



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Members,

On May 31, 2025, India lost one of its fiercest tiger conservationists, Mr Valmik Thapar, a BNHS Life Member and former Chairman of the BNHS Conservation Committee. His passing is a significant blow to wildlife and tiger conservation in India. Mr Thapar supported numerous NGOs and conservationists and consistently raised his voice for the voiceless creatures.

Just two days earlier, we had lost a young green warrior – Radheshyam Bishnoi – in a tragic road accident in the Thar Desert. He was returning from an anti-poaching operation when the accident occurred. Radheshyam was a messiah for the wildlife of the Thar, and his untimely demise is a great loss not just to his family, but to the entire ecosystem he so passionately protected.

We recently also bid farewell to former BNHS Executive Committee member Mr Sunjoy Monga. I remember his visit to our office in 2024, which gave me hope that he had recovered from his illness and would soon return to the field. He had promised to return to discuss a few ideas at BNHS.

We will forever remember and honour the remarkable contributions of Mr Valmik Thapar, Mr Radheshyam Bishnoi, and Mr Sunjoy Monga by continuing their mission through the dedication of our members.

At Hornbill House, the energy remains high with enthusiastic young interns eager to learn tools and strategies needed to make our planet biodiversity rich and climate resilient. Whenever time permits, I enjoy engaging with them, sharing stories to ignite their curiosity about ornithology and wildlife conservation. Our staff at Hornbill House ensure that these young minds are well cared for and make the most of their valuable time here.

Our Membership Department has become more efficient and attentive to members across all states. However, there is still room for improvement. Recently, an elderly visitor, who had served as an IBCN state coordinator, visited Hornbill House and expressed his disappointment over not receiving any communication from the Society. Initially, I was disheartened, assuming it reflected a flaw in our system. However, upon investigation, our Membership Officer discovered that he was not a member of BNHS. Understandably, he was not included in our communication systems or WhatsApp groups. I encouraged him to renew his membership and gifted him a book as a token of appreciation.

I urge all of you to encourage others to become BNHS members so we can strengthen our collective efforts.

I am thrilled to share that the vultures we released in December 2024 at Pinjore, Haryana, are thriving, despite initial setbacks with a few fatalities caused by electrocution. Another group of 34 vultures relocated to Melghat, Pench, and Tadoba in Maharashtra are also healthy, adapting well to their new environment, and learning to fly and feed independently.

I also invite you to explore the *Systema naturae* section in the latest issue of *Hornbill* magazine and contribute your observations to the BNHS 150-Year Omnibus Collection.

If you have not yet completed the online form for the Yearbook for Life Members, please do so here: <https://forms.gle/12gPTSyTs9P2khue7>

For assistance, you can contact:

Central Marketing: [cmd@bnhs.org](mailto:cmd@bnhs.org)

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For event reservations and content submissions, feel free to reach out via email, and remember to send event photos and write-ups to Mr Gopi Naidu at [g.naidu@bnhs.org](mailto:g.naidu@bnhs.org).

Thank you for staying connected with us. For any questions or suggestions, I am always available at [director@bnhs.org](mailto:director@bnhs.org).

Kishor Rithe

Director

Bombay Natural History Society