



BNHS appoints a new Director

Mumbai, September 3: The Bombay Natural History Society is pleased to announce that Dr. Bivash Pandav has been appointed as its Director by the interview panel consisting of the BNHS Office-bearers under the Presidentship of Mr. Bittu Sahgal and external panel having renowned nature conservationists and wildlife biologists - Dr. M K Ranjitsinh, Ms Belinda Wright and Dr. Ajith Kumar.

Dr. Pandav comes with a strong background in field biology and natural history spanning over past 30 years and is a specialist in Wildlife Management, Protected Areas and Communities, Human Resource Development, Interface Conflict, Radio-Telemetry, and immobilization of wild animals. Currently he is a Professor in the Department of Endangered Species Management at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. As a faculty member in the Department of Endangered Species Management of Wildlife, he is involved in teaching herpetology, mangrove ecology, ecology of coastal wetlands and behavioral ecology to the post graduate students as well as to the in-service officer trainees undergoing post graduate diploma in wildlife management at the Institute.

Dr. Pandav's earliest major contribution is the discovery of a sea turtle mass-nesting beach near Rushikulya River mouth, Odisha, in March 1994. This is now India's second largest mass nesting beach of Olive Ridley Sea Turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*, and one amongst the six known sea turtle mass nesting beaches in the world. During his doctoral research on marine turtles along the Odisha coast between 1994 and 1999, Dr. Pandav tagged nearly 17,000 sea turtles and documented the death of more than 46,000 adult turtles. This research was instrumental in highlighting the plight of Olive Ridley sea turtles along the coast of Odisha.

Dr. Pandav is the recipient of a *Sanctuary Millennium Wildlife Service Award* in recognition of his path-breaking research on marine turtle populations along the Odisha coast over six years, which encouraged the Odisha State and Central Governments to initiate protection measures to secure the future of the globally-threatened Olive Ridley Turtles on India's eastern sea front.

In 2014, the Carl Zeiss Wildlife Conservation Award was awarded to him for his outstanding contributions to the conservation of wild tigers, wildlife and wilderness areas across Indian subcontinent and for the long term research and monitoring of tiger and prey species in the north-western region of India's Terai Arc Landscape, which demonstrated the positive response of large carnivores, wild ungulates and their habitat, to the voluntary relocation of human settlements following creation of inviolate spaces.



The post of the Director, BNHS, one of the world’s most respected organization with a 137-years track record of conservation is going to be challenging, particularly in light of the vital national importance of monitoring and returning the Indian subcontinent back to ecological health. The Governing Council of the BNHS has great faith in Dr. Pandav’s ability and his and deep commitment to the conservation and study of the natural wealth of the Indian subcontinent. We look forward to his leading the BNHS team and to strengthening the mission, vision and conservation science-based goals of the BNHS in the years ahead.

For more details, please contact –

BNHS PRO Ms. Divyashree Rai on pro@bnhs.org

Honorary Secretary, BNHS Mr Debi Goenka on secretary@bnhs.org

--Divyashree Rai

Public Relations Officer