

*Common Vertebrate species of*  
**Sanjay Gandhi National Park**  
**Borivali, Mumbai**

**M.S. PRADHAN**



**ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA**

*Conservation area series-12*

*Common Vertebrate species of*  
**Sanjay Gandhi National Park**  
**Borivali, Mumbai**

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## INTRODUCTION

Among the four National parks in the state of Maharashtra, Sanjay Gandhi National Park (originally known as Borivali National Park) is an attractively preserved green oasis within the confine of Mumbai (Bombay) metropolis. The park exhibits an amazing diversity of terrain from 30 m. above sea level, to almost 500 m. and displays coastal, dry and mixed deciduous and typical western ghat plateau habitats. It boasts of two big lakes (Tulsi and Vihar) and a number of 2000 years old Buddhist caves popularly known as Kanheri caves.

Due to its proximity to Mumbai city, a lot of people visit, study and write about this park. In this booklet an attempt has been made to provide a concise general information about the commonly known vertebrate and some of the invertebrate species for the benefit of visitors.

Sanjay Gandhi National Park (preciously known as Krishnagiri Upawan and later as Borivali National Park) is situated about 25 km north of Mumbai city and is only 8 km from the shores of the Arabian Sea. It lies between 72°53 & 72°50 East longitude and 19°88 & 19°21 North latitude. The southern boundary of the park is formed by the shore of Vihar lake, the eastern by the townships of Bhandup, Mulund and Thane and the western by Goregaon, Malad, Kandivli and Borivali suburbs of Mumbai.

The northern boundary extends beyond Bassein creek and includes the Nagla forest block. The park covers an area of 96.40 sq. kms., out of which the recreational sector alone takes up 5.06 sq. kms., area. The park terrain is semi-mountainous; the level ground being between Tulsi and Vihar lakes, the lower westerly reaches of Krishnagiri Upawan and the northern end of Chenna forest. These hills are regarded as the outer spurs of the Sahyadris (Western ghats). The major sources of water in the park are Tulsi Vihar lakes and Dahisar Rewat nallas. Tulsi and Vihar have a combined water spread area of about 8.62 sq. kms. and are source of drinking water supply to Mumbai city.

Dahisar river, which originates from Tulsi lake, flows through the forest of Magathanna village and joins Manori creek (near Dahisar) which finally meets Arabian sea. The catchment area of Dahisar river extends to over 2023.500 ha. Numerous small nallas join this river during its course through the park. Rewat nalla originates near Avaghade hill (SW of Yeur village) and flows northwards, finally joins Bassein creek. This nalla is locally known as Laxmi river, while near its origin it is known as 'Vaghacha khonda' The catchment area of this nalla extends to over 2225.850 ha.

SGNP is one of the most highly visited national parks in the country. Over 30 lakh people visit it every year. Most of them visit the Krishnagiri Upawan sector which comprises the recreation zone. A mini train, nature trails, lion safari, lawns, paddle boating (on an artificially made lake on Dahisar river) are added attractions.

Another tourist spot is the historic Kanheri caves (numbering over hundred) built by Buddhist monks, almost 2000 years ago. This site is looked after by the Archeological Survey of India. The caves are arranged in several viharas or monasteries, solitary cells for hermits, lecture halls and temples. Outside the caves are small tanks for water, separate for each cell, and couches carved out of rock, may be, for the monks to recline on.

Due to its proximity to the coast, numerous water courses and hilly terrain, the flora too presents a very diverse picture, ranging from dry and moist deciduous to semi-evergreen, open scrub and halophytes. The principal types are : *Tectona grandis* (Teak), *Terminalia tomentosa* (Ain), *Bombax malabaricum* (red silk cotton), *Adina cordifolia* (Kadamba), *Dendrocalamus strictus* (Bamboo), *Butea monosperma* (Flame of the forest), *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Bibla) and many others.

Studies have revealed that the Park is very rich in fauna. 60 spp. of Pisces, 10 spp. of Amphibia, 40 of Reptilia, 250 of Aves & 48 spp. of Mammalia have been observed and recorded.

The present communication gives an account on commonly occurring 21 mammalian, 38 avian (bird), 16 reptilian and 3 amphibian species. The account covers information, in brief, on diagnostic characters, distribution, habit and current status (including conservation status) for the benefit of the visitor.

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## 1. BONNET MACAQUE

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : PRIMATES  
Family : CERCOPITHECIDAE

*Genus & Species : Macaca radiata (Geoffroy)*

*Marathi Name : Makad*

*Diagnostic Characters* : A medium sized greyish brown coloured monkey, with a long tail. A bonnet of long hairs radiates in all directions from a whorl on the top of the head. Lives in troops of 20-30 individuals. May be found feeding on the ground or in the trees.

*Distribution* : In Indian peninsula as far north as Bombay on the west and Godavari river in the east. In Maharashtra, south of Bombay city and Godavari river.

*Habits* : Commonly seen with strolling showmen in south India. It is a common species of village and jungle, both, in the foothills and plains. It is more arboreal in habit and feeds anything eatable like fruits, berries, leaves, shoots, insects and spiders. Bonnets are very social and live in organised troops in well-defined territories.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule II  
(As amended upto 1991) Part (I)
- 2) CITES : Appendix II

## 2. RHESUS MACAQUE

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : PRIMATES  
Family : CERCOPITHECIDAE

*Genus & Species: Macaca mulatta (Zimmerman)*

*Marathi Name : Lal Makad*

*Diagnostic Characters* : A medium sized macaque with a short tail. The hairs on its crown radiate backwards from the forehead without any parting. The orange red fur on its loins and rumps and a short tail distinguish it from any other Indian monkey.

*Distribution* : Northern and central India as far south as the river Tapti in the west and the river Godavari in the east, extending further into Myanmar and adjoining countries. In Maharashtra, north of Bombay city and Godavari river.

*Habits* : Captive or wild, it is a common monkey of north. Large troops live near villages, towns, temples and its surroundings and in groves of outskirts of the jungles. Very aggressive in behaviour and mingles with the human element at any place. Raiding gardens and fields are its common and established practices. Capture and export on a large scale has brought down its population in many areas. It is diurnal in habit. Rhesus feeds mainly on the ground. It is largely vegetarian and its diet includes ground plants, insects and spiders also. The social organization of the rhesus is similar to that of other macaques being based on male dominance. The home range varies from 1 to 6 sq. kms. Individual range may overlap.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Introduced

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule II  
(As amended upto 1991) Part (II)
- 2) CITES : Appendix II

### 3. HANUMAN LANGUR

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : PRIMATES  
Family : CERCOPITHECIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Presbytis entellus* (Dufresne)

*Marathi Name* : Vanar

*Diagnostic characters* : A large black-faced, long-limbed, long-tailed (longer than head and body) langur, seen in towns, villages and even in forests, in India. Body silvery grey, hands & feet black. Lives in troops of about 15, of all ages and both sexes.

*Distribution* : Practically whole of India except North-east; also in Sri Lanka.

*Habits* : Langurs are more arboreal in habit than macaques. In peninsular India, they live in forests and haunt in shady groves in villages, towns and sometimes, in cities. They are puerly vegetarian and eat fruit, flowers, buds, shoots and leaves. They occasionally raid gardens and cultivations for food. Feeding commences at dawn. The principal enemies of langur in forests are tiger, leopard and wild dogs. Sight of even one predator produces alarm which is sufficient enough to send the whole troop bolting. Their whooping sound is quite familiar to all. The troop maintains a closed social system with its range varying between 1.3 to 13 sq. kms. Like all other primates, it has a male dominating system.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule II  
(As amended upto 1991) Part (I)
- 2) CITES : Appendix I

#### 4. FULVOUS FRUIT-BAT

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : CHIROPTERA  
Family : PTEROPODIDAE

*Genus & Species: Rousettus leschenaulti* (Desmarest)

*Marathi Name* : Watwaghul

*Diagnostic Characters* : A medium sized, fruit-eating bat with uniform brown or occasionally yellowish in colour. Completely hairless individuals may be seen during winter and summer moults. It has a very small protruding tail and a pair of large brilliant eyes.

*Distribution* : Entire peninsular India.

*Habits* : Lives in gregarious roosts of 10 to 2000 individuals in caves and/or man-made structures like tunnels, rockout caves, etc. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park, these bats are known to roost in Kanheri cave No. 1. Members of the colony leave at dusk. They have very good sense of smell and a good memory of fruit-bearing trees in the area. They breed in the period between November and March.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule V  
(As amended upto 1991)

#### 5. INDIAN FRUIT BAT OR FLYING FOX

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : CHIROPTERA  
Family : PTEROPODIDAE

*Genus & Species: Pteropus giganteous* (Brunnich)

*Marathi Name* : Watwaghul

*Diagnostic Characters* : The largest size of this bat makes it unmistakable. Head usually reddish brown with darker snout. Neck and shoulders are pale brownish yellow, and the undersurface yellowish brown; wings black.

*Distribution* : Whole of India.

*Habits* : The bat is always seen flying with slow wing beats, at dusk. Roosts during the day time in large and noisy colonies on a tree top. They have an excellent memory for the location and fruiting time of the trees. They fly in the same route regularly in a single file. Feeds only on fruit juices. Breeds once in a year. They have been considered as a serious pests of orchards. Some people eat its flesh. Specimens are killed for their use in making traditional medicines and also in black magic.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule V  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix II

## 6. JUNGLE CAT

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : CARNIVORA  
Family : FELIDAE

*Genus & Species: Felis chaus* (Guldensteadt)

*Marathi Name* : Baul or Jungli Manjar

*Diagnostic Characters* : A wild cat with long and slender legs, short tail and without any distinct pattern on the dorsal side. Colour of the fur varies from sandy grey to yellowish grey, while that of the eyes pale green which gives cold and cruel expressions. The tail is ringed with black and has a black tip. Some vestigial stripes are seen on fore and hind limbs.

*Distribution*: Whole of India.

*Habits* : The jungle cat inhabits drier and more open parts, keeping itself to the grassland, scrub or open jungle and marshy places. It is more active in the mornings and evenings. It preys on small mammals, birds and also on poultry. Jungle cat is a very swift animal and is capable of attacking other animals of comparatively larger size. It breeds twice in a year.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Not very Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule II  
(As amended upto 1991) Part (I)
- 2) IUCN : Vulnerable
- 3) CITES : Appendix I

## 7. LEOPARD OR PANTHER

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : CARNIVORA  
Family : FELIDAE

*Genus & Species : Panthera pardus* (Linn.)

*Marathi Name* : Bibtya Wagh

*Diagnostic Characters* : Though a big cat, panther is smaller than a tiger even when fully grown. The average total length is 215 Cms. (7 Ft. including tail) with average height at shoulders is 80-90 cms. It is a sleek short-haired cat with bright coloured coat marked with small close-set black rosettes. The ground colour is highly variable from pale yellow to rufous fawn.

*Distribution* : Whole of India.

