

2020-21 annual report



2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS



Pg 11

Translocation of two wild buffaloes from Assam to Chhattisgarh



Pg 14

Seven kilometers of hanging solar fence installed in Greater Manas landscape



Pg 16

Scroll in memory of Dr. Ramkumar Kalyanasundaram being handed over to his family
WTI launches the Conservation Heroes Covid Casualty Fund (CHCCF)



Pg 17

Covid relief support for locals and forest staff across the country



Pg 19

CYBER HAWK app - an initiative to curb online wildlife crime

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2020 was an unprecedented year for humanity. A pandemic that changed the world forever. As SARS-CoV-2 or Covid-19 virus spread like wildfire bringing humanity to a crisis never seen or heard in recorded history. Our work to safeguard natural heritage didn't stop for a day.

Our field teams stood their ground during the lockdown. We stood with frontline forest staff and provided rations to communities who bore the brunt of having supplies cut off. We quickly adapted to virtual meetings respecting COVID-19 protocols.

We managed to provide 'emergency relief' at the request of the state forest departments to 5252 forest department staff and 11282 community members. We also provided essential rations to the community in Sundarbans in the aftermath of cyclone 'Amphan' – the strongest super cyclone recorded to strike the Gangetic delta.

Our teams continued to train frontline forest staff across India in Odisha, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh this year. We worked with the Chhattisgarh and Assam state forest departments to translocate two

Asiatic wild buffaloes from Manas to Chhattisgarh during peak lockdown towards long-term revival of the Chhattisgarh wild buffalo population. Our teams at Assam and Arunachal Pradesh helped rescue elephants, tigers, rhinos, bears, leopards, and leopard cats and release them back to the wild. Our Marine team celebrated the Whale Shark both on International Whale Shark Day and Gujarat Whale Shark day, organizing school competitions that saw huge online participation.

WTI's Wild Aid grants helped notably in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for providing Covid Relief to forest departments.

We stood in the support of 23 bereaved families of frontline staff who lost their life in the line of duty or for life-changing injuries this year. Our support in the form of ex gratia assistance gave these families immediate financial relief.

A heartfelt thank you to all our supporters and donors, we have been able to continue our jobs, through the most unprecedented of global events.

Vivek Menon
Founder and Executive Director

04





Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) was formed in 1998 in response to the many crises confronting India's wildlife and wild habitats.

VISION

A secure natural heritage of India.

MISSION

To conserve wildlife and its habitat and to work for the welfare of individual wild animals, in partnership with communities and governments.

VALUES

**Honesty
Commitment
Team Spirit
Respect and Care for Life**



big Ideas

WILD RESCUE

To increase the welfare of individual displaced animals while enhancing conservation and pioneering science based rehabilitation and wildlife health across India, and in doing so to save at least 40,000 lives in the decade.

CONFLICT MITIGATION

Demonstrate six innovative and replicable large scale models of Human Wildlife Conflict reduction.

WILD LANDS

To secure 200,000 hectares of critical habitats outside the traditional PA system, especially habitat linkages, wetlands, grasslands, community reserves, important Bird Areas and sacred groves.

WILD AID

To provide at least 750 short term, focused and innovative aid at times of emergencies and conservation issues so as to nip problems in the bud and provide game changing solutions to age old problems.

PROTECTED AREA RECOVERY

Improve the existing functionality of six selected Protected Areas (PAs).

ENFORCEMENT AND LAW

To combat key wildlife crime and demonstrably reduce poaching or trade in at least six taxa or geographies.

RIGHT OF PASSAGE

Right of passage for two umbrella species secured in 50% of their landscape.

SPECIES RECOVERY

To recover population/sub-populations of at least six threatened species by improving their recovery states (categories) and demonstrating recovery through improved recovery scores.

NATURAL HERITAGE CAMPAIGNS

To create a positive and measurable change in people's perceptions to improve the conservation and welfare of wildlife in India with at least six planned campaigns.

