

Forest dept brings out 2024 calendar featuring wild animals of Kappatagudda

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Gadag: The forest department is not leaving any stone unturned in protecting and popularising Kappatagudda forest. The department has now come out with a one-page calendar for the year 2024. It is a special calendar focusing on the wildlife of Kappatagudda.

The forest department has now commenced the second phase of a scientific survey of wild animals in the Kappatagudda forest. In the first phase, the forest department installed trap cameras at some points. These cameras captured the presence of some wild animals.

Now, the department is also carrying out the second phase survey focusing on the presence of wolves and carnivorous animals in the forest area. The forest department started a sign survey to prove the presence of wild animals in the Kappatagudda forest areas to protect the hill from illegal mining activities, said a source.

In a special gesture, it has published the 2024 calendar featuring some important wild animals found in Kappatagudda Hill.

Dipika Bajpai, deputy conservator of forest, Gadag told TOI that they have been coming up with calendars for the past two years. "Last year, we published a 12-page calendar that featured rare pictures of Kappatagudda, camps

conducted in the hill, important places in Gadag, and other activities carried out by the forest department to protect Kappatagudda region from poachers and to stop other illegal activities,” she said.

“But, this year, we have focused on highlighting only the wildlife of Kappatagudda and have brought out a one-page calendar featuring rare pictures of wild animals including leopards, smooth-coated otters, porcupine, wolf, spotted deer, black buck, four-horned antelope and other animals along with the pictures bar-headed geese of Magadi lake. Our beat guard, Prakash Ganiger, is also a good wildlife photographer and we have used some of the pictures captured by him in our annual calendar,” she added.

Bajpai said their main intention is to popularise Kappatagudda and protect the flora and fauna in the forest. “Hence, we came up with a special annual calendar dedicated to the wildlife of Kappatagudda this year,” she said.

She informed that the department has printed 2,000 copies, and will distribute them to all departments and gram panchayats. “If needed, we will publish more calendars,” she went on to say.

We also published the following articles recently

UP to have more wildlife, forest guards
The state cabinet approves increase in number of forest and wildlife guards; forest guards to increase from 2,918 to 3,647 and wildlife guards from 259 to 266. Physical standards requirement removed for grade four staff promoted as guards; pay matrix to be applied to salary instead of grade pay.106140489

Colonies inside Hastinapur sanctuary: Forest department mulls issuing notice
The forest department is considering issuing notices to residential colonies developed within the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary in response to the violation of regulations. Three colonies were found in the sanctuary, despite the rule prohibiting such construction. The land was converted from agricultural to non-agricultural use with the approval of the revenue department. The forest department states that the nature of the land cannot be changed in the sanctuary area and no new colony can be established without their permission. The UP government plans to establish eco-sensitive zones to promote tourism.106169329

Roadkills of wild animals on the rise in Goa: Study
Lack of underpasses and overpasses for roads and railways, along with reckless driving, are the major reasons for the rise in roadkills of wild animals in Goa. The study

conducted by SAWE indicates that roadkill incidents, mainly consisting of reptiles and amphibians, are on the rise as these animals are unable to make swift movement on tar roads. The survey has also revealed that even schedule I animals like leopard, monitor lizard, and Indian rock python are found killed while crossing roads. Construction of roads and railways are done without understanding wildlife crossing, and no efforts have been made to provide underpasses and overpasses for wild animals.106239452