

GAJ MAHOTSAV

CELEBRATING INDIA'S NATIONAL HERITAGE ANIMAL



Photo by Hira Punjabi



THE ELEPHANT IN INDIA

India has more than half of the world's Asian elephant population. The elephant is protected under Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and has also been declared as "National Heritage of India" in 2010 by the Government of India.

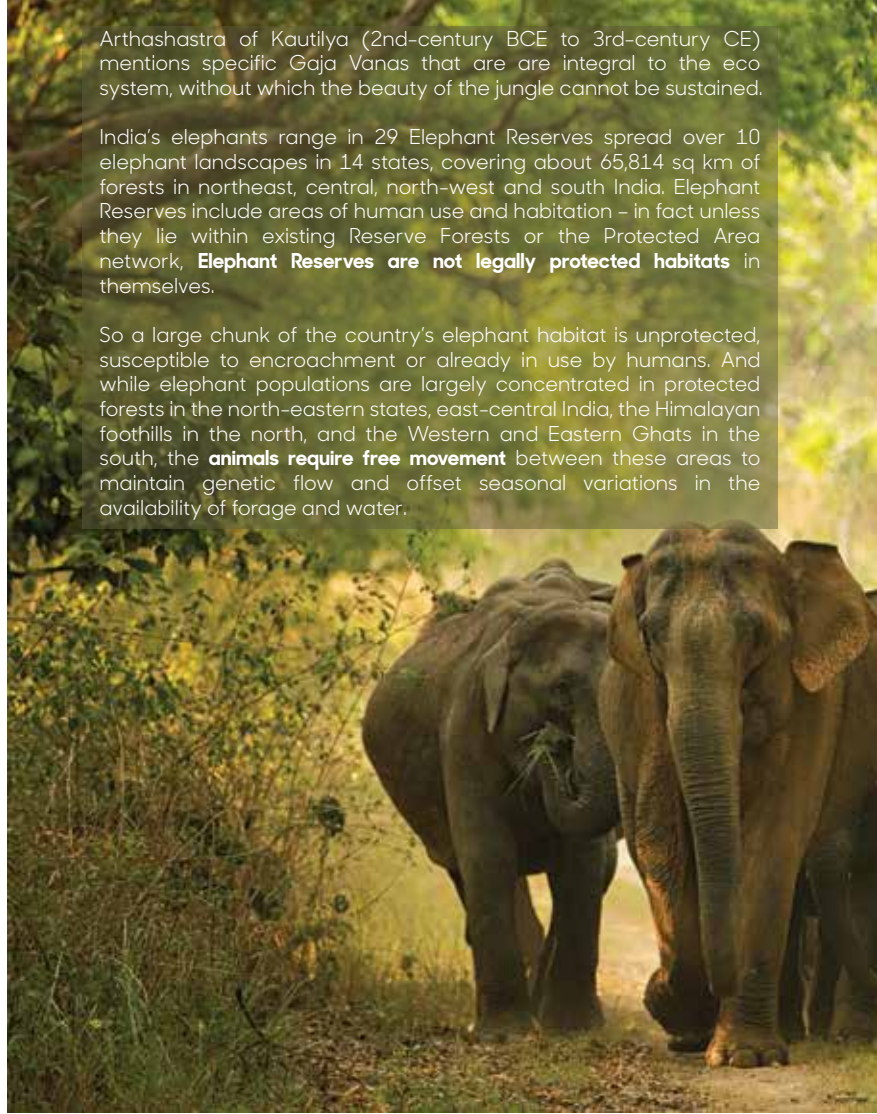
Indian mythology has references to the elephant's origin as Airavat, a celestial elephant, who emerged during the churning of the ocean. Historically, Indian culture has been closely associated with the elephant and has been the subject of a number of classical works of literature, art, architecture and performing arts. Jataka tales have several references to elephant pillars and the tradition of elephant festivals – Hastisutra and Hastimangala. Elephants appearing in dreams to mothers before the birth of an important person or sage is a common cultural theme of India. It denotes the understanding our predecessors had in the past on the elephant's significance and impact on nature. Its recognition as the National Heritage Animal thus made it an emblem of ecological sensitivity, a symbol of people's connect with nature, land, natural and cultural heritage.

As a keystone species, the elephant is an architect of the forest it inhabits or traverses through. The Gajah report, published by the MoEF in 2010, has a reference to wisdom from eight centuries ago in which Someswara wrote that **it is the realm with many elephants in its forests that will be truly most secure.**

Arthashastra of Kautilya (2nd-century BCE to 3rd-century CE) mentions specific Gaja Vanas that are integral to the ecosystem, without which the beauty of the jungle cannot be sustained.

India's elephants range in 29 Elephant Reserves spread over 10 elephant landscapes in 14 states, covering about 65,814 sq km of forests in northeast, central, north-west and south India. Elephant Reserves include areas of human use and habitation – in fact unless they lie within existing Reserve Forests or the Protected Area network, **Elephant Reserves are not legally protected habitats** in themselves.

So a large chunk of the country's elephant habitat is unprotected, susceptible to encroachment or already in use by humans. And while elephant populations are largely concentrated in protected forests in the north-eastern states, east-central India, the Himalayan foothills in the north, and the Western and Eastern Ghats in the south, the **animals require free movement** between these areas to maintain genetic flow and offset seasonal variations in the availability of forage and water.





THE ELEPHANT

LARGE
NOMADIC
INTELLIGENT
SOCIAL

HOW INDIANS FEEL ABOUT ELEPHANTS

LOVE
WORSHIP
FEAR

THE ELEPHANT IN INDIA

NATIONAL HERITAGE ANIMAL

That is why '**elephant corridors**' are so important. As forest lands continue to be lost, these relatively narrow, linear patches of vegetation form vital natural habitat linkages between larger forest patches. They allow elephants to move between secure habitats freely, without being disturbed by humans. In many cases, elephant corridors are also critical for other wildlife including India's endangered National Animal, the tiger (*Panthera tigris*).

Wildlife Trust of India has identified **101 elephant corridors** across 11 states in India of which half are currently secure and half of which need securement. A large part of the population lives with elephants in their vicinity or has encountered elephants in their lives, at times leading to conflict. Awareness, involvement and action from communities living in the corridors as well as favourable policies will greatly help in securing the future of elephants and people living with elephants in India.

To take Gajah to the Prajaha, a Gaj Yatra is planned to journey across 101 elephant corridors in India to mobilise public and policy support for the elephant. **GajMahotsav** brings to you a one-of-its-kind celebration for India's National Heritage Animal in the national capital city of New Delhi.

WHAT

Gaj Mahotsav is a celebration of the Asian Elephant as India's National Heritage Animal. Open to all, the events span across four days and cover art, culture, dance, music, film, literature, spirituality, ecology, media and policy.

WHO

Organised by Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and partner International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) and the United Nations Environment (UNEP).

WHEN

August 12 through 15, 2018

WHERE

Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi

HOW

Starting on August 12, which is also the World Elephant Day, the celebrations will witness participation from policy makers; leaders of industry; eminent conservationists; influencers from the world of entertainment, sports, art and culture; school children and public, who will come forward to show their support for our national heritage animal and participate in the festivities through specially curated tracks by some of the leading thought leaders in India.

Gaj Mahotsav will have **art exhibitions, film shows, music and entertainment alongside sessions on policy, media, literature and religion.** A special area for display and sales of elephant themed products and produce from various NGOs invited to showcase their social enterprises. In keeping with the festive season coming up, visitors will also have an opportunity of pledging their support to the cause of **#RightOfPassage** by tying a symbolic thread of allegiance (a rakhi) to an elephant sculpture at the venue and recording their messages on video.



Airavata
Elephants in Indian Culture and
Heritage

Gaja Shastra
Dialogues on Elephants and
National Policy

Gaja Sutra
Unravelling the story of the
Indian Elephant

Gaja Dharma
Elephants in religious traditions

Bala Gaja
The Secret World of Indian
elephants

Gaja Yatra
A visual representation
of 101 elephant journeys

Gajotsava
An Evening with Elephants

Gaja Gamini
Indian Elephants in
Cinema





GAJA SHASTRA – Dialogues on Elephants and National Policy

This track will have politicians, senior bureaucrats, media leaders and elephant experts dwell upon challenges and solutions to living peacefully with elephants. These sessions are expected to come up with feasible ideas on elephant conservation and man–elephant co-existence that can be adopted through government and line agencies. Over plenary sessions spanning four days, elephant experts will talk about the various aspects of the elephant, from their role as architects of the forest to their behaviour and migration patterns while other professionals will brainstorm to seek out best practices in relation to living harmoniously with elephants.

