



ਪੰਜਾਬ

Wildlife & Nature

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Sardar Sohan Singh Thandal
Minister for Tourism & Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Punjab

Ms. Anjali Bhawra, IAS
Principal Secretary Tourism, Govt. of Punjab

N.P.S Randhawa,
Director Tourism, Cultural Affairs, Archaeology, Museums and Archives, Punjab
Project director (IDIPT), Govt. of Punjab CEO (PHTPB)

Shri Basanta Raj Kumar, I.F.S
Additional Project Director (IDIPT)
Executive Director (PHTPB), Govt. of Punjab

Photography: R.S Kwatra, Dr. Inderjit Singh, Biju PB, Basanta Rajkumar, Vikas Sharma, Gagandeep Matharoo,
Sukhwinder Singh, Rajiv Dass, Jagjit Panesar, Dr. Chetna Sharma, Dr. Salil Sharma.

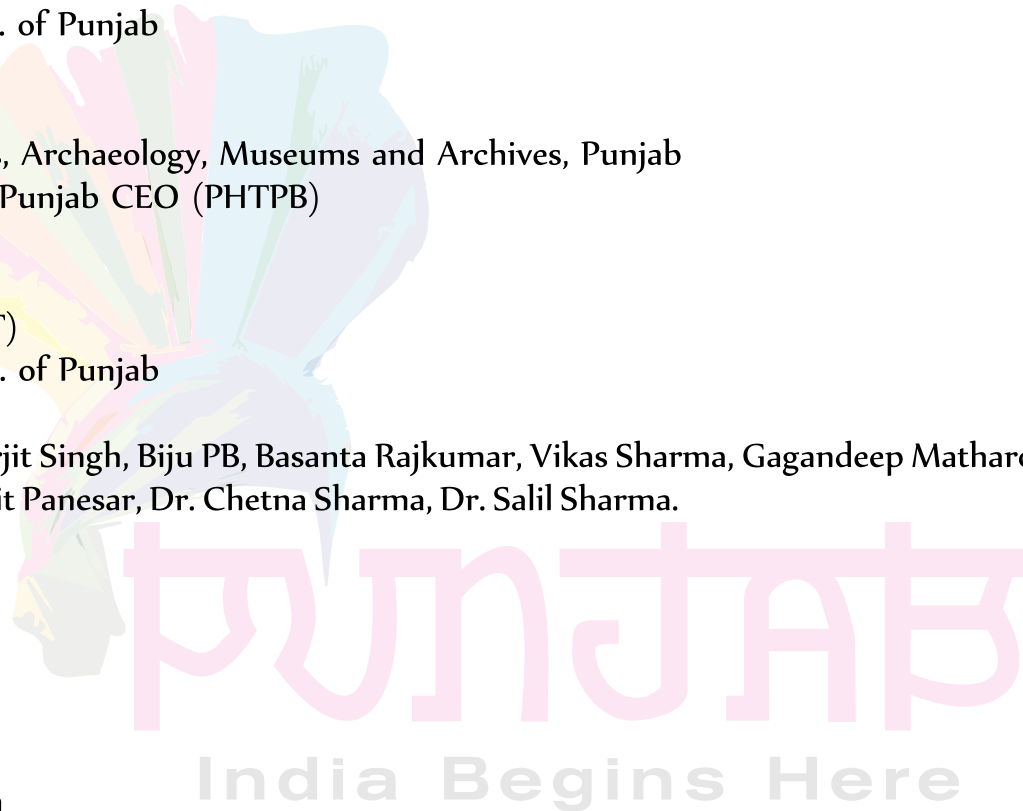
Text: Basanta Raj Kumar, I.F.S

Designer: Vikas Sharma (Sarjana)

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Contents

<i>About Punjab</i>	
<i>Harike Wetlands</i>	<i>01-26</i>
<i>Kanjli Wetlands</i>	<i>27-48</i>
<i>Ropar Wetlands</i>	<i>49-70</i>
<i>Nangla Wetlands</i>	<i>71-92</i>
<i>Keshopur Community Reserve</i>	<i>93-114</i>
<i>Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary</i>	<i>115-126</i>
<i>Bir Moti Bagh Wildlife Sanctuary</i>	<i>127-138</i>
<i>Chatbir Zoo</i>	<i>139-158</i>

