNAKES

the creepy crawlies

According to the latest count, there are 3,789 snake species, making them the second largest group of reptiles after lizards. They are "solar-powered" and rely fully on external heat or light sources. 70% of snakes lay eggs, others don't. They don't have eyelids! This means they don't blink and have to sleep with their eyes wide open. Instead of eyelids they have a thin membrane called the 'brille' attached to each eye to protect them.

Snakes do have nostrils, but they don't use them to smell. Instead they have evolved to smell with their tongue and by using their Jacobson's organ in the roof of their mouth.



SPECTACLED COBRA

(Scientific Name: *Naja naja*)

General Description:

The Indian cobra is a moderately sized, heavy bodied species. This cobra species can easily be identified by its relatively large and quite impressive hood, which it expands when threatened. This species has a head which is elliptical, depressed, and very slightly distinct from the neck. The snout is short and rounded with large nostrils. The eyes are medium in size and the pupils are round.

Average Life Span: up to 23.9 years.

Weight: about 6 kg (13 lb).



RUSSELLS VIPER

(Scientific Name: *Daboia russelii*)

General Description:

The head is flattened, triangular, and distinct from the neck. The snout is blunt, rounded, and raised. The nostrils are large. The crown of the head is covered with irregular, strongly fragmented scales. The supraocular scales are narrow, single, and separated by six to nine scales across the head. The eyes are large, flecked with yellow or gold, and surrounded by 10-15 circumorbital scales. The snake has 10-12 supralabials, the fourth and fifth of which are significantly larger. The eye is separated from the supralabials by three or four rows of suboculars. Of the two pairs of chin shields, the front pair is notably enlarged. The body is stout, the cross-section of which is rounded to circular. The dorsal scales are strongly keeled; only the lowest row is smooth. Mid-body, the dorsal scales number 27-33. The ventral scales number 153-180.

Average Life Span: 15 years.

Weight: 15-22 lb (7-10 kg)

GREEN PIT VIPER

(Scientific Name: *Trimeresurus albolabris*)

General Description:

Head scalation consists of 10-11(12) upper labials, the first partially or completely fused to the nasal. Head scales small, subequal, feebly imbricate, smooth or weakly keeled. The supraoculars are narrow (occasionally enlarged and undivided) with 8-12 interocular scales between them. Temporal scales smooth. Midbody has 29 (rarely 19) longitudinal dorsal scale rows. The ventral scales are 155-166 in males, 152-176 in females. The subcaudals are paired, 60-72 in males, 49-66 in females. The hemipenes are without spines.

Color pattern: green above; the side of the head below the eyes is yellow, white or pale green, much lighter than rest of head. The belly is green, yellowish or white below. A light ventrolateral stripe is present in all males, but absent in females. The end of tail is not mottled brown.

Average Life Span: 12-18 years.

Weight: up to 15 lbs (7 kg).



PYTHON

(Scientific Name: *Python molurus*)

General Description :

Native to the jungles and grassy marshes of Southeast Asia, Burmese pythons are among the largest snakes on Earth. The Pythonidae, commonly known as pythons, are a family of nonvenomous snakes found in Africa, Asia, and Australia. Among its members are some of the largest snakes in the world.

Average Life Span: 30 years.

Weight: They commonly weigh 25 to 35 kg (55 to 77 lb), though large specimens can weigh 40 to 55 kg (88 to 121 lb) or even more.

MONITOR LIZARD

the giant lizards

(Scientific Name: *Varanus*)

General Description:

The various species cover a vast area, occurring through the Indian subcontinent, to China, the Ryukyu Islands in southern Japan, south to Southeast Asia to Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea, Australia, and islands of the Indian Ocean, and the South China Sea.

Average Life Span: up to 22 years. | Weight: about 79-91 kg.



BHAGWAN BIRSA BIOLOGICAL PARK



EX-SITU
NATURE
RARE
SPECIES
IN-SITU WILDLIFE
INNATES
EXTINCTION
NATURE
CONSERVATION HABITAT

📍 Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park, Ormanjhali, Ranchi-835 219 (Jharkhand)
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