You can look forward to talks from internationally acclaimed elephant experts, such as AJT Johnsingh, Azzedine Downes, Rudi van Aarde, Jayanta Jayewardene, Ajay Desai and Vivek Menon and panel discussions involving top bureaucrats, politicians and conservationists among others.

GAJA SUTRA - Unravelling the story of the Indian Elephant

This is a specially curated track for storytellers from the print, electronic and digital media. Media persons will participate in a symposium and share stories, best practices and challenges of storytelling from the perspective of humans and elephants. The track will be curated and facilitated by known media persons and storytellers, such as Purna Bindra, Jay Mazoomdar, Bahar Dutt and Abhilash Khandekar.

MoU signed to study migratory behaviour of Asian elephants

STAFF REPORTER

CLUBMATE Ang the Asian's Bull-pup Draderlein has signed an MOU with the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF) of Singapore to study the migratory behaviour of Asian elephants in the Kanchagudi-Nathi Angling landscape.

The MOU was signed between Phil Roman, Sullivan's founder and managing partner, ANCX, and Robin Eastman, operations executive at Sullivan Foundation, on Thursday.

The project will study the trapping behaviour of sheepdogs through the use of radio collars. There are six or 'collar' at least four sheepdogs.

The elephant population of Kaziranga National Park has been estimated at around 1,200 individuals according to census conducted by the Forest Department in recent years, the last being done in 2012.

A characteristic feature of the glacial population of north-eastern In-

At least 10 of all mature males are tuskless, and over two-thirds of the oldest males are tuskless, thus making them immune to poaching for ivory. The adult male tuskless ratios of the Nariva's elephant population is consistent with the ratios of the African elephant population in the Kruger National Park, where the African elephant population is also tuskless.

The next challenge is the need to fuse scientific knowledge and operational

South of the park, not so either useful to or publicly patronized. A major highway also runs parallel to the southern forest strip of the park. The result is that its free movement of wildlife, including its squirrels, is curtailed because of the constant road and highway traffic, plus the threat of risk during the period of bad floods each year.

At the same time, the elephants also face the risk of being poached in the Karbi Anglong hills in the absence of any meaningful protection of this region that comes under the political control of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council.

As part of this immediate strategy the Asian Elephant Conservation, the Tail-pipe Foundation is also organising the second international conference 'Elephant Tail-pipe' on November 8 and 9 in

followed by the third edition of the *Ballant's Foundation Awards*. The events are being organised in partnership

Forest dept may acquire land in Kodagu to reduce man-elephant conflict

RENTAL COSTS: To reduce non-employment costs, especially in housing, the Forest Dept. agreed to lease to occupiers land that people and have joined hands with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in this regard.

Shapovalov and others (2000) used the Nagengast (Nagengast/Smith, 1993) index.

weight center, base area.

President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, along with other senior administration officials, are expected to be in London for the summit. The summit is expected to be a high-level meeting, with the two leaders discussing a range of issues, including the situation in Iraq, the Middle East, and the global economy.

For many, what has been missing in drought construction is civil works to store water now, and there was a huge population of people in the arid zones, and 72 people and 300 livestock died in one area.

Viktor Asherov, senior European Fellow at WZLZ, spoke on Russian-organized intervention in Mid-East conflicts, spoke on Reporting from an armed intervention in Afghanistan. A rare study!

To save India's elephant corridors from humans, a £20 million global initiative



NEW RAM TERANG (ASSAM): Marking a milestone in efforts to secure a crucial elephant corridor in the North-East, the residents of Ram Terang village in Assam's Karbi Anglong district now have a new address — New Ram Terang village.

All 19 families of Ram Te-rang have willingly and vol-

untarily decided to relocate outside the Kalapahar-Daigrung elephant corridor to provide safe passage to elephants, according to Wildlife Trust of India Assistant Manager Awareness for Conservation Subhamoy Bhattacharjee.

The New Ram Terang Village was on Thursday dedi-

All 19 families of Ram Terang have willingly and voluntarily decided to relocate outside the Kalapahar-Daigrung elephant corridor.

located in the middle of a natural corridor used by the elephants to move between Kalapahar and Daigrung-Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape.

It took almost five years of efforts by a dedicated team of WTI officials to persuade the

GAJA DHARMA: Elephants in religious traditions

This track curated by Shantum Seth will have spiritual and religious leaders and scholars sharing insights on the elephant in religious traditions. An all-faith prayer meet for elephants will be the highlight of this track.



Copyright-Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The Avery Brundage Collection, B64S5. Photograph © Asian Art Museum of San Francisco

BALA GAJA: The Secret World of Indian elephants

Children have a special affinity to elephants, not just because they're easy to draw. So let's find out more reasons for this love through Story Telling and Painting with Bulbul Sharma. They can Walk like an Elephant where they will learn how an elephant calf survives in the wild with Surendra Verma; learn the basics of Shadow Puppetry with Dadi Pudumjee; or try their hand at clay modelling with Delhi Blue Pottery or cartooning with Rohan Chakravarty.

A Quiz Competition, Art Workshops hosted by Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and many other exciting educational games can be indulged in at the venue to keep school children engaged.



GAJA YATRA: A visual representation of 101 elephant journeys

This Art for Elephants component of the GajMahotsav was conceptualised to ignite elephants in the consciousness of the people and the policy makers and reinforce its status as India's National Heritage Animal. The Asian Elephant and its 101 corridors need to be protected without which our forests and wildlife will be a poorer place. This idea created a platform for 101 artists to showcase their work at a nation-wide event and to bring forth the significance of the elephant in our rich culture and heritage.

The 101 elephants displayed at the Indira Gandhi National for Arts during the GajMahotsav will subsequently be placed in prominent public spaces across India. These elephant art pieces will act as flag bearers for their species, spreading the message of **#RightOf Passage** amongst the people of India. The Gaja Yatra has been curated by well known art curator Alka Pande.

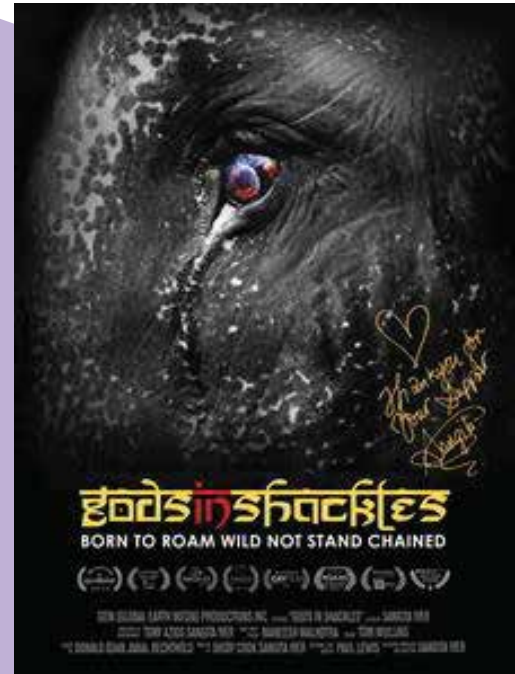


GAJA GAMINI - Indian Elephants in Cinema

Do you remember Haathi Mere Saathi, the Bollywood blockbuster of yore and Dumbo or the elephants from the Jungle Book?

Elephants have always held a special place in films and GajMahotsav will showcase a selection of documentaries and feature films open to all.

You can look forward to interacting with acclaimed filmmakers, such as Mike Pandey, Rita Banerjee, Krishnendu Bose, Ashish Chandola and many others while viewing their critically acclaimed films.



AIRAVATA - Elephants in Indian Culture and Heritage

This track will be held amidst a selection of wonderful art pieces on elephants curated by Ina Puri and displaying maestros such as Paresh Maity, Jatin Das, Shuvaprasanna, etc.

This track will see experts, who will discuss and throw light on elephants in various domains such as Art, Culture, Literature, Textile, Religion, History, Popular culture and Mythology. These sessions will highlight the status the elephant has enjoyed over the ages. You can look forward to hearing and interacting with Tara Gandhi, Anita Nair, Namita Gokhale, N S Madhavan, Alka Pande and Ina Puri, among others.





GAJOTSAVA – An Evening with Elephants

Gajagamini, Gajanand, Vinayak;- Indian performing arts has many references to Ganesha. Bringing our daily programme to a close everyday, we have specially created performances that incorporate the elephant or Ganesha into their narrative.

