

# 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.

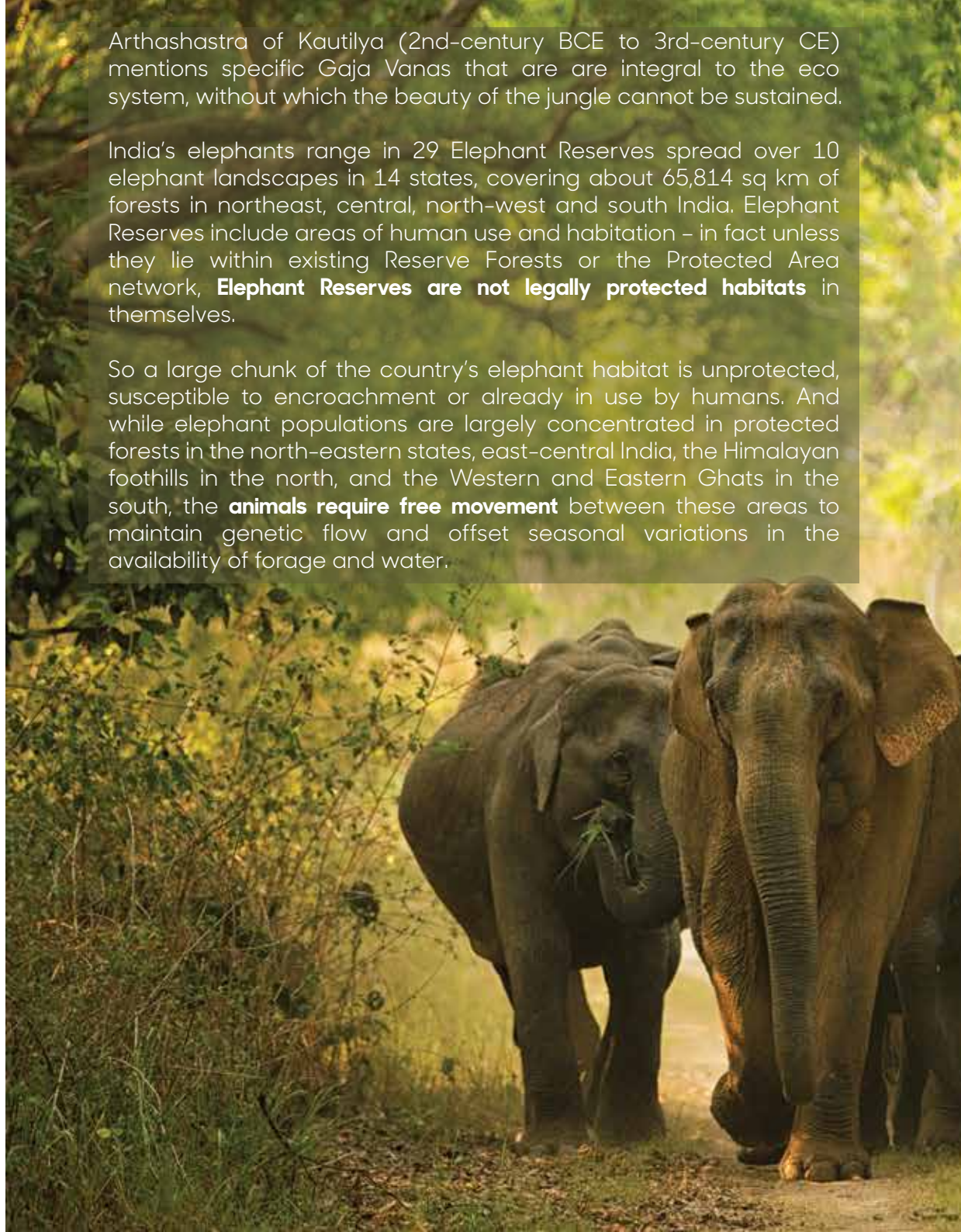
Indian mythology has references to the elephant's origin as Airavat, a celestial elephant, who emerged during the churning of the ocean. Historically, Indian culture has been closely associated with the elephant and has been the subject of a number of classical works of literature, art, architecture 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 eco system, 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 Prajag, 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

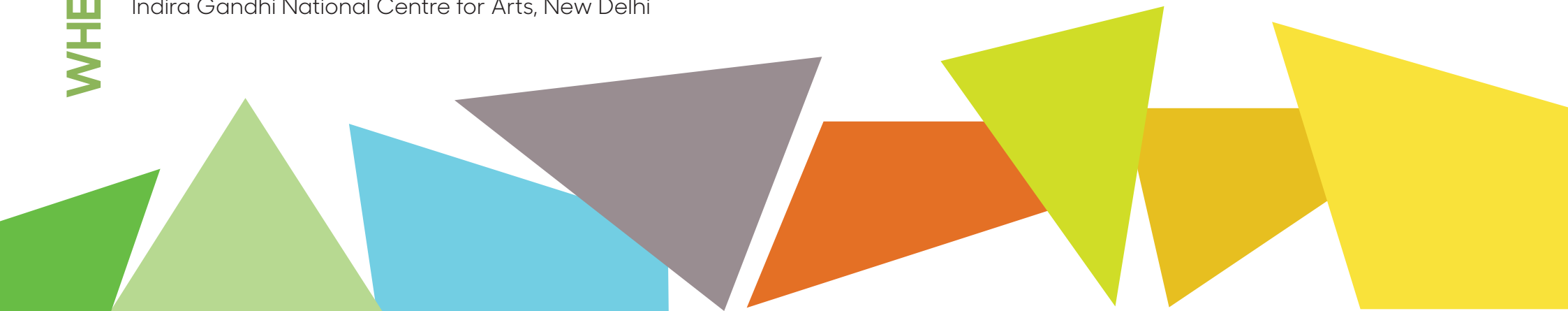
## WHERE

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 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 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.



**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 Gamini**  
**Indian Elephants in**  
**Cinema**



**Gaja Dharma**  
**Elephants in religious traditions**

**Gajotsava**  
**An Evening with Elephants**

**Gaja Yatra**  
**A visual representation**  
**of 101 elephant journeys**

**Bala Gaja**  
**The Secret World of Indian**  
**elephants**





## **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 Prerna Bindra, Jay Mazoomdar, Bahar Dutt and Abhilash Khandekar.

## MoU signed to study migratory behaviour of Asian elephants

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 16: Assam's Bapara Foundation has signed an MoU with the Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF) of Bengaluru to study the migratory behaviour of Asian elephants in the Karbi Anglong-Karbi Anglong landscape.

The MoU was signed between Prof Raman Sukumar, founder and managing trustee, ANCF and Robin Eastment, operations executive at Bapara Foundation, on Thursday.

The project will study the ranging behaviour of elephants through the use of radio collars. Plans are on to 'collar' at least four elephants.

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 elephant population of north-eastern India



50 per cent of all mature males are tuskers, and over two-thirds of the oldest males are tuskers, thus making them immune to poaching for ivory. The adult male-female ratios of the Kaziranga elephant population is consequently among the least skewed in India, conferring high genetic variability and potential on this populace.

"We want to bring in the best in class scientific knowledge and operational know-how towards conservation of

ANCF will bring in the diversity of knowledge to address conservation issues on the ground. We hope to create projects that create inter-dependencies between people and wildlife", Robin Eastment said.

