

Editorial

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This 59th issue of *Gajah* includes seven research articles and a short communication. Six articles deal with elephants in India while the remaining two are from China and Bangladesh. In the News and Briefs section you can find five meeting reports, an obituary and a compilation of abstracts from recent publications.

In the first **Research Article** Ramesh K. Pandey and coauthors assessed India's Elephant Reserves under Project Elephant for overlap with other conservation areas and land-use change. One third of the area was found to overlap with protected areas. Forest loss in Elephant Reserves was minimal, with 72% forest cover remaining and only 4.9% converted to other land uses since 1985. Sudem Goyary *et al.* studied human-elephant conflict (HEC) in the Baksa District, Assam, based on compensation records. Human population growth intensified HEC. Records showed seasonal peaks during paddy and fruit ripening. Border villages were most affected, highlighting the urgent need for mitigation measures. Prakash C. Gogineni and coauthors report on the rescue of a female elephant and her calf. In 2022, three elephants entering Jagatpur, Odisha, caused severe conflict. Two elephants were rescued, transported, and released into Kandhara Reserve Forest. Jambugahapitiye Dhammaloka reviews elephant classification in ancient Indian elephantology. The paper highlights Sanskrit criteria based on physical traits and behaviour, focusing on historical traditions and providing particular reference to Nīlakaṇṭha's *Mātāṅgalīlā* as a key classical source. Shraddhaben K. Vadgama describes training methods at Sakrebyle and Dubare Elephant Camps in Karnataka. Captive-born elephants adapted faster than wild-captured ones, making training more efficient. Zoe He's publication summarises preliminary results of a census of captive Asian elephants in China begun in 2022. Data on 148 elephants and 35 family groups kept at 26 facilities are

presented. Major welfare concerns were observed. Mohd Talha and co-authors treated a case of intestinal impaction in a young captive Asian elephant in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. Prompt clinical intervention resolved obstruction caused by consumption of fibrous grass.

The **Short Communication** from M. Abdul Aziz *et al.* documents the first record of a wild 'white elephant' in Bangladesh. The one-month-old calf was observed in a herd living in a fragmented forest in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, in an area with continued habitat loss and increasing HEC.

In **News and Briefs** Prajna P. Panda and Vivek Menon report on the 12th Meeting of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group held in Bien Hoa, Vietnam in September 2025. Heidi S. Riddle gives an overview of the Fourth Asian Elephant Range States Meeting which was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, resulting in "The Siem Reap Declaration for Asian Elephant Conservation". M. Ananda Kumar *et al.* report on the Elephant Conservation Group's ninth meeting which was held in Bien Hoa, Vietnam. Ahimsa Campos-Arceiz and colleagues summarise the happenings at the "International Workshop on Asian Elephant Conservation and the Development of a New Asian Elephant National Park in China". Fernanda Z. Teixeira *et al.* writes about two workshops organised by the Asian Elephant Transport Working Group in Bhutan and Sabah, Malaysia.

I would like to thank the members of the editorial board for their work on each article. I am grateful to all the authors for sharing their valuable and interesting findings with the readers of *Gajah*. The AsESG sincerely appreciates SAFE's (Saving Animals from Extinction) financial support, which funded the printing and mailing, making the distribution of hard copies possible.