Astad Deboo, Mallika Sarabhai, Saroja Vaidyanathan and other artistes will regale audiences with elephant-themed performances.

Gaj Mahotsav will close with a performance that will ensure that elephants stay on top of mind recall as India's National Heritage Animal.





WTI's Brand Ambassador:

Dia Mirza: WTI's Brand Ambassador and UN Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India, Dia is the force behind mobilising key celebrity support and initiatives for wildlife conservation, such as the production of the Wild India anthem and lending her time to Gaj Yatra which she has taken up as a mission.



THE ELEPHANT TALKS- PLENARY SPEAKERS



AJT Johnsingh is a pioneer conservationist and teacher as well as a best-selling author of wildlife books. A recipient of various distinguished awards including the ABN Amro Award, he will speak at a plenary session at GajMahotsav.

Azzedine Downes is the President and CEO of International Fund for Animal Welfare. A leader on conservation issues over the past sixteen years, his contribution has led to an increased global impact on animal issues with a special focus on elephants. He will share insights on global elephant conservation at a GajMahotsav plenary.

Rudi Van Aarde is a leading South African ecologist who directs the Conservation Ecology Research Unit (CERU) at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He will share his insights and experiences of elephant and habitat management from Africa at GajMahotsav.

Jayantha Jayewardene is one of Sri Lanka's well known conservationists. He is also internationally recognized as an expert on Asian elephants and is a Trustee of The Biodiversity & Elephant Conservation Trust, that is creating awareness amongst the school children in the rural areas of Sri Lanka where there are ongoing Human-Elephant Conflicts. He will be at GajMahotsav to talk about the Elephant in Sri Lanka.

Ajay Desai is one of the leading experts on the conservation of the elephant in India and South Asia. With over 50 publications of research papers, technical reports, abstract reports and project reports to his credit, he has in the past been the Co-Chair of the IUCN SSC of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group, on the Steering Committee of India's Project, and a member of the Task Force set up by the Karnataka High Court to advise on the Conservation of Elephants and Management of the Human - Elephant Conflict.

Vivek Menon is a wildlife conservationist, environmental commentator, author and photographer with a passion for elephants. He is the Founder, Executive Director and CEO of the Wildlife Trust of India as well as Senior Advisor to the International Fund for Animal Welfare. He has advised the Indian government on natural heritage conservation as a part of several committees including the Project Elephant Steering Committee, National Wildlife Action Plan Committee and the CITES Advisory Committee. Internationally, he is the Chairperson of the IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group. He is a prolific writer and has authored over 10 books including the best selling 'Indian Mammals'.

CURATORS



Alka Pande is an art critic, cultural theorist, teacher, curator, and an author, passionately involved with the world of art for nearly three decades. Recipient of the Charles Wallace Award in 1999-2000, Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres - Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters - award bequeathed by the French government, to recognise significant contributions in the fields of art and literature she has thoughtfully curated the 101 life-sized elephant sculptures you will see at the GajMahtosav.

Ina Puri is a writer, biographer, art curator and collector. Author of several books, including *In Black & White* (a biography of Manjit Bawa), *Faces of Indian Art* (iconic artists seen through the lens of Nirmal Ghosh) and *Journey with a Hundred Strings* (on the music and life of Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma), she also produced a National Award winning film, *Meeting Manjit*. She currently occupies the position of Editor at *Art Varta* and has curated the collection of paintings and photographs on display at GajMahtosav.

Anita Nair is a bestselling author, poet, essayist and playwright. A Central Sahitya Akademi Awardee for contribution to children's literature in English, her books have been translated over thirty languages around the world. She is the founder of the creative- writing and mentorship programme *Anita's attic* and she has curated the GajMahtosav track on elephants in Literature.

Bulbul Sharma, acclaimed artist and author has her works in the collection of the National Gallery of Modern Art, Lalit Kala Akademi and Chandigarh Museum as well as in private collections in several countries. She conducts 'Story painting' workshops for children with special needs and looks forward to conducting activity workshops for school children at GajMahtosav.

Shantam Seth is a Buddhist scholar and practitioner and an ordained teacher (Dharmacharya) in the Zen (Dhyana) lineage of the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh. He teaches in India and abroad and has been leading pilgrimages and authoring books. He was a consultant on films including 'Life of the Buddha' made by the BBC and Discovery, 'The Story of India' made by BBC and PBS and is presently working on a Hollywood production entitled 'Buddha'. He has curated the track on elephants in spirituality for GajMahtosav.

Abhilash Khandekar is a multilingual journalist with a standing of close to 35 years in print and electronic medium. He is a passionate environmentalist who began his career as an English sports journalist before moving on to be the state editorial head of a daily newspaper. He is now national political editor in Delhi and an environment programme anchor on the prestigious Lok Sabha TV and has thoughtfully curated the media track for GajMahtosav.

Surendra Varma, a Senior Scientist at the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF) and member SSC/ IUCN/Asian Elephant Specialist group, has been working on Asian Elephants for the last two and half decades. His interest in elephants focus on the 9 Cs, Counting, Classification (population demography), Conflict (human-Elephant), Corridors, Culling (Poaching), Captivity, Culture, Capacity building and Conservation. Studies that he conducted on Asian elephants in the wild focus on the inter-related nature of conservation and its influence on effective population size and population viability of the species.

GAJA YATRA

A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art

A part of the proceeds from the sale of these photographs will go towards elephant conservation.



EXHIBITING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Akash Das, Bandeeep Singh, Kalyan Verma, Navin Sakhuja, Rajesh Bedi, Manju Acharya, Ramesh Belagere, Rohit Varma, Selva Prakash, Srinivasa Iyengar

GAJA YATRA

A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art

A part of the proceeds from the sale of these paintings will go towards elephant conservation.



EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Anil Chaitya Vangad, Babu Xavier, Baiju Parthan, Debashish Mukherjee, Dhavat Singh, Dipalee Daroz, Gopal Joshi, Hemi Bawa, Jambu Singh, Jatin Das, Jayasri Burman Kalyan Joshi, K.S. Radhakrishnan, Mahalaxmi, Manu Parekh, Megha Joshi Paresh Maity, NArayan Chandra Sinha, Pranab Narayan Das, Ramesh Tekam, Rini Dhumal, Saroj Venkat Shyam, Seema Kohli, Shalina Vichitra, Shipra Bhattacharya, Shuvaprasanna, Sujata Bajaj, Sulu Mathew, V. Ramesh, Venkat Raman Shyam and Yogesh Mahida

GAJA YATRA

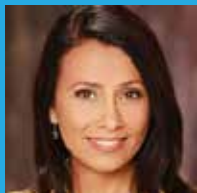
A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art

These works of art will be placed in prominent public spaces
as flag bearers of our National Heritage Animal

EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Ajayan V Kattugal, Ajitkumar Jha, Akhilesh Kumar, Amarnath Sharma, Arohi Pramod Dhole, Arzan Khambatta, Asurvedh, Ayesha Seth, Barun Behera, Biju C Bharathan, Brinda Miller & Bandana Jain, Bulbul Sharma, Chandrashekar Bheda, Debasis, Dharmendra Kumar, Dheeraj Kumar, Dilip More, Katharina Kakar, Duli Venkatesh Yadav, Dwarka Paraste, Falguni Gokhale, Gagan Vij, Gautam Bhatia, Gautam Majhi, George Martin, Giriraj Gurjar, Gobindra Pal, Gopal Namjoshi, Gopika Chowfla, Gurudeb, Hareesh Malappanavar, Harinder Singh, Hemlata, Inderjeet Grover, Ishwar Nayak, Jeevan Kumar, Kandula Pradeep Kumar, Kristine Michael, M Rengasamy, Madhumita Puri, Mahesh Chandra Arya, Mahesh Lal Vishwakarma, Marut Rout, Nakul Kumar, Naresh Kapuria, Neetu, Niharika Rajput, P.G. Dinesh, Palak Chaudhary, Pankaj Kumar, Prafulla Kumar Bablu, Pramod Gopalakrishnan, Prasanth A.V., Prashant Jha, Priya Janghu, Priya Jangra, Puja Kshatriya, Rafiq, Rahul Mahakud, Rajesh Ram, Raktanjanay Nayak, Ram Bali Chauhan, Ram Prakash Yadav, Ramakanta Samantaray, Ranjan Engti, Ravindra Mahto, Rupa Samaria, Samit Das, Sanjay Kumar Singh, Sanul Kannamkulangara, Shashi Kumar, Shiv Verma, Shri Ram Millenium School – Faridabad, Shri Ram Millenium School – Noida, Shubha Agrahari, Smrutikanta Rout, Smrutisai Mishra, Sooraj VS, Subhash Viswanathan, Sunaina Bhalla, Sunil Kumar, Suparna Bhalla, Suraj Sahu, Suresh Kumar, Susanta Mondal, T.R. Udayakumar, Tabassum Yusuf, Tarini Sethi, Umesh Kumar Sharma, Umesh Nayak, Uthiraa Mahalingam, V. Satheesan, Varsha Elango, Vinu V.V. Viren Tanwar and Virendra Sharma







