

#SOCIALISING

Saying no to social invites

We tend to overestimate the negative consequences



Whether it's coffee, dinner, a movie or a walk, saying no to an invitation can feel awkward and difficult, creating anxiety over how the declining is going to be received and if it will lead to resentment or upset. However, new research has found that people tend to overestimate the negative consequences of turning an occasion down.

Researchers looked at a series of five studies, using both real-life and figurative situations.

Study 1
In this hypothetical scenario, 406 participants imagined either declining or receiving a rejection to an invitation to attend a museum exhibit. They had to answer questions about the potential negative consequences of saying no. Researchers then compared the envisioned responses.

Study 2
In this real-world example, 208 couples had to extend and reject real invitations for a social activity, such as a meal. One partner made the invite,

while the other had to say no. Both partners then recorded their emotional responses.

Study 3
This study used an imagined scenario, but with an 'observer' aspect. People either played an inviter, an invitee or an impartial third party. The point of the outsider was to see if their perspective matched the 'overly' concerned response of the decliner or the inviter's more 'rational' response.

Study 4
Study 4 was the same as Study 3, but was more 'real' in that participants had to name a friend as the inviter. People also had to talk about whether they were worried that inviters would not consider the reasons given for the rejection enough.

Study 5
In another fake scenario, participants had to switch between being an inviter and invitee, to see whether extending the invitation and receiving a no first would change their understanding of saying no as an invitee.

The Results

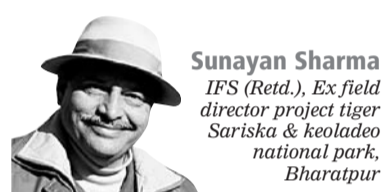
In both real-life and imagined situations, invitees continually overestimated how disappointed, upset or angry the person doing the inviting would be about the declining. They also thought that saying no would damage the relationship more than it did in the eyes of the inviter.

Invitees also thought the declining itself rather than their usual reaction of empathetically understanding that there was a reasonable explanation that led to the rejection. 'It is OK to say no to invitations from time to time,' study lead Julian Givi, an associate professor



Our New Refugees Tigers-Leopards

Tiger, the lord of the jungle bears the same story. Every now and then there's news from one or the other part of our country about tiger/tigers roaming in human settlements. On receiving every such news the forest department pulls up socks to catch the culprit. The hue and cry prevails the area for some days and then subsides after either the animal is caged & jailed or retreats back to its home. And that is all. But the same animal or some other one repeats the story and starts frightening poor villagers again.



Sunayan Sharma
IFS (Retd.), Ex field director project tiger Sariska & Kailash national park, Bharatpur

For last few months from various corners of Mewar tribal belt there is alarm and loud voices, and not unreasonable. The reason is a leopard which has mauled and killed several men-women, living in the vicinity of the

jungle of Gogunda forest range of Udaipur forest division. In the recent most case a massive drive was launched by the forest department to catch the leopard/leopards responsible for this horror. Army personnel in huge number were roped in to expedite the operation. And finally four leopards were trapped in cages from different locations. I wish the caged animals are found to be the real culprits; as identification of a leopard is not possible by physical appearance unless the animal bears its own identity in the form of some physical deformity especially visible on its pads-pug marks.

This catch may provide relief to the frightened tribals of the area for the time being, as we all wish, but catching few is neither guarantee against fresh attacks by the one missed, nor justice, with the carnivores trapped and jailed. Tiger, the lord of the jungle bears the same



Villagers attacking a tiger with lathis to kill.

story. Every now and then there are news from one or the other part of our country about tiger/tigers roaming in human settlements. On receiving every such news the forest department pulls up socks to catch the culprit. The hue and cry prevails the area for some days and then subsides after either the animal is caged & jailed or retreats back to its home. And that is all. But the same animal or some other one repeats the story and starts frightening poor villagers again. In Madhya Pradesh several times tigers have been found roaming freely in civil colonies of Bhopal.

The callous approach of our Governments in dealing with this vital issue needs to be given a serious consideration in order to find out proper solution to this perpetual problem pan India.

In Sariska few months back, in January 2024, a tiger was reported to have been strolling through agricultural fields pertaining to some villages falling under the Haryana State. The report from the whistle blower, the eye witness villager was good enough to create panic in the entire area, after all it was a tiger. The area was adjacent to the North-Eastern border of the Sariska Tiger Reserve. Certainly the tiger, a male one must have ventured out from this tiger reserve area only, popularly known as Bala Kila-Silisidh forest, which falls under buffer area of the Tiger Reserve.

Basically the concept of buffer zone was developed by the wildlife experts to ensure no conflict between wildlife inhabiting the reserves and humans settled on

their borders. Ideally it should be created in a ring like fashion around the wildlife reserves and managed as a buffer state between humans and wildlife.

And this could be achieved by discouraging movements of the wild herbivores and carnivores of all kinds big or small, in this belt. This calls for no developmental activities like waterhole creation or pasture developments to lure wildlife or domestic cattle from neighboring villages.