Kaziranga is part of a larger landscape that extends southward into the Karbi Anglong hills. These hills are the lifeline of the wildlife of Karbi Anglong during the monsoon period. With the rising food

scarcity of the park, and is either under or partly cultivation. A major highway also runs parallel to the southern boundary of the park. The result is that the free movement of wildlife, including elephants, is curtailed because of the existing land use and highway traffic, placing them at risk during the period of high 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 mandate towards the Asian Elephant Conservation, the Bapara Foundation is also organising the second international conference 'Elephant Talk' on November 5 and 6 in Guwahati. The conference will be followed by the third edition of the Bapara Foundation Awards. The events are being organised in partnership

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

BENGALURU: To reduce man-elephant conflict, especially in Kodagu, the Forest Department is keen to acquire land from people and has joined hands with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in this regard.

The department wants to acquire about two kilometres of land, belonging to the Huvishettu and Panchikottu estates, which is part of the Kutta-Tirunahalli corridor, which in turn is part of the Nagarhole-Brahmavaram elephant corridor link. "Elephants use the stretch and we want to acquire it to reduce man-animal conflict," Manoj Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kodagu, told reporters here on Friday on the sidelines of a workshop on dealing with leopards and elephants in human-occupied landscapes" here organised by Wildlife Conservation Society-India Programme (WCSIP).

"Landowners are demanding Rs 20 lakh for an acre. Hence, we have approached the WTI to map the area, ascertain land width and find out if that is necessary because there is another route through Wayanad which is also frequented by elephants," he said.

To further reduce man-elephant conflict, the Forest Department will soon hold meetings with officials in forest departments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu to strengthen the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. The 6,000-sq km biosphere reserve presently houses 6,000-odd elephants. The last meeting in this regard was held in December 2014.

"We will hold meetings with the deputy and assistant conservators of forests of the two states to assess ground reality and undertake research. There is a need to know how many elephants can the biosphere hold and for how long. It's crucial since this is the only habitat left for elephants. That will also help



Elephants are often seen in the Nagarhole-Brahmavaram stretch. (H. H. H. H.)

strengthen corridors," Kumar added.

Praveen Fernando, Trustee and Scientist at the Centre for Conservation and Research, Sri Lanka, stressed the importance of ensuring safe habitats for elephants. "Case studies in India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka have shown that elephant relocation has not been very successful. Relocation is temporary and shifts the problem from one area to another," he said while speaking on human-elephant interaction.

Fernando, who has been working on elephant conservation in Sri Lanka for many years, said there was a huge population of elephants in the island nation, and 70 people and 250 elephants died in conflict every year.

Vedya Athreya, Senior Research Fellow at WCSIP, spoke on human-leopard interaction and Rajesh Jadhav, a journalist at Mid-Day, Mumbai, spoke on 'Reporting human-leopard interaction in Maharashtra: A case study'.

DH News Service

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

Where giants roam



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 Terang have willingly and voluntarily decided to relocate outside the Kalapahar-Dairung 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 dedication of a traditional totem

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

located in the middle of a natural corridor used by the elephants to move between Kalapahar and Dairung-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 villagers of Ram Terang



# 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.



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# 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 educative 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.



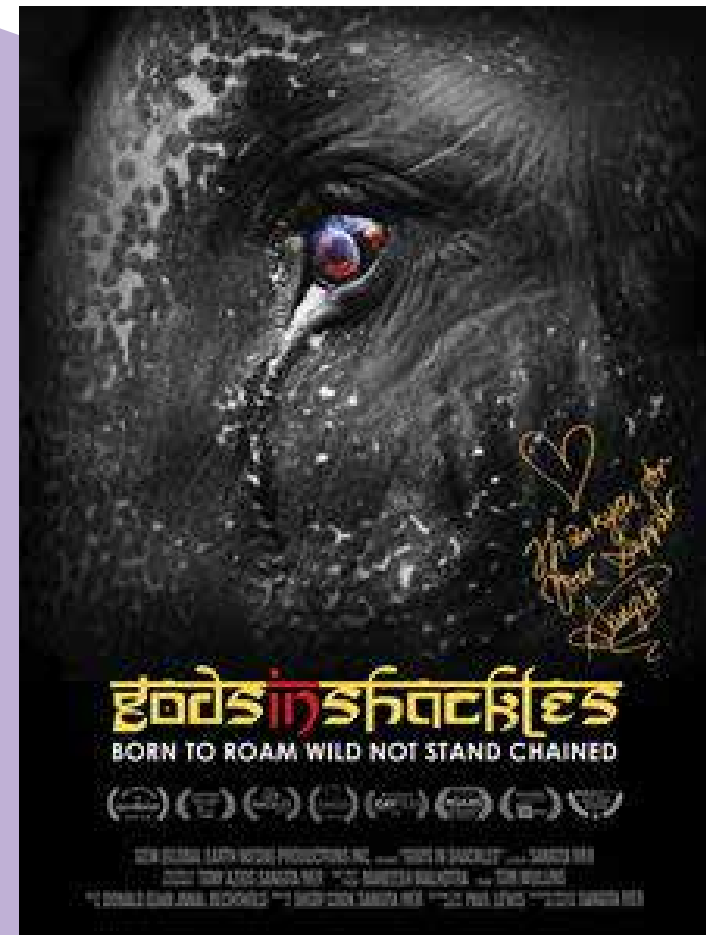


# GAJA GAMINI – Indian Elephants in Cinema

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 and Krishnendu Bose 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, Alka Pande and Ina Puri, among others.





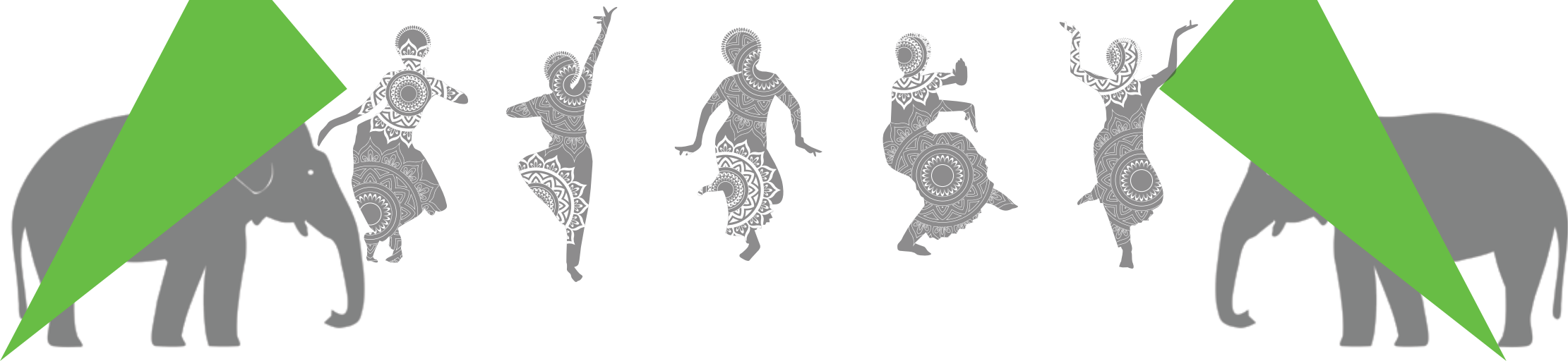


# GAJOTSAVA – An Evening with Elephants



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 the popular evergreen Delhi band Euphoria that will ensure elephants stay on top of mind recall as India's National Heritage Animal.