SPEAKERS

PERFORMERS

PANELISTS

an indicative list



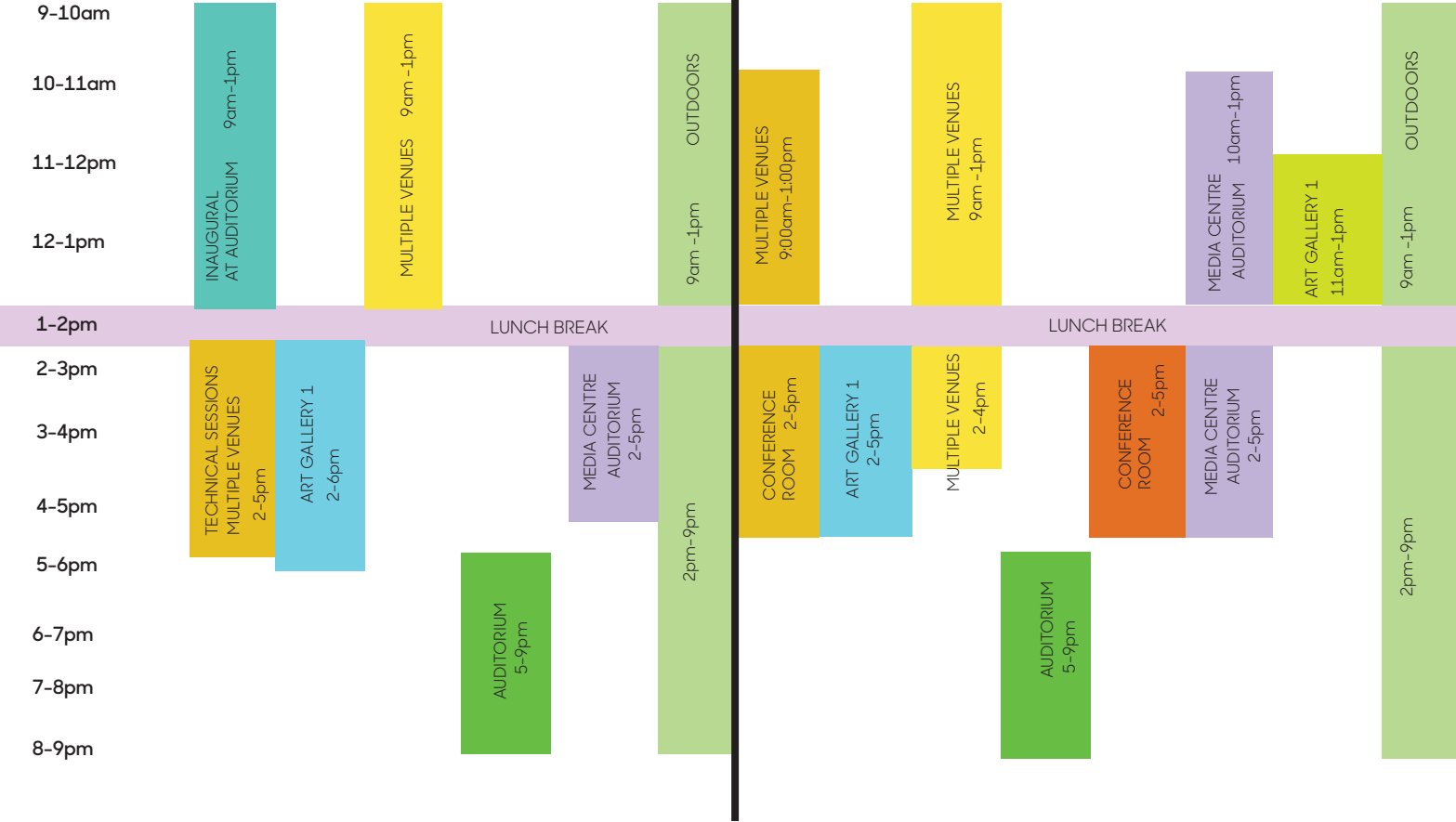
PROGRAMME
SCHEDULE

indicative and subject to change

OPENING	GAJA SHASTRA	AIRAVAT	BALA GAJA	GAJOTSAVA	GAJA SUTRA	GAJA GAMINI	GAJA DHARMA	GAJA YATRA
---------	-----------------	---------	--------------	-----------	---------------	----------------	----------------	---------------

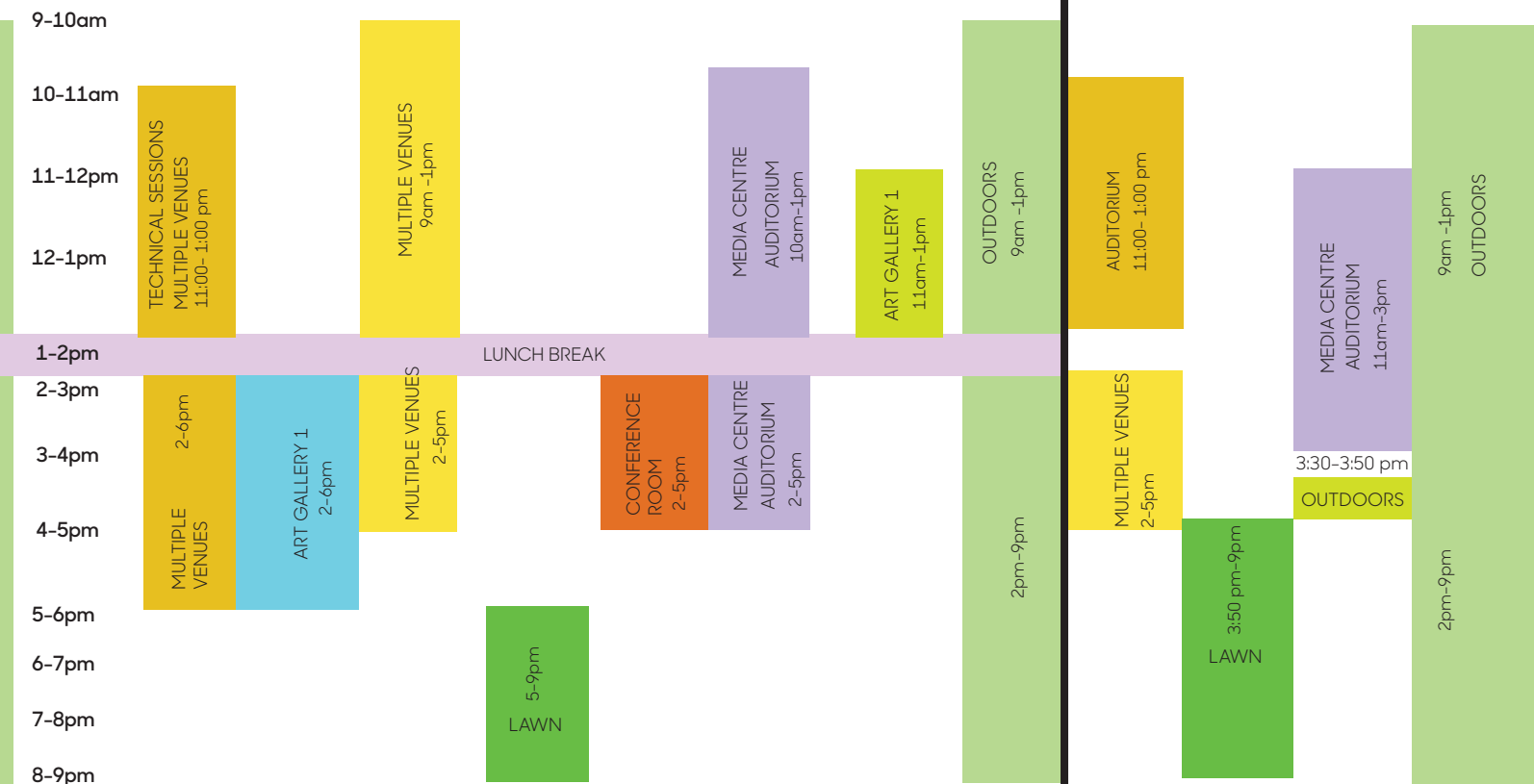
AUGUST 12, 2018

AUGUST 13, 2018



AUGUST 14, 2018

AUGUST 15, 2018



Main Auditorium

9:00–1:00 pm

Inaugural Ceremony : World Elephant Day

3:00–3:30 pm

Keynote Address: **From North-East to South: The Elephant as National Symbol of India**
Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO Niti Aayog

