

for nine species and their respective habitats. Recovery programmes are ongoing for the Leatherback turtles and marine ecosystems, Malabar Civet and low elevation moist forests of the west coast, floricans and grasslands, four species of critically endangered vultures, and the Jerdon's Courser. The first meeting of the National Tri-State Coordination Committee for the Conservation of the Gharial was held recently, and a recovery programme is being formulated by leading wildlife scientists across the country.

Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats are three centrally sponsored

schemes. One of the components under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats provides recovery programmes to save critically endangered species and their habitats. The preparation of recovery plans involves assessing the current status of species and preparation of a year-wise five-year plan in collaboration with a reputed scientific institution.

There is an urgent need to better understand the ecological needs of the other critically endangered species in India and design relevant scientific conservation interventions. For instance, the Chala-zodes Bubble-nest Frog (*Raorchestes chalazodes*) was recently re-discovered after 135 years in February 2011. In

addition, there are many other species that have been assigned as data deficient and not listed in any of these categories. More studies are needed to obtain basic information to assess the status of these species<sup>3</sup>.

1. Report, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India and Zoological Survey of India, March 2011.
2. Black, R., *BBC News*, 1 September 2005.
3. Press Brief, MoEF, Government of India, 9 March 2011.

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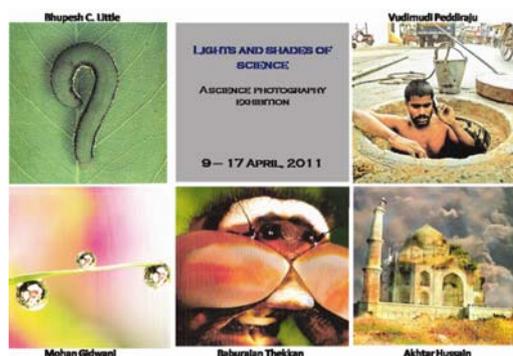
## Lights and shades of science

To celebrate the unique amalgamation of science and art in the medium of photography, and to look at the complex world

of science and technology with fresh eyes, so that a 'visual dialogue' could be initiated, an exhibition was organized by

Shri R. R. Mehta Educational Trust and supported by the National Council for Science and Technology Communication and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The exhibition, held at the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society in New Delhi, is a result of the only national science photography contest in India.

Apart from the first three prizes, 10 consolation prizes in each category were also awarded (Figure 1) during the inauguration ceremony on 9 April 2011, presided over by K. Kasturirangan.



**Figure 1.** First prize in different categories: In the 'Science in action' category to Bhupesh C. Little for his 'caterpillar question'; in the 'Science as art' category to Mohan Gidwani for his 'A fine balance'; in the 'Science close-up' category to Baburajan Thekkan for his picture of the compound eyes of a dragonfly; in the 'Concepts' category to Akhtar Hussain for his 'Love tarnished', and in the 'Science and society' category to Vudimudi Peddiraju for his 'Wherever you go'.

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