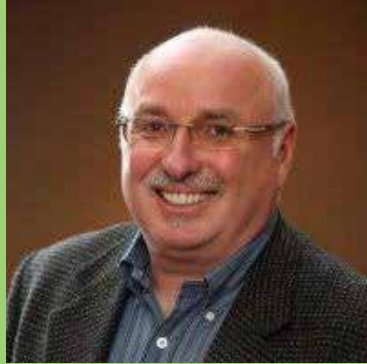
## **WTI's Brand Ambassador:**

**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.

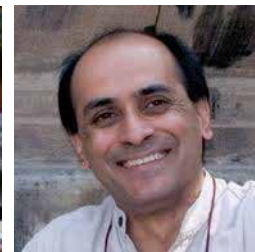
**Rudi Van Aarde** is a leading South African ecologist who directs the Conservation Ecology Research Unit (CERU) at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He will share his insights and experiences of elephant and habitat management from Africa at GajMahotsav.

**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 ManjitBawa), Faces of Indian Art (iconic artists seen through the lens of Nemaigosh) 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 GajMahotsav.

**Anita Nair** is a bestselling author, poet, essayist and playwright. A Central SahityaAkademi Awardee for contribution to children's literature in English, her books has 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 GajMahotsav 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.

**Shantum Seth** is a Buddhist scholar and practitioner and an ordained teacher (Dharmacharya) in the Zen (Dhyana) lineage of the Venerable ThichNhatHanh. 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 GajMahotsav.

**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.



# PERFORMING ARTISTES



**Astad Deboo**, Indian contemporary dancer and choreographer employs his training in Indian classical dance forms of Kathak as well as Kathakali to create a dance form that is unique to him, and has become a pioneer of modern dance in India. He has been conferred with the Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and has worked with stalwarts across the world, such as Pink Floyd. He will perform a specially choreographed track on elephants at GajMahtosav.

**Saroja Vaidyanathan** has been conferred with the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, the Sahitya Kala Parishad Samman and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award among many others. A Bharat Natyam exponent, her innovative choreography on elephants will regale audiences at GajMahotsav.

**Mallika Sarabhai** is a noted Kuchipudi and Bharatnatyam dancer, choreographer and a soloist and a performer who has the Padma Bhushan and several awards to her credit. A multi faceted personality who spans a gamut from films, television to publishing, she will share her knowledge on elephants in dance through a talk and performance at GajMahotsav.

**Dadi Pudumjee** founding artistic director of India's first modern puppet repertory theatre, the Sutradhar Puppet Theatre (later Shri Ram Centre Puppet Repertory) in New Delhi; founder of Ishara International Puppet Festival, Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Academy Awardee, Dadi will regale audiences at the opening of GajMahotsav and follow up with a workshop on shadow puppetry for children.

**Euphoria led by Palash Sen:** Euphoria is an Indian rock band from the city of Delhi, India. Euphoria was put together in 1988 and were one of the pioneers of the Indian pop music wave.

**Dahlia Sen Oberoi** is a Lawyer by profession, specialising in Intellectual Property and Publishing Laws. She is also a lyricist, write and Kathak dancer. Her dance style, though based in the kathak mould, bears her unique stamp infusing it with a fresh new identity. She will present Prakriti aur Gajraj, a celebratory performance on Nature and the Elephant.

# GAJ MAHOTSAV SPEAKERS

An indicative list

## GAJOTSAVA

**Leadership, Judiciary, Entertainment**

Smt. Maneka Gandhi

Dr, Mahesh Sharma

Justice. Shri. Swatanter Kumar

Shri. Alphons Kannathanam

Shri. Ricky Kej

Ms.Dia Mirza

## GAJA SUTRA

**Veteran Media persons, Senior Journalists,  
Writers, Researchers**

Shri. Abhilash Khandekar

Shri. Samudragupta Kashyap

Dr.Surendra Varma

Ms. Perna Bindra

Shri. Jay Mazoomdar

Ms. Bahaar Dutt

Shri. Kishalay Bhattacharya



# GAJ MAHOTSAV SPEAKERS

An indicative list

## **AIRAVATA**

**Historians, Conservationists, Authors, Scholars**

Shri. Mahesh Rangarajan

Shri. S Theodore Baskaran

Smt. R Mahalaxmi

Smt. Tara Gandhi

Dr. NVK Ashraf

## **GAJA DHARMA**

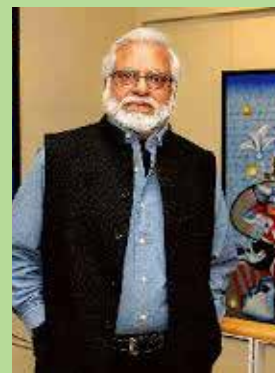
**Scholars, Gurus, Authors, Conservationists**

Dharmacharya Shantum Seth

Dr. Nanditha Krishnan

# CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

An Indicative List



**Paresh Maity** was awarded the Padma Shri and Pt. Ravishankar award for his contribution to Indian art. He works with various media – watercolours, acrylic on canvas, photography and sculptures. With over 79 solo shows to his credit, many of Maity's works are in the collection of the British Museum and the National Gallery of Modern Art in Delhi.

**Jayasri Burman** is a contemporary Indian artist from an illustrious family of Bengal. She works mainly in watercolor, using rich strong hues and bold themes with a mythic element—strange hybrid animals with human heads.

**Madhavi Parekh** has exhibited across India and abroad including London, Amsterdam, New York, Australia and Kuwait since 1972 and has close to a hundred solo and group shows to her credit.

**Manu Parekh** a modernist of the third generation has been awarded the President of India's Silver Plaque and the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society Award, New Delhi; the National Award from the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and the Padma Shri from the Government of India.

**Jatin Das** has been painting for 50 years and has held over 68 one-man exhibitions. Jatin Das was awarded the Padma Bhushan for his contribution to Indian art.



# CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS



## An Indicative List

**Falguni Gokhale:** graduated from National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad in Visual Design. She founded and nurtured an award winning design studio in Pune, along with her husband. Her paintings, sculptures and illustrations combine art and design to create thought provoking ideas.

**Gopal Namjoshi:** Gopal Namjoshi is an independent Public Arts Installation Artist and Muralist working in the area of arts, crafts and design and academics. Practicing artistry from past 30 years he has carved his niche with his innovative work in across the media/-styles and practices.

**Harinder Singh:** Emerging contemporary artist Harinder Singh is a serial entrepreneur and an advocate for preserving and evolving the traditional culture of the land of five rivers – Punjab. His installations are created most often from found objects and re-cycled components addressed to the youth as a showcase of self-respect and belief. Singh approaches a subject with his innate sense of humour and perseverance of his goal with a careful watch on sustainability.

**Prasanth A.V:** Prasanth A V hails from God's own country, Kerala. His work is based on the unity of Man and Nature stemming from his experience, lifestyle and his connection with nature from his childhood.

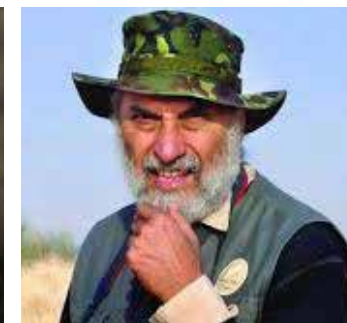
**Priya Janghu:** Born in Lucknow and now living in New Delhi, Priya Janghu holds a Masters in International Business while simultaneously pursuing art education. She learnt the nuances of oil and acrylic painting at Triveni Kala Sangam. She creates art work that is contemporary and inspired by current society, its people, animals and nature. She works with stainless steel, bronze and wood.

**Puja Kshatriya:** An alumni of Delhi College of Art, Puja Kshatriya has had several successful solo exhibitions in Delhi, Mumbai, Dubai, London, and Singapore. She has also participated in many prominent group shows and won prestigious awards. Her paintings and sculptures are in the collections of National Institutions like Lalit Kala Akademi, Sahitya Kala Parishad, Chandigarh Art Museum, Hudco Museum, and India Habitat Centre.