Initially this concept proved highly fruitful in reducing such conflicts but later on, in the mad race for multiplying tiger/leopard numbers tweaked the rules. This shift is evident in management practices today practically in all wildlife reserves pan India.

Sariska is glaring example of this mis management. The Bala Kila forest, then a part of the Alwar forest division was included in Sariska Reserve as buffer zone, only a decade back. Till then it had few leopards but no tigers for want of adequate prey base. But after it was

In Sariska few months back, in January 2024, a tiger was reported to have been strolling through agricultural fields pertaining to some villages falling under the Haryana State. The report from the whistle blower, the eye witness villager was good enough to create panic in the entire area; after all it was a tiger.

included in the Tiger Reserve, every possible effort was done to lure tigers and consequently the spill over of the tigers of the neighboring Panidhal-Loj-Nathusar core area, falling under Northern zone of Sariska Reserve, took refuge here. And of these the tiger coded ST-18(Male) and ST-19(Female) have littered two cubs coded as ST- 2302 and 2303, here. These four tigers in a highly prey deficient Bala Kila-Silisidh forest can not survive. The newly born badly needed new areas.

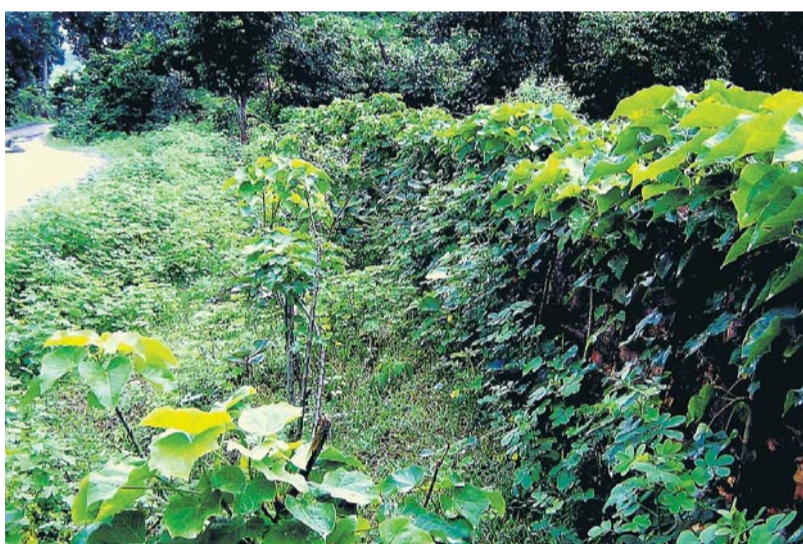
The only option for these cubs especially the male one coded as ST-2303, could be shifting to neighboring forests falling under Raika-Panidhal-Loj-Nathusar forests (Northern zone of Sariska Reserve), his maternal parents' home. But in the meantime on one hand the tigress, the resident of this area had increased her family and on the other the shifting of



Curious Events Day

What is the world's greatest mystery? How can one become famous for being famous? How is the empty milk carton presumed to live in the fridge? What do cats actually do all day? The latter one is fun to investigate with a camera on a collar, for any curious cat owners out there. Hopefully, in the exploration of these questions, most people won't find out that curiosity really does kill the cat. Because being interested and inquisitive is what Curious Events Day is all about! Curious Events Day celebrates the great mysteries of the world.

#WILD



Dense Udaipur Forests.



It is tough to search out leopard during moonsoon in Udaipur jungles.



quite excited finding the tiger face to face in the unripened mustard field. He was determined to push the animal back to the safety of the reserve, but it was seemingly an impossible task. How could he with his ordinary lathi deter the highly disturbed ferocious animal from its onward march and this committed forester, having life time experience of dealing with tigers, was all out to take his tiger back to the Reserve's safety. If only the tiger could understand his protector's sentiment! The agitated tiger suddenly attacked, mauled and sat on this light bodied but dare devil hero of

Sariska. The tiger had taken his one arm in to its big jaws. Hira shouted to his nephew Mukesh Kumar and one more personnel rushed to the site but disciplining a tiger in such a state of mind was no body's job. Yet Mukesh used his lathi to get Hira Relieved from this deadly grip and this courageous act of this brave chacha-bhatija duo compelled the ferocious beast to release Hira from its grip and vanish in the crop filled agricultural field. It was no less than a miracle. May be it was a reward for his life long service dedicated to tigers and numerous other wild creatures.

Hira was admitted in the Government hospital where he stayed for several days. He had suffered serious injuries on chest, arm and face, he needed super specialty treatment but was released to recover on his own.

The tiger kept on venturing from one to another village in Haryana and could not be trapped. After several days of wandering one day it decided to turn back, probably fed up of constant chasing-howling-shouting by villagers. Fortunately no human killing was done by this tiger.