*Habits* : The leopard inhabits a variety of habitats like hills, plains, thick forests, scrub jungles etc. away from or near human habitats. It is an excellent climber and is graceful and agile in movements. It's a very bold cat and attacks domestic animals, calves, sheep, goats, poultry and, sometimes, even human beings from the adjoining human settlements. It can thrive upon wide range of preys of different sizes varying from small mammals like rodents to deers and cattle. It also preys upon birds, reptiles and crabs. Panthers breed all the year round and, normally, 2 cubs per litter are born. As per the forest official report, there are about twenty leopards moving in the entire S.G.N.P. area.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Seen occasionally

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule I  
(As amended upto 1991) Part (I)
- 2) IUCN : Vulnerable
- 3) CITES : Appendix I

## 8. COMMON PALM CIVET OR TODDY CAT

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : CARNIVORA  
Family : VIVERRIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* (Pallas)

*Marathi Name* : Ud Manjar

*Diagnostic Characters* : A black or blackish brown civet cat with long coarse hairs. Underwool, when present, whitish. Long and pointed snout with variable facial markings. The most common is a white patch or spot below the eye.

*Distribution* : Whole of India excluding desert zones.

*Habits* : The civet is commonly found in well wooded regions. It lives on trees lying curled up by day among the branches. Mango, palm and 'mahua' are favourite shelters. However, with the degradation of the natural habitats, the civets have adopted themselves to a life close to human settlements. They have been found to live on roofs in deserted bungalows, drainage places etc. They prey upon birds and small mammals and also like to thrive on juicy fruits. The civets can easily be tamed. The civet breeds round the year.

*Status* : In India : Not uncommon; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule II  
(As amended upto 1991) Part (II)

## 9. COMMON MONGOOSE

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : CARNIVORA  
Family : HERPESTIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Herpestes edwardsi* (Geoffroy)

*Marathi Name* : Mongoos

*Diagnostic Characters* : Mongoose is a very familiar animal exhibited by snake charmers in India. Earlier, naturalists kept mongooses in civet family due to similarity in certain characters. However, semi-circular ears, open feet, freer digits, very long claws, absence of scent glands, body colour and its direct method of hunting from the bush distinguishes it not only from civet but also from the cats. The alternate light and dark rings on its hairs gives its coat a grizzled "pepper and salt" tinge. The tail is as long as its body and is very bushy. Total body length reaches upto 90 Cms.

*Distribution* : South Indian form

*Habits* : It is a creature of open land, scrub jungle and cultivation. It lives in thickets and takes shelter under rocks or bushes. The mongoose preys on rats, mice, frogs, snakes, lizards, scorpions, centipedes etc. The mongoose breeds all the year round.

*Status* : In India : Common ; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix III

## 10. STRIPED HYENA

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : CARNIVORA  
Family : HYAENIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Hyaena hyaena* (Linn.)

*Marathi Name* : Taras

*Diagnostic Characters* : A dog like digitigrade animal with string, blunt and non-retractile slightly curved claws. The head and forebody are massive. Limbs rather long but the hindquarters weak. Dorsal crest with long hairs. Its colour varies from cream buff to dirty white or grey. Transverse stripes on body and limbs are well-defined. It can reach the maximum length of head and body upto 150 Cms. (5 Ft.).

*Distribution* : Found in small numbers in suitable pockets in whole of India.

*Habits* : Hyena is solitary in habit and generally lives in scrub, dry open jungles, in low hills and ravines where convenient holes and caves are available for shelter. Hyena is a nocturnal animal and feeds on carcasses of animals. It shares the coarser remains of the refused food of other predator and, hence, regarded, like vultures, as scavengers. It breeds generally during winter.

*Status* : In India : Vulnerable ; In S. G. N. P. : Not uncommon

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule III  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) IUCN : Vulnerable

## 11. JACKAL

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : CARNIVORA  
Family : CANIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Canis aureus* (Linn.)

*Marathi Name* : Kolha

*Diagnostic Characters* : Jackal is amongst the most familiar wildlife of the country. It's long-drawn howling at dusk or dawn is more familiar to all. It's a close relative of wolf, but lacks elevated forehead and arching brows of wolf. It is small in size than a village dog and possesses a bushy tail. It measures 60-80 Cms. in head and body length. It's coat colour is variable but is generally a mixture of black and white.

*Distribution* : Whole of India.

*Habits* : The jackal is adapted to live in any environment. It is a nocturnal animal and is commonly seen around villages. It's food consists of carrion, animals, birds, and even fruits. It does the good work of cleaning the carcasses providing, with vultures, sanitary services to the nearby villages. However, it's hunting instinct is not wholly dormant. It can, sometimes, prey upon poultry, goats, sheep and even kids. They hunt in packs. The jackal breeds round the year.

*Status* : In India : Vulnerable; In S. G. N. P. : Occasional.

*Conservation Status :*

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule II  
(As amended upto 1991) Part (II)
- 2) IUCN : Vulnerable
- 3) CITES : Appendix I

**12. INDIAN FOX**

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : CARNIVORA  
Family : CANIDAE

*Genus & Species : Vulpes bengalensis* (Shaw)

*Marathi Name :* Khokhad or Kokri

*Diagnostic Characters :* It is a grey coloured common fox of the Indian plains with slender limbs, smaller built and black tipped bushy tail. The limbs are, in contrary to the body, rufous coloured. The length of the head and body varies in the range of 45-60 Cms.

*Distribution :* Indigenous species occurring throughout the country except in extreme borders of N. E. India.

*Habits :* It lives in scrubs in flat and rocky areas, avoiding dense forests, commonly seen in cultivations. Lives in self dug burrows during day time. Comes out singly or in pairs at night. Very clever animal. Feeds on small mammals, birds, reptiles, crabs, termites, fruits (specially "Ber", *Zizipus* spp.) etc. It breeds between November and January.

*Status :* In India : Vulnerable ; In S. G. N. P. : Occasional

*Conservation Status :*

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule II  
(As amended upto 1991) Part (II)
- 2) IUCN : Vulnerable
- 3) CITES : Appendix III

**13. WILD BOAR**

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : ARTIODACTYLA  
Family : SUIDAE

*Genus & Species : Sus scrofa* (Linn.)

*Marathi Name :* Ran Dukkar

*Diagnostic Characters* : The wild boar possesses elongated head with abruptly truncated mobile snout ending in a flat disc containing nostrils. Its feet are narrow and canines curved upwards and outwards. The tusks are well developed in males. It has a sparser coat with fuller crest or mane of black bristles reaching from nape to the back.

*Distribution* : Whole of India.

*Habits* : Wild boar lives in grass, bushy jungles and forests. They are omnivorous living on crops, roots, tubers, insects, snakes, carion etc. Wild boar displays great intelligence and shows greater courage than any other animal. The sense of smell is acute. They breed all the year round and they are prolific breeders.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule III  
(As amended upto 1991)

#### 14. CHITAL OR SPOTTED DEER

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : ARTIODACTYLA  
Family : CERVIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Axis axis* (Erxleben)

*Marathi Name* : Chital

*Diagnostic Characters* : Chital is perhaps most beautiful of all the deers. Its coat is bright rufous-fawn spotted profusely with white at all ages and in all seasons. Old bucks are darker and brownish in colour. Chital possesses graceful horns with three tines. A well built stag stands at 90 Cms. (36 Inches) at the shoulders and weighs about 85 Kgs. (190 Lbs.).

*Distribution* : Whole of Indian Peninsular region.

*Habits* : Chital prefers to live in grassy forest glades and shaded streams. They live in herds of varying sizes ranging from 10 to 50. They frequently associate with forest animals preferably monkeys. Deers shed their antlers at regular intervals. The new antlers are in velvet till the end of December. Winter appears to be rutting season for chitals. They are prolific breeders. They are, generally, preyed upon by tiger, leopard and wild dogs.

*Status* : In India : Common ; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule III  
(As amended upto 1991)

**15. SAMBAR**

Class : MAMMALIA  
 Order : ARTIODACTYLA  
 Family : CERVIDAE

*Genus & Species : Cervus unicolor* (Kerr)

*Marathi Name* : Sambar

*Diagnostic Characters* : The typical forest deer of south-eastern Asia. It is the largest deer in India reaching height at shoulders near 150 Cms. (Five Feet). It carries grandest horns. The coat is coarse. In stag (males) it forms a mane around neck and throat. The general colour varies in the shades of brown above, while underpart is paler. Old stags become dark in colour. Sambar possesses stout antlers which attains full growth in the fourth year.

*Distribution* : Wooded districts of India.

*Habits* : Sambar prefers to live near forest borders or hill-sides, sometimes near cultivations. Their diet includes grass, leaves and various kinds of fruits. They feed at night and retire at day break. Their sense of sight is moderate, but those of scent and hearing are very acute. They are preyed upon by tiger, leopard and even wild dog. They are very good swimmers. The stags fight for territory and clean their horns by rubbing them against tree trunks. Sambars live in herds with a master stag. After mating season in Nov. Dec. is over, the stags leave the herd and lead solitary life.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule III  
(As amended upto 1991)

**16. BARKING DEER**

Class : MAMMALIA  
 Order : ARTIODACTYLA  
 Family : CERVIDAE

*Genus & Species : Muntiacus muntjack* (Zimmerman)

*Marathi Name* : Bhekar

*Diagnostic Characters* : The medium sized Indian deer with normal height at shoulders varying between 1 Ft. 6 Inches and 2 Ft. 6 Inches (50 - 75 Cms.). Barking deer possesses small antlers set on bony haired pedicels which run down on each side of the face as bony ridges (Hence the name "Rib faced deer"). The upper colour is in the shades of brown while underpart is white. The upper canines of a male are well developed and are useful in self-defence.

*Distribution* : Thickly wooded hills of India.

*Habits* : Muntjack prefers to stay in thickly forested areas. It occurs upto the heights of 5000 to 8000 Ft. They prefer to live singly except during mating season. They are fairly diurnal in habit. Their diet includes leaves grass and fruits. Their call from a distance sounds like that of a dog, hence the name "Barking Deer" They appear to breed in all seasons.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Seen occasionally.

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule III  
(As amended upto 1991) :

## 17. MOUSE DEER OR INDIAN CHEVROTAIN

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : ARTIODACTYLA  
Family : TRAGULIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Tragulus meminna* (Erxleben)

*Marathi Name* : Pisori

*Diagnostic Characters* : The mouse deer with white spots on the flanks, is much smaller than spotted deer. Its normal height at shoulders is less than a feet. It has a very small tail and less developed antlers. It is provided with a pair of tusks which are well developed in the males. The limbs are slender but the hindquarters are high in profile. The throat bears three white stripes while the underpart is white.

*Distribution* : Forested areas of peninsular India.

*Habits* : A solitary and shy creature with seclusive habits. It keeps itself among rocks and boulders. When chased by a predator, it shows amazing speed and ability in climbing a tree. It breeds in a rainy season and can be easily tamed.

*Status* : In India : Vulnerable; In S. G. N. P. : Seen occasionally

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule I  
(As amended upto 1991) Part (I)  
2) IUCN : Vulnerable

**18. INDIAN HARE.**

Class : MAMMALIA  
 Order : LAGOMORPHA  
 Family : LEPORIDAE

*Genus & Species : Lepus nigricollis* (F. Cuvier)

*Marathi Name : Sasa*

*Diagnostic Characters* : Presence of four incisors in the upper jaw, long ears & hind legs and permanently external testes are the distinguishing characters of hares and rabbits from rodents. The blacknaped hare is distinctive in having a dark brown or black patch on the back of its nape from ears to shoulders. The true rabbit does not occur in India. The hares possess rufous-brown coat mixed with black. Underpart is lighter or white.

