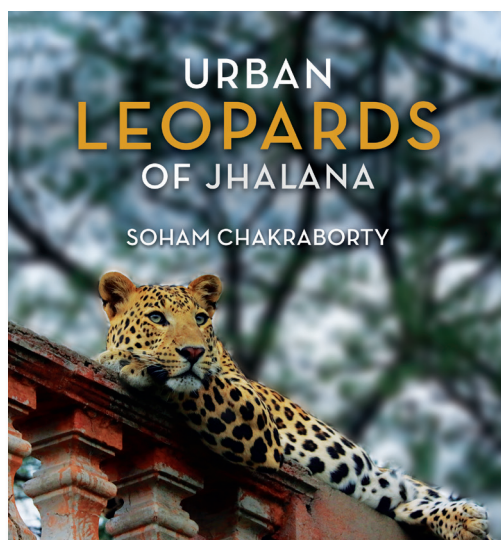


A unique deep dive into the lives of the 'urban' leopards of Jhalana.

The book explores and emphasizes the importance of peaceful man-animal co-existence in urban areas.

Sparks a conversation about the oft-neglected, but highly vulnerable Indian leopard and its crucial role in diverse Indian ecosystems.



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Urban Leopards of Jhalana

Soham Chakraborty

An egalitarian living tradition, allowing one to reach out to the gods

In this land of big cats, the Indian leopard has been historically sidelined, despite being classified as a vulnerable Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Researcher and photographer Soham Chakraborty decides to bring this magnificent feline to the fore, drawing from his fieldwork in the unique landscape of Jhalana, the first leopard conservation reserve in India, which officially kickstarted the revolutionary Project Leopard in the country in 2018.

Jhalana, a forested land (about 20 sq km) in southern Jaipur, has one of the highest densities of leopards in the entire country. As per the 2022 census, there are more than 40 'urban' leopards in the area. Chakraborty introduces us to some of the most beloved leopards of the reserve, gives us a vivid play-by-play of his encounters with them over the years, and draws an interesting contrast between these urban leopards and leopards across other Indian regions, while busting several myths about the animal. Urban Leopards of Jhalana is an exploration and demonstration of the largely under-researched possibilities of peaceful human-animal co-existence and how crucial it is for the conservation of vulnerable species in times of growing urbanisation.



Soham Chakraborty is an electronics engineer turned wildlife photographer with a passion for big cats. Soham's love for nature made him leave his corporate job and pursue a Masters in Wildlife Science from BVIEER, Pune.

Now a certified internal auditor, Soham has been associated with various research organizations including the Wildlife Trust of India, DIPAS (DRDO) and IIT Kanpur. His research on the urban leopards of Jhalana aims to bring leopard conservation efforts in India to the fore.

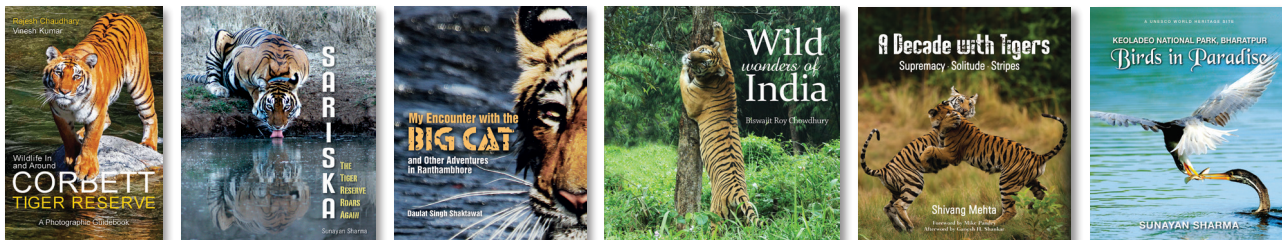
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Other books on Wildlife



Extract from the book:

[...] I believe that more research needs to be conducted in uncharted landscapes that boast of a healthy leopard population, since leopards thriving in different habitats vary in terms of their behavioural and dietary patterns. For research purposes, we conduct studies only in known Protected Areas, and fail to explore what lies beyond. Like Jhalana, there are numerous unmapped places in the country which are inhabited by these majestic big cats. Researchers from esteemed institutions should take initiative and discover more of these lesser-known places. Being such an adaptable big cat, leopards play a crucial role in maintaining a balanced food web in their ecosystem and are classified as a Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Hence, it is the need of the hour to initiate further innovative, sustainable steps towards the conservation of this incredible, yet often neglected vulnerable species.