

President Pravinsingh Pardeshi (IAS) Retd.

## Wings of Legacy: BNHS Soars High Celebrating the Maharashtra Government's Bird Week in Honour of Dr. Sàlim Ali and Shri Maruti Chitampalli

(Mumbai-25/10/2023): - Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), India's premier nature conservation organization is delighted to announce its plan for the Maharashtra Government's Bird Week which is celebrated between November 5th to 12<sup>th</sup> November every year. These dates are chosen as 5<sup>th</sup> November marks the birthday of Shri Maruti Chitampalli, the eminent Indian ornithologist, and 12<sup>th</sup> November is the birth anniversary of the Late Dr. Sàlim Ali, the renowned naturalist often referred to as the "Birdman of India."

During Bird Week, BNHS will pay tribute to the incredible legacy of Late Dr. Sàlim Ali by displaying a collection of his personal belongings, including letters, diaries, field notes, typewriter, cameras, binoculars, passports, and awards. This archival initiative aims to preserve the invaluable contributions of Dr. Sàlim Ali to the field of ornithology and natural history. This exhibition will be displayed in the BNHS Hornbill House at Colaba between 10 am to 5 pm on all days. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to view a screening of documentary films and interviews about the life and works of Dr Sàlim Ali.

Furthermore, Bird Week will feature engaging events such as Bird Counts and Bird Watching programs organized by BNHS. These activities are designed to create awareness about the diverse bird species in our ecosystem, emphasizing the importance of their conservation. Bird enthusiasts, nature lovers, and families are encouraged to participate, learn, and appreciate the avian wonders that surround us.

Speaking about Bird Week, Mr. Kishor Rithe, Director of BNHS, said, "Bird Week is not just a celebration of avian diversity; it's a tribute to the remarkable individuals like Shri Maruti Chitampalli and Late Dr. Sàlim Ali, whose passion for birds has left an indelible mark on the field of ornithology. Through this week-long event, we aim to inspire people of all ages to appreciate, conserve, and protect our feathered friends and their habitats."

BNHS invites everyone to join in this celebration of nature's winged wonders. By participating in the Bird Week events and exploring the rich archival collection of Dr. Sàlim Ali, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of India's avian heritage and the urgent need for bird conservation.

BNHS is also organising a series of online webinars by BNHS ornithologists in collaboration with Maharashtra Pakshimitra.

About BNHS:

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) is one of India's oldest and most respected nature conservation organizations. With a history spanning over a century, BNHS is committed to studying, conservating, and educating India's natural heritage. Through various initiatives, research projects, and educational programs, BNHS plays a pivotal role in promoting biodiversity conservation and environmental awareness.

## Bombay Natural History Society

Hornbill House, Dr Salim Ali Chowk, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road, Mumbai - 400 001, India. Tel:(91-22) 22821811 Email: Office: info@bnhs.org Director: director@bnhs.org Website: www.bnhs.org