**Smrutisai Mishra:** Hailing from Odisha, Smrutisai Mishra holds a Masters degree in Visual Arts from Utkal University of Culture. He is inspired from the Odia tradition of decorating entryways with 'alpana' or 'jhoti' designs on a fine layer of cowdung. The designs of jhoti include the foot print of the Goddess of fortune – Maa Laxmi surrounded by floral designs and the Gaj for prosperity.

# CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

An Indicative List



**Akash Das** is an acclaimed advertising and fashion photographer who has excelled in Fine Art and Wildlife Photography. He has 10 solo exhibitions in prestigious galleries of Miami, Paris, Hamburg, Chicago and India to his credit.

**Bandeep Singh** is one of India's best-known editorial photographers. A recipient of the Charles Wallace fellowship in photography, his works are part of the permanent collection of Essl Museum of Contemporary Art in Vienna.

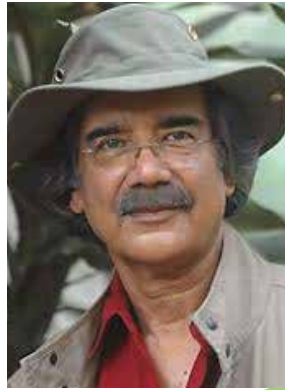
**Kalyan Varma** is a Bangalore based wildlife photographer, filmmaker and conservationist. He is one of the founders of Peepli project; co-director of Nature InFocus nature and wildlife festival; founding member of India Nature Watch. He is recipient of the prestigious Carl Zeiss Wildlife Conservation award and has contributed some beautiful photographs for GajMahotsav.

**Rajesh Bedi** is one of the most acclaimed and awarded photographers of the last three decades. His path breaking images have found their way into leading international magazines and various encyclopaedias. He is the first Asian to be awarded the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in the world's premier photography competition organized by Natural History Museum, BBC wildlife magazines and others. He has also been bestowed the Lifetime Photography Award by the Government of India, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. A selection of his work on elephants is showcased at GajMahtosav



# CONTRIBUTING FILMMAKERS

An Indicative List



**Mike Pandey** is a Green Oscar and National Award winning Indian film maker specialising in films about wildlife and the environment.

**Krishnendu Bose** has made several films on wildlife conservation and environmental justice. The recipient of the CMS-UNEP Prithvi Ratna Lifetime Achievement Award and a National Award, he will interact with audiences at film track of GajMahotsav.

**Rita Banerji** is a wildlife and environment filmmaker and educator using video for conservation in her unique venture Green Hub that has created a new generation of conservationist communicators using film as a medium projecting wildlife and people, indigenous knowledge and biodiversity.

**Ashish Chandola** has shot wildlife films exclusively for Survival Anglia in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. He also works on wildlife films for the MoEFCC and other producers.

\*Look forward to all these and more from Sangita Iyer, Biju Pankaj, Ashok Patel, Anandhakumar, Praveen Singh, Saravanakumar, Suresh Elamon, Sumesh Lekhi and Nicole Jordan-Webber and Sandesh Kadur

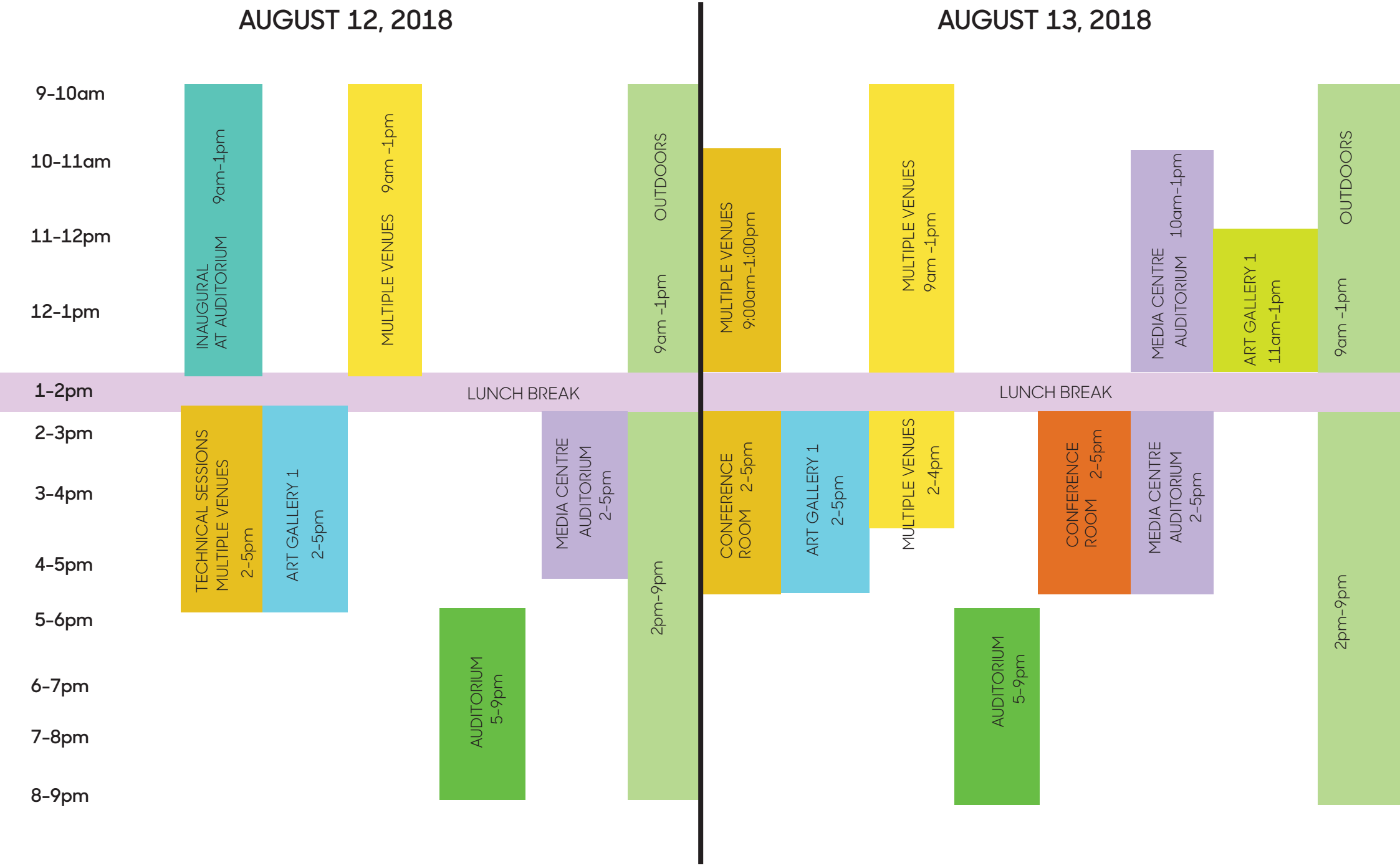
# PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