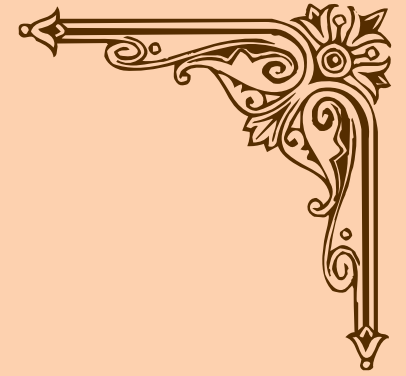
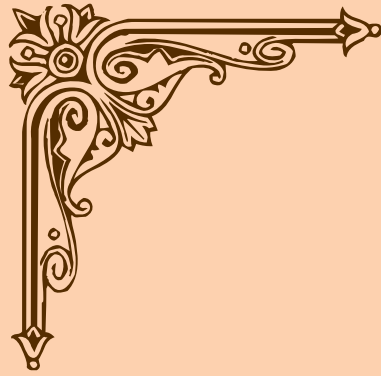


About Punjab

Deriving its name from five full-bodied rivers—Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab—which flow through its vast plains, Punjab is representative of abundant things. Located on the north-western edge of India, it is home to a lively, hospitable and dynamic people. Widely acknowledged as the cradle of civilization, it is a land of ethnic and religious diversity, having borne and shaped a number of religious movements that include Sikhism, Buddhism and Sufism. The Punjabi language, too, finds its origin in the Indo-European linguistic family that includes Persian and Latin. Naturally replete with fertile soils and rich water sources, it is primarily an agricultural state, and has continually and infinitely contributed towards the food security of the Indian Republic.

Despite being an agrarian society with more than 83% of the total geographical area under cultivation, Punjab boasts of 12 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 2 Community Reserves & 1 Conservation Reserve. Also, 3 wetlands have been recognised as Wetlands of International Importance and have been declared as Ramsar Sites – Harike, Ropar and Kanjli. Harike wetlands has one of the largest number of bird species reported in India with around 400 species being reported. The highly endangered fresh water dolphins – the Indus Dolphins, thought to have been extinct for a 100 years, was re-discovered in Harike. Keshopur wetlands in Gurdaspur is the first Community Reserve in the country. The Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary is a unique, model sanctuary where the animals, especially the black bucks live freely and in complete harmony with the local people, with no barriers or fencing separating the animals from the local people. Chatbir Zoo is the largest zoo in northern India, (apart from Delhi Zoo) and prides itself as the cleanest and most beautifully landscaped zoo of the country. About 40% of the forests in Punjab are private forests stretching along the Shivalik tract on the northern part of the state. In recent years, many eco-tourism facilities have also come up in this area which provides for an environmentally enriching experience to both the locals and visitors.

Punjab's many festivals—Teej, Lohri, Basant, and Baisakhi, to name some—are celebrations that mirror the farming ethos. Indeed, Bhangra, the traditional dance of Punjab revolves around, and replicates a farmer's daily life.

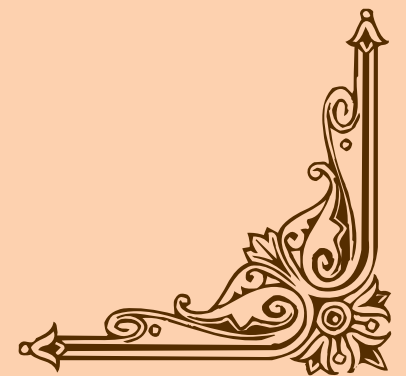
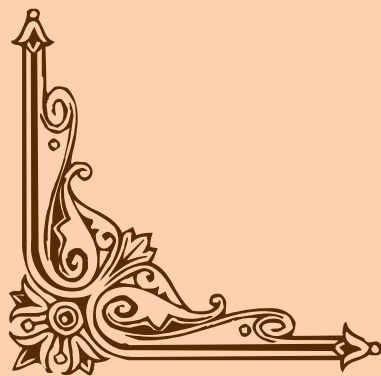


