



Silent Conversation From Margins to the Centre

A conversation through art, celebrating tiger's roar and tribal tales.



Inauguration

October 9, 2025 (5:00 pm onwards)

Open to Visitors

October 10-12, 2025 (11:00 am - 7:00 pm)

Venue: Atrium, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003


What is Silent Conversation?

Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre is an annual art exhibition that explores the enduring relationship between nature and tribal communities living in and around forests, particularly Tiger Reserves. This exhibition showcases the symbiotic relationship that tribal communities and forest dwellers share with forests and wildlife, especially tigers. It aims to highlight the vital role these communities play in protecting and preserving our natural and cultural heritage.

Since time immemorial, in the heart of India's forests, including its tiger reserves and national parks, a silent yet powerful relationship has thrived – a bond of coexistence between the tribal communities and India's diverse wildlife. This bond is not merely a matter of proximity between the two but a harmonious relationship woven through the fabric of time, culture, and tradition.

Organised every year by the Sankala Foundation, **Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre** attempts to communicate the delicate but critical relationship between humans and nature. The Sankala Foundation initiated this exhibition in 2023 in collaboration with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), recognising that art and craft are powerful mediums to communicate the nuances of the human–nature relationship. Through this visual art exhibition, the Foundation seeks not only to celebrate the timeless traditions of forest dwellers but also to amplify their conservation ethos.





Through showcasing paintings and artefacts from 30 of India's tiger reserves and forested areas, this exhibition honours the artworks of tribal communities and other forest dwellers, seeking to elevate their conservation principles within the broader conservation dialogue. While providing an additional source of livelihood to the tribal communities and promoting their diverse art forms, this exhibition endeavours to bring recognition to their traditional knowledge, wisdom and way of life.

Seeking to go beyond the confines of an art exhibition, the Foundation also aims to foster a dialogue, exploring the connection between conservation, tribal culture, and inclusive policy at a conference scheduled for **10 October, 2025** at the **Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre**, from **9:30 am onwards**. This effort will amplify the traditional knowledge and wisdom of the tribal communities, bolster community-led conservation efforts, and generate discussions among various stakeholders.





About the Art Exhibition

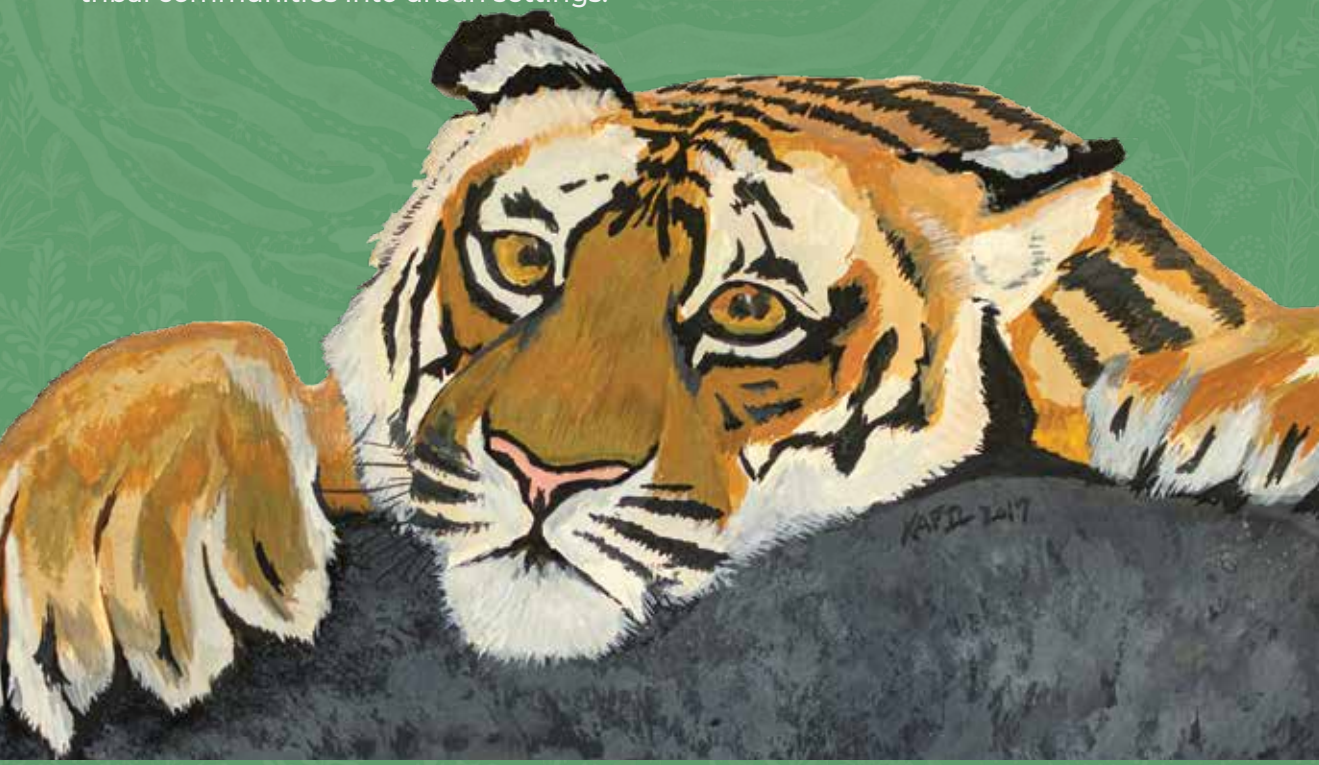
In its 4th edition, the art exhibition will transport you through some of India's most cherished landscapes, including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves, and sacred groves. These artistic expressions have been meticulously curated with tribal artists residing in these regions and encapsulate the essence of their natural environment. Presenting various tribal art forms – **Gond, Warli, Bhil, Sohrai, Lohakam**, among others the exhibition will showcase the remarkable artistry created by tribal communities.