*Distribution* : There are number of races of *L. nigricollis* occurring throughout India. Blacknaped hare is found in entire Maharashtra.

*Habits* : Where there is a suitable habitat there are numerous hares. Large tracts of bush, jungles, cultivated plains, forests etc. are the preferred habitats. They are ferocious feeders and can cause damage to standing cultivations. They are nocturnal in habit. They have many enemies like fox, mongoose, wild cats of all sizes, village dogs and, last but not the least, man. They breed in winter months.

*Status* : In India : Common ; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

**19. INDIAN PORCUPINE**

Class : MAMMALIA  
 Order : RODENTIA  
 Family : HYSTRICIDAE

*Genus & Species : Hystrix indica* (Kerr)

*Marathi Name : Sayal or Salu*

*Diagnostic Characters* : A porcupine can easily be recognised by their modified hairs (quills). The quills are formidable and long. Its neck and shoulders are covered with bristles. Each quill is ornamented with deep brown or black and white rings.

*Distribution* : Whole of India.

*Habits* : Porcupine favours rocky hill-sides. It can adapt to any kind of environment. It digs its own burrow and leaves huge amount of soil at the entrance. They gnaw bones and horns for calcium required for the growth of quills. They are mostly vegetarians and prefer underground bulbs and roots.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended in 1991).

## 20. STRIPPED SQUIRRELS

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : RODENTIA  
Family : SCIURRIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Funambulus* Spp.

*Marathi Name* : Khar

*Diagnostic Characters* : Of all the Indian striped squirrels, five (*Funambulus pennanti*) and three striped jungle squirrels (*F. tristriatus*) are the most common species in the western ghats. Comparatively they are smaller in size and, though, arboreal they spend some time on ground also. Like any other rodents, squirrels possess four chisel-shaped continuously growing incisors. The ventral side of the tail of five striped squirrel is yellowish white, while that of the three striped squirrel is reddish in colour.

*Distribution* : The five striped squirrel is commoner in Northern India and extend into the dry plains of south. The three striped squirrel predominates in South India. *F. tristriatus* found in northern part of western ghats, including S. G. N. P., are larger in size than the other three striped squirrels like *F. palmarum*.

*Habits* : Both the species abodes holes in tree trunks or in rocks, orchards etc. They are diurnal and fossorial. Both the species may be found in the same area, however five striped squirrel is more commensal with man. It has become dependant on man for food and shelter. Their food includes fruits, nuts, young shoots, buds and barks. Like other field rodent species, squirrels are also known to be responsible for damages to orchards, vegetable crops, cocoa areconut, coffee and cardamum. The striped squirrel breeds throughout the year. These species can become agents in the spread of diseases like plague.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended in 1991).

## 21. RATS, BANDICOOTS AND MICE

Class : MAMMALIA  
Order : RODENTIA  
Family : MURIDAE

Amongst the murid rodents, about eleven species are known to occur in Sanjay Gandhi National Park area. Though they are the pest species for *Homo sapiens*, they form part of the food chain for a number of predator carnivore, avian and reptilian species. Of the eleven rodent species, following are the most commonly occurring species in the National Park area.

Sl.No.	Scientific Name	Common English Name	Marathi Name
1.	<i>Rattus rattus rufescens</i> (Gray)	House or Roof Rat	“Undir”
2.	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> (Berkenhout)	Norvey Rat	“Motha Undir”
3.	<i>Tatera indica</i> (Hardwicks)	Gerbil Rat	“Gonedar Sheputwala Undir”
4.	<i>Mus musculus</i> (Lin.)	House Mouse	“Chota Undir”
5.	<i>Mus booduga</i> (Gray)	Pigmy Field Mouse	“Bhurya or Chota Undir”
6.	<i>Bandicota bengalensis</i> (Gray)	Indian Mole Rat	“Choti Ghoos”
7.	<i>Bandicota indica</i> (Bechstein)	Large bandicoot	“Mothi Ghoos”

All these rodent species are known carriers of a number of diseases including the most dreaded disease, plague. *B. bengalensis* is also considered as an agricultural pest No. 1, since it causes extensive damage to the standing crops, stored grains and other agricultural products. It also causes damage to a variety of man-made articles ranging from furnitures to houses, buildings and bridges etc.

*Distribution* : Entire peninsular India.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Common

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule V  
(As amended upto 1991)

## 22. LITTLE GREBE OR DABCHICK

Class : AVES  
Order : PODICIPEDIFORMES  
Family : PODICIPEDIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Podiceps ruficollis* (Pallas)

*Marathi Name* : Pankombadi or Pandubi

*Diagnostic Characters* : Aquatic birds of almost pigeon's size with a rudimentary tail. Wings small and bill pointed. A drab coloured plump water bird with white under parts especially adapted for diving and swimming. Sexes seasonally diamorphic, lives in pairs and parties on jheels, tanks, rain filled ditches and ponds.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : An expert diver and a very good swimmer. Vanishes below water surface with great rapidity. Loath to fly, but once air borne can fly strongly, often long distances. It has developed a habit of eating own feathers and feeding them to young ones. It thrives on aquatic insects, larvae, tadpoles, frogs, crustaceans, etc.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Resident, common.

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

### 23. DARTER OR SNAKE BIRD

Class : AVES  
Order : PELECANIFORMES  
Family : HALACROCORACIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Anhinga rufa* (Pennant)

*Marathi Name* : Tirandaj

*Diagnostic Characters* : A gregarious, fish-eating, black water bird with a long snake like neck, chin and throat whitish. Bill laterally compressed, rather long and pointed. Wings of moderate length, while tail fairly long. Sexes alike. Size : Almost like that of a kite.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian union.

*Habits* : Lives singly or in loose parties on tanks, ponds and jheels. Habits almost like cormorant. It's staple food is fish and it chases fishes below the surface with speed. Wings remain half-open in sitting posture.

*Status* : In India : Common; In S. G. N. P. : Resident, seen occasionally.

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian WL (Protect.) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

## 24. EGRETS AND HERONS

Class : AVES  
Order : CICONIIFORMES  
Family : ARDEIDAE

*Genera : Ardea, Ardeola nycticorax & Egretta*

*Marathi Name : Bagala*

*Diagnostic characters* : Ardeidae, the family of herons, egrets and bitterns is well represented in Sanjay Gandhi National Park by eight species belonging to five resident genera. These are all long-legged lanky wading birds with long flexible necks which take 's' shape during the flight. Bill long and sharp, dagger-like. Toes long and slender and sometimes webbed at the base. Plumage, white, grey, purple and/or brown in colour. Plumage colour changes during breeding season in this family.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : Lives in small flocks or parties. Mixed roosting place on tree tops (heronaries). However, Grey and Indian reef herons live singly. Egrets and herons prefer to live near ponds, jheels, rivers and also in fields. The cattle egrets living with grazing cattles in a field is a familiar sight. They have varied feeding habits.

*Status* : In Indian Union : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Pond herons, paddy bird, cattle egrets and little egret are common birds, while other species of the Ardeidae family in S.G.N.P. are uncommon or sighted occassionally.

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended in 1991).

## 25. WHITE NECKED STORK

Class : AVES  
Order : CICONIIFORMES  
Family : CICONIIDAE

*Genus & Species : Ciconia episcopus (Boddaert)*

*Marathi Name* : Shubhra mani Karkocha

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : about 3 ft. high. A shining black stork with conspicuous white neck. Ventral side white, heavy bill blackish and long and legs red in colour. Sexes alike. Lives near marshy areas.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : White necked stork lives in pair or small parties, found in well-watered plains, water logged grounds near the environs of river, jheel and pond. It feeds on fish, frog, reptiles, crabs, molluscs, large insects, etc.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended in 1991).

## 26. COMMON TEAL

Class : AVES  
Order : ANSERIFORMES  
Family : ANATIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Anas crecca* (Linnaeus)

*Marathi Name* : Maral

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size domestic duck. Large conspicuous wetland bird, better known than any other water bird. Sexual dimorphism in colouration. *Male* : Grey with chestnut head and a broad metallic green band from eye to nape. Tricoloured wings (black, green and buff). *Female* : Dark and light brown with pale underparts and black and green speculum. Bill typically broad, flat and round at the tip. Legs short, feet webbed.

*Distribution* : In winter throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : Common teal is a migratory duck, seen in winter season. Prefers to live only in flocks in shallow waters, grassy tank margins, inundated paddy fields, etc. Largely vegetarian seeking grains, tender shoots and marsh plants.

*Status* : In India : Migratory and common; In S. G. N. P. : Migratory, occasionally seen.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended in 1991)

## 27. MONTAGU'S HARRIER

Class : AVES  
Order : FALCONIFORMES  
Family : ACCIPITRIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Circus pygargus* (Linnaeus)

*Marathi Name* : Harin

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : pariah kite. One of the raptors of birds of prey species. Bill short with upper mandible longer than lower, curved and strongly hooked at tip. Wings rounded, feet strong, claws hooked and powerful. *Males* : Ashy grey with black tipped wings. *Females* : Dark brown with conspicuous bands on the sides of the wings which are black tipped. Relatively long tail with cross bars present. The bars are continuous and distinct in females.

*Distribution* : In winter in entire Indian Union.

*Habit* : Winter migratory species seen at ponds, lakes, swamps, grassy plains and cultivations. Sails singly gracefully in the sky. Feeds on lizards, frogs, grasshoppers and disabled birds.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Migratory, occasionally seen.

*Conservation status* :

1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule I, Part III  
(As amended in 1991)

2) CITES : Appendix II

## 28. PARIAH KITE

Class : AVES  
Order : FALCONIFORMES  
Family : ACCIPITRIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Milvus migrans* (Boddaert)

*Marathi Name* : Nagari Ghar

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size about size of vulture. A large dark brown kite distinguished from all other kites by its forked tail which is prominently seen in flight. Sexes almost alike. It is more urbanised than any other raptors and lives near human settlements.

*Distribution* : Entire Indian Union.

*Habits* : A confirmed commensal species. Expert flier in the sky. It has taken more to scavenger habits. Hence dares to feed from debris dumped near human settlements. This has led to certain serious hazards like plane accidents due to striking of kites against engines. It feeds on anything like garbage, earthworms, termites, lizards, mice, etc. It gives a shrilly cry.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common.

*Conservation status* :

1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule I, Part III.  
(As amended in 1991)

2) CITES : Appendix II

**29. CRESTED SERPANT EAGLE**

Class : AVES  
 Order : FALCONIFORMES  
 Family : ACCIPITRIDAE

*Genus & Species : Spilornis cheela* (Latham)

*Marathi Name* : Turewala sarp Garud

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : kite. Raptor species with a prominent black and white crest on the head. Dorsally, though, dark, underparts light brown finely barred with black and white. In overhead flight one can easily notice white bars across the tail. Two similar bars on broad and round wings. Sexes alike, but immatures lighter and different in colours.

*Distribution* : Entire Indian union.

*Habits* : Prefers to live singly or in pairs in well wooded countries. Resident and local migratory bird. Closely watches movements of its preys from a branch high up in some tall tree. It gives a penetrating high pitched screaming whistles. As name suggests it prefers to feed on snakes, lizards, frogs, rats, etc.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident, occasional.