KEY PROJECTS

Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC), Kaziranga

The CWRC in Assam, is a one-of-its-kind facility of its kind in India where orphaned and/or injured wild animals of several species are hand raised and rehabilitated or treated. The animals are subsequently returned to the wild after due acclimatisation and rehabilitation. The facility is jointly run by WTI, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Assam Forest Department. CWRC is serviced by Mobile Veterinary Service Units (MVS) operating across the landscape with dedicated veterinarians and animal keepers.



Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC), Pakke

CBRC is the first specialised rehabilitation centre for Asiatic black bears in India. Supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), the centre was established jointly by the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in 2002, with an aim to rehabilitate displaced cubs back into the wild.



Central India Wild Buffalo Recovery, Chhattisgarh

The project aims to stabilize the wild buffalo population in Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh by implementing a number of ex situ and in situ interventions. The project has three objectives, preventing unnatural deaths, habitat improvement, and initiating conservation breeding using females of closely related populations.

Gandak Gharial Recovery, Gandak River Basin

The project aims to recover population and increase occupancy of critically endangered Gharial in its distribution range. This includes measures to improve habitat conditions, nest protection and creation of a protected area for gharial in the Gandak River.



Kashmir Markhor Recovery

The project aims at improving the population status of the once thought to be-extinct species, the Pirpanjal Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) in Jammu and Kashmir. The team aims to achieve the objective by implementing focused activities in the landscape such as exploration of new and protection of critical markhor habitats, assessing the effects of anthropogenic pressure and livestock grazing on markhor and its habitat.





Terai Tiger Project

The project was launched by the Wildlife Trust of India, in collaboration with the State Forest Department of Uttar Pradesh, in 2009. A network of village level Primary Response Team and a Rapid Response Team of veterinarian, biologist and sociologist mitigate the conflict either by providing safe passage or translocating the big cat from conflict situations

Sudarbhan Tiger Project

The project was launched in partnership with the Wild Team & Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh, Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission (LRRM), KFW, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the West Bengal Forest Department. The project aims to reduce human-tiger conflict, reduce people's dependence on forests and spread awareness in the Sundarbans across India and Bangladesh.



Garo Green Spine Project

Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and World Land Trust (WLT), in partnership with the GHADC and the state forest department, have been working to connect the fragmented forest patches located between the West Garo Hills, Nokrek National Park and Balpakram National Park with a view to establish an unbroken wilderness link between West Garo Hills and Balpakram National Park. This network of forest patches forms the backbone of the region's biodiversity and has been designated the Garo Green Spine.

Greater Manas Recovery Project

The project aims on bringing back past glory of Manas landscape by restoring the ecological functionality of the landscape through implementing multifaceted actions.



Sarus Habitat Securement Project

The project works to secure wetlands and sarus cranes through community engagement in managing and monitoring the them, notifying the wetlands under Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, and protecting sarus crane nesting sites by active involvement of farmers and fishers.

Coral Reef Recovery Project, Mithapur

The project is a joint venture of WTI and the Gujarat Forest Department, supported by Tata Chemicals Limited (TCL). It seeks to develop and implement appropriate strategies for the conservation of the Mithapur Reef, situated 12 kilometres south of the Gulf of Kachchh in Gujarat. The project, with initial support received from the World Land Trust, is also working in the recovery of coral reefs in Gujarat's Marine National Park.





Right of Passage

To secure a future for wild elephants it is essential that we ensure their uninterrupted movement between key habitats. And to do this, designated corridors must be legally secured and protected. This is what Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has been working on through the Right of Passage project under its Wild Lands division for the last decade-and-a-half. Our aim, in partnership with the Government of India's Project Elephant, the forest departments of elephant range states, and various non-governmental organisations, has been to protect and secure elephant corridors, while simultaneously rehabilitating (and improving the livelihoods of) people affected by conflict in corridor areas.

Rapid Action Project (RAP)

The concept of a Rapid Action Project – one of WTI's oldest initiatives – owes its genesis to the realisation that wildlife in India is plagued by innumerable threats that require an immediate response. Be they human-induced or natural, such threats, if not addressed in time, can have a disastrous effect on the country's natural heritage. When responses to such situations at the field level are slow these issues worsen, eventually necessitating greater logistical and financial investments. Working through collaborations with grassroots organisations, government agencies and community stakeholders, RAPs help in overcoming spatial and temporal limitations to provide help where and when it is needed the most.