Harike Wetlands

Location	Punjab
Coordinates	31.17°N 75.20°E
Type	Freshwater
Primary in flows	Beas and sutlej Rivers
Basin countries	India
Surface area	4, 100 hectares (10,000 acres)
Max. depth	2 metres (6 ft 7 in)
Surface Elevation	210 metres (690 ft)
Islands	Thirty three islands
Settlements	Harike

Ramsar Wetland

Designated	23 March 1990
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Harike Wetlands

Situated at the confluence of the Satluj and the Beas rivers, Harike is a bird watchers paradise. Spread over an area of 86 sq km, and attracting about 400 different bird species, some from as far off as Siberia and the Arctic, Harike has been recognised as a Ramsar site in 1990. The wetland is also home to several vulnerable and near threatened species like the Ferruginous duck, Palla's fishing eagle, Blackbellied tern, Indian skimmer etc. The highly endangered Indus dolphin, thought to have been extinct in India for about a 100 yrs was rediscovered here in 2007.



Greylag goose (*Anser anser*)



Asian openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*)



Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)



Bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*)



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)



Black-headed ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*)



Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*)



Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)



Golden Oriole (*Oriolus kundoo*)



Northern Shoveler (*Anas Clypeata*)



Indus river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*)



Rat Snake (ratsnakes)



Jackal (*Canis aureus*)



Tortoise (Testudinidae)



Black pond turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*)