*Conservation status* :

1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule I, Part III.  
 (As amended in 1991)

2) CITES : Appendix II

**30. OSPRAY**

Class : AVES  
 Order : FALCONIFORMES  
 Family : ACCIPITRIDAE

*Genus & Species : Pandion haliaetus* (Linnaeus)

*Marathi Name* : Matsya Garud

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : pariah kite. A dark brown hawk with brown and white head and underparts respectively. There is a brown band as "necklace" around the breast which can be seen distinctly even in flight. Sexes alike, but females longer in size.

*Distribution* : In winter, entire Indian union.

*Habits* : Winter migratory species feeding on fishes. Spends most of the time singly near tanks, ponds, jheels, reservoirs and even on sea coast. Hovers like kestrel over the water surface for fish.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Migratory; Uncommon.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule I, Part III.  
(As amended in 1991)
- 2) IUCN : Endangered
- 3) CITES : Appendix II

### 31. INDIAN WHITE-BACKED VULTURE

Class : AVES  
Order : FALCONIFORMES  
Family : ACCIPITRIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Gyps bengalensis* (Gmelin)

*Marathi Name* : Shubhrapathi Gidhad

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Peacock  $\pm$ . A scavenger bird. A heavy, dirty blackish brown vulture with featherless neck and head, white back is a diagnostic feature of the species. Sexes alike. Bill short with upper mandible longer than the lower and curved.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian union.

*Habits* : Raptor species, a carrion feeder. Useful scavenger in any place. Large gatherings collect at animal carcasses and demolish them at incredible speed. Lives in flocks.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common ; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and common.

*Conservative status* :

- 1) India Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended in 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix II

### 32. JUNGLE FOWL

Class : AVES  
Order : GALLIFORMES  
Family : PHASIANIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Gallus* Spp.

*Marathi Name* : Rankombda

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size village hen. Sexual dimorphism in appearance. Red jungle fowl hens plain streaked brown with rufous-brown underparts. Grey jungle fowl hens has white coloured

breast. Red jungle fowl cocks with long green coloured tail, while grey jungle-fowl cock possesses long metallic black coloured tail. Lives in pairs or parties.

*Distribution* : In India : Red jungle fowl : Northern India with its southern boundary upto Godavari river. Grey jungle fowl : Peninsular India South of Mt. Abu.

*Habits* : Inhabits deciduous as well as evergreen forests, plains and hills. Very shy and moves fast into cover with slightest sense of danger. Roost up in tree and feed on grain, shoots, tubers, berries etc. Ancestors of all domestic breeds of fowl.

*Status* : In India : Resident, common ; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident, occasional.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended in 1991)
- 2) CITES - Grey Jungle fowl : Appendix II

### 33. INDIAN PEA FOWL

Class : AVES  
Order : GALLIFORMES  
Family : PHASIANIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Pavo cristatus* Linnaeus

*Marathi Name* : Male : Mor. Female : Landor

*Diagnostic Characters* : The Indian Peafowl is a colourful, swan-sized bird. There is a fan-shaped crest on the head and a white patch under eye. Long slender neck. Sexes are dimorphic. The colour of the cock is metallic bronze green. It has about 200 elongated feathers (tail-coverts) with beautiful purplish black-centred coppery disc ("Eye") on each of them. The neck and breast are glistening blue in colour. The hen is brown in colour and is smaller than male. It lacks the tail coverts. The immature male is like female in appearance.

*Distribution* : Widely distributed in India.

*Habits* : The peafowl is an inhabitant of dense scrub jungles and deciduous forests. It prefers to live near water. When disturbed, it runs away and fly for short distance. The birds roost on branches of the tree. During breeding season male moves with 4-5 hens. The male has most attractive courtship-display. The peafowl is omnivorous.

*Status* : In India : Resident, Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident, common.

*Conservation status* : It is a National bird of India.

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule I, Part III.  
(As amended upto 1991)

**34. SANDPIPERS**

Class : AVES  
 Order : CHARADRIIFORMES  
 Family : JACANIDAE

*Genus & Species : Tringa spp.*

*Marathi Name : Tutari*

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size quails and partridge. Wading birds of small to medium size. Bill and tail medium sized, legs long and wings long and pointed. Flight swift and well sustained. Different shades of brown above, while underparts varying between white and green. Legs grey, green and red in colours. Five species are represented in Sanjay Gandhi National Park. All of them are migratory species.

*Distribution* : Entire Indian Union.

*Habits* : The commonest and gregarious of the group of wading birds found near river banks, ponds, tanks, lagoons marshes, paddy fields and mudflats. They run along quite fast with wagging tails, picking tit-bits like insects larvae, worms and mollusca as food. Seen in mixed flocks.

*Status* : In India : Migratory, Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Migratory, common occasional.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV.  
(As amended upto 1991)

**35. KOEL**

Class : AVES  
 Order : CUCULIFORMES  
 Family : CUCULIDAE

*Genus & species : Eudynamis scolopacea (Linnaeus)*

*Marathi Name : Kokil*

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : house crow. Male glistening black with yellowish green bill, crimson eyes and a long tail. Females brown largely spotted and barred with white. Lives singly or in pairs in groves of trees. The familiar calls of male "Kuo-kuo-kuo" makes its presence unmistakable.

*Distribution* : In India : Entire Indian Union.

*Habits* : Nest-parasitic arboreal species (crow). Frequents garden, groves and open country. Silent in winter, but becomes noisy with advance of hot weather. Females utter sharp repeated calls only during the flights. Koel feeds largely on fruits and berries, sometimes also on insects and caterpillars.

*Status* : In India : Resident, Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident, common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

### 36. HOOPOE

Class : AVES  
Order : CORACIFORMES  
Family : UPUPIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Upupa epops* Linnaeus

*Marathi Name* : Hupoo

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Myna ±. A fawn coloured bird with black and white zebra like stripes on back and wings, and with a long, conspicuous black-tipped fan-like crest. A long slightly curved bill. Wings broad and rounded. Flight undulating.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : Resident bird living singly or in pairs. Sexes alike. Lives in open country, plains and hills. Prefers to move through gardens, lawns and groves. Walks and runs with a quail-like but waddling gait. Nests in tree holes or holes in walls.

*Status* : In India : Resident and local migratory ; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and local migratory.

### 37. BLUE ROCK PIGEON

Class : AVES  
Order : COLUMBIFORMES  
Family : COLUMBIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Columbia livia* Gmelin

*Marathi Name* : Kabutar

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : House crow. A familiar slaty grey bird with glistening green and purple colours on neck and upper breast, sexes alike. Terrestrial and arboreal birds. Neck short, bill of medium length. Flight swift and powerful. Food chiefly consists of seeds grains, drupes, etc.

*Distribution* : Throughout the Indian union.

*Habits* : In wild affects open country with cliffs and rocky hills. Resident, common and commensal species living with man. Many fancy artificial strains are obtained through interbreeding. Grain

warehouse, railway stations, old and abandoned buildings are their favourite haunts. Can drink water through continuous sucking.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and common.

*Conservation status* :

1) CITES : Appendix III for Nepal and Ghana.

*Remarks* : Another species of pigeon family that is commonly seen is the common green pigeon (*Terron phoenicoptera* (Latham), Marathi Name : "Hola"). It is a well-built yellow legged, olive green and ashy grey pigeon living in flocks in wooded countries. Other features are similar like that of blue rock pigeon.

### 38. DOVES

Class : AVES  
Order : COLUMBIFORMES  
Family : COLUMBIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Streptopelia* Spp.

*Marathi Name* : Hola, Kawadi, Bhor, etc.

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Pigeon, about five species under the genus *Streptopelia* are found in Sanjay Gandhi National Park. Major field characters and habits are like the other pigeon species mentioned earlier. The difference lies in colouration patterns. Some of them are bronze winged (*Chalcophus indica*). Red coloured turtle dove (*S. tranquebarica*), spotted dove (*S. chinensis*) rising dove (*S. decacta*), little brown dove (*S. senegalensis*).

*Distribution* : Entire Indian union.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and common.

*Conservation status* :

1) India Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

### 39. PARAKEETS

Class : AVES  
Order : PSITTACIFORMES  
Family : PSITTACIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Psittacula* Spp.

*Marathi Name* : Raghu or Popat

**Diagnostic characters :** Size : Pigeon. Out of a dozen parakeet species known to inhabit Indian subcontinent, three species are commonly seen in Sanjay Gandhi National Park area. They are : (1) Alexandrine Parakeet (*P. eupatria*), (2) Roseringed parakeet (*P. krameri*) and (3) Blossomheaded parakeet (*P. cyanocephala*). The last two are recognised by their colours, while the Alexandrine parakeets are recognised by its long tails, massive hooked red bill and conspicuous maroon coloured patch on each shoulder.

**Distribution :** Throughout Indian Union.

**Habits :** Live in flocks, graceful flights, noisy, popular cage birds, Lives in wooded countries, orchards and cultivations.

**Status :** In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and common.

**Conservation status :**

- 1) India Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : A) *Psittacula eupatria* & *P. cyanocephala* : Appendix II  
B) *P. krameri* : Appendix III for Nepal and Ghana.

#### 40. OWLS AND OWLETS

Class : AVES  
Order : STRIGIFORMES  
Family : STRIGIDAE

**Marathi Name :** Ghubad or Pingla

**Diagnostic Characters :** Size : Owl : Kite; Owlet : Myna. Nocturnal birds of prey, plumage long, soft, barred and of varied colours. Head and eyes are very large. Eyes forwardly directed. Facial disc and horns present in number of species. Bill short, strong and hooked. Outer toe reversible and claws strong and hooked. Sexes generally alike. Six species of owls and owlets occur in Sanjay Gandhi National Park area.

**Distribution :** Throughout Indian Union.

**Habits :** Resident. Arboreal. Nest in holes or hollows. Found generally in well-wooded countries, deserted buildings and cities, ancient forts, overgrown ravines, rocky hillocks, etc. Preys chiefly on rodents and other small creatures.

**Status :** In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident but most of them are seen occasionally. However owlets are common.

**Conservation status :**

- 1) India Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) IUCN : Great Horned Owl : Endangered
- 3) CITES : Appendix II

#### 41. INDIAN NIGHTJAR

Class : AVES  
Order : PRIMULGIFORMES  
Family : CAPRIMULGIDAE

*Genus & Species : Caprimulgus Spp.*

Marathi Name : Ratva

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Myna. A soft plumaged nocturnal bird. Active even in twilight. Colour patterns camouflaging in rufous, buff, grey, black and white. White patches on wings. Sexes alike. Large head and eyes; neck short, bill weak, middle toe long with a pectinate claw.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : Lives singly in scrubby and stony country moving on ground by day and capturing insects in flight at dusk, also seen in dry overgrown nallahs, compounds and groves etc. Nighthar's calls are very typical and familiar.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

#### 42. KINGFISHER

Class : AVES  
Order : KORACIFORMES  
Family : ALCEDINIDAE

*Genus & Species : Ceryle, Alcedo, Halcyon Spp.*

Marathi Name : Khandya, Dhiwar, Kilkila

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Between sparrow and pigeon. Out of 12 spp. of five Indian genera, five species (white breasted, small blue, pied etc Kingfishers) belonging to four genera have been reported from Sanjay Gandhi National Park. Body compact, neck short, bill massive, long straight and pointed. Legs short. Wings short and round. Sexes alike. The beautiful colours of the plumage vary between green, purple, brown and black. The state bird, white breasted kingfisher, is dorsally brilliant blue in colour with head and neck chocolate brown and the underparts conspicuous white in colour.

