#WILD

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

Hira was admitted in the

Government hospital where he

staved for several days. He had suffered serious injuries on chest, arm

and face; he needed super specialty treatment but was released to

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 chas-

ing-howling-shouting by villagers. Fortunately no human killing was

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

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 for-

est tract, known as Roondh Jhabua

a small forest-pasture land

wild creatures.

recover on his own.

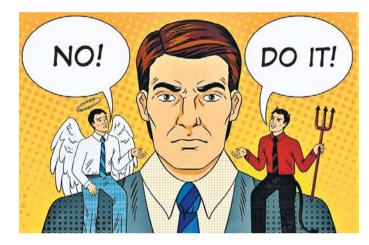
done by this tiger.

राष्ट्रदुत

#SOCIALISING

Saying no to social invites





while the other had to say no.

Both partners then recorded

This study used an imagined

scenario, but with an 'observ-

er' 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' con-

cerned response of the declin-

er or the inviter's more

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 tha

inviters would not consider

the reasons given for the

In another fake scenario, par-

ticipants had to switch

hetween heing an inviter and

invitee, to see whether extend

ing the invitation and receiv-

ing a no first would change

their understanding of saying

'rational' response.

rejection enough.

no as an invitee

their emotional responses.

hether it's coffee, dinner, a movie or a walk, saving no to an invitation can feel awkward and difficult, creating esentment or upset. However, new research has found that the negative consequences of turning an occasion down.

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

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.

In this real-world example. 208 couples had to extend and

One partner made the invite, The Results n both real-life and imag-■ ined situations, invitees dramatically continually overestimated how disap-

pointed, upset or angry the

person doing the inviting

reject real invitations for a

social activity, such as a meal.

would be about the declining. They also thought that saying no would damage the relation ship 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

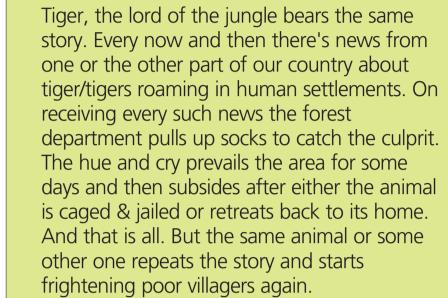
to time,' study lead Julian Givi, an associate professor

Virginia University, says. 'Inviters are more under standing than we might focused on everyday, casual occasions, like weddings where the inviters' reactions might be stronger. 'Of course, I don't recommend always saying no,' Givi caveated, 'because repeated declines could lead them to be upset or vou not to ge invited any more.' Pick your battles, and when in doubt message) about a more sig nificant event will probably

expect.' However, the study events and so the results may not extend to larger an honest conversation (or go a long way.



We tend to overestimate the negative consequences





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

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.

THE WALL

story. Every now and then there are their borders. Ideally it should be news from one or the other part of created in a ring like fashion around the wildlife reserves and our country about tiger/tigers roaming in human settlements. On managed as a buffer state between receiving every such news the forhumans and wildlife est department pulls up socks to And this could be achieved by

Our New Refugees

Tigers-Leopards

catch the culprit. The hue and cry

prevails the area for some days and

hen subsides after either the ani-

mal 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 fright-

ening poor villagers again. In

Madhya Pradesh several times

tigers have been found roaming

Governments in dealing with this

vital issue needs be given a serious

consideration in order to find out

proper solution to this perpetual

January 2024, a tiger was reported

to have been strolling through agri-

cultural fields pertaining to some

villages falling under the Haryana

State. The report from the whistle

blower, the eve witness villager was

good enough to create panic in the

North-Eastern border of the

Sariska Tiger Reserve. Certainly

the tiger, a male one must have ven-

tured out from this tiger reserve

area only; popularly known as Bala

Kila-Silisedh forest, which falls

under buffer area of the Tiger

zone was developed by the wildlife

experts to ensure no conflict

between wildlife inhabiting the

reserves and humans settled on

Basically the concept of buffer

The area was adjacent to the

entire area; after all it was a tiger.

In Sariska few months back, in

problem pan India

The callous approach of our

freely in civil colonies of Bhopal.

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 nighly fruitful in reducing such

numbers tweaked the rules. This shift is evident in management practices today practically in all wildlife reserves pan India. Sariska is glaring example of

conflicts but later on, in the mad

race for multiplying tiger/leopard

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 eopards but no tigers for want of adequate prev base. But after it was

Harvana 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.

Dense Udaipur Forests

n 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

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 and2303, here. These four tigers in a lighly prey deficient Bala Kila-Silisedh forest can not survive. The newly born badly needed new

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 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 Guwada (huge permanent cattle camp) of Panidhal and Loi village had made the area deficient of prey base, wild as well as domesticated

Under these circumstances the

tiger St-2023, had no choice but to

move further on leaving the safety

In January 2024 merely seven months ago, this tiger, compelled by hunger, continuing moving further North and unaware of the State political-administrative boundaries entered in to human settlements falling under Rewadi District of Harvana State

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. The desperate reserve managemen facing pressure from villagers and the Governments was pressurizing

the team personnel to expedite the

had put lives of these front line per

peration and this undue pressure

sonnel in serious risk. Hiralal Balayi, popularly known as just Hira, a highly dedicated field personnel, having pivotal role in this advance search party one day succeeded in locating this tiger in an agricultural field falling under Batsana village (Rewadi). Hira was

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 be 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? agitated tiger suddenly attacked, mauled and sat on this

quite excited finding the tiger face

It is tough to search out leopard during monsoon in Udaur jungles.

