

**PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MAHARASHTRA
OCTOBER 2018**

Team: Abhijit Dutta – *Assistant Director (Conservation)*
Bandu Uikey – *Conservation Officer*
Dilip Lanjewar, Balkrishna Bagmare – *Community Officers*

Highlights

- ⇒ *Wildlife week 2018 celebrated in 24 villages - 572 participants*
- ⇒ *One 'Shramdhaan' for check-dam construction*
- ⇒ *One 'Shramdhaan' for waterhole construction*
- ⇒ *Cattle vaccination program at Kirangisarra; 44 cattle were vaccinated*
- ⇒ *Awareness program on human-wildlife conflict at Kadbikheda and Govt. Resolution (GR) reading on crop damage compensation*
- ⇒ *Eleven awareness meetings on human-snake incidents along with survey*
- ⇒ *Awareness program on micro-plan preparation under Jan Van Yojna & its implementation*
- ⇒ *Thirteen school education programs conducted, 299 students participated*
- ⇒ *Six Education van film show programs conducted, 212 students participated*
- ⇒ *Three livelihood meetings on various trades with Women Self Help Group (SHG) members and youths*
- ⇒ *Six free medical camps, 346 patients treated, which included 156 patients treated during the special eye-camp conducted for villagers of Sawara, Usripur & Kadbikheda*
- ⇒ *One research project on snakes underway*

Conservation Action and Awareness

Sr.no.	Date	Village / Place	Activity	Participants
1.	Oct 24	Khapa	Community Patrol	6
2.	Oct 14	Saleghat Beat	--do--	4
3.	Oct 15	Kanhadevi Beat	--do--	3
4.	Oct 6	Awaleghat	Check dam construction	7
5.	Oct 24	Khapa	Waterhole prepared	8
6.	Oct 7	Kirangisarra	Cattle Vaccination Program	50
7.	Oct 2	Shiladevi	Anti-Plastic Campaign	35
8.	Oct 18	Sawara	Nature Trail	20
9.	Oct 3	Kadbikheda	Awareness program on Human-Wildlife Conflict & GR Reading (Crop damage compensation)	35

10.	Oct 12	Khapa	Awareness program on Snakes & Questionnaire Survey on Human-Snake Interaction	10
11.	Oct 12	Wagholi	--do--	12
12.	Oct 13	Kirangisarra	--do--	15
13.	Oct 14	Kadbikheda	--do--	17
14.	Oct 14	Sawara	--do--	15
15.	Oct 14	Usripar	--do--	20
16.	Oct 15	Salai	--do--	20
17.	Oct 15	Hiwra	--do--	15
18.	Oct 16	Ghoti	--do--	15
19.	Oct 16	Tuyepar	--do--	10
20.	Oct 16	Khudsapar	--do--	12
21.	Oct 22	Ghoti	Meeting with villagers regarding Micro-plan preparation under Jan-Van Yojna & its implementation	40
22.	Oct 1	Ghoti	Conservation Awareness Rally	30
23.	Oct 1	Chargaon	--do--	40
24.	Oct 2	Suwardhara	--do--	35
25.	Oct 7	Kolitmara	--do--	50
<i>Total Participants</i>				<i>524</i>

On October 6, a check dam was constructed near Awaleghat by Balkrishna and volunteers from the village to ensure that water is available for nearby agricultural fields and for livestock in the village throughout the year. The check dam will also be a water source for nocturnal wildlife in the region.

On October 24, Dilip and a team of villagers constructed a waterhole near Khapa village. Wild animals traverse large distances for water after the monsoon season due to water scarcity. The construction of such waterholes ensures water is available on the spot throughout the year for the animals.



*Awaleghat- Balkrishna with volunteers after check dam construction (left)
Khapa- Volunteers pose after waterhole construction (right)*

On October 14, Balkrishna led a team of three Village Eco-development Committee (VEDC) members from Saleghat village on a foot patrol in the forest near their village. The team looked out for signs of illegal tree felling or poaching during the patrol. No such illegal activities were detected.

Balkrishna joined the Forest Department staff on a foot patrol in the Kanhadevi beat on October 15.

On October 24, Dilip led a team of five VEDC members from Khapa village on a foot patrol in the forest near their village.

These community-based patrols are supplemental to the regular patrols being done by the Forest Department.

On October 2, Balkrishna organized a plastic litter collection drive in Shiladevi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

During the shramdhaan program, Balkrishna explained the hazards of plastic waste for both environment and human health.