3:30–4:15 pm

Leadership Panel 1:

The imperative to conserve the Asian elephant

Director General of Forests Shri Siddhanta Das; pioneer conservationist and bureaucrat Dr. M.K.Ranjitsinh; PCCF Assam Shri N. K. Vasu; PCCF(Wildlife) of Kerala Shri P. K . Kesavan and PCCF (Wildlife) of Arunachal Pradesh Shri R. Kemp in conversation with Mr.Vivek Menon, Founder WTI

4:15–5:00 pm

Leadership Panel 2:

The Elephant in the Room: Why Elephants and Environment matters for National Media

Senior journalists and editors Mr.Raj Chengappa (India Today), Mr. Sukumar Rangratnathan (Hindustan Times), Rahul Karmakar (The Hindu) and Sachidananda Murthy (The Week) in conversation with Mrs. Mrinal Pande (former Chair, Prasar Bharati)

Conference Hall

2:00–4:30 pm

Presentations of selected solutions to the threats confronting elephant conservation in

India Presentations of selected solutions to the threats confronting elephant conservation in India Chaired by Shri Sandeep Tripathi, PCCF (WL), Odisha and co-chaired by Prof. PC Bhattacharjee, Vice Chairman WTI

BALA GAJA

The Secret World of Indian Elephants

AUGUST 12, 2018

9:00-10:30 am

Best out of Waste
Workshop by Bal Bhavan

Lawn with Stage

9:00-11:00 am

Clay Modelling workshop
for kids with Delhi Blue Pottery

Amphitheatre

11:00-12:30 pm

Best out of Waste
Workshop by Bal Bhavan

Amphitheatre

11:00-1:00 pm

Workshop for kids & adults with
the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

Lawn opp. Media Centre

2:00-4:00 pm

Workshop for kids & adults
with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

Lawn opp. Media Centre

2:00-4:00 pm

Painting & Story telling
workshop with Bulbul Sharma

Space outside Art Gallery

GAJA YATRA

A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art

AUGUST 12, 2018

Twin Art Gallery

10:50-11:00 am

Inauguration of Photography & Painting Exhibitions at Twin Art Galleries 1 and 2 respectively by Guest of Honour Anjolie Ela Menon



Twin Art Gallery 1

2:00- 6:00 pm

Photography Exhibition curated by Alka Pande

Twin Art Gallery 2

2:00-6:00 pm

Painting Exhibition curated by Ina Puri

GAJA GAMINI

Indian Elephants in Cinema

12 AUGUST, 2018

FILM SHOWS

2:00 -2:15 pm

2:15-2:20 pm

2:20- 3:10 pm

3:10-3:35 pm

3:15-6:15 pm

Media Centre Auditorium

Lighting of the lamp and inauguration of Gaja Gamini by Chief of the Central Board of Film Certification, Shri Prasoon Joshi

***Vanishing Giants* (5 mins)**
by Mike Pandey

***The Last Migration* (48 mins)**
by Mike Pandey

***Freedom Seekers* (25 mins)**
by Biju Pankaj

FEATURE FILM
***Haathi Mere Saathi* (165 mins)**
by M Thirumugam



AIRAVATA

Elephants in Indian Ethos and Culture

AUGUST 12, 2018

10:50-11:00 am

Twin Art Gallery

Inauguration of the exhibition 'Gaja Yatra:

A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art'
by artist and Padma Bhushan awardee Anjolie Ela Menon

2:00-2:45 pm

Twin Art Gallery 1

Elephant As a Metaphor in Literature

Authors N.S. Madhavan, Namita Gokhale, Raghav Chandra
and Kishalaya Bhattacharjee in conversation with Anita Nair

2:45-3:30 pm

Jumbo Tales: Telling the elephant story through films

Film makers and conservationists Mike Pandey, Sangita Iyer, Praveen Singh
and Krishnendu Bose deliberate on the power of the visual medium.

3:30-4:15 pm

Elephant-Human Relations: Historical Insights and Future

Perspectives, a talk by historian and author Mahesh Rangarajan

4:15-5:00 pm

Elephants in Art, Culture and Architecture

Author Tripti Pandey, artist and architect Suparna Bhalla
and textile art historian Jasleen Dhamija, in conversation
with art curator Alka Pande

5:00-5:45 pm

Yanai to Gaja: 100 Names of the Elephant in Tamil & Sanskrit

An illustrated talk by wildlife conservationist
and Tamil scholar N.V.K. Ashraf

GAJOTSAVA

An Evening with Elephants

AUGUST 12, 2018

5:00-5:10 pm

Lighting of lamp followed by a Ganesh Vandana with a dance performed by students from the Shruti Mudra School of Performing Arts

5:10-5:15 pm

Video message
from His Holiness The 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorjee

5:15-5:30 pm

Address by Guest of Honour :
smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Member of Parliament

5:30-6:30 pm

The Evening Panel : The Making of a Wild Anthem
Poet and lyricist Prasoon Joshi, composer Clinton Cerejo, film-maker Sahil Sangha in conversation with producer, actor and WTI Ambassador Dia Mirza and the playing of the Wild Anthem of WTI

Auditorium

6:30-7:00 pm

Light Refreshments

7:00-8:00 pm

Nistarana: A tribute of India's elephant by Astad Deboo, pioneer of modern dance in India and his group.

8:00-8:30 pm

Prakriti aur Gaj Raj:
A celebratory Kathak dance recital by Dahlia Sen Oberoi

8:30-9:00 pm

Gajabhairav:
A performance by Gurukul Chhau Dance Sangam

Auditorium

Auditorium

10:00-10:45 am

The Elephant Talks 1: The Giant Imperative:

The Global race to save elephants from extinction by Mr. Azzedine Downes, President and CEO, International Fund for Animal Welfare

10:45-11:30 am

The Elephant Talks 2: Complete Conservation:

A Manifesto to conserve the National Heritage Animal by Mr. Vivek Menon, Founder of WTI and Chair Asian Elephant Specialist Group

11:30-12:00 pm

Keynote address

Balancing Infrastructure and Ecology

by Mr. Alphons Kannathamann, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism

12:00-1:00 pm

Leadership Panel 3: The Apolitical Animal:

All party views on the Asian elephant: Politicians Smt. Sushmita Dev (Congress), Shri. Kampa Borgoyary (Deputy Chief, Bodoland Territorial Council) and Shri. Suparno Satpathy (Biju Janata Dal, Odisha) in conversation with Editor of The Week Mr. Sachidananda Murthy

Amphitheatre

9:00-10:00 am

Technical session for Green Corridor Champions (GCCs) on elephant

conservation, corridor monitoring techniques, legal action, policy and methods of campaign and awareness by subject experts Dr. Surendra Varma, Mr. Ritwick Dutta, Mr. Dhiresh Joshi and Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tiwari.