indicative and subject to change

OPENING	GAJA SHAstra	AIRAVAT	BALA GAJA	GAJOTSAVA	GAJA SUTRA	GAJA GAMINI	GAJA DHARMA	GAJA YATRA
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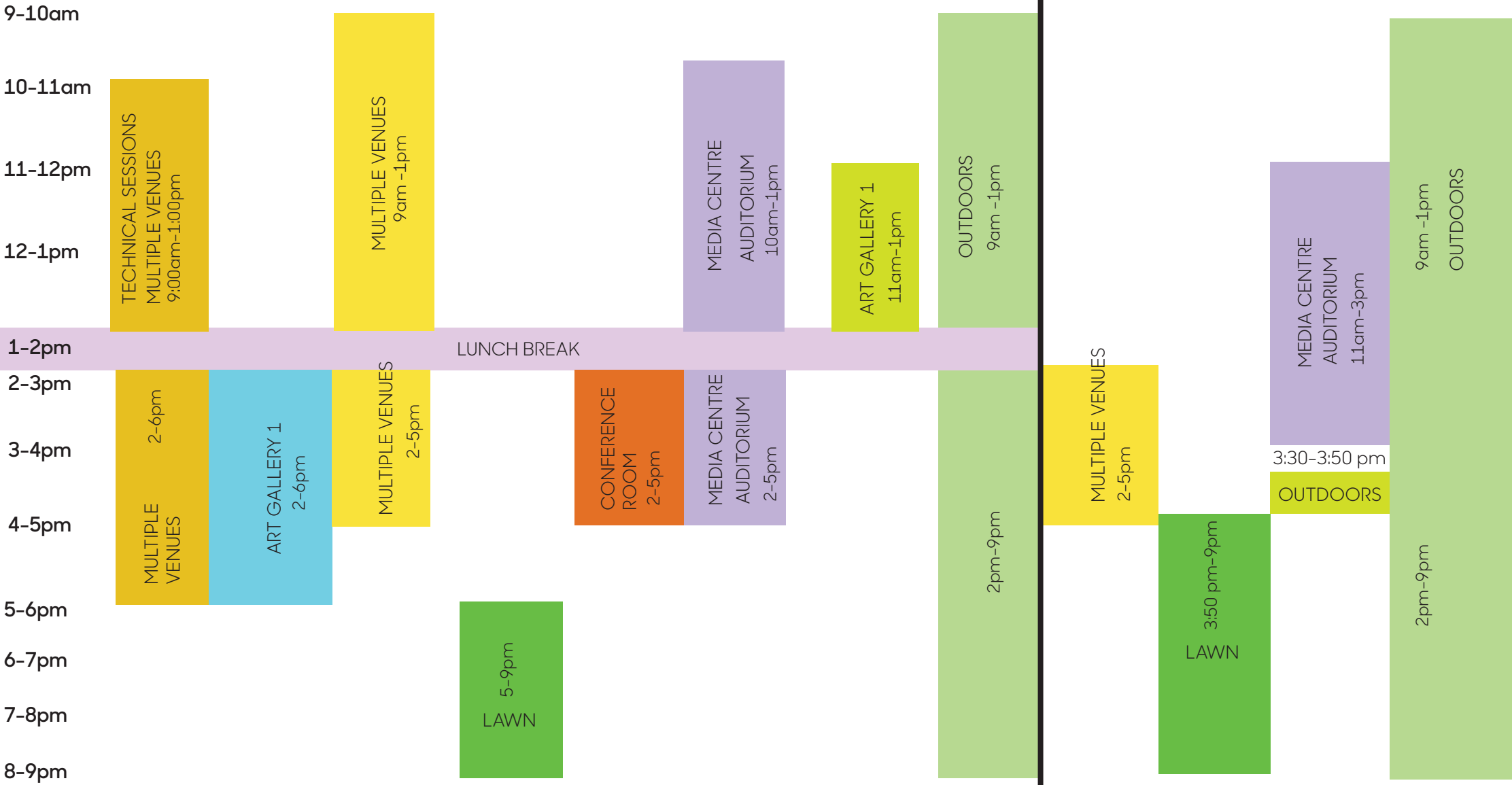
AUGUST 12, 2018

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**

Hon'ble Forest Minister of Assam Shri Parimal Sukhlabaidya, Director General of Forests Shri Siddhanta Das, pioneer conservationist and bureaucrat Dr. M.K.Ranjitsinh 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) and Mr. Sukumar Rangatnathan (Hindustan Times) in conversation with Mrs. Mrinal Pande (former Chair, Prasar Bharati)

# GAJA SHASTRA

*Dialogues on Elephants and National Policy*

# AUGUST 13, 2018

**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**

**12:00–1:00 pm**

**Leadership Panel 3: The Apolitical Animal:**

All party views on the Asian elephant: Politicians Shri AH Vishwanath, MLA Hunsur and former Forest Minister, Karnataka; Ms. Agatha Sangma, National People's Party Meghalaya and former Union Minister; 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

**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**

**4:00–5:00 pm**

## Main Auditorium

**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 Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP in conversation with Mr. Kelvin Alie EVP IFAW

**Leadership Panel 6: Role of Public Broadcasters in Campaigning for the Elephant:**

Mr. F Sheryar (DG AIR); Smt. Supriya Sahoo (DG DD) in conversation with Ms. Sabina Kidwai, Asst. Professor (Film), Jamia Millia Islamia

# GAJA SHASTRA

## *Dialogues on Elephants and National Policy*

# AUGUST 14, 2018

**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**

**Keynote Address by Shri Suresh Prabhu**

Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce and Industry

**12:00-12:45 pm**

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

Mr. Prasad Menon, Chairman of the Board, WTI, Mr. Punit Lalbhai, Executive Director Arvind Mills Ltd., 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, Ms. Shriti Malhotra, COO The Body Shop & Mr. JP Guhathakurta General Manager, Kanan Devan Hills Plantation Company in conversation with Dr. Arun Venkataraman, Senior Fellow, ERM India

**2:30-3:15 pm**

**3:15-4:00 pm**

**4:00-5:00 pm**

## Main Auditorium

**Leadership Panel No 9: Centre-State cooperation to strengthening Project Elephant**

Shri. Tom Jose, Chief Secretary Kerala; Shri. MS Negi, ADG (Wildlife); Shri. D Subramanyam EA Karnataka; Shri. Vinod Rishi former ADG (WL) in conversation with Mr. Elias George, bureaucrat and Trustee WTI

**Leadership Panel 10: A Jumbo Task: Bringing Civil Society together to save the Indian elephant**

Ms Sejal Worah, WWF India; Ms. Belinda Wright, WPSI; Mr. Bibhab Talukdar, Secretary General and CEO, Aaranyak in conversation with Dr. Erach Bharucha, Founding Director BVIEER

**Leadership Panel 11: United Solutions: A common Minimum Program to save the Indian elephant**

Shri. Jairam Ramesh, MP and former Union Minister Environment and Forests (Congress); Shri. B. Viswam, Mr. Derek O'Brien, MP (Trianmool Congress); Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, MP (BJP) in conversation with senior journalist and Editorial Director of India Today Group Mr. Raj Chengappa



## 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

# GAJA SHASTRA

*Dialogues on Elephants and National Policy*

**12-15 AUGUST, 2018**

AUGUST 12, 2018

**2:00-4:30 pm**

## Conference Hall

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

Chaired by Sandeep Tripathi, PCCF (WL), Odisha and co-chaired by Perna Bindra, Conservationist and Former Member National Board for Wildlife

AUGUST 13, 2018

**9:00-10:00 am**

## Amphitheatre

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

**11:30-1:00 pm**

## Conference Hall

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

Chaired by Shri R K Srivastava, Former IGF and Director Project Elephant, MoEFCC and Arun Venkatraman, Technical Director, ERM and member Asian Elephant Specialist Group