Balkrishna explained to the students that plastic and non-degradable waste was causing irreparable damage to the ecosystem and adversely affecting birds and other life forms. He also told them that the waste was equally harmful to people.



Saleghat Beat- Balkrishna on foot patrol (left)

Shiladevi- Balkrishna with students during an anti-plastic campaign (right)

On October 12, Dilip organized an awareness program on snakes in Khapa village, where there was a fatality due to snakebite recently.

He explained about the importance of cleanliness and keeping rodents out of the house to keep snakes out. He also explained how to differentiate between venomous and non-venomous snakes and what must be done in case of a snakebite.

Later, Abhijit carried out a survey on human-snake interaction. Similar exercises were carried out by Dilip and Abhijit in eleven buffer zone villages in October.

On October 3, Dilip conducted an awareness program on Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation strategies in Kadbikheda where he read out the Government Resolution regarding crop damage compensation claim process.

He encouraged villagers to take up organic farming and suggested they adopt newer and scientific ways to ward off wild animals from their fields.



Wagholi- Abhijit during an awareness program on snakes (left)

Kadbikheda- Dilip with villagers during an awareness program on human-wildlife conflict (right)

On October 7, Dilip organized a cattle vaccination program in Kirangi Sarra village where 44 cattle were vaccinated.

Kirangi Sarra lies inside the core area and, as such, it becomes extremely important to carry out such vaccination drives so as to prevent spreading of any disease like the foot and mouth disease from the cattle to the wild animals, as the cattle sometimes stray into the forest while grazing and may use the same water source for drinking as the wild animals.

The wild animals may also contract diseases if they stray into the village and get in contact with the cattle.

On October 22, Dilip organized a meeting in Ghoti to promote awareness about the formation process and benefits of a village eco-development committee (VEDC).

Dilip explained about the micro-plan for the VEDC to be formed under Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Jan-Van Yojna. He encouraged the villagers to include livestock management practices and organic farming in the micro-plan.



Kirangisarra- Cattle vaccination program (left); Ghoti - Dilip during a meeting on micro-plan preparation under Jan Van Yojna (right)

A conservation awareness rally was carried out by Dilip in Ghoti on October 1. Participants raised slogans on wildlife conservation and the importance of saving tigers and other wild animals.

A similar program was organised by Balkrishna in Chargaon on October 1.

Dilip conducted a nature trail program for school children of Sawara on October 18. He explained to the students about the importance of conserving local flora and fauna.



Chargaon- Balkrishna leads students on a conservation awareness rally (left) Sawara- Dilip with students during a nature trail (right)

Environment Education

In October, a total of 13 school education programs were conducted by Dilip and Balkrishna in which students were given lectures on man-animal conflict, biodiversity conservation, climate change and other issues related to nature conservation.

A total of 299 students attended these programs.

School Education Programs

Sr. No.	Date	School	Village	Number of students
1.	Oct 1	ZP School	Ghoti	60
2.	Oct 9	ZP School	Ghoti	16
3.	Oct 9	ZP School	Wagholi	17
4.	Oct 11	ZP School	Sawara	13
5.	Oct 20	ZP School	Kadbikheda	32
6.	Oct 26	ZP School	Khudsapar	7
7.	Oct 8	ZP School	Dhawalpur	37
8.	Oct 9	ZP School	Narhar	18
9.	Oct 10	ZP School	Ambazari	16
10.	Oct 11	ZP School	Suwardhara	19
11.	Oct 12	ZP School	Chargaon	17
12.	Oct 13	ZP School	Awaleghat	30
13.	Oct 16	ZP School	Shiladevi	17
Total Participants				299



*Dhaulapur- Balkrishna gives a classroom lecture (left)
Sawara- IT education program class (right)*

IT Education Program

Satpuda Foundation has donated desktops as well as laptops to the Zilla Parishad School in Sawara village and has been conducting IT education program for the students free of cost since 2013. Basic computer skills are taught to the students to make them feel comfortable with the technology and improve their IT skills. Sita Uikey, a resident of Sawara village works on an honorarium basis for Satpuda Foundation to impart IT education to students. Four such classes were held in October in ZP School, Sawara.

Education Van Program

The education van screened six movies on nature and wildlife conservation in October. Four school programs and two village night shows were conducted in which the story about the iconic Teliya sisters (Tigers of Tadoba) was screened. A total of 212 students and villagers attended these programs.