2:00-2:45 pm

Leadership Panel 4: Right of Passage:

Linear Infrastructure and the Asian Elephant:
Senior civil service officers Shri. C.K Mishra,
Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests; Shri.
Yudhvir Malik Chairman National Highways Authority
of India; Shri. Ashwani Lohani, Chairman Railway
Board and Shri. Atul Bagai UNEP Representative in
conversation with Shri. Raghav Chandra, Secretary,
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

3:00-4:00 pm

**Leadership Panel 5: Multilateral cooperation to save
the Indian elephant** Ms. Isabella Detwiler, Dy.Minister
Counselor US Embassy; Thomas Hagbeck,
First Secretary, German Embassy; Mr. Yuri
Afanasyev, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP and Dr. J
R Bhatt, Advisor MoEFCC in conversation with Mr.
Kelvin Alie EVP IFAW

4:00-5:00 pm

**Leadership Panel 6: A
lifetime saving Wild Lands - the incredible journey of
the Burtons:** John and Viv Burton, conservation
leaders World Land Trust in conversation with
Vivek Menon, Founder WTI

11:30-1:00 pm

Conference Room

**Presentations of selected solutions to the
threats confronting elephant conservation in
India**

Co-chaired by Dr. Arun Venkatraman,
Technical Director, ERM and member
Asian Elephant Specialist Group

4:00-5:00 pm

Amphitheatre

Dr. PC Bhattacharjee and Dr. Erach
Bharucha -Role of civil societies in
elephant conservation and experience
sharing 40 Q and A Session

Conference Room

2:00-2:20 pm

Inauguration of seminar

2:20-2:40 pm

Responsible Conservation Reporting
by senior journalist Pronoy Bordoloi

2:40-3:00 pm

Lets talk elephants
Senior elephant researcher and conservationist Surendra Varma

3:00-3:45 pm

Interactive session by Perna Bindra

3:45-4:15 pm

Interactive session by Jay Mazoomdar

4:15-4:45 pm

Celebrity interaction
with Dia Mirza, actor and WTI Ambassador introduced by Vivek Menon Founder, WTI

4:45-5:00 pm

Light refreshments

GAJA DHARMA

Elephants in Religious Traditions

AUGUST 13, 2018

Twin Art Gallery 1

11:30-12:00 pm

Buddha Dharma:

A talk by Dharmacharya Shantum Seth

12:00-1:00 pm

Custodian of Dargah Ajmer Sharif, Haji Syed Salman Chishty and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati ji conversation with Buddhist scholar, Dharmacharya Shantum Seth



BALA GAJA

The Secret World of Indian Elephants

AUGUST 13, 2018

9:00-1:00 pm

Shadow Puppet workshop
for kids with Dadi Pudumjee

Space Outside Art Gallery

9:00-10:30 am

Clay modelling elephants
Workshop by Bal Bhavan

Lawn with Stage

9:00-11:30 am

Quiz Competition for kids
by Archana Garodia

Conference Room

9:30-11:00 am

Walk like an elephant
with Surendra Varma

Outdoor Walk

10:00-6:00 pm

Animation Workshop
by Nitin Donde

Space Outside Art Gallery

11:00-1:00 pm

Workshop for kids & adults
with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

Lawn Opposite Media Centre

11:00-12:30 pm

Clay modelling elephants
Workshop by Bal Bhavan

Lawn with Stage

2:00-4:00 pm

Workshop for kids & adults
with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

Space Outside Art Gallery

GAJA YATRA

A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art

AUGUST 13, 2018

Twin Art Gallery 1

9:00am - 6:00 pm

Photography Exhibition curated by Alka Pande

Twin Art Gallery 2

9:00am - 6:00 pm

Painting Exhibition curated by Ina Puri



GAJA GAMINI

Indian Elephants in Cinema

13 AUGUST, 2018

FILM SHOWS

10:00-10:25 am

10:25-11:15 am

11:15-11:30 am

11:30-11:40 am

11:40-12:10 pm

12:10-1:00 pm

1:40-2:00 pm

2:00-2:10 pm

2:10-2:55 pm

2:55- 5:00pm

Media Centre Auditorium

Ele Days & Nights Part 1 & Part 2 (25 mins)
by Ashish Chandola

Living With Giants (50 mins) by Ashish Chandola

Talk by Ashish Chandola followed by Q&A session

Introduction by Krishnendu Bose to
Elephant-A God in Distress

Elephant-A God in Distress (30 mins) by Krishnendu Bose

God on the Edge (46 mins) by Ashok Patel

Don't Let Them Fade Away (16 mins) by Anandhakumar

Introduction by Praveen Singh to
Manas - Return of the Giants

Manas-Return of the Giants (Hindi, 42 mins)
by Praveen Singh

FEATURE FILM
Safed Haathi (Hindi 120 min)
by Tapan Sinha

AIRAVATA

Elephants in Indian Ethos and Culture

AUGUST 13, 2018

Twin Art Gallery 1

2:00–3:00 pm

Elephants in Carnatic Literature

Scholar Veejay Sai in conversation with author Anita Nair Accompanying music by Vivek Sadashivam

3:00–3:30 pm

The Exile in the Forest

Artists Jatin Das , Venkat Raman Shyam, and art curator Ina Puri, in conversation with Artist Manish Pushkale.

3:30–4:15 pm

Elephants in Tamil Cinema

An illustrated talk by film historian, author and conservationist S.Theodore Baskaran

4:15–5:00 pm

The Elephant in Early Indian History

An illustrated talk by historian R. Mahalaxmi

GAJOTSAVA

An Evening with Elephants

AUGUST 13, 2018

5:00–5:15 pm

Lighting of lamp followed by a Ganesh Vandana

Auditorium

5:15–6:15 pm

The Evening Lecture: Protecting the National Heritage Animal by Justice Swantanter Kumar, former Chair, National Green Tribunal

6:15–7:00 pm

Light Refreshments

7:00–8:00 pm

The Dancing Elephant: a performance by doyen danseuse Mallika Sarabhai, and Kathakali dancer Sasi Nair

8:00–9:00 pm

Gaja Nukhta: A Bharatanatyam performance by Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan's Troupe

Auditorium

10:00-10:45 am

The Elephant Talks 3: Elephant Rumours

by Prof. Rudi Van Aarde, African Elephant expert and Emeritus Professor of Zoology and Chair, Conservation Ecology Research Unit, University of Pretoria, South Africa

10:45-11:30 am

The Elephant Talks 4: A lifetime with Giants

by Dr. AJT Johnsingh, Pioneer Ecologist, Wildlife Biologist and Advisor to NCF and WWF India

11:30-12:00 pm

Video Message by Shri Suresh Prabhu

Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce and Industry

Keynote address by Shr. Rajen Gohain,
Minister of State , Railways

12:00-12:45 pm

Leadership Panel 7: Integrating Biodiveristy Conservation into Core Business ideas of Corporate India

Mr. Prasad Menon, Chairman of the Board, WTI,
Mr. Punit Lalbhai, Executiver Director Arvind Mills Ltd. and Jose Dominic, Chairman CGH in conversation with Mrs. Naina Lal Kidwai, Former CEO & Country Head HSBC

12:45-1:30 pm

Leadership Panel 8: Saving Elephants and Nature: A Key Corporate Social Responsibility

Shri DD Misra, Former Director HR, ONGC; Ms. Seema Arora, Deputy Director General CII Ms. Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Executive Director & CEO HCL Corporation & Trustee Shiv Nadar University and the Habitat Trust and Ms. Shriti Malhotra, COO The Body Shop in conversation with Dr. Arun Venkataraman, Senior Fellow, ERM India

Amphitheatre

9:00-10:00 am

Technical session for Green Corridor Champions (GCCs) on elephant conservation, corridor monitoring techniques, legal action, policy and methods of campaign and awareness by Dr Surendra Varma, Mr. Ritwick Dutta, Mr. Dhiresb Joshi and Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tiwari.

11:30 - 1:00 pm

Presentations of selected solutions to the threats confronting elephant conservation in India

Chaired by Shri Anil Lahoti, ED Civil Ministry of Railways and Co
Chaired by Mr. Jason Bell, VP International Operations IFAW

2:30-3:15 pm

Leadership Panel No 9: A Jumbo Task:

Bringing Civil Society together to save the Indian elephant Ms Sejal Worah, Dir. Programmes WWF India; Ms. Belinda Wright, ED WPSI; Mr. Bibhab Talukdar, Secy. Gen. and CEO, Aaranyak and Col. Muthanna Coorg Wildlife Society in conversation with Dr. Erach Bharucha, Founding Director BVIEER

3:15-4:00 pm

Leadership panel no 10: Centre-State cooperation to strengthening Project Elephant

Shri. MS Negi, ADG (Wildlife); Shri. Vinod Rishi former ADG (WL), Shri. C. Jayram PCCF(Wildlife), Shri S. P. Tripathi PCCF(Wildlife) Nagaland and Smt. Rina Mitra, SS Internal Security in conversation with Ms Tilottama Verma, Chief of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

GAJA SUTRA

Unraveling the story of the Asian Elephants

AUGUST 14, 2018

Conference Room

2:00-2:20 pm

Address by veteran journalist Vinod Dua

2:20-2:45 pm

Responsible Conservation Reporting

Senior journalist and Lok Sabha TV Abhilash Khandekar

2:45-3:15 pm

Lets talk Elephants

Senior elephant researcher and conservationist Surendra Varma

3:15-3:45 pm

Interactive session by Bahar Dutt

3:45-4:15 pm

Interactive session by Kishalay Bhattacharya

4:15-4:30 pm

Celebrity interaction

with Dia Mirza, actor and WTI Ambassador
introduced by Vivek Menon Founder, WTI

4:30-5:00 pm

Light refreshments

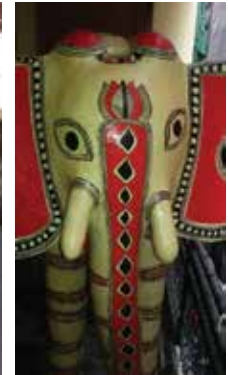
Twin Art Gallery 1

11:30-12:15 pm

The Making of Ganesha an illustrated talk by historian, environmentalist and author, Dr. Nanditha Krishna