AUGUST 14, 2018

**9:00-10:00 am**

## Amphitheatre

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

**11:30-1:00 pm**

## Conference Hall

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

Chaired by Shri A.N.Prasad, Former Director Project Elephant and Retired APPCF Jharkhand and Co Chaired by Jason Bell, VP International Operations IFAW

# GAJA SUTRA

*Unraveling the story of the Asian Elephants*

# AUGUST 13, 2018

## Conference Room

**2:00-2:20 pm**

Inauguration of seminar

**2:20-2:40 pm**

**Responsible Conservation Reporting**

by senior journalist Samudragupta Kashyap

**2:40-3:00 pm**

**Lets talk elephants**

Senior elephant researcher and conservationist Surendra Varma

**3:00-3:45 pm**

Interactive session by Prerna 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



## Conference Room

**2:00-2:20 pm**

Address by veteran journalist, former Chair Prasar Bharati and Trustee WTI, Mrinal Pande

**2:20-2:40 pm**

**Lets talk elephants**

Senior elephant researcher and conservationist Surendra Varma

**2:45-3:15 pm**

**Responsible Conservation Reporting**

senior journalist and Lok Sabha TV Abhilash Khandekar

**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

# 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**

Shri. Shagun Jain, Smt. Narayani Ganesh and Shri. Kawaljeet Singh in conversation with scholar of religion and philosophy Dr. NVK Ashraf



# GAJA DHARMA

*Elephants in Religious Traditions*

# AUGUST 14, 2018

**Twin Art Gallery 1**

**11:30-12:15 pm**

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

**12:15-1:00 pm**

Haji Syed Salman Chishty and Sri Chidanand Swami in conversation with Buddhist scholar,  
Dharmacharya Shantum Seth





# GAJA DHARMA

*Elephants in Religious Traditions*

## AUGUST 15, 2018

**3:30 – 3:50 pm**

**Mati Ghar Lawns  
with Elephants**

All Faith Prayer meeting with 101 elephants



# BALA GAJA

*The Secret World of Indian Elephants*

## AUGUST 12, 2018

**9:00–11:00 am**

Clay Modelling workshop  
for kids with Delhi Blue Pottery

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**

Painting & Story telling  
workshop with Bulbul Sharma

Space Outside Art Gallery

**2:00–4:00 pm**

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

Lawn opp. Media Centre

# 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

**9:00–11:30 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

**3:00–4:00 pm**

Secret Lives of Indian Mammals  
with author and conservationist Vivek Menon  
(young adults)

Amphitheatre

**2:00–4:00 pm**

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

Space Outside Art Gallery



# 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

**10:00-11:00am**

Secret Lives of Indian Mammals with author and conservationist Vivek Menon (kids)

Amphitheatre

**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

**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 12, 2018**

Twin Art Gallery

**10:50-11:00 am**

Inauguration of Photography & Painting  
Exhibitions at Twin Art Gallery 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 YATRA

