India – Go Slow ... in Tiger Country

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 20 November 2019





Sloth Bear





Leopard

Common Rose butterfly

Report & Images compiled by Dhanya Venkatesh



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Tour participants: Dhanya Venkatesh (Leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

Highlights of the tour

Go Slow - the most amazing way of exploring one of the most exclusive parks in central India.

We had great sightings, the highlights of the tour being one Tiger, two Leopards and one Sloth Bear, plus over 100 species of birds and various species of butterflies.

Some memorable moments of the tour were Sonia, Karen, Dorrit and Barbara having great views of a Giant Squirrel for nearly half an hour, while Vanessa, Janet, Robin and Simon saw a Leopard on the last morning very close to the lodge. The birders enjoyed amazing views of special birds like the Malabar Pied Hornbills. The group also had a Leopard sighting on the first drive in the park, it was lovely to see the camouflage of these spotted cats.

The last game drive gave us most luck with the Tiger sighting and a Bear sighting. The tour certainly lived up to and on occasions exceeded expectations.

Day 1

Sunday 10th November

Group members departed from the UK by flight to India.

Day 2

Monday 11th November

The flight from Heathrow was delayed by nearly an hour and the group landed at Delhi IGI airport at 10am. After a brief round of introductions we headed towards the bus. There was dense fog or rather smog and we could instantly feel the polluted air, but we soon left the city traffic behind and reached Claridges Hotel where we would be staying for the next couple of nights.

The check-in process took a little longer than expected, but soon we were handed our keys and we decided to head to the rooms first to freshen up, after which we would have a leisurely lunch.

This evening we had no activities planned and therefore met back at 7:30pm for drinks and discussed the plans for the whole tour in general and a detailed plan about activities for the following day. We finished dinner by 10:30pm and said our goodnights after agreeing to meet back at 9:30am tomorrow.

Day 3

Tuesday 12th November

It was another leisurely morning and we all seemed to have recovered a little after the long journey. We met Kuldeep who would guide us around the various monuments of Old Delhi. We drove past Lodhi Gardens en route to Red Fort, which impressed one and all with its grandeur and architecture. We spent nearly two hours exploring the various sections of the fort and enjoying the views. We then got onto a couple of rickshaws and drove through the chaotic roads of Old Delhi and reached Chandni Chowk, the markets of Delhi where almost everything is available. We walked through the streets that had almost every spice that was available in town and

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the smells were just incredible. After a walk through the bazaar, we boarded the rickshaws again and headed to the largest mosque in India, the Jumma Masjid. Dorrit, Vanessa, Simon, Sonia and Barbara chose to stay back while Robin, Janet and Karen went inside the mosque and returned in about half an hour after having learnt more about the structure from Kuldeep.

After this we headed to Chor Bizarre, an old fashioned restaurant, for lunch and following this we drove back to the hotel via the President's House to enjoy the sheer expanse of the building. It was extremely nostalgic for Vanessa who had lived in India almost 30 years ago. Once at the hotel, we relaxed a little before we met back for dinner at 7pm. We finished dinner early as we had a very early start the next morning.

Day 4

Wednesday 13th November

We left for the airport during the wee small hours of the morning. It was a smooth ride to the airport and the check in formalities were done without much ado. When we reached Bhopal, the air was so much cleaner than at Delhi. We had a four hour drive ahead of us from Bhopal. The roads were bumpy with lots of pot holes and had heavier traffic than usual due to the ongoing work on the highway. We reached Renipani in time for lunch and decided to eat first so that we could all relax and catch up on some sleep. We met back in the evening for our checklist and some drinks followed by dinner.

Day 5

Thursday 14th November

It was our first morning going into the reserve and we left the lodge at 5:30am. One of the jeeps saw a Jungle Cat on the way to the park gate while the other jeep saw a Barn Owl and an Indian Hare. We reached the reservoir and took a short boat ride across the water and got into the designated jeeps. The morning was a little chilly but pleasant and we drove around the forest enjoying the various sights and sounds. We saw a number of Spotted Deer, the odd Sambar Deer and troops of Langurs. Some of the birds spotted included Crested Serpent Eagle, Jungle Babblers, Drongos, Parakeets (three species), and Indian Peafowl.

We reached the designated spot for breakfast and had barely set up the breakfast things when the other jeep drove up to us and mentioned a Leopard they had just seen. We soon packed the breakfast and dashed off in the direction of the sighting. Soon we saw the Leopard who was well hidden in the dense bamboo on a rocky outcrop. We watched as the Leopard ate what seemed like a young sambar deer fawn. We spent almost half an hour watching the Leopard and once it got up and disappeared into the bush we proceeded to have our delayed breakfast.

Post breakfast we continued with our drive towards the exit still amazed by the camouflage of the cat. Wow!! We took the boats back to the main parking area and got back to Renipani at 12noon and went straight for lunch. This gave us the much needed break we were all glad of after a long journey and not forgetting an early start two days in a row.

After lunch most of us went back to sleep while Janet and Robin along with Vanessa had a swim. We met back at 6pm for some drinks followed by the checklist ritual and a lovely dinner.

Day 6

Friday 15th November

It was another morning safari today and we left the lodge at 5:30am. We saw a few nightjars but none sitting down so it was hard to identify them. We saw a Checkered Keelback cross the road in front of us. We reached the gate, took the boat ride across the water and drove around looking for squirrels and bears but the park seemed really quiet so we continued birding and butterfly watching instead. We saw Woodshrikes, Ioras, Treeswifts, eagles and flycatchers just to name a few and we also saw the Sailor, Rose, Baronet, Crow and Grass Yellow butterflies.

Back at the comforts of Renipani, we had lunch and got some rest. Some of us swam while other walked around the grounds. We met at 5pm for a cookery demonstration presented by the in-house Chef, who taught us to make Chicken Risalla and flat bean sautéed with spices. We finished the demo by getting some hands-on practice making garlic Naans - Simon enjoyed the tasting session the most. We then headed straight for the checklist, drinks and dinner.

Day 7

Saturday 16th November

This morning was at leisure and most woke up late. We met for breakfast at 8:30am and ate our first sit-down breakfast. Vanessa arrived a little later for breakfast, but was pleased that she got 11hours of sleep. We relaxed by the pool, some of us walked the grounds while others stayed indoors reading.

This morning we celebrated Janet's birthday and decided to resist the lovely cake until lunch. We met back for lunch at 12:30pm and left on our afternoon safari at 2:15pm. We did some birding near the fields and had great views of the Rosy and Pied Starlings, Pied Cuckoo and small passerines too.

We crossed the river and drove into the park. Some cars had seen a pair of Wild Dogs earlier in the morning, and upon checking the area we found a Wild Dog sleeping, hiding itself well amid the young teak saplings. We watched as it twitched its ears but it didn't wake up. The forest seemed very quiet and even the bird movement remains restricted. We saw many more butterflies and a few Leopard tracks but no sign of the cat.

We were back at the lodge at 6:30pm, headed to our rooms to freshen up and got back to have a lovely barbecue dinner outside with small bonfires. We headed back to our rooms soon after dinner as we were doing a morning drive the next day.

Day 8

Sunday 17th November

This morning we met at 5:30 and followed our usual routine. We decided that today we were going to look for the Indian Giant Squirrel. A Sloth Bear would be a bonus, so basically we went into areas where there was a maximum chance of seeing the squirrels. Any jeep with which we crossed paths would have a surprised look on their faces when we would say that we were looking for squirrels and they should inform us if they saw one...hahahhha!!!!

Around 8am we had a really lovely view of a squirrel on a Peepal Tree. He seemed to have just woken up and was cleaning his fur on his feet and his long bushy tail. He posed for ever so long, walked up and down the

branches scent-marking the entire branch at various intervals and then posed for us patiently until we got the camera settings right and were satisfied with our pictures. He then put on a show, leapt a few branches, nibbled a few leaves, scent marked again and once he realised that we had a great video of him, he carried on with his routine by disappearing into the forest.

We met the other jeep at breakfast and learnt that they were looking for the squirrel too but had no luck yet. We spent some time chatting and then decided that we would continue the drive looking for trails, tracks and sounds. We heard from one of the jeeps that a Leopard was seen earlier, so we drove to check that area and waited but didn't see the Leopard. We saw a skink and some butterflies instead. After waiting for a little while we decided to head back to the lodge as the sun was getting stronger.

We got back to Renipani, had lunch and got some rest. We met at 4pm for a pottery session. The local potter demonstrated the various ways in which he could work the wheel to create magical wares. Janet, Simon, Vanessa, Dorrit and Karen tried their hand at it and created some masterpieces. Post the session we headed straight for checklist, drinks and dinner.

Day 9

Monday 18th November

We had a leisurely morning today. Simon went for a walk, Barbara and Dorrit were getting used to the early mornings and were up at crack of dawn. We met at the Gol Ghar for breakfast, which was delicious. We decided to carry on with some leisurely walks in the grounds or just sun bathing by the pool. Some of us spent some time in the library too!!

Although we hadn't done much we were hungry and ready for lunch, so we met back at 12:30pm and left on our afternoon safari at 2:15pm. Sonia decided to opt out and get some rest from the bouncing about in jeeps. A short boat ride across the reservoir brought us to the entrance of the park where we drove just enjoying the beautiful landscape and feeling blessed that we could be here. It was again a quiet evening with little or nearly no bird activity. We saw the area where a bear had removed some boulders looking for termites, which gave us an idea of the strength this amazing animal has. We circled the area a couple of times looking for what might look like a moving boulder, but we didn't see the bear - maybe it decided to have a sleep.

We were back at the lodge at 6:30pm, headed to our rooms to freshen up and got back to have a lovely barbecue dinner set outside with small bonfires. We headed back to our rooms soon after dinner as we had our last morning drive tomorrow and a long day getting back to Delhi.

Day 10

Tuesday 19th November

This morning we met at 5:30 - we seemed to be getting a hang of the early mornings. On the way to the park, one of the jeeps with Vanessa, Simon, Janet and Robin saw a Leopard in the buffer zone quite close to the resort. What a start!!!

This morning Dhanya and Narendran had decided to take us to a completely different area for breakfast in the park. Neither would say anything more about where we were going. As we drove along we saw some fresh Tiger tracks, but since there were no alarm calls they decided to head towards the new area. We enjoyed the change in

scenery and the road got bumpier as we climbed steadily. Soon we arrived at the plateau with the view of the Satpura Hills – the result of a rift valley. We drove on a little further and walked through the forest and got to the breakfast point. The views from here just put our minds into a trance. We ate breakfast and had our coffees looking at the expanse of the forest which was surrounded by the reservoir.

Post breakfast Dhanya and Narendran mentioned that a Tiger was glimpsed in the bushes earlier and that we would drive past the area to see if it was still around. We had planned earlier in the day to cut short our drive by an hour, get back, freshen up and leave early so we could visit Bhimbetka en route to the airport, so we drove straight to where another of the Renipani jeeps was waiting. We heard Sambar alarm calls and also saw the Sambar looking over the water inlet. We drove further as the Sambar calls progressed towards the main track. As we rolled forward Dhanya and the guide called out the magical words "Tiger, Tiger". We stopped briefly so we could see the Tiger before it disappeared into the undergrowth. Both our jeeps pulled up on the main track and there he was, in his full glory, trying to cross the road but we guessed that the vehicles made it uncomfortable, so he retraced his path to the side road. The jeeps shot off like an arrow in that direction again, but the Tiger decided to change its path again, so we drove back to the main track and found the young male Tiger close to the road, snarling, so we decided not to approach him and to let him cross the road in peace. What a lovely morning!!