12:15-1:00 pm

Jain scholar and former Chairman International School for Jain Studies, Dr. Shugan Jain; Editor Speaking Tree, Smt. Narayani Ganesh and Sikh scholar and Head of Post Graduate Dept., Sri GuruAngad Dev College, Dr. Kawaljeet Singh in conversation with scholar of religion and philosophy Dr. NVK Ashraf



BALA GAJA

The Secret World of Indian Elephants

AUGUST 14, 2018

9:00-11:00 am

Painting & Story telling workshop with Bulbul Sharma

Space Outside Art Gallery

9:00-10:30 am

Best out of Waste
Workshop by Bal Bhavan

Lawn with Stage

9:00-11:00 am

Caricature workshop for ALL by Rohan Chakravarty

Media Centre Auditorium

9:30-11:30 am

Walk like an elephant
with Surendra Varma

Outdoor Walk

11:00-12:30 pm

Best out of Waste
Workshop by Bal Bhavan

Lawn with Stage

10:00-6:00 pm

Animation Workshop by Nitin Dondé

Twin Art Gallery 1

11:00-1:00 pm

Workshop for kids & adults
with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

Space Outside Art Gallery

11:00-1:00 pm

Clay Modelling workshop
for kids by Delhi Blue Pottery

Space Outside Art Gallery

2:00-4:00 pm

Workshop for kids & adults
with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

Space Outside Art Gallery

GAJA YATRA

A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art

AUGUST 14, 2018



Twin Art Gallery 1

9:00am – 6:00 pm

Photography Exhibition curated by Alka Pande

Twin Art Gallery 2

9:00am – 6:00 pm

Painting Exhibition curated by Ina Puri



Media Centre Auditorium

11:00-11:20 am

On the Right Track (16 mins)
by Rita Banerji

11:20-11:45 am

Saving the Wild (25 mins)
by Rita Banerji

11:45-12:00 pm

Talk by Rita Banerji followed by a Q&A session

12:00-12:15 pm

Gardeners of the Forest
(Elephants in Laos) (14 mins)
by Ceylon Carhoglu and Nicole Jordan-Webber

2:00-3:25 pm

Bastion of Giants (84 mins)
by Sumesh Lekhi

3:25-3:35 pm

Jumbo, an animated film (10 mins)
by Suresh Elamon

3:35-5:00 pm

Documentaries from Films Division of India
Operation Khedda; Call of the Khedda;
Elephant Lore; To Catch an Elephant;
Rami- The Baby Elephant

Twin Art Gallery 1

2:00-2:45 pm

Feathered Elephants and Other Chimeras

An illustrated talk by conservationist Tara Gandhi

2:45-3:30 pm

Elephants in Children's Literature

Author and artist Bulbul Sharma, children's writers Anu Venkatraman and Bijal Vachharajani and illustrator Rohan Chakravarty in conversation with author Anita Nair

3:30-4:15 pm

Elephants in Indian consciousness

Ambassador T.C.A Raghavan, war historian Shiv Kunal Verma and historian Irfan S. Habib in conversation with media scholar Sabina Kidwai

4:15-5:00 pm

Bringing the elephant centre stage:

Creating a new culture; Publisher Ravi Singh, author Chandrahaas Choudhury, Director Academic Staff College and JNU Dr. Rakesh Batabyal in conversation with artist Shakti Maira

GAJOTSAVA

An Evening with Elephants

AUGUST 14, 2018

5:00–5:15 pm

Lighting of lamp followed by a Ganesh Vandana performed by students from the Kalangan Centre for Classical Arts

Lawn With Stage

5:15–5:45 pm

Address by Guest of Honour Shri Jairam Ramesh,
Member of Parliament and Former Minister of
Environment and Forests

5:45–6:30 pm

The Evening Lecture: Elephants in Music:
A musical rendition by Grammy Award winner and
conservationist Ricky Kej

6:30–7:00 pm

Light Refreshments

7:00–9:00 pm

A Musical Evening with Sonam Kalra and Aditya Jassi
feting the Asian Elephant

Lawn With Stage

Main Auditorium

11:00–11:45 am

The Elephant Talks 5:

Elephants in Sri Lanka: Culture and Conservation

by Mr. Jayantha Jayewardene, Conservationist and Author

11:45–12:30 pm

**The Elephant Talks 6: Understanding the challenges of
living with a mega herbivore in our neighbourhood**

By Mr. Ajay Desai, Former Co-chair IUCN, Asian Elephants Specialist Group

1:00–2:00 pm

LUNCH

2:00–3:00 pm

Presentation of Technical Solution for Elephants Panel:

Shri Noyal Thomas, Inspector General, Project Elephant;
Representative from NHAI, Representative from Railways and State
Representative

12:30–1:00 pm

Amphitheatre

Certificate distribution to
Green Corridor Champions

GAJA DHARMA

Elephants in Religious Traditions

AUGUST 15, 2018

3:30 - 3:40 pm

**Main Concourse
outside Art Galleries**

All Faith Prayer meeting with 101 elephants:
Priests from various religions pray for the well-being of India's elephants



GAJA YATRA

A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art

AUGUST 15, 2018



Twin Art Gallery 1

11:00am - 6:00 pm Photography Exhibition curated by Alka Pande

Twin Art Gallery 2

11:00am - 6:00 pm Painting Exhibition curated by Ina Puri



Media Centre Auditorium

11:00-11:10 am

Introduction to *Gods in Shackles* by Sangita Iyer

11:10-12:45 pm

Gods in Shackles (95 mins) by Sangita Iyer

12:45-1:05 pm

Living with Elephants (16 mins) by Saravanakumar
Securing the Kalapahur-Daigurung Corridor (4 mins) by WTI

1:05-2:00 pm

The Elephant Lord of Jungle (50 mins) by Naresh Bedi

2:00-3:00 pm

Ganesh the Elephant God (50 mins) by Naresh Bedi

3:00-3:20 pm

Dont Let Them Fade Away (16 min)
by Anandhakumar



GAJOTSAVA

An Evening with Elephants

AUGUST 15, 2018

3:30-3:50 pm

All faith Prayer meeting with 101 elephants

3:50-4:00 pm

Lighting of lamp followed by a Ganesh Vandana performed by students from the Kalangan Centre for Classical Arts

4:00-4:30 pm

The Concept of the elephant as a National Heritage
Animal: Address by Guest of Honour Dr. Mahesh Sharma,
Honbl'e Minister for Culture and Hon'ble Minister of State
for Environment

4:30-5:30 pm

Elephants in Pop Culture, a Celebrity Panel with actor Purab Kohli, radio jockey Maliska Mendonsa and songwriter Palash Sen in conversation with WTI brand ambassadr Dia Mirza

5:30-6:30 pm

Independence Day Lecture: Independence to Elephants
by Dia Mirza, actor and Ambassador, WTI