*Distribution* : In India : Throughout India (Except Black capped kingfisher, *Halcyon pileata* which is found along the coastline).

*Habits* : Non-social birds adopted for life chiefly at inland waters, though some species are terrestrial and a very few live near coastline. The aquatic forms feed on fish obtained by diving headlong into water. However, they also feed on large insects and small vertebrates.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and common. (Except Black capped Kingfisher, *Halycon pileata* which is local migratory.)

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

#### 43. BEE-EATER

Class : AVES  
Order : CORACIFORMES  
Family : MEROPIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Merops* Spp.

*Marathi Name* : Veda Raghu

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size Bulbul. A grass-green bird with central pair of tail feathers, prolonged into blunt pins. Slender, long and slightly curved bills. Black strip through the eyes. Wings long and pointed. Sexes alike.

*Distribution* : Throughout the Indian Union.

*Habits* : Lives in flocks inhabiting open country, near cultivations, forest clearing, fallow kinds, gardens etc. Feeds largely on insects, particularly dipterans and hymenopterans.

*Status* : In India : Migratory; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Migratory.

#### 44. INDIAN ROLLER or BLUE JAY

Class : AVES  
Order : CORACIFORMES  
Family : CORACIIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Coracias benghalensis* (Linnaeus)

*Marathi Name* : Nilkanth

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Crow. Arboreal birds with striking Cambridge and Oxford blue and brown colour. Head large, neck short. Bill wide, strong and slightly hooked. Legs short. Flight strong. Wings and tail long. Sexes alike.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : Lives singly perching on telegraph wires, etc. in open cultivated countries, light deciduous forest. Can catch its food like insects during flight. Performs spectacular courtship display.

*Status* : In India : Local migratory and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Local migratory and common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

#### 45. MAHRATTA OR YELLOW FRONTED PIED WOODPECKER

Class : AVES  
Order : PICIFORMES  
Family : PICIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Picoides mahrattensis* (Latham)

*Marathi Name* : Maratha sutar

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Bulbul. A typical wood-pecker with long stout pointed bill and stiff wedge shaped tail. Irregularly arranged black and white spots on dorsal surface. Scarlet-crimson on abdomen and vent. Scarlet crested male. Toes strong, two in front and two in rear.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : Lives singly or in pairs in groves or thin jungles, light deciduous forests and mango orchards. Hits the tree trunk with bill in a typically noised spurts. Digs the rotten wood for insects. The tail acts as third leg like tripod while clinging on the bark.

*Status* : In India : Resident and occasional; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

#### 46. INDIAN PITTA

Class : AVES  
Order : PASSERIFORMES  
Family : PITTIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Pitta brachyura* (Linnaeus)

*Marathi name* : Navrang

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Myna. A brilliantly coloured, stub tailed bird with green, blue, fulvous, black and white colours in combinations. Abdomen crimson coloured. Dark steel blue coloured streak and a white spot near the tip of the wings are conspicuous characters. Bill short. Sexes alike.

*Distribution* : Whole of India.

*Habits* : Mainly terrestrial inhabiting singly the scrubby jungles. Roosts in trees, fond of nallahs and ravines. Feeds on insects.

*Status* : In India : Resident and local migratory; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and local migratory.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

#### 47. DRONGOES

Class : AVES  
Order : PASSERIFORMES  
Family : DICRURIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Dicrurus* Spp.

*Marathi Name* : Kotwal, Bhrungraj

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Myna, Bulbul. Arboreal birds. Plumage glossy black in colour. Eyes reddish brown or red. Bill stout and slightly hooked. Claws stout, curved and sharp. Wings long. Tail forked and variable. In racket-tailed drango it is projected with spatulated long 'wires' Sexes alike.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : Familiar birds of open country and forests. Racket-tailed drango prefers to live in moist deciduous plains and hills. Commonly seen in hunting parties associated with other species. The familiar black drango is generally seen perched on telegraph wires. Keeps a vigilant watch for its preys, insects.

*Status* : In India : Black Drango : Resident and common. Racket-tailed Drango : Resident but uncommon. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Black Drango : Resident and common. Racket-tailed Drango : Resident but uncommon.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

#### 48. COMMON AND OTHER MYNA

Class : AVES  
 Order : PASSERIFORMES  
 Family : STURNIDAE

*Genus & Species : Sturnus, Gracula and Acridotheres Species*

*Marathi Name* : Salunki or Mayna

*Diagnostic Characters* : Gregarious arboreal or terrestrial birds. About five species have been reported from Sanjay Gandhi National Park area. The birds with silky plumage and straight & slender bill. Legs strong, wings and tail short and rounded. The common myna is a very familiar yellow billed noisy bird. Sexes alike. Colours varies with the species. Bank myna has brick-red eyes, while bramhiny myna has glossy black crown on the head with a long crest. The jungle myna is about similar to the common myna except that jungle myna has white patches on wings and that jungle myna is devoid of bright yellow colour seen around the eyes of common myna.

*Distribution* : Entire Indian union.

*Habits* : Lives in pairs or in parties. Common myna is seen in any habitat. All the species are arboreal. Feeds on grasshoppers and insects.

*Status* : In India : Resident but some are local migratory; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident but seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
 (As amended upto 1991).

#### 49. INDIAN TREE PIE

Class : AVES  
 Order : PASSERIFORMES  
 Family : CORVIDAE

*Genus & Species : Dendrocitta vagabunda (Latham)*

*Marathi Name* : Takka chor

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Myna : A long-tailed brown coloured bird with head and neck black in colour. Tail and wings possess white patches. Flight undulating and swift. Bill stout and powerful. Sexes alike.

*Distribution* : Whole of India.

*Habits* : Lives in wooded country and scrubby jungle. Bold and aggressive species. Lives in pairs or in family parties. Noisy birds making variety of calls. Omnivorous like crows and will live on fruits, insects, lizards, frogs, young birds, rodents and even carrion.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

## 50. REDVENTED BULBUL

Class : AVES  
Order : PASSERIFORMES  
Family : PYCNONOTIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Pycnonotus cafer* (Linnaeus)

*Marathi Name* : Bulbul

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Smaller than myna. Brown bird with black crested head. A conspicuous crimson red patch on ventral side near the base of the tail. Sexes alike. Lives in pairs or in small parties. Four species of bulbul are known to occur in Sanjay Gandhi National Park area.

*Distribution* : In India : Practically whole of India.

*Habits* : Prefers to live in gardens and light wooded countries; both near and away from human settlements. Feeds on fruits and insects. Has a joyous sound.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

## 51. BABBLERS

Class : AVES  
Order : PASSERIFORMES  
Family : MUSCICAPIDAE  
Subfamily : TIMALINAE

*Genus & Species* : *Turdoides pectorneum dumetia chrysomma pomatorhinus & alcippe* Species

*Marathi Name* : Satbhai

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Between Bulbul and Myna. Arboreal or terrestrial birds with soft plumage. Bill and legs strong. Wings short and rounded. Long tail, varied coloured patterns. Lives in small parties of 6-7 on the ground or in bushes.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : Prefer to live in dry open country, deserts scrubby jungles and forests. Avoids humid forests. The birds feed on ground. Flight feeble. A series of short pleasant whistles. When disturbed, gives continuous musical whistles. Feed on insects, berries, grains and flower nectar.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

## 52. PARADISE FLYCATCHER AND OTHER RELATED TYPES

Class	: AVES
Order	: PASSERIFORMES
Family	: MUSCICAPIDAE
Subfamily	: MUSCICANAE

*Genus* : *Terpsiphone paradisi* (Linnaeus) and other species under this subfamily.

*Marathi Name* : Nartak

*Diagnostic characters* : Size Bulbul. One of the most attractive flycatchers. Adult male silvery white coloured with metallic black crested head. Two long narrow ribbon-like white coloured feathers in the tail. Young male and female chestnut above, whitish below and almost like bulbul in appearance. There are about eight species of four flycatcher genera occurring in Sanjay Gandhi National Park. Differences lies mostly in colour patterns, presence and/or absence of crest and shape of the tail.

*Distribution* : In India : Paradise flycatcher and few other species throughout India, while remaining species have local distribution. In Maharashtra : Eight species, including paradise flycatcher, out of 38 Indian species are found in entire Maharashtra.

*Habits* : Frequents shady groves, light deciduous forests near ravines Agile fairy like movements. Calls of some of the species are musical. Feeds on flies, gnats and other flying insects.

*Status* : In India : Most of these species are migratory and sighted occasionally. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Some migratory while others are resident and seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

**53. ASHY WREN WARBLER AND OTHER RELATED TYPES**

Class : AVES  
 Order : PASSERIFORMES  
 Family : MUSCICAPIDAE  
 Subfamily : SYLVIINAE

*Genus & Species : Prinia socialis* Sykes  
 and other related species under this subfamily

*Marathi Name* : Watwatya

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size sparrow. Dull-coloured active and arboreal birds with well-developed melodious songs. Difference lies in colouration patterns and size of tail. Bill slender and pointed. There are number of species under this subfamily. Only 15 species are known to occur in Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : Frequents gardens, reeds, ravines, moist grasslands, scrubs and deciduous forests. Feeds on insects. Musical sound. Lives in pairs. Sexes alike.

*Status* : In India : Resident and most of the 38 species are common. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : The Wren Warblers are resident and common. However, most of the other warblers are migratory and seen occasionally.

**54. INDIAN AND MAGPIE ROBINS**

Class : AVES  
 Order : PASSERIFORMES  
 Family : MUSCICAPIDAE  
 Subfamily : SYLVIINAE

*Genus & Species* : (1) *Saxicoloides fullicata* (Linnaeus) (Indian Robin)  
 (2) *Copsychus saularis* (Linnaeus) (Magpie Robin)

*Marathi Name* : Dayal and Chirak

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Sparrow. Plump, arboreal or terrestrial birds with soft plumage. Bill slender. Legs and feet strong. Wings slightly long and pointed. Tail long and round. Indian robin is a black bird with a white patch on wings and rusty red colour under the base of the tail and part of abdomen. Hens ashy-brown with rusty red patch under tail but no white patch on the wings. Magpie robin is a typical black and white bird, like Indian robin, but with rusty red patch on ventral side. Female magpie robin is brown and slaty grey in colour instead of black and white.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : Live in pairs and frequent open lightly wooded country. Seen, sometimes, near human habitations. Most familiar birds with males singing some what melodious notes with upward jerks of

fan-like white-fringed tail. Can mimic other bird's calls also. Feed on ground dwelling insects and their eggs.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common ; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and common.

### 55. YELLOW HEADED AND OTHER WAGTAILS

Class : AVES  
Order : PASSERIFORMES  
Family : MOTACILLIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Motacila citreola* (Pallas) and related species under the family.