Wildlife Crime Control Division

Wildlife Trust of India's Wildlife Crime Control Division (WCCD) operates with a multi-pronged strategy towards curbing of wildlife crime in India. This includes training and equipping the frontline staff, boosting their morale by capacity building and also with ex gratia support in the event of death or life changing injury sustained in the course of duty. WCCD also provides legal assistance to Forest Department through our appointed lawyers.

Conservation Heroes Covid Casualty Fund (CHCCF)

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had left us all in an unprecedented situation, with losses being accounted for at a global scale and no end in sight. This devastated entire families with very high infection and mortality rate within a very short span of time. In all the lockdowns imposed, frontline forest staff and wildlife conservationists continue to work in the field day in and out to protect wildlife. Unlike most of us, they cannot work from home. Unfortunately, this has led to the death of countless souls from the conservation sector who put their lives out on the line. To honor these lost souls, and commemorate their work towards safeguarding our country's natural heritage, Wildlife Trust of India initiated the Conservation Heroes COVID Casualty Fund.





WILD RESCUE

Handover of rescued bear to forest department by villagers in Arunachal Pradesh
Photo: Ayushman/WTI

617 RESCUES

MVS (Mobile Veterinary Service) HIGHLIGHTS

- Reunion (across Assam):
- 4 leopard cubs in 3 instances
- 5 jungle cat kittens in 5 instances
- 8 cotton pygmy goose ducklings



Rescue and release of Indian Bison in Kaziranga NP
Photo: Subhamoy Bhattacharjee/WTI



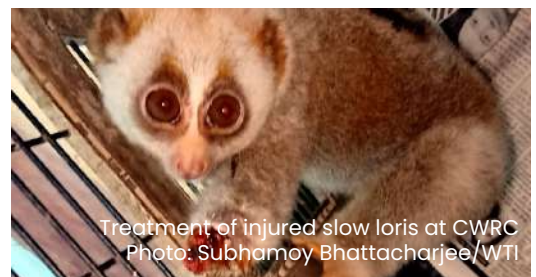
Release of leopard after treatment at CWRC
Photo: Dr. Rathin Barman/WTI

6 cases of Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) handled in CBRC

5 Asiatic Black Bears released back in the wild



Jungle Cat kitten rehab at CWRC
Photo: Subhamoy Bhattacharjee/WTI



Treatment of injured slow loris at CWRC
Photo: Subhamoy Bhattacharjee/WTI



SPECIES
RECOVERY

GANDAK GHARIAL RECOVERY PROJECT POPULATION ASSESSMENT

Across 326 km of the Gandak River

236

Individuals counted

Photo: Subrat Kumar Behera/WTI



Photo: Subhamoy Bhattacharjee

Under the Central India Wild Buffalo Recovery Project, two wild buffaloes from the genetically similar wild population in Manas NP, Assam were successfully translocated to Barnawapara WLS, Chhattisgarh in April 2020.

Markhor population density survey done in the Pir Panjal range of Kashmir

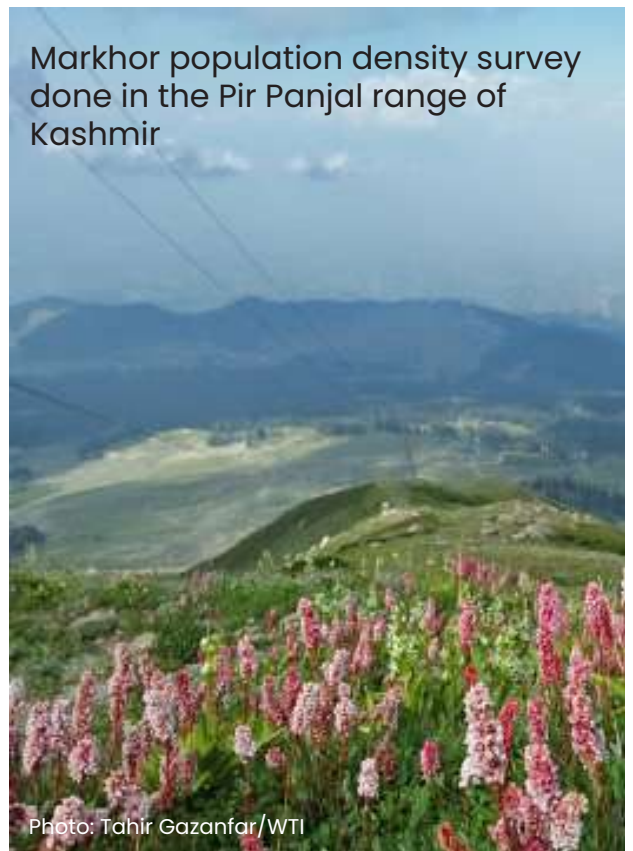


Photo: Tahir Gazanfar/WTI





CONFLICT
MITIGATION

ASSAM HAATHI PROJECT

WTI is working with a total of 123 fringe villages in a cluster approaches on the southern boundary of the forest spreading across three districts of Bodoland Territorial Council.

7 km of solar-powered hanging fence installed near First Addition to Manas NP to mitigate human-elephant conflict.

54 Haathi Watchers (Baba Bandhu) engaged to coordinate measures to mitigate human-elephant conflict.

Photo: Sanatan Deka/WTI

TERAI TIGER PROJECT

Terai RRT (Rapid Response Team) attended to 22 cases of human-big cat conflict in the Dudhwa-Pilibhit landscape during 2020-21.



Camera trap image of tiger in Dudhwa-Pilibhit landscape

SUNDARBANS TIGER PROJECT

3 cases of tigers foraging into fringe villages were addressed by the PRT (Primary Response Team) members, along with the Forest Department. Further, a total of 181 beneficiaries were supported with alternative livelihoods. The team also supported the forest department with 136 Covid-19 kits.



Workshop on alternative livelihood at Sundarbans, Photo: Krisnendu Basak/WTI



23

GREEN CORRIDOR CHAMPIONS (GCC)

(individuals) supported, targeting forty six corridors across 10 states.



Awareness on Covid preparedness by GCCs among villagers
Photo: Rudra Mahapatra/WTI

GCCs are community-based organizations or groups of individuals which work like the eyes, ears, and voice of 101 elephant corridors identified across 11 states of India through WTI's Right of Passage Project. The Green Corridor Champions not only monitor the elephant corridors but also sensitize, motivate and mobilize local communities, and relevant authorities on the importance of giving Right of Passage to our National Heritage Animal- the Asian elephant and protecting its habitat.



GARO GREEN SPINE CONSERVATION

VRF (Village Reserve Forests) set aside by local community in Garo Hills, Meghalaya





**WILD
LANDS**

Coral Reef Monitoring led by WTI team in Mithapur, Gujarat
Photo: Praveen / WTI



Photo: Ansar Khan / WTI

51 wetlands were identified for notification under Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, in Uttar Pradesh.



280

Artificial reef modules were created, aggregating to 711.2 m² area

Photo: Altaf Bhaya/WTI

Coral reef monitoring in Mithapur showed a six fold increase in the abundance of commercially important fish species in the area since the installation of the artificial reef in 2015. Further, youngsters from the local community of coastal villages were trained in monitoring coral reefs and associated biodiversity.





Photo: Nazrul Islam/WTI

One of the rehabilitated One-horned rhinoceros in Manas National Park

GREATER MANAS RECOVERY PROJECT

rescues handled by the Mobile Veterinary Service unit in the landscape

103



Gastrochilus obliquus var. suavis Orchid in Raimona, Photo by Nazrul Islam/WTI

WTI also conducted baseline surveys in Raimona National Park, erstwhile, Ripu Reserve Forest for floral and faunal diversity.



Photo: Tiken Ch. Ray/WTI

801

Locals supported with livelihood initiatives including skill development training on handloom, livestock rearing, agriculture and nature guide trainings



Photo: Sanatan Deka/WTI

Covid-19 support for more than 200 women in Greater Manas through 5 weaving units and 300 kg of yarn.





CONSERVATION HEROES COVID CASUALTY FUND (CHCCF)

WTI initiating the CHCCF, extended the ex-gratia scheme to aid the next-of-kin of 23 forest staff and wildlife conservationists who have passed away due to COVID-19 pandemic, during 2020-21.



16543

Individuals, including the FD and communities were further supported in Covid-19 preparedness across project landscapes through PPE kits, ration, and emergency equipment.

Photo: Ex-gratia cheque handover to kin of Late. Sri Kshitiz Jyothishi of Kanha TR



Photo: Dr. Kamlesh Maurya (WWF)

Top: Cheque handover to kin of late Ram Awadh Mahato, Valmiki TR



Right: Cheque handover by forest minister of Assam to kin of Rabia Khatun



RAPID ACTION PROJECT (RAP)



34 RAP's sanctioned, including conservation projects, equipment support to forest department and communities and COVID-19 relief support for families in project landscapes.



PPE kit distribution to Primary Health Centre of Mainpur, Chhattisgarh.
Photo: Madhumay Mallik/WTI



Ration Distribution in villages of Nawegaon - Nagzira TR corridor, Maharashtra
Photo: Mahendra B. Raut/WTI

4200

FOREST STAFF
SUPPORTED WITH FIELD
GEAR AND EQUIPMENT

Supported 10 RAP's across the country to work on species including Himalayan Griffon Vultures, Horseshoe Crabs, Anaimalai Flying Frog, Sarus Crane, Spiny Tailed Lizards and Himalayan Brown Bear.



Photo: Pawan Kumar Sharma

95

ANIMALS
RESCUED

6430

VILLAGERS SUPPORTED
WITH COVID ESSENTIALS

5100

INDIVIDUALS SENSITIZED
IN LOCAL WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION





Rising up to the pan-India Covid crisis, across WTI project sites



Ration support to communities residing near Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary, Kazinag National Park, and Naganari Conservation Reserve, Jammu and Kashmir.
Photo: M. Akber/WTI



Livelihood support to Self Help Groups in NNTR and TATR areas in Central India, Maharashtra.
Photo: Mahendra B. Raut/WTI



Face mask distribution at Kunhimangalam village, Kannur, Kerala.
Photo: Ramith P./WTI



Ration support to the fishing communities around Mithapur Coral Reef, Gujarat.
Photo: Praveen/WTI



Ration support to field staff of Ratapani Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
Photo: Sneha Sundaram/WTI



PPE kit support to the Baghmara DMHO, Meghalaya. Garo Green Spine Project
Photo: Balsreng Sangma/WTI



In the FY 2020-21, the Wildlife Crime Control Division focused on the emerging online illegal wildlife trade. Due to the pandemic, conducting enforcement operations on-ground was challenging for the enforcement agencies, hence the poaching cases seemed to be on a surge due to lack of monitoring.



WTI in collaboration with WCCB, State Forest and Police department of Jammu & Kashmir conducted an enforcement operation in Manwal in Jammu and Anantnag in Kashmir on the same day and time on 30th January 2021, simultaneously. The team of enforcement agencies of Manwal, Jammu arrested one person and recovered five leopard skins, two leopard skulls, four leopard molar teeth, seven nails, eight canines, and 5.15 kgs of leopard bones along with one musk deer tusk.

Operation ANANTNAG



Anti-SNARE walks

Across protected areas of Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh with forest department staff and local volunteers

WTI staff also trained community members to form Village Vigilance Volunteer (V3) teams to keep a close watch on the Indo-Nepal illegal wildlife trade network and other such wildlife crimes in the areas.



WTI, in association with IFAW, developed HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel) for better wildlife crime information management.

28 HAWK training workshops for 490 frontline staff across the state of Kerala

Intelligence inputs by WTI to enforcement agencies leading to

28
ARRESTS
ACROSS
12

ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS





Wildlife Enforcement training at Nagarhole TR, Karnataka

Inter-state Capacity Building Workshops to curb illegal wildlife trade across Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

48

frontline forest staff trained and equipped with training on wildlife crime prevention in Assam, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

BUSTED

Two illegal wildlife trade in J&K and North-East India, leading to the arrest of

Two Kingpins

SECURITY AUDITS

Threat assessment done for Forest Department of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve and Sohagibarwa Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh.

Cyber HAWK

a mobile application to provide a platform for people to report online wildlife crime to enforcement agencies.



Kit distribution to forest staff of Kaziranga NP



Mongoose hair brush seizure in Banaras, Uttar Pradesh





Wildlife Trust of India is grateful to all the individual, the governments, charities and corporates for their support over the past 12 months.



BALANCE SHEET

WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA					
BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2021					
AS ON 31.3.20 AMOUNT (Rs.)	FUNDS & LIABILITIES	AS ON 31.3.21 AMOUNT (Rs.)	AS ON 31.3.20 AMOUNT (Rs.)	ASSETS	AS ON 31.3.21 AMOUNT (Rs.)
5320541.80	CORPUS FUND				
2200000.00	Opening Balance	7520541.80		124930211.02	FIXED ASSETS (Schedule " C ")
7520541.80	Add : Addition during the year	0.00	7520541.80		
	CAPITAL FUND				CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES
124358818.91	Opening Balance	124930211.04			CURRENT ASSETS :
5102766.80	Add : Addition during the year (Schedule C)	3282942.07		343178.19	Cash in hand
366208.07	Add : Transfer from General Reserve	563598.00		43485.00	Tax Collected at Source
129827793.78		128776751.11		8462255.27	Bank balance
29387.29	Less : Sale/ Loss during the year	1696844.04		245938360.33	Fixed Deposits
4868195.47	Less : Depreciation	4180121.60		7587477.54	Accrued Interest
				215561.44	Closing Stock (Social Enterprise)
124930211.02				4996146.28	Tax Deducted at Source
	GENERAL RESERVE (Schedule " B ")		122899785.47		
33370349.80	Opening Balance	55328927.72			LOANS & ADVANCES
30378921.36	Add : Excess of Income over Expenditure	16526791.46		3158970.00	Security Deposits
-8054135.37	Add : Net Addition (as per Schedule B)	299836.00		9724764.95	Advances
55995135.79		72155555.18			
	Less : Amount Transferred to Capital Fund (As per Schedule C)	563598.00			
366208.07			71591957.18		
55328927.72					
	UNUTILISED FUNDS (Schedule " B ")				
219696320.02	Project Fund	220787830.14			
-3865140.13	Social Enterprise Fund	0.00			
	CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS				
1789549.59	Sundry Amounts Payable	2207468.59			
405400410.02	TOTAL	425007583.18		405400410.02	TOTAL
					425007583.18

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts - Schedule "E"
In terms of our report of even date attached

 <p>FOR KOSHI & GEORGE Chartered Accountants (Reg. No. 003926N)</p> <p><i>G. Koshi</i> GEORGE KOSHI Partner M.No.82961</p> <p>New Delhi Date: 14/11/2021 UDIN: 21082961AAAAFD8149</p>	<p>FOR WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA</p> <p><i>Rahul Kaul</i> (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER) RAHUL KAUL Chief Executive Officer WILDLIFE TRUST OF INDIA</p> 	<p><i>Prasad Raghava Menon</i> (CHAIRMAN) Prasad Raghava Menon Trustee & Chairman</p>
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Chairman**



**Mr Vivek Menon,
Founder and Executive
Director**



**Prof. PC Bhattacharjee,
Vice Chairman**



**Prof. BC Choudhary,
Executive Trustee**



**Mrs Tara Gandhi,
Executive Trustee**



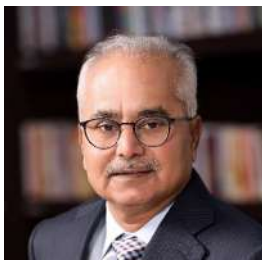
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