About the Cultural Evening

In collaboration with the **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS)**, Bhopal, Sankala Foundation will also organise a cultural evening during the exhibition. Through cultural performances – folk dance, music, drama, and storytelling - visitors will have the opportunity to connect with their rich heritage. The performances by various troupes will be held on **9 and 10 October, 2025** at the **Amphitheatre, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**. The troupes performing are Bastar Band and Tribal Play from Chhattisgarh and Narmada Dance from Madhya Pradesh.

About the Conference

The national conference on **Tribal Arts and India's Conservation Ethos: Living Wisdom** is a Dialogue on Heritage, Culture and Conservation, scheduled to be held on **10 October, 2025** from **9:30 am onwards** at **Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**. It will bring together policymakers, scholars, practitioners, artists, conservationists, tribal artists, and community leaders to discuss the critical role of tribal and forest-dwelling communities in India's ecological and cultural landscapes, and to pave the way for the adoption and inclusion of the traditional knowledge of tribal communities into urban settings.



Objectives of Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre

Awareness of Forest and Wildlife Conservation

Raise awareness about the preservation of forests, wildlife and water bodies. While showcasing the richness of the diverse wildlife through art, the event aims to inspire individuals to support and actively engage in conservation initiatives.

Empowering Tribal Communities

The lives and livelihoods of tribal communities are deeply interlinked with those of the forests. This initiative will help these communities find alternative means of livelihood and also preserve their cultural art forms. The sale of artworks will provide the artists with alternative and sustainable livelihoods.

Preserving Tribal Art Forms

The event showcases a treasure of traditional art forms that are at risk of fading away. The exhibition encourages visitors to support these artists and invest in unique, culturally significant pieces. This effort will boost the appreciation and patronage of tribal art.



Nurturing Conservation Ethos

The exhibition provides young people and city dwellers with the opportunity to explore India's conservation ethos and rich cultural heritage. The exhibition will bring together diverse audiences, artists, and conservationists, promoting understanding and appreciation of different cultures and traditions.

Promoting Sustainability

Adopting nature-friendly framing materials for paintings, the exhibition sets an example for eco-conscious living. Encouraging sustainable practices will foster responsible tourism, reduce plastic use, and contribute to better understanding initiatives like Mission LiFE.

Collaboration Opportunities

The exhibition serves as a platform to strengthen partnerships among government agencies, conservation organisations, and the private sector to promote further wildlife conservation, cultural and natural heritage preservation, sustainable practices, and support for tribal communities.