*Marathi Name* : Parit

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Sparrow. Familiar migratory birds with long vertically constant wagging tail. Slender bodied terrestrial birds. Plumage blade, grey, yellow or olive in colour. Bill slender and pointed. Toes long, hind toe generally elongated. Wings pointed. Bright yellow headed males. However, male and female, both, possess grey coloured crown and back and yellowish white belly in winter. All the wagtail species vary in colouration pattern. There are about four species occurring in Sanjay Gandhi National Park area.

*Distribution* : In India : In winter throughout Indian Union north of Mysore.

*Habits* : Live in parties on grassy tank margins, marsh land and grasses and also on plains and hills. The males have long songs during winter. Feed chiefly on insects and other invertebrates. Living near or in grasses.

*Status* : In India : Winter migratory and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Winter migratory and common.

### 56. TICKELL'S AND THICKBILLED FLOWER PECKER

Class : AVES  
Order : PASSERIFORMES  
Family : DICAEDIDAE

*Genus & Species* : (1) *Dicaeum erythrorhynchus* (Latham) (Tickell's Flowerpecker)  
(2) *Dicaeum agile* (Thick billed Flowerpecker)

*Marathi Name* : Pushpatochya

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Sparrow. Small, restless, active and arboreal birds. Bill shortish, thin, curved and stout. Legs and tail short but wings long, olive brown. Birds with greyish white under parts. Sexes alike.

*Distribution* : Throughout India except deserts.

*Habits* : Live in dry to moist-deciduous or semi-evergreen forests. Affect orchards forest plantations and groves near human habitation. As name suggests, generally seen on flowering or fruiting trees. Their staple food is berries. Utters almost incessant sharp notes while flying.

*Status* : In India : Resident and seen occasionally. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

### 57. PURPLE SUNBIRD

Class : AVES  
Order : PASSERIFORMES  
Family : NECTARINIIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Nectarinia n. asiatica* (Latham)

*Marathi Name* : Jambhala Suryapaxi

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Sparrow. Small active arboreal "flower birds" Sexes dimorphic. Bill long, slender and curved and very finely serrated. Tongue long and suctorial. Legs short and strong and claws sharp. Wings short and rounded. Tail short. Males in breeding season are in purple plumage with a maroon band across breast. However, non-breeding males and females are brown to olive-brown above and pale dull yellow below with darker wings and a broad black stripe across middle of breast.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian Union.

*Habits* : Lives in pairs in open lightly wooded country, dry thorn forest, cultivations, garden and near human habitations. Feeds on flower nectar, insects and spiders. The breeding male sing excitedly from the perches.

*Status* : In India : Resident and common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife Protection (Act) (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

### 58. BAYA OR WEAVER BIRD

Class : AVES  
Order : PASSERIFORMES  
Family : PLOCEIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Ploceus philipines* (Linnaeus)

*Marathi Name* : Surgan

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Sparrow. Small sized arboreal birds with plumage varying from grey and brown, variously patterned, to the shades of red, yellow, purple, brown or black. Bill thick massive and pointed, not very long. Legs short and stout. Wings short and rounded. Sexes diamorphic.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : Lives in flocks near open cultivations, ravines, grasslands, secondary scrubs, dotted with Acacias and palm trees. Occassionally damages ripening crops. Its seasonal local movements are governed by paddy and ceral cultivations, which provide nesting material as well as food. Nest a swinging retort shaped structure with long vertical entrance tube. Nest is compactly woven out of stripes of paddy leaves and grasses. Nests are suspended in clusters usually over water. Some are skillfully woven.

*Status* : In India : Common Local migrant; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Local migrant and not common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

## 59. SPOTTED MUNIA

Class : AVES  
Order : PASSERIFORMES  
Family : PLOCEIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Lonchura punctulata* (Linnaeus)

*Marathi name* : Thipakewali Muniya

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Sparrow. In breeding season plumage chocklate brown and underparts white speckled with black. In non-breeding and immature plumage, plain brown. Sexes alike. Lives in flocks. Bill and legs short. Claws strong. Tail rounded. Another species, red munia, has red bill and crimon rump in breeding season.

*Distribution* : Throughout India including arid zone of Rajasthan.

*Habits* : Lives in flocks in open woodlands, cultivations, bush-clad hill sides, grasslands, gardens, etc. Feed on insects especially winged termites. Feeble but musical chirruping call notes. A popular cage bird (particularly Red Munia). Both sexes share domestic duties.

*Status* : In India : Resident uncommon; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Resident and seen occassionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

**60. MUGGER OR MARSH CROCODILE**

Class : REPTILIA  
 Order : CROCODYLIA  
 Family : CROCODYLIDAE

*Genus & Species : Crocodylus c. palustris* (Lesson)

*Marathi Name* : “Magar”

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size over 12 feet, weight upto 200 kg. Snout broad and without distinct ridges in front of the eyes. A row of 4 sharply raised scales just behind the head. Back armoured with 16-17 transeverse and six longitudinal series of bony plates called scutes. No armour on ventral side. Tails with two series of flattened, vertical scales ultimately merging in one row. toes webbed. Dorsally olive coloured with specklings of black, white or yellowish white below.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : Inhabits rivers, lakes and large bodies of fresh water upto 1800 ft. altitude. The adults spend the day basking on the bank or on a rock facing water. The mugger makes burrows for habitation. The mugger is excellent swimmer, the tail being the exclusive propellent. Sense of sight hearing and smell well developed. Feeds largely on fish but can overcome any animal. They are strictly carnivorous. The recorded stomach contents include leopard, wild dog, hyaena, chital, sambar, antelope, goats, calves, pigs, ducks, fish, etc. Man-eating habit is uncommon. Usually silent but hisses loudly with snapping of the jaw and lashing of tail when threatened.

*Status* : In India : Endangered; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Introduced and Rare.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule I  
(As amended upto 1991).
- 2) IUCN : Endangered
- 3) CITES : Appendix I

**61. INDIAN STARRED TORTOISE**

Class : REPTILIA  
 Order : TESTUDINES  
 Family : TESTUDINIDAE

*Genus & species : Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff)

*Marathi Name* : Kasav

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Maximum recorded. Carapace length for females 280 mm. Males are much smaller. The shell is heavy and covered with horny shields. Head and neck are completely retractile. Hind limbs columnar and club shaped. Tail short, egg hard shelled. Domed carapace has

conspicuous humps. Distinct colour pattern. On a black background there is a central yellow areola with yellow streaks radiating from the areola, giving a star-like appearance. The plastron has black rays on a yellow background.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : Crepuscular, spending rest of the time under cover. More active during monsoon season. Omnivorous, feeding on succulents, fallen fruits, grass, snails, excreta, carrion, etc. Breeds in rainy season. The hatchling is provided with an egg tooth for breaking the shell. Maturity is attained in about two years.

*Status* : In India : Not uncommon; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Not common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).
- 2) CITES : Appendix II

## 62. ROCK GECKO

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Suborder : SAURIA  
Family : GEKKONIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Hemidactylus h. maculatus* (Dumeril and Bibron)

*Marathi Name* : Pal

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Maximum length (Head+Body+Tail) 270 mm. Perhaps the largest of the Indian *Hemidactylus* species. Usually seen with rock formations and rock-out caves. Dorsum is light in colour with dark-brown spots, undulating bars and streaks, Belly dirty white in colour. Tail is longer than the head and body and alternately coloured with brown and white. Digit free and moderately dialuted.

*Distribution* : Peninsular India south of Surat and Dangs.

*Habits* : Inhabits crevices, caves and other such structures in rocks. This is a carnivorous species feeding wide range of insects, worms and worm snakes. Feeds sometimes on other geckos. Breeds in summer.

*Status* : In India : Not uncommon; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Not uncommon.

### 63. COMMON GARDEN LIZARD

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Family : AGAMIDAE

*Genus & Species: Calotes versicolor* (Daudin)

*Marathi Name* : Girgit or Sarda

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Maximum length 140 mm. (Head and Body) + 350 mm (tail). The entire Agamid family is endemic to old world (Oriental region). The nature of the agamid teeth is a characteristic feature. They are divided into incisors, canines and molars. Calotes is a medium sized, arboreal lizard with oval head, laterally compressed body with a prominent dorsal crest and a long & cylindrical tail. Dorsal colour brown or sandy grey with a pattern of spots and bars on the back and sides. Dark streak from eyes. Males with gular sacs. Limbs long and well developed. Digits long, slender but strongly clawed.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : Arboreal species in a true sense, occupying all biotopes. They are excellent climbers, can jump from branch to branch. They are mainly insectivorous with a preference for grasshoppers, butterflies, moths, ants, beetles, spiders, centipedes, etc.

*Status* : In India : Most commonly seen species. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common.

### 64. COMMON INDIAN SKINK

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Family : SCINCIDAE

*Genus & Species : Mabuya carinata* (Schneider)

*Marathi Name* : Sapsurali or Sapachi mavshi

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Maximum length 290 mm. (165 mm. tail). Small sized lizards. Body covered with smooth, shiny, imbricately arranged scales. Head with distinct shields. There is a little or no neck, body elongated and flattened dorsoventrally. Limbs well developed. The tongue is olfactory in function. Common skink can be separated from all other skink species of Mabuya by its scaly lower eyelid. Dorsally skinks are brown, olive bronze in colour with light band from eye to base of the tail. Underpart white or yellow.

*Distribution* : Peninsular India.

*Habits* : Diurnal in habit, commensal with man. In forests often heard than seen due to its movements through and among the litter on the ground. Feeds on insects.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common.

### 65. INDIAN CHAMELON

Class : REPTILIA  
 Order : SQUAMATA  
 Family : HAMAELEONIDAE

*Genus & Species : Chamaeleo zeylanicus (Laurenti)*

*Marathi Name* : Girgit or Rang badalnara sarda

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Maximum length : 375 mm. Chamaleon is unique in the possession of an extensile tounge with the club shaped tip, independantly movable eyes and in the modification of the toes into two sets of opposed clasping organ. Body is compressed laterally and tail prehensile. It possesses a remarkable degree of the ability to change its body colour matching the background. Basically its colour is green. The head possesses a conical casque on the top. Body covered with the granular scales.

*Distribution* : In India : The only Idian species of the genus *Chamaeleo* is found in the peninsular India south of Ganges.

*Habits* : Strictly arboreal and diurnal. Its movements are deliberate and slow. When essential, the chameleon can increase its striking range by supporting itself on its hindlegs and tail. The food is predominantly insects.

*Status* : In India : Endangered in India on account of the habitat loss due to urbanisation. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Endangered.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule II, Part I  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix II

### 66. COMMON INDIAN MONITOR

Class : REPTILIA  
 Order : SQUAMATA  
 Family : VARANIDAE

*Genus & Species : Varanus bengalensis (Daudin)*

*Marathi Name* : Ghorpad

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Maximum length : 1750 mm. (tail 1000 mm.). Monitor is distinguished by its long and dorsoventrally flattened body, long tail, long neck and extremely elongated, slender and forked tongue like that of a snake. Eyes with well developed eyelids. Head covered with small scales. Limbs well developed with very strong claws. Adults olive, grey or brownish above with black spots, yellowish below. Young brightly coloured.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : Monitor lizard is mostly diurnal found in all biotopes from evergreen forests to fringes of deserts. Reported to live in cracks and crevices. Normally it is a burrow dweller. Once wedged in crevices it is extremely difficult to pull a monitor as it inflates its body thereby giving it a full strength. Monitor is carnivorous eating any animal it can overcome. Its recorded food includes small mammals, birds, small reptiles, eggs, small turtles, fish, crabs, prawns, arachnids, carrions, etc.