*A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art*

**AUGUST 13, 2018**

Twin Art Gallery 1

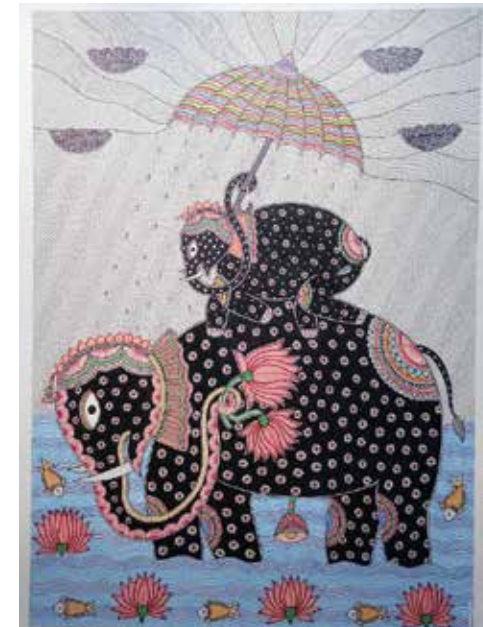
**9:00am – 6:00 pm**

Photography Exhibition curated by Alka Pande

Twin Art Gallery 2

**9:00am – 6:00 pm**

Painting Exhibition curated by Ina Puri





# GAJA YATRA

*A Representation of Elephant Journeys Through Art*

**AUGUST 14, 2018**

Twin Art Gallery 1

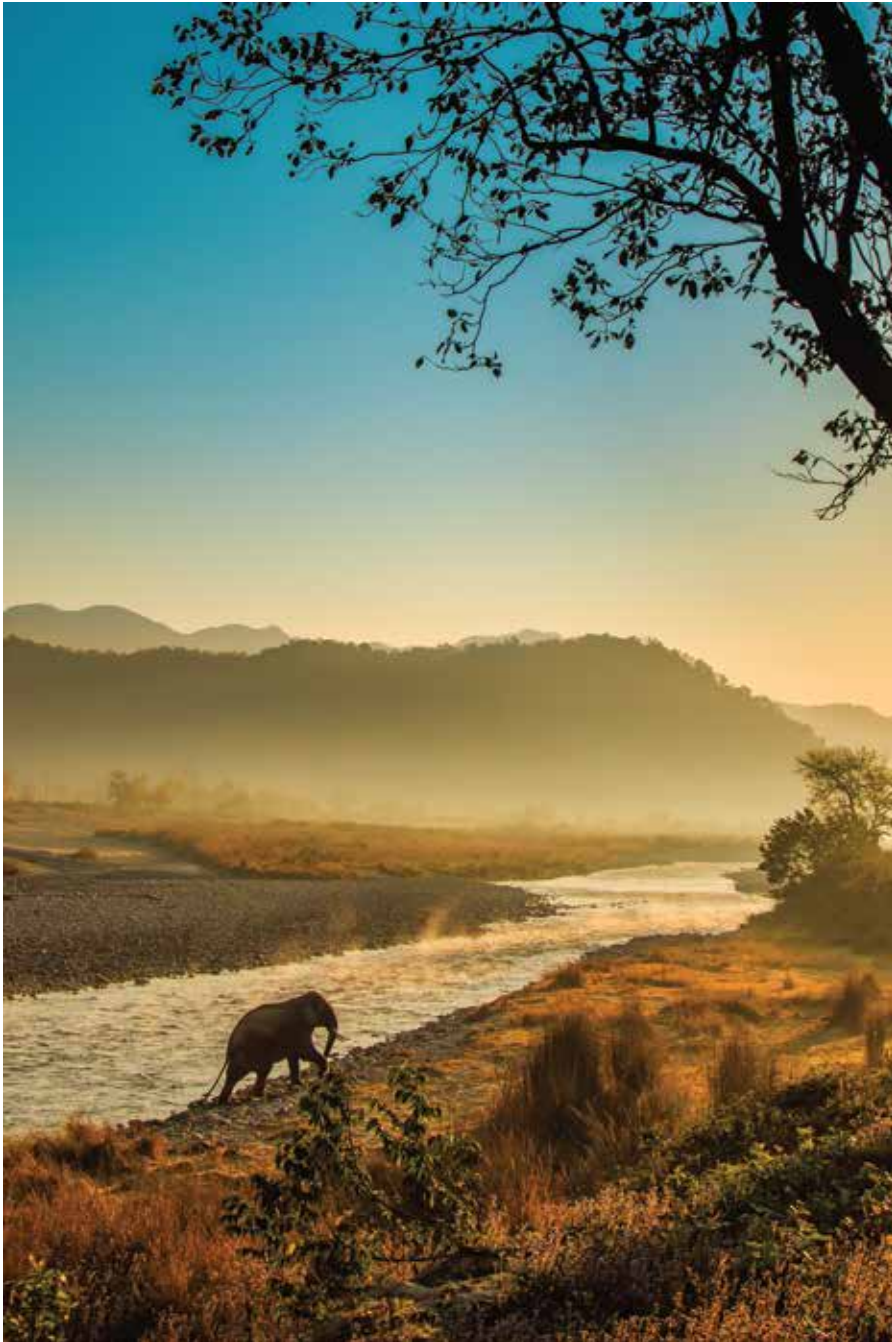
**9:00am – 6:00 pm**

Photography Exhibition curated by Alka Pande

Twin Art Gallery 2

**9:00am – 6:00 pm**

Painting Exhibition curated by Ina Puri



# 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**

**9:00am – 6:00 pm**

Painting Exhibition curated by Ina Puri





# 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

Seema Kohli, Jatin Das, Paresh Maity, Manu Parekh, Madhavi Parekh, Jayasri Burman, Shuvaprasanna, Rini Dhumal, Radhakrishnan, Sunil Gawde, Arun Kumar H G, Yogesh Mahida, Veer Munshi, V. Ramesh, Venkat Raman Shyam, Shipra Bhattacharya, Dhavat Singh, Anil Chaitya Bangad, Mahalaxmi, Saroj Venkat Shyam, Subhash, Kalyan Joshi, Gopal Joshi, Ramesh Tekam, Pranab Narayan Das, Farhad Hussain, Sujata Bajaj, Megha Joshi, Kalam Patua, Debashish Mukherjee, Shalina Vichitra, Hemi Bawa, Baiju Parthan, Babu Xavier and Sulu Mathew



# 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

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



**GAJA GAMINI**

*Indian Elephants in Cinema*

**12 AUGUST, 2018**

**Media Centre Auditorium**

**2:00 -2:10 pm**

Introduction by Mike Pandey  
to *Vanishing Giants & The Last Migration*

**2:10- 2:15 pm**

*Vanishing Giants* (5 mins)  
by Mike Pandey

**2:15- 2:50 pm**

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

**2:50- 3:15 pm**

*Freedom Seekers* (25 mins)  
by Biju Pankaj

**3:15-5:00 pm**

FEATURE FILM

# GAJA GAMINI

*Indian Elephants in Cinema*

# 13 AUGUST, 2018

**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**

**2:55-4:15 pm**

**4:15- 5:00 pm**

## 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

*Elephant Kingdom* (48 mins) by Sandesh Kadur

# GAJA GAMINI

*Indian Elephants in Cinema*

# 14 AUGUST, 2018

11:00–11:20 am

11:20–11:45 am

11:45–12:00 pm

12:00–12:15 pm

2:00–3:25 pm

3:25–3:35 pm

3:35–5:00 pm

## Media Centre Auditorium

*On the Right Track* (16 mins)  
by Rita Banerji

*Saving the Wild* (25 mins)  
by Rita Banerji

Talk by Rita Banerji followed by a Q&A session

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

*Bastion of Giants* (84 mins)  
by Sumesh Lekhi

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

FEATURE FILM



**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

**3:00-5:00 pm**

FEATURE FILM

# 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

# 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

## 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 and historian Irfan S. Habib in conversation with war historian Shiv Kunal Verma

**4:15–5:00 pm**

**Bringing the elephant centre stage:**

Creating a new culture; Communication guru Madhukar Kamath, publisher Ravi Singh author Chandrahaas Choudhury and social media expert Amrita Tripathi in conversation with artist Shakti Maira

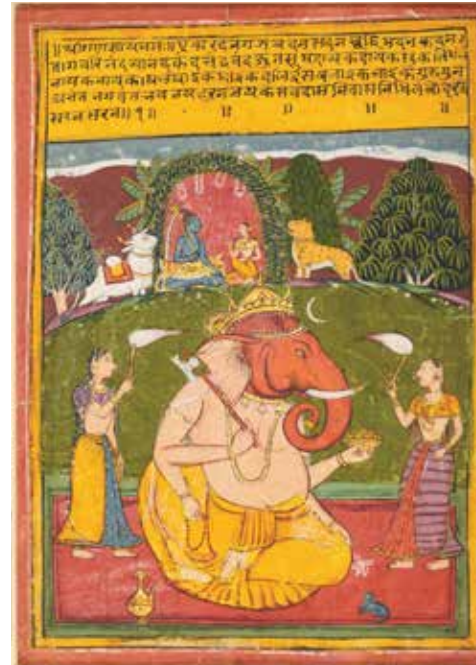


# AIRAVATA

*Elephants in Indian Ethos and Culture*

# AUGUST 15, 2018

Twin Art Gallery 1



**11:30-12:15 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

**12:15-1:00 pm**

**Poetry Session**  
Sugathakumari, Jeyamohan,  
Nabanita Dev and Geetha Hariharan

# GAJOTSAVA

*An Evening with Elephants*

# AUGUST 12, 2018

**5:00–5:15 pm**

Lighting of lamp followed by a Ganesh Vandana

**5:15–5:30 pm**

Address by Guest of Honour

**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.

Auditorium

**8:00–8:30 pm**

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

**8:30–9:00 pm**

Gurukul Chhau Dance Sangam

# GAJOTSAVA

*An Evening with Elephants*

# AUGUST 13, 2018

**5:00–5:15 pm**

Lighting of lamp followed by a Ganesh Vandana

**5:15–5:45 pm**

**God in Chains:** Welfare of captive elephants  
Address by Guest of Honour Maneka Gandhi,  
Honbl'e Minister for Women & Child Development

**5:45–6:30 pm**

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

Auditorium

**6:30–7:00 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**

**Bharatanatyam performance**  
by Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan's Troupe

Auditorium

# GAJOTSAVA

*An Evening with Elephants*

# AUGUST 14, 2018

**5:00-5:15 pm**

Lighting of lamp followed by a Ganesh Vandana

Lawn With Stage

**5:15-5:45 pm**

**Elephant as a Tourism Cause Celebre**  
by Guest of Honour Shri Alphons Kannathanam, Hon'ble Minister  
of State for Tourismt

**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



# GAJOTSAVA

*An Evening with Elephants*

# AUGUST 15, 2018

**3:30–3:50 pm**

All faith Prayer meeting with 101 elephants

Mati Ghar Lawns  
with elephants

**3:50–4:00 pm**

Lighting of lamp followed by a Ganesh Vandana

Auditorium

**4:00–4:30 pm**

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

**4:30–5:30 pm**

Elephants in Pop Culture, a Celebrity Panel with noted  
filmmakers Kabir Khan and others in conversation with WTI  
Founder and CEO, Vivek Menon