Though presently the tiger is being monitored by a dedicated team of forest personnel from the Sariska Reserve but how long can this sustain? After all tiger is a long ranging animal, moreover the area is devoid of wild food required to support this young tiger. The domestic cattle, an easy prey to tiger like animal, has become its staple food and this is bound to invite trouble to the life of this majestic animal. After all how long poor villagers may bear this perpetual loss. I can forsee serious threat to this super cat, through poisoning by the sufferer villager/villagers.

has some blue bulls and feral cattle

along with the domesticated village

cattle using it as their grazing

Haryana State.

The wildlife managers should learn a big lesson from this case of ST-2303. Filling buffer zones with carnivores especially tigers/leopards is undesirable. Also unmindbookish knowledge says that shift ing of village means allocating more area to tigers of the area and the herbivores. But the tiger ST 2303 venturing outside this forest tract fails this theory. In fact every single place deserves separate site

ful shifting of guawadas/villages

of cattle rearers can prove fatal.

zone. She gave birth to this ST-

2303(M), who had to migrate from

Bala Kila towards Panidhal-Loi-

Nathusar. This area could support

this male but in the mean time

Panidhal and Loj too had been

hifted out of the reserve. Their

lomestic cattle too as prey. And the

nimal had to march onwards fur

her North to cross in to human

ettlements of Haryana. The wild

erbivore population has not

It is worth mentioning that

Lojwas an old established village,

mostly inhabited by the gujar com-

munity people, chiefly dependent

upon cattle rearing. Just last vear

his 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

ruidelines. I had personally visited

his site when the shifting was

going on. Certainly it was a great

work for which the Reserve admin-

istration enjoyed high appreciation

from the conservationists. The

n January 2024 merely seven months ago, this

tiger, compelled by hunger, continuing moving

further North and unaware of the State political-

administrative boundaries entered in to human

settlements falling under Rewadi District of

grown much here even to day.

shifting meant sudden absence of

specific solution. This fact holds rue for this Loj-Nathusar area also. I fully agree that shifting of the Loj village is bound to give excellent results in favour of the wildlife nhabiting this area but it can not be done over night. The enthusiast officer of the reserve, overwhelmed with his success failed to appreciate the problem: linked to this shifting Infact this entire jungle tract falling between Raika, Panidhal, Loj Nathusar villages/guwadas was subjected to heavy cattle grazing for several decades and this became chief reason of huge downfall in

population of wild herbivores.

In such a situation a compre

The story of this jungle spread he whistle blown by the villager who saw it first, crebetween Raika-Panidhal-Loj-Nathusar starts from year 2013 ated chaos among the villagers and the civil adminiswhen a tigress ST-10 was introtration. The Sariska Reserve management also geared up duced in this jungle from and deputed search teams followed by experts with Ranthambhore which gave birth to two cubs of which one male venorders to trap the animal employing tranquilizing techtured out and could not be traced nique. The teams and hoards of villagers were chasing out. The other sibling, a female the tiger and the disturbed tiger kept on moving ahead coded as ST-12 stayed here and gave birth to two cubs of which ST-19 instead of taking a u-turn. (F) was pushed to take refuge in prev defiecient Bala Kila Buffer

have been drawn and brought in to practice for this area, much before starting the village shifting process, to ensure adequate wild prey base to support the existing tiger population in this belt.

Unfortunately the ever increas ing pressure of the tourism lobby has made a serious dent on the established principles of wildlife The objective behind tiger

leopard conservation is certainly not just growing their number for exhibition purpose but to conserve forest with adequate biodiversityfloral as well as faunal, where these apex carnivores can live their natural life. It is sad that the The mad rat race of just multi Governments seem to be marching plying the number of these big cats away from this objective. I wish a respective of their dwindling prey science based detailed comprehensive plan is prepared by the

become undesirable refugees in While finishing this article I in Gogunda forest range area of the

role in formulating the plan. 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

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

of such conflicts.

Governments, using expertise of

field men rich in experience of

managing these animals in wilder-

ness. The Wildlife Institute of

India, State's Veterinary depart-

ment and Worldwide Fund(Wildlife)

like organisations can play pivotal

should not be executed without considering the consequences compre

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 nedical assistance

We have to develop a culture where healthy eco systems are developed in our wildlife reserves and carnivore number should not be encouraged to cross the scientifi cally calculated carrying capacity of each and every such reserve.

base is bound to compel these mighty beautiful creatures to

hear 7th human killing by leopard Udaipur forest division. It is very sad and disturbing. It is the result of our pathetic forest-wildlife manage I wish the real culprit is caugh

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



hensive management plan should Villagers caught the leopard & carrying it in Cart.

BABY BLUES



LOOKING



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

IF ONLY ...

light bodied but dare devil hero of







_OOGOOTE