The forest wasn't done surprising us; a jeep ahead of us signalled about the presence of a Sloth Bear. We checked the area but didn't see the bear, so we had to make a decision – did we want to leave and visit the caves, or stay longer and try to see the bear. The bear won!

The jeeps went off in opposite directions trying to cover as much ground as possible on this bear hunt. Our other jeep spotted the bear first and as we approached we watched her as she dug the earth right next to us, hardly 50 metres from the jeeps. We enjoyed watching the bear digging oblivious to our presence. We couldn't believe our luck this morning and spoke about it on our way out of the park. What a lovely morning!!!!!

We got back to Renipani, headed straight to the rooms, packed and got back to have lunch. We left the lodge on the long drive to Bhopal airport, which took nearly five hours due to the road work and heavy traffic.

We reached Delhi later than planned, checked into the Pullman Hotel which was thankfully close enough to the airport, and said our goodbyes to Dhanya before heading to our rooms for a much-needed rest.

Day 11

Wednesday 20th November

We were picked up at 7:45am by the local representative and headed to the airport to board our flights back to the UK. This is where another amazing Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

						No	vem	ber			
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	Little Cormorant	Phalacrocorax niger			✓					✓	
2	Oriental Darter	Anhinga melanogaster					✓				
3	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea					✓	✓			
4	Great Egret	Ardea alba			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
5	Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia			✓						
6	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta			✓						
7	Indian Pond-heron	Ardeola grayii			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis							✓		
9	Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus							✓	✓	
10	Red-naped Ibis	Pseudibis papillosa						✓			
11	Cotton Pygmy-goose	Nettapus coromandelianus								✓	
12	Spot-billed Duck	Anas poecilorhyncha							✓		
13	Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus caeruleus						✓			✓
14	Black Kite	Milvus migrans		✓	✓						
15	Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus					✓				
16	White-rumped Vulture	Gyps bengalensis				✓					
17	Eurasian Griffon	Gyps fulvus					✓				
18	Crested Serpent-eagle	Spilornis cheela				✓	✓	✓	✓		
19	Shikra	Accipiter badius							✓		
20	White-eyed Buzzard	Butastur teesa				✓	✓	√	✓		
21	Bonelli's Eagle	Aquila fasciatus				✓					✓
22	Crested Hawk-eagle	Spizaetus cirrhatus				1	✓		1		
23	Jungle Bush-quail	Perdicula asiatica								✓	
24	Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus				h	h				
25	Grey Junglefowl	Gallus sonneratii					h				
26	Indian Peafowl	Pavo cristatus				1	✓	1	1		
27	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	/	✓							
28	Indian Thick knee	Burhinus oedicnemus	1				✓				
29	Great Thick-knee	Burhinus recurvirostris						✓			
30	River Lapwing	Vanellus duvaucelii						✓			
31	Red-wattled Lapwing	Vanellus indicus	✓	√	√	1	✓	· ·	/	✓	1
32	Little Tern	Sterna albifrons	+		•	, ·		· ✓	, ·		<u> </u>
33	Rock Dove	Columba livia					✓	✓	✓		
34	Oriental Turtle Dove	Streptopelia orientalis							•		✓
35	Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	∀
	· ·				✓		•	√		•	Ť
36	Laughing Dove	Streptopelia senegalensis		✓	V			V ✓	✓		
37	Yellow-footed Pigeon	Treron phoenicoptera		V		✓	✓	∨ ✓	∨ ✓		✓
38	Alexandrine Parakeet	Psittacula eupatria		✓	✓	∨ ✓	V	· ·	· •		_ v
39	Rose-ringed Parakeet	Psittacula krameri									-
40	Plum-headed Parakeet	Psittacula cyanocephala		✓	✓	✓	√	√	✓		
41	Pied Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus					√	✓			
42	Sirkeer Malkoha	Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii					✓				
43	Greater Coucal	Centropus sinensis						✓			
44	Barn Owl	Tyto alba					✓			✓	
45	Jungle Owlet	Glaucidium radiatum						Н	Н		
46	Spotted Owlet	Athene brama						✓			
47	Crested Treeswift	Hemiprocne coronata				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