*Status* : In India : The population of the common Indian Monitor has alarmingly dwindled due to excessive exploitation for their commercially valuable skins. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Endangered.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule II, Part I  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) IUCN : Endangered
- 3) CITES : Appendix I

#### 67. RUSSEL'S OR COMMON SAND BOA (Non-Poisonous snake)

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Family : BOIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Eryx conicus* (Schneider)

*Marathi name* : Durkiya Ghonas

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Maximum length 78 cms. The members of boidae family are the most primitive of the living snakes. Body covered with small scales. Belly plates comparatively narrower. Pythons also belong to Family Boidae. Pythons and boas possess a pair of internal hind legs protruding at vent known as anal spurs. Markedly stout snake. The tail terminates into blunt knob. It is brownish above with wavy yellowish bands which tend to form a zigzag stripe on the back. Ventral side is yellowish or whitish. There is a dark irregular stripe from eye to the gape.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : It is a very common snake, sluggish in nature, hiding in the dry and loose sand on soil during the day time. It hunts for its prey at night and consumes mostly mice, rats, small birds and frogs. Like pythons, the boas kill their prey by constriction.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule II, Part I  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix II

**68. RAT SNAKE OR DHAMAN (Non-poisonous Snake)**

Class : REPTILIA  
 Order : SQUAMATA  
 Family : COLUBRIDAE

*Genus & Species : Ptyas mucosus (Linn.)*

*Marathi Name : Dhaman*

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Maximum length 3 mt. These are most conspicuous and widely distributed snakes. They are characterised by a long and robust body, a thin and slightly elongated head, large eyes with round pupils. The colour is variable. The tail is long slender and prehensile. The ground colouration is dirty yellow with black tipped sides. Lips and ventral scales are margined with black. Belly whitish or creamish.

*Distribution* : Throughout Indian subcontinent.

*Habits* : Diurnal, very active during day, excellent swimmer and climber. Escapes into low vegetation, water or burrow on the slightest alarm. When cornered, it daringly distends vertically and hisses loudly. Variety in diet but shows preference for frogs and toads. Rats, though preyed upon, are not a staple diet. Recorded food includes mostly small vertebrates.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule II, Part II  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix II

**69. COMMON TRINKET SNAKE (Non-poisonous snake)**

Class : REPTILIA  
 Order : SQUAMATA  
 Family : COLUBRIDAE

*Genus & Species : Elaphia helena (Daudin)*

*Marathi Name : Taskar*

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Maximum length 1.8 mts. This is a slender bodied snake which can be recognised by smooth & shiny scales, thin head and dorsal patterns. Name "Trinket" given to this snake because of the fancied resemblance of the white ocelli on the back to the trinkets of a lady. Common trinket snake is light or dark brown above with black cross-bars enclosing white ocelli. There are two black stripes on the nape and another black stripe on the sides of hinderpart of the body.

*Distribution* : Peninsular India.

*Habits* : Usually found in or at the periphery of forests, but are also found in the agricultural areas and fields in the vicinity of human settlements. It has a habit of coiling round its prey but does not constrict. It seems to be fond of rodents although birds and their eggs are also occasionally consumed.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

## 70. COMMON GREEN WHIP SNAKE (Non-Poisonous snake)

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Family : COLUBRIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Ahaetulla nasuta* (Lacep)

*Marathi Name* : Sarp-tol or Haran-tol

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Maximum 144 mm. (length). Also known as vine snake. It is a very long and thin snake with a pointed head. The snout terminates in a soft fleshy proboscis like outgrowth which many a times extends beyond lower jaw. The overall colouration is parrot green. Eyes large with elliptical pupil.

*Distribution* : Throughout peninsular India. South of Ganges.

*Habits* : It is diurnal and lives in bushes, shrubs, trees and gardens. It is much feared snake because of its peculiar habit of staring into the eyes of the onlooker and swaying its head as if to strike the observer. It feeds on lizards, small rodents and birds. This snake is confused with bamboo pit viper, which it superficially resembles in colouration.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

## 71. CHECKERED KEEL BACK (Non-poisonous Snake)

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Family : NATRICIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Xenochrophis piscator* (Schneider)

*Marathi Name* : Virula or Pan chidda

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Maximum 1.48 mt. A fairly robust water snake with oval head having slit-like nostrils, moderately large eyes and undivided anal shield. The dorsal scales are remarkably keeled. The ground colour is bright yellow or dark olive brown. The dorsal pattern consists of numerous black and white spots arranged in chessboard-like fashion. The belly is plain white. The checkered keel back can be separated from all other water snakes by the presence of two black streaks running from the eye.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : It is a familiar snake often seen around ponds, lakes, paddy fields, streams and rivers. When excited, it rears up and assumes a cobra-like pose. Although non-poisonous, it is a very vicious snake and bites readily when stepped on or disturbed.

*Status* : In India : Common In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule II, Part II  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix III (India)

## 72. COMMON WOLF SNAKE (Non-poisonous Snake)

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Family : DIPSADIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Lycodon aulicus* (Linn.)

*Marathi Name* : Kandya saap

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Maximum 80 cms. Wolf snake is a moderate sized snake with front teeth resembling somewhat the canine teeth of wolves and hence the common name. A glossy, slender snake with a pear-shaped depressed head. Neck slightly constricted. It is brown above with 12-18 white bars on the back. Wolf snake is often killed in the mistaken belief that it is venomous (resembling kraits).

*Distribution* : Indian peninsula.

*Habits* : Wolf snake has a habit of occasionally entering and living in human dwellings. (In Latin *aulicus* means a house dweller). It is fond of gecko but also feeds on other lizards, mice and frogs. It readily strikes when provoked. It is an excellent climber.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Encountered occasionally.

### 73. COMMON KRAIT (Poisonous Snake)

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Family : ELAPIDAE

*Genus & Species : Bungarus caeruleus* (Schneider)

*Marathi Name* : Manyar

*Diagnostic Characters* : Size : Maximum 1.73 mt. Kraits are a small group of ground dwelling deadly venomous snakes. Enlarged hexagonal vertebral (central dorsal scales) scales, entire uniformly white belly and narrow white cross bars are the distinctive characters. The ground colour is mostly black or bluish black. Narrow gape of the mouth. Poison fangs are small and short. The eyes are small and extremely dark.

*Distribution* : Peninsular India.

*Habits* : Inhabits a wide range of biotopes and is common in the vicinity of human habitation. Though kraits are extremely toxic they are timid and inoffensive, biting only upon extreme provocation. It is a nocturnal animal feeding mostly on snakes, lizards and rodents. Kraits are one of the deadliest poisonous snakes of the world. Its poison is neurotoxic as well as haemotoxic affecting both nervous and circulatory systems.

*Status* : In India : Not very common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Uncommon.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)

### 74. INDIAN COBRA (Poisonous Snake)

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Family : ELAPIDAE

*Genus & Species : Naja naja* (Lin.)

*Marathi Name* : Nag

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Maximum 2250 mm. The most characteristic feature of the cobra is presence of hood formed due to spreading out some of the ribs in the neck region. The scales on the body are smooth. Head not very distinct from the neck. Dorsal pattern consists of light or dark bands, cross-bars and typical hood patterns. The “spectacled or binocellate or two eyed” cobras are found in the peninsular India.

*Distribution* : Peninsular India.

*Habit* : Cobra is eclectic in habit. Prefers to live in white ant nests, holes in the ground, tangle or roots etc. Frequents water bodies and is an excellent swimmer. Poisonous snake, usually not aggressive. Feeds mainly on rats, frogs and toads but can also take birds, lizards, other snakes including cobras. Fangs fairly long (7 mm.). Cobra bites are many a times, but not always, fatal. Its poison is mainly neurotoxic and also destroys blood and its cells.

*Status* : In India : Not very Uncommon; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule II, Part II  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix II (India)

### 75. RUSSEL'S VIPER (Poisonous Snake)

Class : REPTILIA  
Order : SQUAMATA  
Family : VIPERIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Vipera russelli* (Shaw)

*Marathi Name* : Ghonas

*Diagnostic characters* : Maximum recorded size 1675 mm. Head covered with small scales, without any shields, flat and triangular with short snout, large gold flecked eyes with vertical pupils. Neck constricted. Tail short. Typical colour patterns. Ground colour brown of varying degree with three series of large oval spots, one dorsal and two on sides. The large spots are brown in centre and are margined by black and white or buff colours. Belly white or whitish yellow.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : Lives in open country, usually on plains, but has been recorded from the altitudes between 1800 m to 2100 m. It is also seen near human habitation, hunting mainly for rodents. Normally sluggish but readily strikes with great malice when irritated. Makes hissing sound. Nocturnal in habit and slow in movements. The main food is murid rodents. The youngs are cannibalistic. Russel's viper is viviparous. The poison fangs are tucked in a folding when not in use. They swing forward when the snake strikes for a bite. The poison acts as a depressor of the vasomotor centre and destroys the blood. The blood pressure drops a heart weakens. R.B.C. in blood are destroyed leading to internal haemorrhages. Viper's poison can be fatal resulting death in 1 to 14 days.

*Status* : In India : Not very common in all region ; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Not uncommon and seen occasionally.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule II, Part II  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix III (India)

**76. SAW SCALED VIPER (Poisonous Snake)**

Class : REPTILIA  
 Order : SQUAMATA  
 Family : VIPERIDAE

*Genus & Species : Echis carinatus* (Schneider)

*Marathi Name* : Phoorsa

*Diagnostic characters* : Maximum recorded size 750 mm. Absence of shields on head, broad ventrals covering the whole belly, keeled scales on body giving rough feel, distinctly constricted neck and undivided subcaudal shields are the characteristic features of saw scaled viper. Considerable variation in colour and patterns. It is brown, buff, sandy or greenish with dark edged light brown or dark spots above and whitish underneath. It can be recognised by a trident or crudiform mark on its head and wavy white lines along the flanks.

*Distribution* : Desert and semi-arid tracts south and west of Ganges in India.

*Habits* : Fond of deserts, semi-arid, broken scrubby and dry tracts of the country. Its favourite haunts are small hills and scrub jungles where it can be seen basking in the fiercest rays of the sun. Can also climb on to shrubs and low vegetation. When tends to escape, it moves quickly. It is a most vicious creature as it strikes forcefully on slightest provocation. When excited it rubs the sides producing hustling sounds. The striking posture is characteristic, a double coil in the form of figure '8' with its head in centre. Its fangs are very long. The venom is said to be five times as toxic as cobra venom and sixteen times as toxic as Russell's viper venom. The poison acts mainly as an anti-coagulant and generally also as a depressor to nerve cells.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

**77. COMMON INDIAN TOAD**

Class : AMPHIBIA  
 Order : ANURA  
 Family : BUFONIDAE

*Genus & Species : Bufo melanostictus* (Schneider)

*Marathi Name* : Beduk

*Diagnostic characters* : The family of toads. Toads are easily recognised by their warty skin and the presence of two well marked glands behind head, the parotid glands. They are true land animals except during breeding season. The common Indian toad is the largest among the Indian toads. Maximum snout to vent length : 150 mm. First finger equal to or longer than second finger. The skin

is heavily tuberculated and has many black warts. Crown of the head is smooth. Dorsal colour mostly grey in various shades with darker markings, ventrally uniform white with black on chin and throat. The throat of the breeding male is light orange or yellow in colour.