About Sankala Foundation

Sankala Foundation is a Delhi-based non-profit organisation focused on expanding knowledge and fostering dialogue on climate resilience, the SDGs, conservation of natural resources and sustainability. Committed to mitigating the impacts of climate change, particularly on vulnerable communities, Sankala undertakes its work through research, training, advocacy, education, and knowledge sharing.

The foundation is dedicated to protecting wildlife and their habitats, recognising their vital role in both ecological balance and the sustainable livelihoods of forest-dwellers. Through strategic partnerships and interventions, Sankala Foundation aims to create lasting positive changes for the protection of the environment and nature.

The Foundation operates two centres

Sankala Centre for Climate and Sustainability, focused on research, outreach, and policy advocacy to achieve SDGs and address climate and sustainability issues. It aims at building a greener and sustainable planet.

Sankala Centre for Cultural and Natural Heritage, committed to contributing to preserving and promoting India's rich cultural and natural heritage through research, education, training, and community engagement.

About National Tiger Conservation Authority

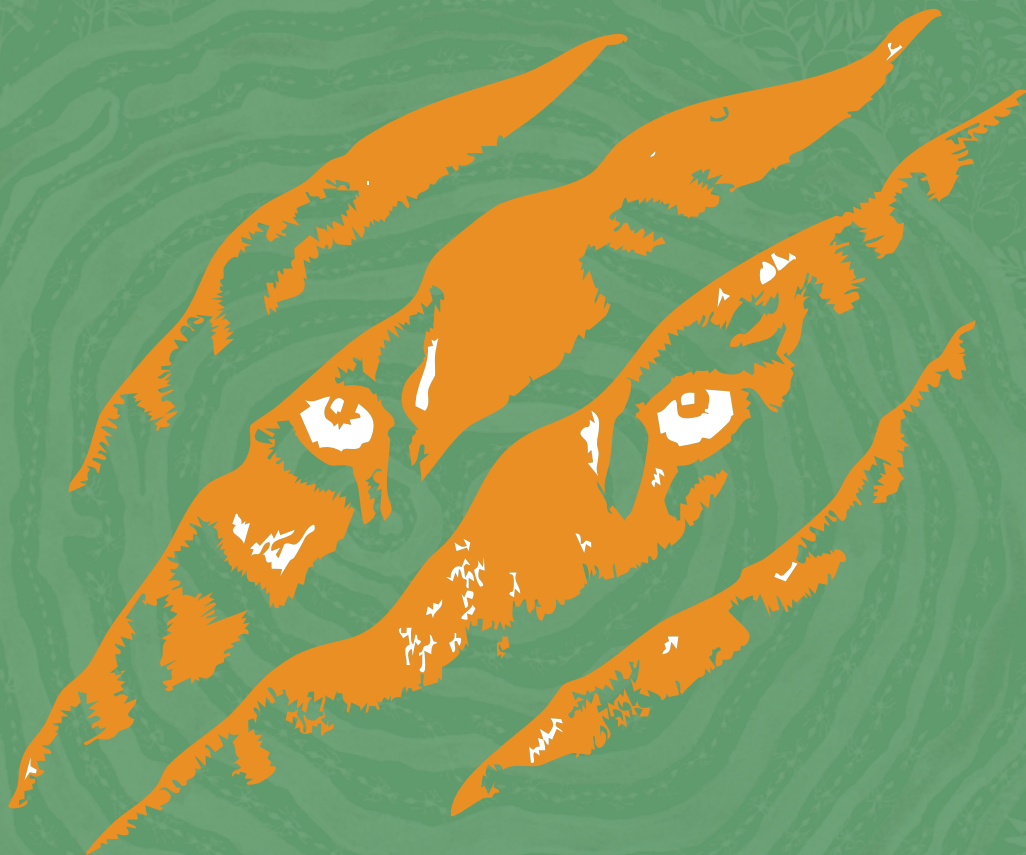
The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established in 2006 as a statutory body under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to enhance conservation efforts for the country's then-dwindling tiger population. NTCA has been carrying out its mandate to strengthen tiger conservation in the nation by maintaining oversight through advisories and normative guidelines based on assessments of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives, and recommendations from specially constituted committees.

The NTCA focuses on field-level protection, scientific monitoring, support for reserves, and international cooperation. It also engages local communities in conservation, provides livelihood opportunities, and mitigates human-wildlife conflicts.



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