**5:30–6:30 pm**

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

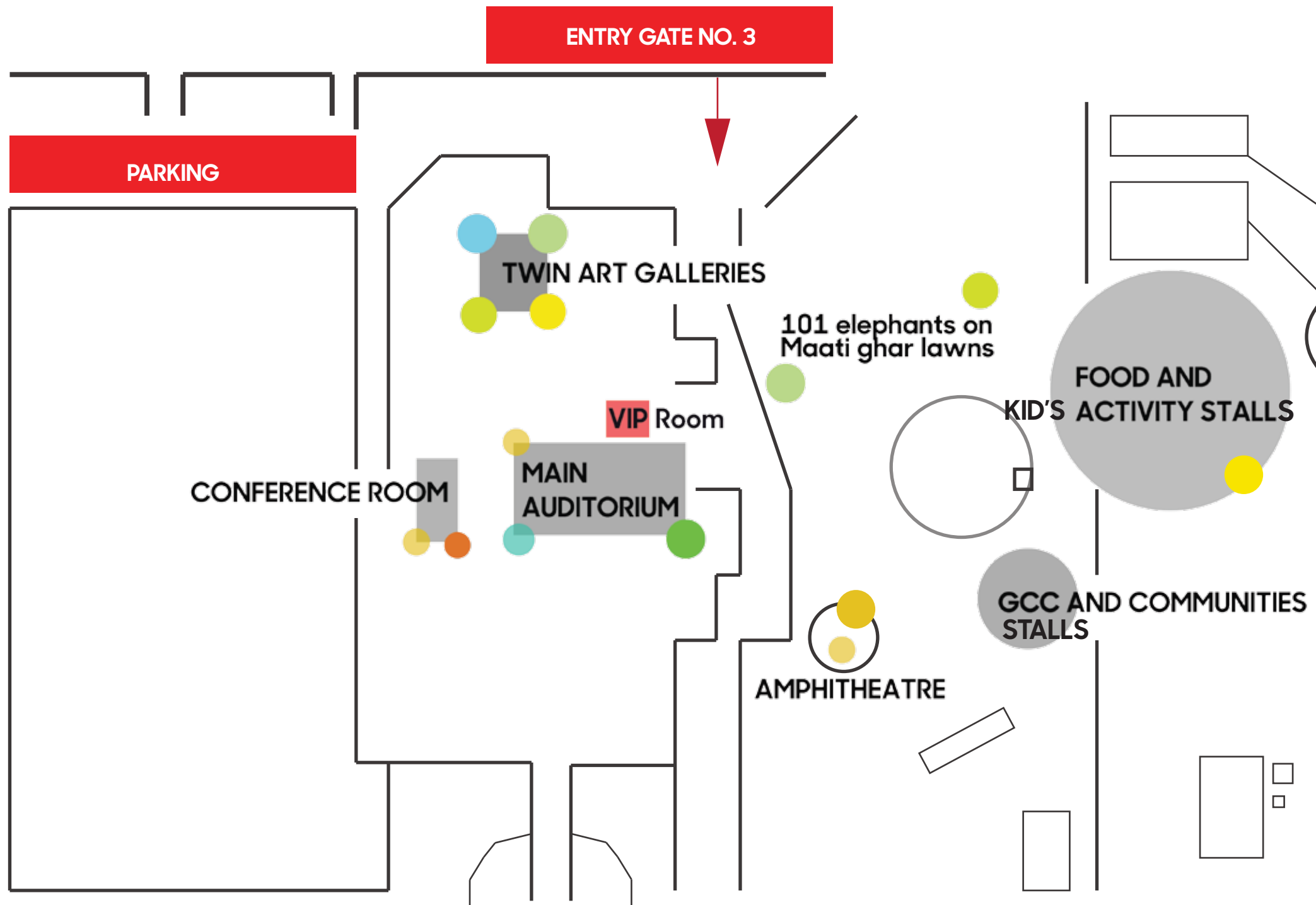
**6:30–7:00 pm**

Light Refreshments

**7:00–9:00 pm**

Closing Finale:  
Performance by popular rock band Euphoria

Lawn with Stage

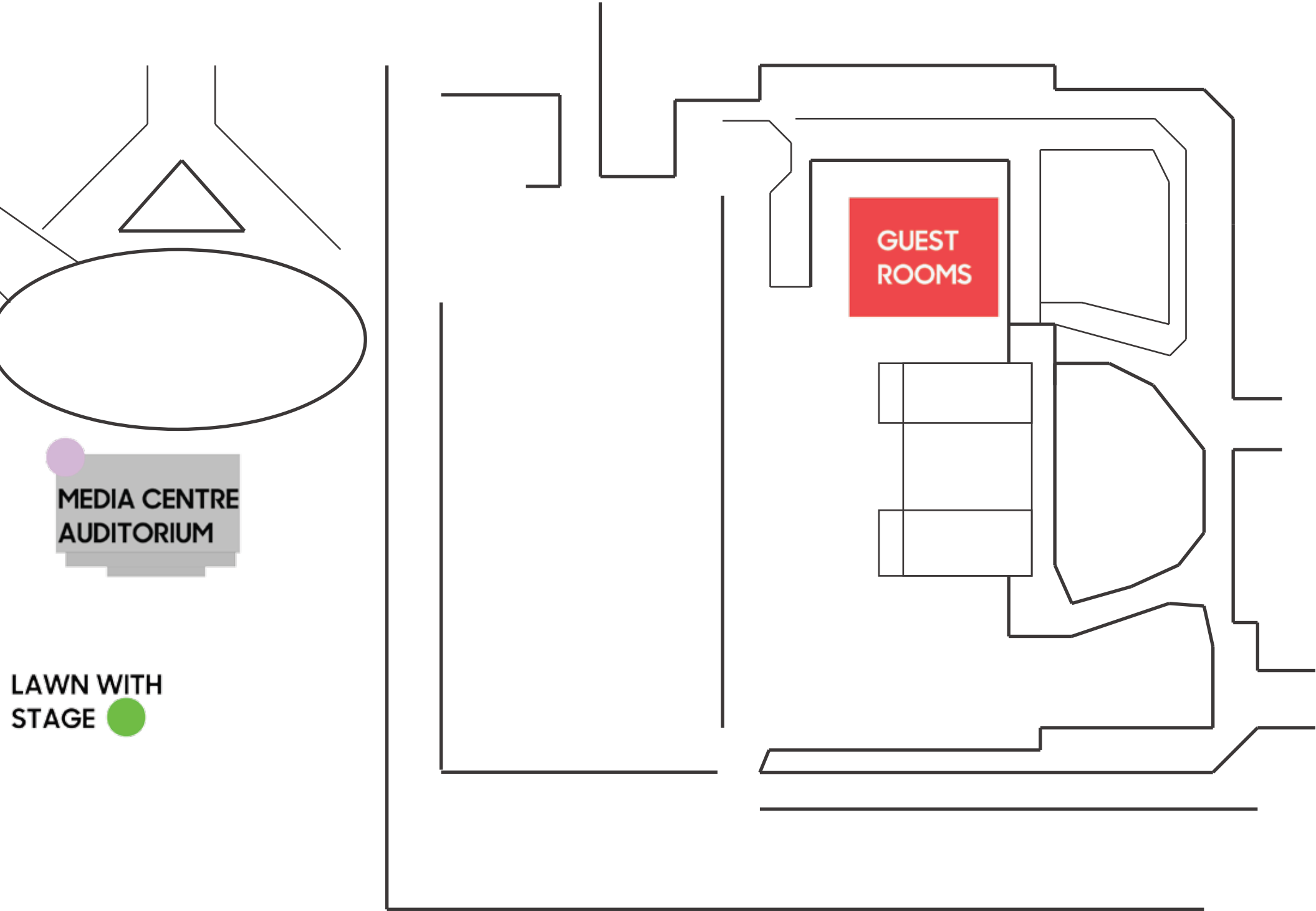


INAUGURAL CEREMONY

GAJA SHASTRA + GCC + TECHNICAL SESSIONS

GAJA SUTRA

BALA GAJA



MEDIA CENTRE  
AUDITORIUM

GUEST  
ROOMS

LAWN WITH  
STAGE

GAJA GAMINI

GAJA YATRA

AIRAVATA

GAJOTSAVA

GAJA DHARMA

# MY SCHEDULE AT GAJMAHOTSAV 2018

DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 3

DAY 4



# 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.

Photo by Prakhar Krishen





**'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.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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