Main Concourse
outside Art Galleries

Auditorium

6:30-7:00 pm

Light Refreshments

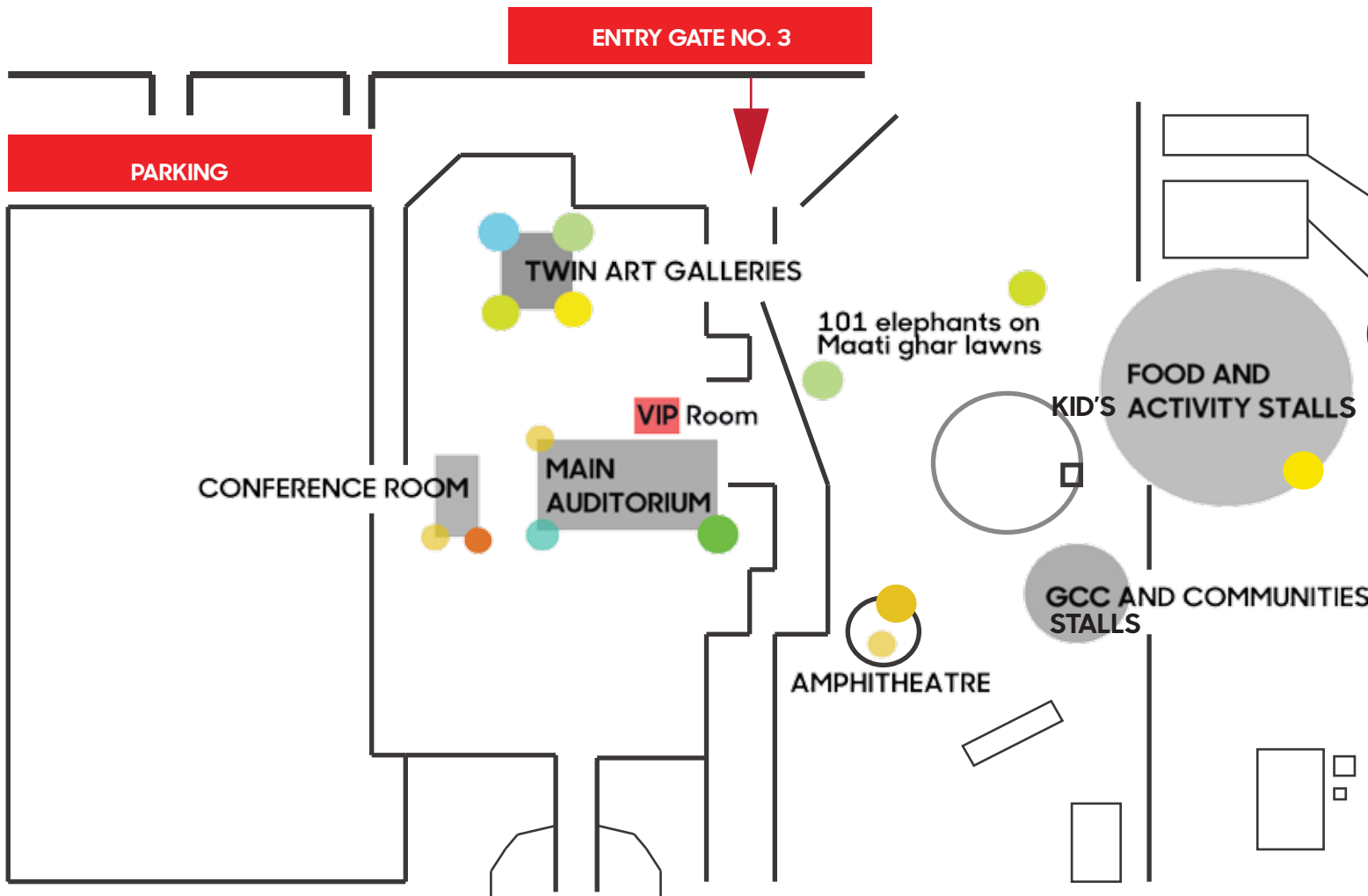
7:00-7:05 pm

Video message from Erik Solheim:
Executive Director, UN Environment

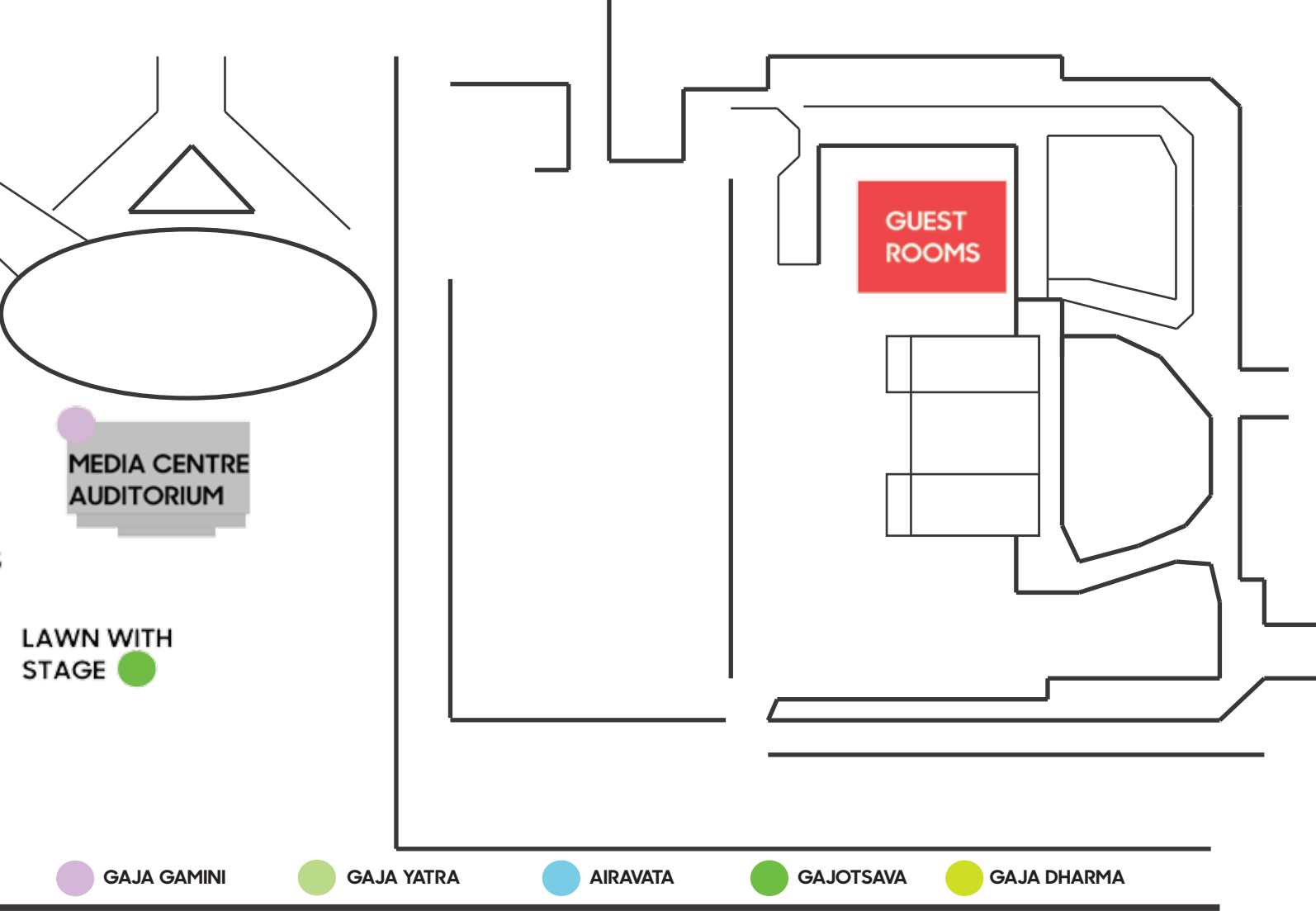
Lawn with Stage

7:00-9:00 pm

Closing Finale:
Musical extravaganza with Kavita Seth The Band, Euphoria



-  INAUGURAL CEREMONY
-  GAJA SHASTRA + GCC + TECHNICAL SESSIONS
-  GAJA SUTRA
-  BALA GAJA



ORGANISERS



About WTI:

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) are a leading Indian nature conservation organization committed to the service of nature. Our mission is to conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals in partnership with communities and governments. We are team of around 150 professionals working on several conservation projects across the country. Through these we endeavour to achieve our Vision of a secure natural heritage of India.



About IFAW:

Founded in 1969, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is a global non-profit organization that protects animals and the places they call home. With offices in 15 countries and projects in over 40, we rescue, rehabilitate and release animals into secure landscapes around the world. In collaboration with both governments and local communities, our experienced campaigners, legal and political experts, and internationally acclaimed scientists pioneer lasting solutions to some of the most pressing animal welfare and wildlife conservation issues of our time.





'Gaj Yatra' is one of the signature projects of WTI- **a nation-wide campaign** launched in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, International Fund for Animal Welfare and United Nations Environment. The Gaj Yatra is a campaign for the 'Right of Passage' for elephants in 101 identified 'elephant corridors' across 11 states in India. These "corridors" are crucial in connecting the otherwise fragmented elephant habitats. To secure a future for India's wild elephants and people living with elephants, it is essential that we ensure the unhindered movement of elephants between key habitats. And to do this, designated corridors must be legally secured and protected. We are partnering with the Government of India's Project Elephant, the forest departments of elephant range states, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to protect and secure the elephant corridors.

Gaj Mahotsav
Hospitality Partner:



Incredible India

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Email: rightofpassage@wti.org.in

Website: www.wti.org.in

Tel: +91 120-4143900