Sr.	Date	Place	Village	Movie	Number of
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No.					students
1.	Oct 22	ZP School	Chargaon	Teliya Sisters	25
2.		Village (Night-show)	Shiladevi	--do--	50
4.	Oct 23	ZP School	Dhawlapur	--do--	47
5.		Village (Night-show)	Saleghat	--do--	45
6.	Oct 24	ZP School	Ambazari	--do--	20
7.		ZP School	Suwardhara	--do--	25
Total Participants					212



*Dhawalapur- Education van film show program in ZP school (left)
Saleghat- Education van film show program in the village at night (right)*

During the Wildlife Week 2018, students were encouraged to participate in various activities like drawing contest, quiz competition and Rangoli competition.

The Forest Department asked for our assistance in conducting one-day nature camps for kids which included jungle safari.

Two such camps were held in which Dilip, Balkrishna and Mandar acted as resource persons for Ashram school students of Dahoda and Nimtola.

Special programs during the Wildlife week 2018

Sr. No.	Date	School	Village	Program	No. of students
1.	Oct 2	Sawara	ZP School	Rangoli Competition	25
2.	Oct 4	Awaleghat	ZP School	Drawing Contest	25
3.	Oct 4	Suwardhara	ZP School	Drawing Contest	15
4.	Oct 6	Khapa	ZP School	Quiz Competition	17
5.	Oct 6	Wagholi	ZP School	Quiz Competition	18
6.	Oct 4	Dahoda	Ashram School	One day Nature camp for students with Jungle Safari in collaboration with the Forest dept.	41
7.	Oct 5	Nimtola	Ashram School	One day Nature camp for students with Jungle Safari in collaboration with the Forest dept.	40
Total Participants					181



Awleghat- Students after completion of drawing contest (left); Ghoti- Dilip during nature game with students (right)



Pipariya- Mandar during a nature trail with students (left); Sawara- Dilip with villagers during rangoli competition (right)

Employment Cell

On October 2, Dilip conducted a meeting with the women of Sawara village to encourage them to undertake activities like stitching, paper and cloth bag making through Self-Help Groups or the SHGs.

On October 3, Balkrishna mobilized youths to attend Forest Department's career guidance workshop in Suwardhara where Range Forest Officer of Nagalwadi Range, Sachin Jadhav gave guidance to the village youths on career path selection and career growth and development. He later distributed books on various competitive examinations like the MPSC and UPSC.

Balkrishna again mobilized youths from Suwardhara on October 5 for Forest Department's skill development workshop and encouraged the youths to register for various livelihood programs funded by the Pench Tiger Conservation Foundation.

Livelihood activities & meetings:

Sr.no.	Date	Village / Place	Livelihood Activity	Participants
1.	Oct 2	Sawara	Employment of women via SHGs	25
2.	Oct 3	Suwardhara	Career guidance workshop by Forest dept.	55
3.	Oct 5	Suwardhara	Mobilizing youth for skill development programs	30
Total Participants				110



*Suwardhara- Books distributed by Forest Dept. at a career guidance workshop (left)
Suwardhara- Meeting for skill development program (right)*

Mobile Health Service (MHS)

There were 6 free medical camps held in October in which 346 patients were treated. A special eye camp was held for villagers of Sawara, Usripar & Kadbikheda. Dr. Bhure from Yogiraj Hospital, Ramtek, helped treat 156 patients out of which 80 were detected with bad eyesight and were given spectacles free of cost. 26 patients were detected with cataract and were later called to Ramtek for further treatment.

S.no.	Date	Village	No. of Patients
1.	Oct 28	Kirangisarra	10
2.		Ghoti	80
3.	Oct 29	Khudsapar	47
4.		Kadbikheda	19
5.	Oct 30	Sawara	160
6.		Usripar	30
Total Patients Treated			346



*Khudsapar- Dr. Zanzal checking blood pressure of a patient (left)
Usripar- Suresh gives first aid treatment (right)*



*Sawara- Dr. Bhure with team at the special eye camp (left)
Sawara- Spectacles distributed to patients detected with vision problem (right)*

Research

A field survey on recording snakes, incidence of sighting them and incidents of snake bites in buffer zone villages is currently underway. This study will help us in preparing a checklist of snakes for Pench Tiger Reserve and will also help in noting the snake species that are more prone to come into contact with humans. The study will conclude in December 2018.