*Distribution* : In India : Throughout India.

*Habits* : The most common amphibian species likely to be seen in almost all the biotopes of the country. The biotic requirement for the existence under diverse climate conditions are cool and shady place during day, insect food and water, even of temporary nature, to breed. It is a nocturnal animal during non-breeding season. Once a suitable place to hide is found, it becomes a permanent abode. If conditions are ideal and space permits several toads may occupy the same day hideout. They have very limited powers of hopping. In spite of the protective secretion of parotid and other glands on the skin, toad are eaten by snakes and other predators. The species is a prolific breeder, one female may lay over a thousand eggs.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common.

## 78. SKIPPER FROG

Class : AMPHIBIA

Order : ANURA

Family : RANIDAE

*Genus & Species* : *Rana cyanophlyctis* (Schneider)

*Marathi Name* : Beduk

*Diagnostic Characters* : The family Ranidae includes true frogs and is most widely distributed in the world except in Australia. Skipper frog is medium sized frog. Largest females rarely exceeds 60 mm in length from snout to vent. Males are much smaller. Snout round, Ist and IInd fingers more or less equal in length and toe tips swollen and rounded. Skin dorsally warty. Colour grey, olive, brown or blackish above with darker spots. A dark edged white band on the back of the thighs. Ventrally white.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : Skipper frogs inhabit all biotopes of the country. It prefers still waters where it can float on the surface. Most ponds, rain puddles and other water bodies have a few frogs floating on the surface while several others squatting along the edges. It has the ability to skip over the water surface like a ricocheting stone. Unlike other frogs, skippers do not dangle their hindlegs but keep them parallel to the water surface permitting quick strokes necessary for skipping away. It feeds on insects and small vertebrates.

*Status* : In India : Common; In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common.

*Conservation status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991).

**79. INDIAN BULL FROG**

Class : AMPHIBIA  
Order : ANURA  
Family : RANIDAE

*Genus & Species : Rana tigerina (Daud.)*

*Marathi Name : Beduk*

*Diagnostic characters* : Size : Large; females occasionally exceeds 160 mm. in length from snout to vent. Males smaller. Snout large, obtusely pointed, projecting beyond the mouth. Tympanum distinct, almost equal to the diameter of eye. Ist finger longer than IInd. Toes fully webbed but does not reach the tip of the third toe. Heels overlap when folded at right angles to the body. Skin smooth or granulated above, while, ventral skin smooth. Colour olive green or brown above with dark markings. A light coloured vertebral streak from snout to vent present. Limbs barred or spotted. Male with external vocal sacs which are bright blue in colour during breeding season. Fore limbs thick. Inner side of the first finger with a horny pad.

*Distribution* : Throughout India.

*Habits* : The largest of the Indian amphibians, the bull frog is widely distributed from the fringes of the deserts to the altitude of 6000 ft. in the hills. Lives near the permanent or semi-permanent water bodies. Hides in the grass or hollows at the edges, ready to dive in at the least sight of danger. At the beginning of the rainy season their familiar deep toned call can be heard throughout the night. Feeds on anything in movement which can be swallowed. In addition to the normal diet of insects, it also feeds on variety of preys ranging from crabs, toads and other frogs, lizards, mice, shrews, birds and snakes. In turn it is fed upon by waterfowl, aquatic animals, land animals, bird and snakes. Due to its large size there is heavy commercial exploitation of this species for the export of hind legs.

*Status* : In India : Though common, its population is being exploited commercially for export. In Sanjay Gandhi National Park : Common.

*Conservation Status* :

- 1) Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972) : Schedule IV  
(As amended upto 1991)
- 2) CITES : Appendix II

TABLE

In addition to the above documented commonly occurring species, there are some more well-known species of fishes, invertebrates and arthropods which add to the rich faunal heritage of S.G.N.P. They are listed in the following table :

Sl. No.	Scientific Name	Common English Name	Local Name
A. Phylum CHORDATA			
Class PISCES (Fishes)			
1.	<i>Hilsa toli</i> (Val.)	Indian Shad (Marine)	Pala
2.	<i>Harpadon neherens</i> (Ham.)	Bombay Duck (Marine)	Bombil
3.	<i>Mugil</i> spp.	Mullet (Marine)	Boi
4.	<i>Muraenosox</i> spp.	Eel (Marine)	Vam
5.	<i>Coilia dussumieri</i> (Val.)	Golden Anchoy (Marine)	Mandeli
6.	<i>Boleophthalmus</i> spp.	Mudskippers (Marine)	Nivti
7.	<i>Labeo rohita</i> (Ham.)	Major Carp	Rohu
8.	<i>Catla catla</i> (Ham.)	Major carp	Catla
9.	<i>Cirrhina mrigala</i> (Ham.)	Major carp	Mrigal
10.	<i>Rasbora daniconius</i> (Ham.)	Rasbora	Daudavan
11.	<i>Notopterus</i> sp.	Feather back	Chalat
12.	<i>Puntius</i> spp.	Barbus or minor carps	Khavalya, Khavel, Kolas, etc.
13.	<i>Danio aequipinnatus</i> (McClell.)		
14.	<i>Channa</i> spp.	Snake headed fish	Daku or Dhokh
15.	<i>Chela clupeoides</i>	Chilwa	Chilwa
16.	<i>Noemachelus</i> spp.		
17.	<i>Lepidocephalus</i> spp.		
18.	<i>Garra mullya</i> (Sykes)	Mullya	Mallya
19.	<i>Aplocheilus lineatus</i> (Val.)		
20.	<i>Discognathus lamta</i>	Stone carp	
21.	<i>Glossogobius giuris</i> (Ham.)		
22.	<i>Tilapia mossambica</i> (Peters)		
23.	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>	Stinging Catfish	Nal singali
24.	<i>Mystus</i> spp.		
25.	<i>Wallago attu</i> (Schneider)	Freshwater shark	Shida
B. Phylum ANNELIDA		Earthworms & Leeches	Gandul and Jalwa
C. Phylum MOLLUSCA		Snails, bivalves and other shelled animals, including, both, freshwater and marine forms.	

Sl. No.	Scientific Name	Common English Name	Local Name
<b>D. Phylum ARTHROPODA</b>			
	I. Class CRUSTACEA	Prawns, Crabs, Shrimps and Lobsters	Prawn : Kolambi, Crab : Khekda
	II. Class ARACHNIDA	Scorpions and Spiders	Scorpion : Vinchu Spider : Koli
	III. Class MYRIAPODA	Centipedes and millipedes	Centepede : Gom
	IV. Class INSECTA		Millipede : Paisa
1.	Order ODONATA	Dragon flies and Damsel flies	Chatur
2.	Order DERMAPTERA	Cockroaches	Zural
3.	Order HETEROPTERA	Bugs	Kida, Dhekun
4.	Order ORTHOPTERA	Crickets and grasshoppers	Naktoda
5.	Order PHASMIDA	Leaf and stick insects	
6.	Order MANTOIDEA	Preying mantis	
7.	Order ISOPTERA	Termites and white ants	Valvi
8.	Order COLEOPTERA	Beetles	Bhunga
9.	Order HOMOPTERA	Cicads, aphids and mayflies	
10.	Order DIPTERA	Flies, mosquitoes, midges	Flies : Mashi Mosquito : Das
11.	Order HYMENOPTERA	Bees, wasps and Ants	Bee : Madhamashi Wasps : Gandhilmashi Ant : Mungi
12.	Order LEPIDOPTERA	Butterflies and moths	Butterfly : Phoolpakhru Moth : Patang
	(i) <i>Pachilopta aristolochiae</i> Fabricius	Common Rose	
	(ii) <i>Pachilopta hector</i> (Linn.)	Crimson Rose	
	(iii) <i>Danaus chrysippus</i> (Linn.)	Plain Tiger	
	(iv) <i>Danaus genuta</i> (Cramer)	Striped Tiger	
	(v) <i>Pathysa nomius</i> (Esper)	Spot sword tail	
	(vi) <i>Pareronia valeria</i> Fabricius	Common Wanderer	
	(vii) <i>Catopsilia pomona</i> Fabricius	Common Emigrant	
	(viii) <i>Ixias pyrene</i> Fabricius	Yellow Orange tip.	
	(ix) <i>Delias eucharis</i> Drury	Common Jezebel	
	(x) <i>Chilasa clytia</i> Linn.	Common Mime	

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1. The most bold cat, leopard / panther, *Panthera pardus* (Lin.), daring to enter the human settlements (near S.G.N.P.) in search of food.



2. Concrete jungle v/s forests in the bordering areas of S.G.N.P. Time will only tell who will, ultimately, win. One can easily notice Gandhi Smarak in foreground.



3. Pleasant sight of spotted deer, *Axis axis*, in hot and dry season.



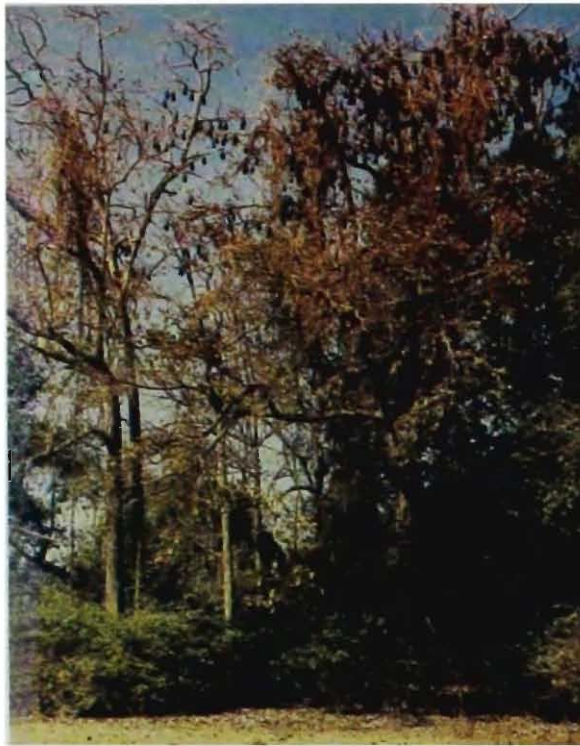
**4. Three water bodies in a row separated by thin forest patches: (1) Tulsilake in foreground, (2) Vihar lake in middle and (3) Powai Lake in the rear. These lakes supply drinking water to the megacity of Mumbai and also to the neighbouring wildlife.**



**5. Subadult of *Varanus* sp. sighted near Ghobandar road.**



**6. One of the caves in Kanheri caves situated in the heart of S.G.N.P.**



7. A roosting place of Indian flying fox, *Pteropus giganteus* in S.G.N.P. Number of interesting bat species like *Taphozous*, *Cynopterus*, *Megaderma* spp. roost in Kanheri caves and their surroundings.



8. Natural formations in one of the incomplete caves.



9. A small bund across Dahisar river has been built to encourage water sports.



10. S.G.N.P. in rainy season offers a lustrous sight.



11. A pair of bonnet monkeys in S.G.N.P. A very common sight.