			November										
	Common name	Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
48	Nightjar Sp					✓	✓						
49	Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis						✓	✓				
50	Stork-billed Kingfisher	Pelargopsis capensis					Н						
51	White-throated Kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
52	Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis					✓						
53	Indian Roller	Coracias benghalensis			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
54	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops				✓	✓	✓	✓				
55	Indian Grey Hornbill	Ocyceros birostris					✓	✓	✓				
56	Malabar Pied-hornbill	Anthracoceros coronatus					✓	✓					
57	Brown-headed Barbet	Megalaima zeylanica		✓					✓				
58	Coppersmith Barbet	Megalaima haemacephala								Н			
59	Brown-capped Woodpecker	Dendrocopos moluccensis nanus					✓		✓				
60	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	Dendrocopos mahrattensis								✓			
61	Black-rumped Flameback	Dinopium benghalense				✓	✓	✓	✓				
62	White-naped Woodpecker	Chrysocolaptes festivus					✓						
63	Dusky Crag-martin	Ptyonoprogne concolor				✓	✓	✓	V				
64	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica				✓	✓	✓	, ·		✓		
65	Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo rustica Hirundo smithii				•	✓		✓		Ť		
						✓	∨		· •		✓		
66	Red-rumped Swallow	Cecropis daurica			✓	V	V				∨		
67	Streak-throated Swallow	Petrochelidon fluvicola			V						V		
68	White-browed Wagtail	Motacilla madaraspatensis	✓			√	√	√	√		L.,		
69	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea				✓	✓	√	✓		✓		
70	Oriental Pipit - Paddyfield	Anthus rufulus						✓			_		
71	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis							✓		_		
72	Large Cuckoo-shrike	Coracina macei				✓	✓	✓	✓				
73	Small Minivet	Pericrocotus cinnamomeus					✓	✓					
74	Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus flammeus							✓				
75	Red-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer				✓	✓	✓	✓				
76	Golden-fronted Leafbird	Chloropsis aurifrons								✓			
77	Common Iora	Aegithina tiphia					✓	✓	✓				
78	Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis						✓					
79	Grey-breasted Prinia	Prinia hodgsonii					✓						
80	Common Tailorbird	Orthotomus sutorius				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
81	Hume's Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus humei					✓						
82	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Ficedula parva				✓	?						
83	Tickell's Blue-flycatcher	Cyornis tickelliae				✓	✓	Н	Н				
84	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	Culicicapa ceylonensis				✓	Н	Н	✓				
85	Oriental Magpie-robin	Copsychus saularis				✓	✓	✓	1				
86	Indian Robin	Saxicoloides fulicata									✓		
87	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros							✓		Ė		
	White-browed Fantail						√	✓	· /				
88		Rhipidura aureola					∨	, ·	, ,		-		
89	Black-naped Monarch	Hypothymis azurea					∨ ✓				-		
90	Asian Paradise-flycatcher	Terpsiphone paradisi											
91	Jungle Babbler	Turdoides striatus				✓	√	√	✓	✓	✓		
92	Great Tit	Parus major					✓	√			-		
93	Oriental White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus				✓		✓					
94	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus					✓	✓	✓		_		
95	Black-hooded Oriole	Oriolus xanthornus					✓						
96	Bay-backed Shrike	Lanius vittatus					✓						
97	Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach				✓		✓	✓				

	Common name		November										
		Scientific name	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
99	Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
100	Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus					✓						
101	White-bellied Drongo	Dicrurus caerulescens					✓						
102	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus paradiseus					✓	✓	✓				
103	Rufous Treepie	Dendrocitta vagabunda		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
104	House Crow	Corvus splendens		✓	✓	✓			✓				
105	Large-billed Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos			✓	✓		✓					
106	Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
107	Asian Pied Starling	Gracupica contra			✓			✓	✓				
108	Rosy Starling	Pastor roseus						✓	✓				
109	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus					✓	✓					
110	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	Petronia xanthocollis				✓							
111	Nutmeg Mannikin	Lonchura punctulata						✓					
112	Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata						✓					
113	Indian Silverbill	Euodice malabarica						✓					

Mammals

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	Panthera tigris tigris								✓
2	Leopard	Panthera pardus			✓					✓
3	Jungle Cat	Felis chaus kelaarita or kutas			✓					
4	Rhesus Macaque	Macaca mulatta			✓		✓	✓		✓
5	'Northern Plains' Grey Langur	Semnopithecus entellus			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Golden Jackal	Canis aureus			Н	Н				
7	Dhole (Asiatic Wild Dog)	Cuon alpinus dukhunensis					✓			
8	Sloth Bear	Merursus ursinus								✓
9	Indian or Black-naped Hare	Lepus nigricollis			✓	✓		✓		
10	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	Funambulus pennarum			✓	✓		✓		
11	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	Funambulus pennanti	✓		✓					
12	Indian Giant Squirrel	Ratufa indica centralis						✓		
13	Gaur (Indian Bison)	Bos guarus			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Sambar	Cervus unicolor			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Chital (Spotted Deer)	Cervus axis			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Black Buck	Antilope cervicapra		✓						
17	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	Boselaphus tragocamelus			✓	✓	✓	✓		
18	Indian Wild Boar	Sus scrofa			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Reptiles and Amphibians

1	Indian Flapshell Turtle	Lissemys punctata					✓	
2	Marsh Mugger Crocodile	Crocodylus palustris		✓				
3	House Gecko sp	Hemidactylus or Gehyra etc sp		✓	✓			
4	Checkered Keelback	Xenochrophis piscator					✓	
5	Indian Wolf Snake	Lycodon aulicus				✓		
6	Rock Agama	Psammophilus blanfordanus					✓	
7	Skink sp						✓	
8	Common Tree Frog	Polypedates maculates			✓			
9	Common Indian Toad	Duttaphrynus melanostictus			✓			

Notable invertebrates

1	Giant Wood Spider	Nephila maculata		✓	✓		
2	Funnel Web Spider	Hippasa greenalliae			✓		

Butterflies

Tawny Coster, Acraea violae
Great Eggfly, Hypolimnas bolina
Lime, Papilio demoleus
Common Grass Yellow, Eurema hecabe
Crimson Rose, Pachliopta hector
Chocolate Pansy, Junonia iphita
Baronet, Euthalia nais
Striped Tiger, Danaus genutia
Guava Blue, Virachola isocrates

Common Indian Crow, Euploea core
Lemon Pansy, Junonia lemonias
Common Jezebel, Delias eucharis
Common Rose, Pachliopta aristolochiae
Common Mormon, Papilio polytes
Common Sailor, Neptis hylas
Common Leopard, Phalanta phalantha
Plain Tiger, Danaus chrysippus

Notable Trees

Teak, Tectonia grandis Saj, Terminalia elliptica Mango, Mangifera indica Peepal, Ficus religiosa Ghost gum, Sterculia urens Ber, Ziziphus mauritiana Mahua, Madhua longifolia
Tendu, Diospyros melanoxylon
Flame of the forest, Butea monosperma
Banyan, Ficus benghalensis
Bel, Aegle marmelos
Amla, Phyllanthus emblica

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Funnel-web Spider

Indian Giant Squirrel