This year again in August 2024, the same tiger has ventured in to other villages falling under Haryana state. As per the recent reports for some time it is staying in a small forest-pasture land named Jhabua. It is located by the side of the Sabi river, originating from Saiwar Protected Forest Hills in Sikar District (Rajasthan) once used to be an important river of this region. This small village forest tract, known as Roondh Jhabua



ful shifting of guawadas/villages of cattle rearsers can prove fatal. The story of this jungle spread between Raika-Panidhal-Loj-Nathusar starts from year 2013 when a tigress ST-10 was introduced in this jungle from Ranthambhore which gave birth to two cubs of which one male ventured out and could not be traced out. The other sibling, a female coded as ST-12 stayed here and gave birth to two cubs of which ST-19 (F) was pushed to take refuge in prey deficient Bala Kila Buffer zone. She gave birth to this ST-2303(M), who had to migrate from Bala Kila towards Panidhal-Loj-Nathusar. This area could support this male but in the mean time Panidhal and Loj too had been shifted out of the reserve. Their shifting meant sudden absence of domestic cattle too as prey. And the animal had to march onwards further North to cross in to human settlements of Haryana. The wild herbivore population has not grown much here even to day.

It is worth mentioning that Lojwas an old established village, mostly inhabited by the gujar community people, chiefly dependent upon cattle rearing. Just last year this village was shifted by the Sariska Reserve's administration to settle at other locations beyond the Reserve's boundary. This was done as per the Central Government's guidelines. I had personally visited the site when the shifting was on. Certainly it was a great work for which the Reserve administration enjoyed high appreciation from the conservationists. The

I wish the real culprit is caught soon. I wish the Government does not sleep back after catching this killer leopard. Let me reiterate it is imperative upon the Governments and especially the wildlife officers of the country to seriously focus on this issue and take concrete steps with long term vision. It hurts much when I see tiger-leopard, the kings of the jungle as unwanted refugees in human settlements.

Every forest area of the state including the Wildlife Reserves should have their individual management plans to specifically deal with this problem of man-animal conflict with site specific approach. A veterinary lab should be set up at state level for preparing DNA fingerprint of all tigers and leopards inhabiting areas that have a history of such conflicts.

Though village shifting from the reserves is most desirable in the interest of the people and wildlife inhabiting these reserves but it

The whistle blown by the villager who saw it first, created chaos among the villagers and the civil administration. The Sariska Reserve management also geared up and deputed search teams followed by experts with orders to trap the animal employing tranquilizing technique. The teams and hoards of villagers were chasing the tiger and the disturbed tiger kept on moving ahead instead of taking a u-turn.

should not be executed without considering the consequences comprehensively. The staffers falling victim to accidents during all such wildlife rescue operations must be provided with best possible treatment at hospitals equipped with super specialty. No more Hiras be left on their own, without any financial and medical assistance.

We have to develop a culture where healthy eco systems are developed in our wildlife reserves and carnivore number should be encouraged to cross the scientifically calculated carrying capacity of each and every such reserve. The mad rat race of just multiplying the number of these big cats irrespective of their dwindling prey base is bound to compel these mighty beautiful creatures to become undesirable refugees in human settlements.

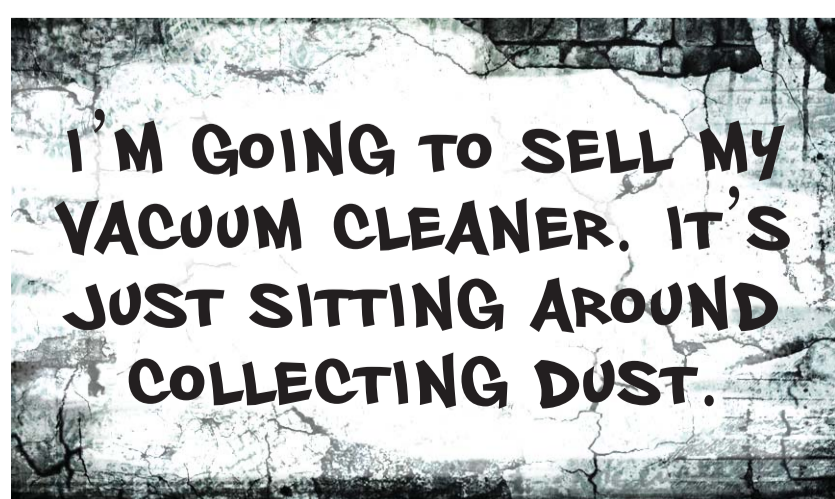
While finishing this article I hear 7th human killing by leopard in Gogunda forest range area of the Udaipur forest division. It is very sad and disturbing. It is the result of our pathetic forest-wildlife management. I wish the real culprit is caught soon. I wish the Government does not sleep back after catching this killer leopard. Let me reiterate it is imperative upon the Governments and especially the wildlife officers of the country to seriously focus on this issue and take concrete steps with long term vision. It hurts much when I see tiger-leopard, the kings of the jungle as unwanted refugees in human settlements.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



Villagers caught the leopard & carrying it in Cart.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman