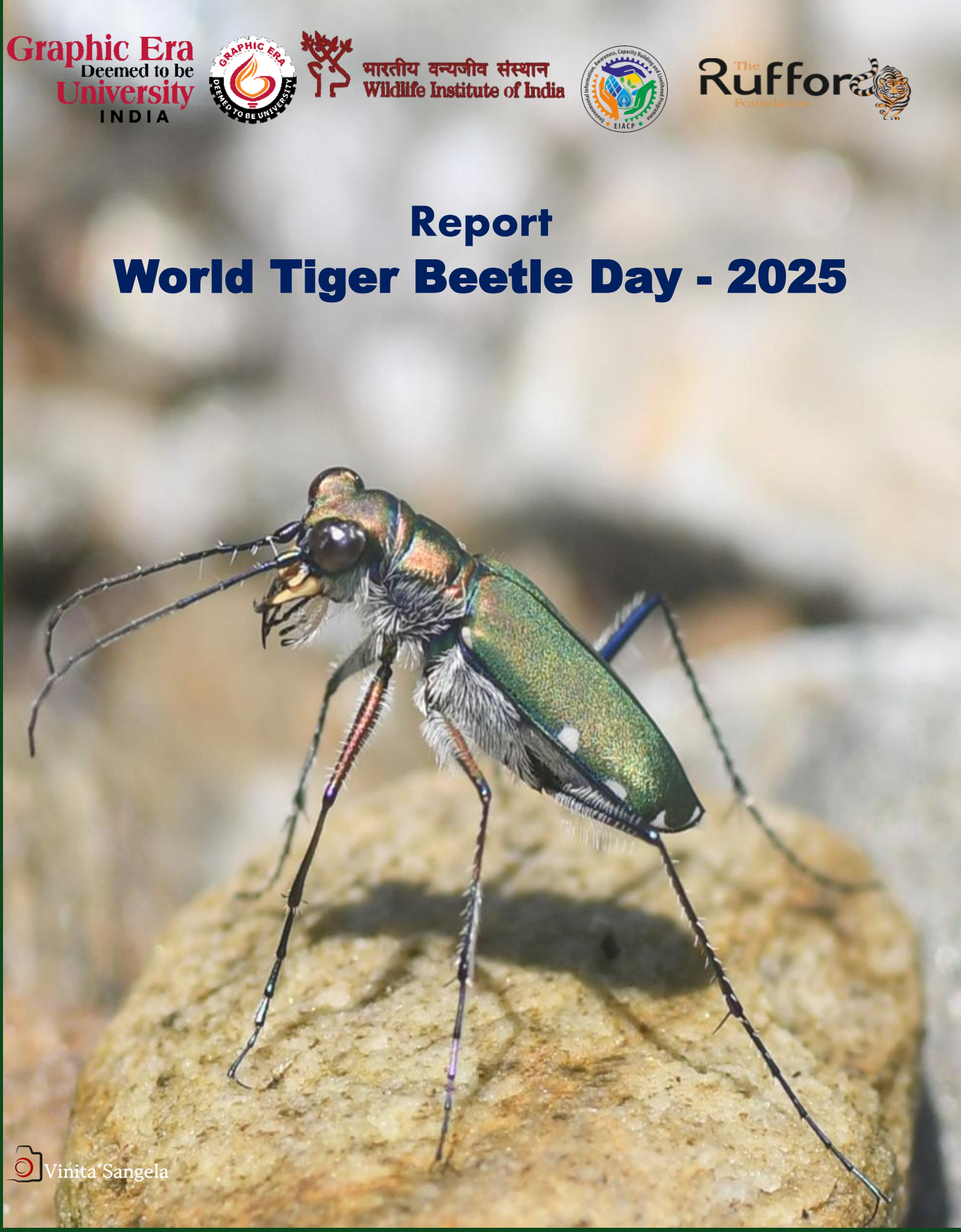
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भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

The Rufford Foundation

Report
World Tiger Beetle Day - 2025



Vinita Sangela

11th November 2025

Coordinators:

Dr. V. P. Uniyal, Professor
Dr. Manu Pant, Professor & Head
Department of Biosciences, GEU

Vinita Sangela, Wildlife Institute of India
EIACP Centre, Wildlife Institute of India

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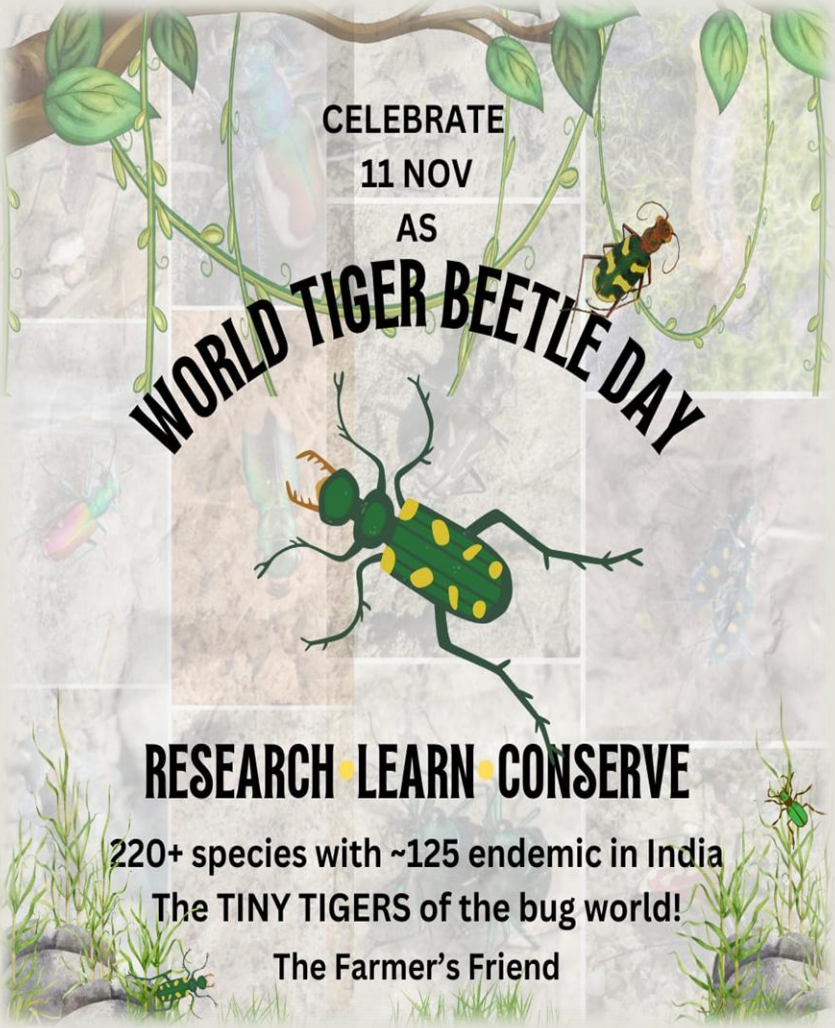
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The Tiger Beetle

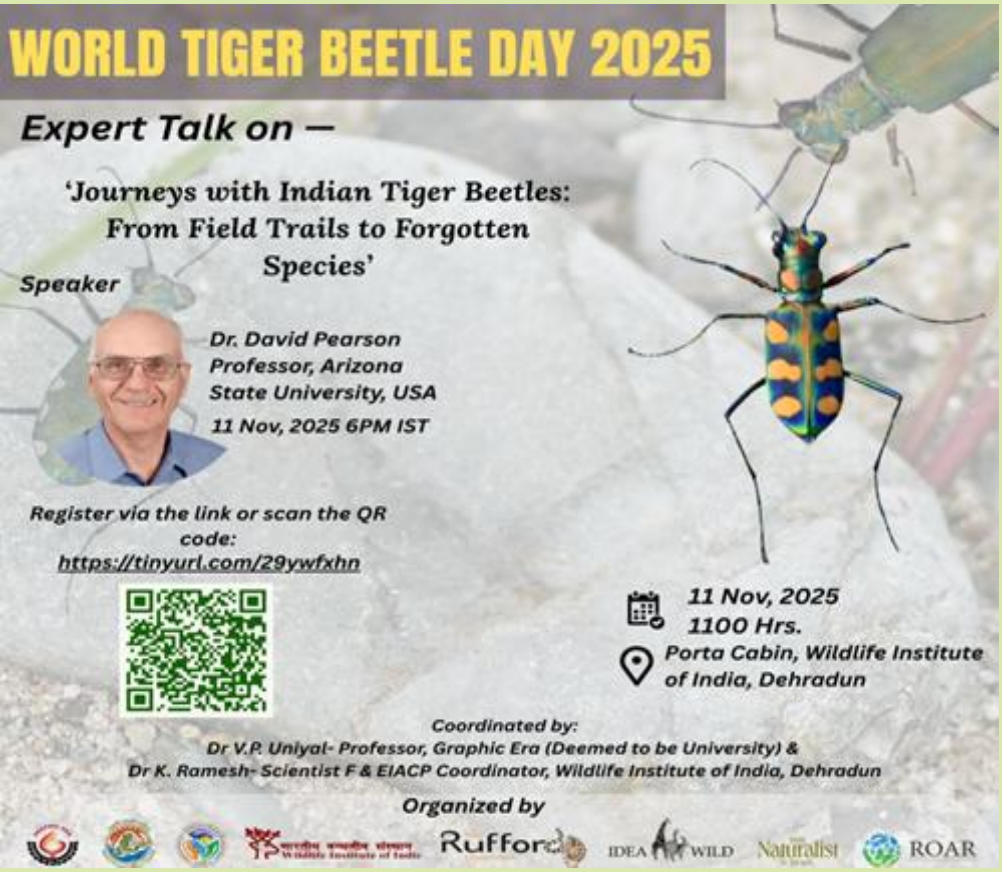
Tiger beetles belong to the family Cicindelidae under the order Coleoptera. They are Predatory insect and play an important role in maintaining ecological balance. They are also known as bioindicators because they are sensitive to habitat change. However, increasing human disturbance such as sand mining, pollution, forest fire and riverbank alteration are causing the decline of many tiger beetle species. Despite their ecological significance India has very few studies on tiger beetles and people are largely unaware of these beetles.

Why Tiger Beetle Day…?

In June 2024, the IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SASISG), The Zoo Outreach Organization and The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ) organized a five-day workshop for Tiger Beetle Red List Assessment at Karl Kubel Institute, Coimbatore, India. I was also a participant in this workshop. This workshop was inspired by the pioneering book **Tiger Beetles of India**, authored by David L. Pearson, Jürgen Wiesner, Robert E. Acciavatti, V. P. Uniyal, and Alexander Anichtchenko. Their work brought much-needed attention to these remarkable insects and laid the foundation for focused conservation initiatives. A major milestone of the workshop was the declaration of November 11 as "World Tiger Beetle Day," in honor of Dr. David Pearson on his birthday. Dr. Pearson's dedication to tiger beetle research has inspired numerous biologists worldwide.









This was the second World Tiger Beetle Day, celebrated at the Wildlife Institute of India on 11th November 2025. The event was coordinated by the Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Centre of the Wildlife Institute of India and The Rufford Foundation in collaboration with Department of Biosciences, Graphic Era University. Students from GEU participated in the program with great enthusiasm. The event began with a short introduction on the purpose of celebrating Tiger Beetle Day and an explanation of why insect awareness especially of lesser-known groups—is essential. This introduction helped the participants understand how tiger beetles serve as indicators of environmental changes and why focusing on their conservation contributes to broader ecosystem health.

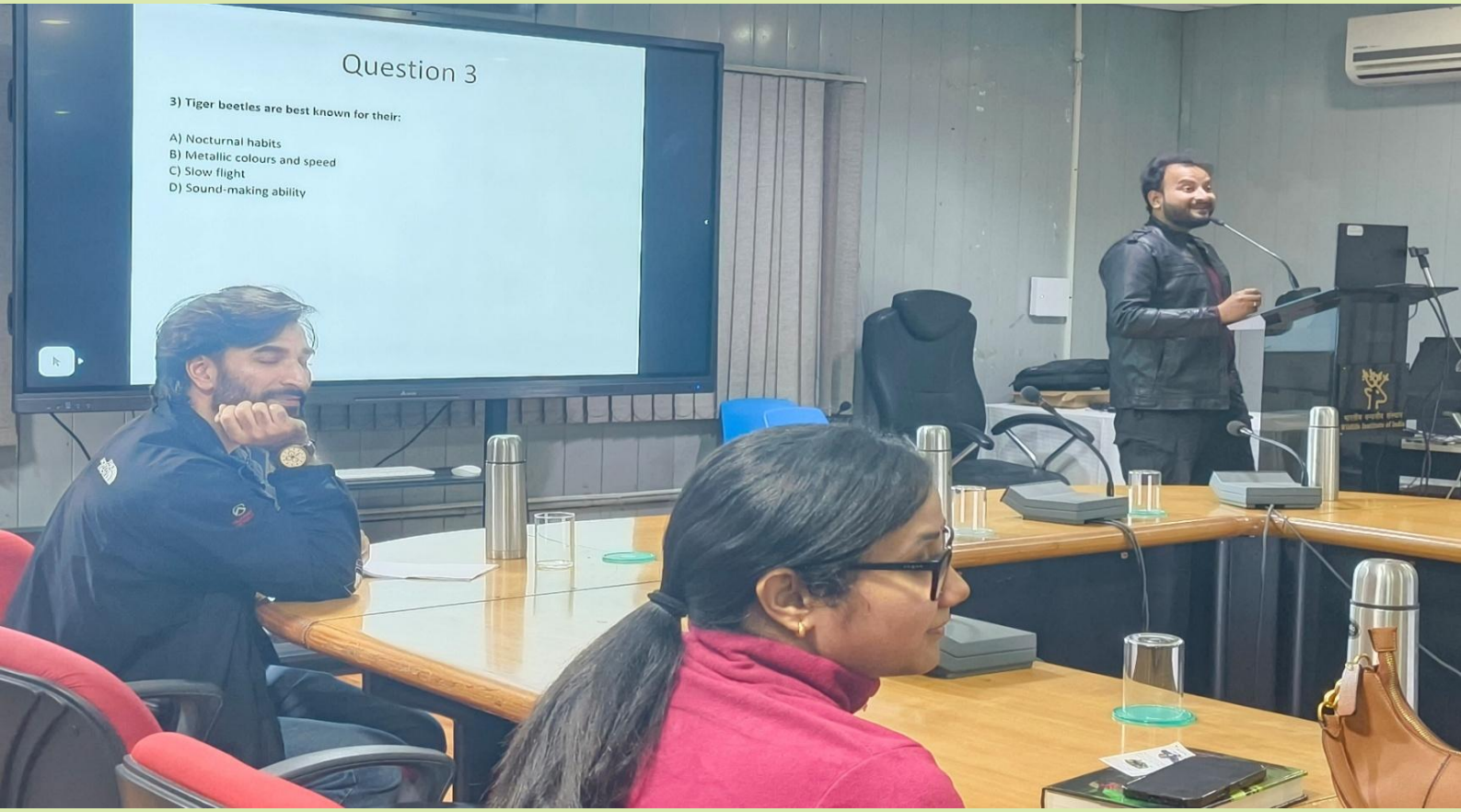




Dr. V. P. Uniyal, co-author of the book **"The Indian Tiger Beetle"** as invited speaker shared his research on tiger beetle in the Shivalik landscape. His talk provided students with a strong scientific foundation and helped them appreciate the ecological importance of tiger beetles beyond their appearance. After the expert session, I presented my ongoing Rufford-funded research work, explaining the sampling and identification techniques used along the Ramganga River.



To make the learning experience more interactive, a quiz competition on tiger beetles was also organized. Students participated with great enthusiasm, and those who answered correctly were gifted a Rufford logo cap as a small token of appreciation and encouragement. The quiz created a fun and engaging atmosphere, encouraged teamwork, and motivated students to pay closer attention to insect diversity. It also provided a simple way to assess how much they had learned throughout the program.





After the indoor sessions, a field demonstration was conducted in suitable microhabitats within the WII campus. Students were taken to open sandy areas where tiger beetles are commonly found. During the field session, a pamphlet containing additional information on tiger beetles was distributed to all participants. They learned how to carefully approach tiger beetles without disturbing them and how to use net.



Vinita Sangela



Feld Activities – Tiger Beetle Study



To encourage sustained participation beyond the celebration, students were introduced to iNaturalist, a global citizen science platform. They were shown how to create accounts, upload insect photographs, and join the Tiger Beetle Watch Project, where their future observations would contribute to long-term data collection. This step was particularly important as it allowed students to continue participating in insect monitoring even after returning to their respective campuses.


PC: Vinita Sangela





CERTIFICATE

of Participation

Is awarded to

Tanvi

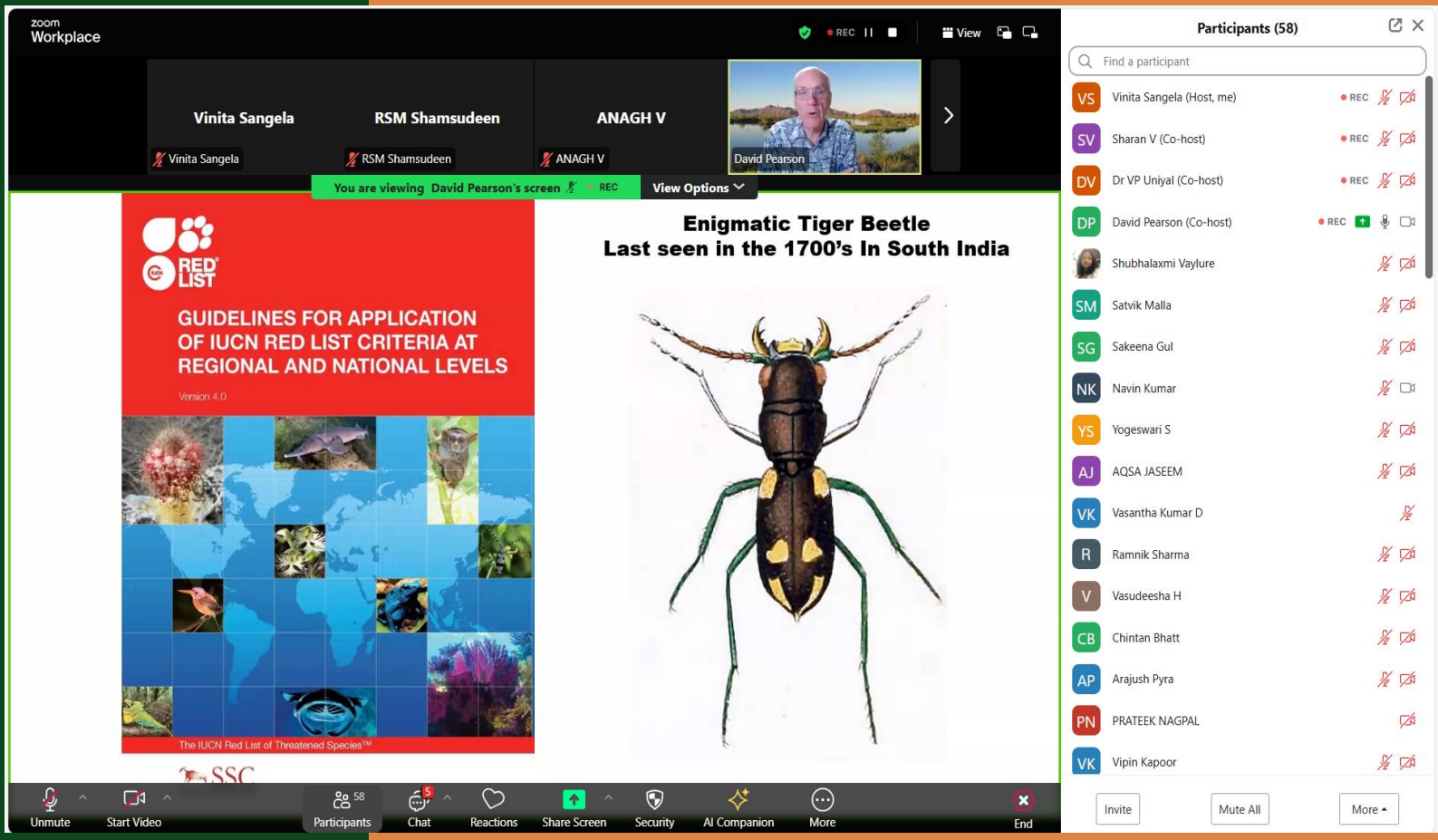
For participating in the **World Tiger Beetle Day**, jointly organised by the Department of Biosciences, Graphic Era (Deemed to be University) and the EIACP Centre, Wildlife Institute of India and The Rufford Foundation on 11th November 2025 at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

Dr. Manu Pant
Professor & Head
Department of Biosciences, GEU

Dr. V. P. Uniyal
Professor, Department of Biosciences, GEU

Dr. K. Ramesh
Scientist F &
Coordinator, EIACP-WII

The celebration concluded with distribution participation certificate and lapel pins. Many students mentioned that they had never paid close attention to small insects before and that the event changed their perspective on biodiversity.



In order to reach a wider audience beyond the physical event, an online webinar was also organized on same day to celebrate World tiger beetle day and connect with more people from different states. This webinar was organized by The Rufford Foundation in collaboration with Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Cell of the Wildlife Institute of India, Graphic Era University, The Naturalist School and Rhopalocera & Odonata Association of Rajapalayam (ROAR). The keynote speaker of this webinar was Dr. David Pearson (Arizona State University, USA) one of the world's leading experts on tiger beetle. He delivered an engaging talk titled "Journeys with Indian Tiger Beetles: From Field Trails to Forgotten Species" where he shared valuable insights into his work on Indian tiger beetle in India in 90's. In this webinar approximately 179 students and researchers from various states joined including 59 female and 120 male participants. This session lasted for one hour, during which participants interacted actively. After Dr. David Pearson's talk all participate asked question related to tiger beetles, clarified their doubts and corrected several misconceptions.