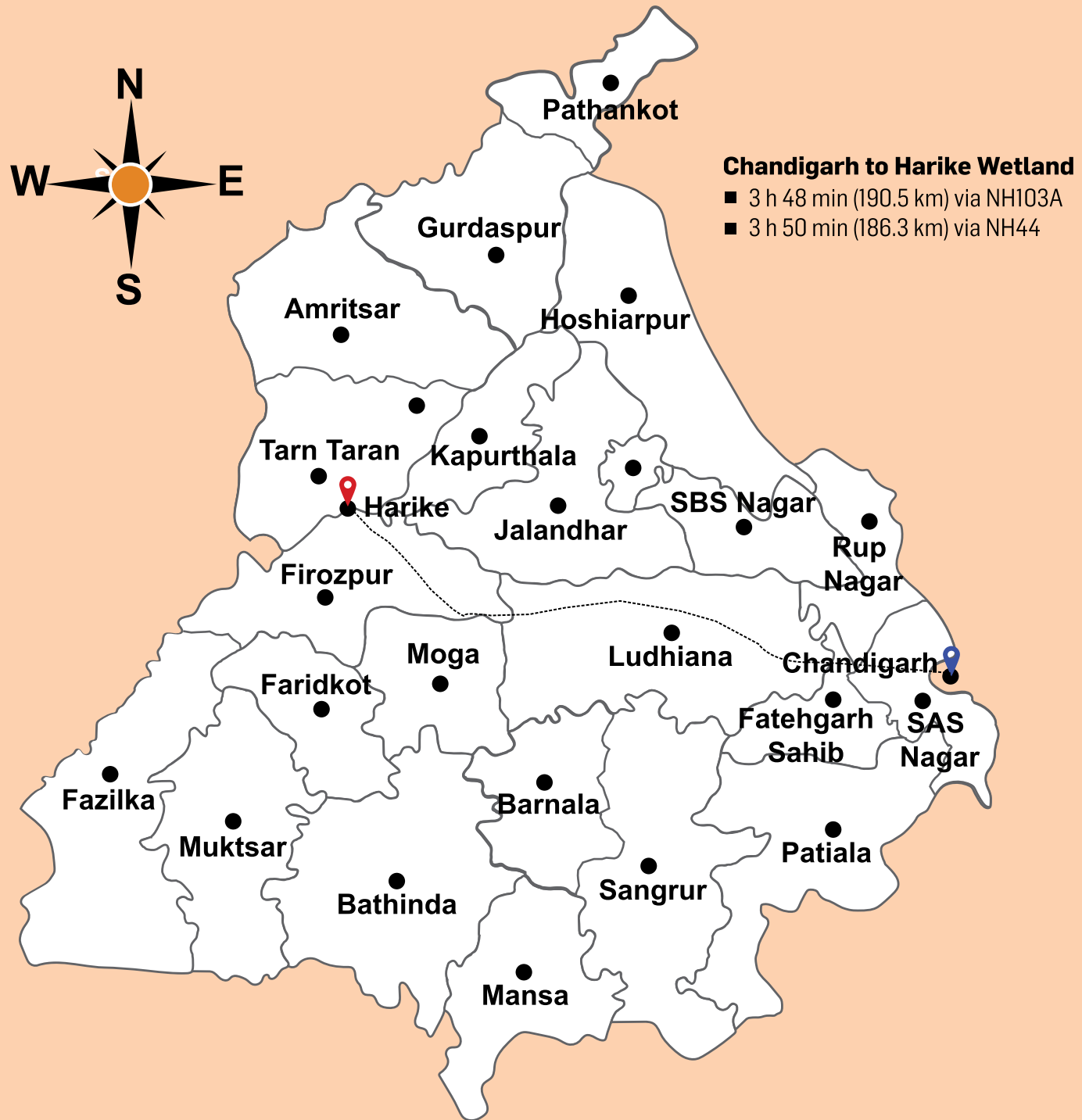
Sunset









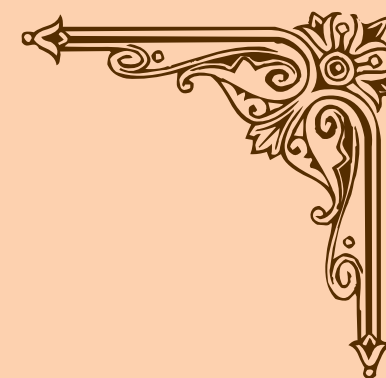
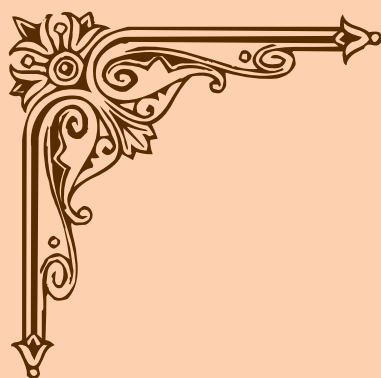


Nearby Place to Visit:

Gurudwara Darbar Sahib (Tarn Taran) – Established by Guru Arjan Dev, the 5th Sikh Guru, the Gurudwara has the largest sarovar in Punjab. The place is also associated with Guru Hargobind Singh and Guru Teg Bahadur, making it one of the most important gurudwaras.

Gurudwara Nanaksar Ishardham (Harike) – Situated right on the edge of the wetlands, the Gurudwara was built in 1963 in the memory of Baba Ishar Singh of Nanaksar. Although of not much historical importance, it attracts a lot of visitors because of its strategic location.



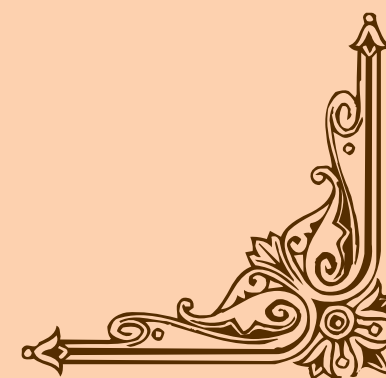
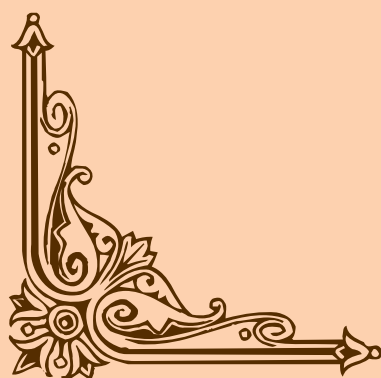


Kanjli Wetlands

Location	Punjab
Coordinates	31.42°N 75.37°E
Type	Freshwater
Primary inflows	Kali Bein rivulet
Basin countries	India
Surface area	490 ha
Average depth	3.05 m (10 feet)
Max. depth	7.62 m (25 feet)
Surface elevation	210 m
Settlements	Kapurthala

Ramsar Wetland

Designated	22 January 2002
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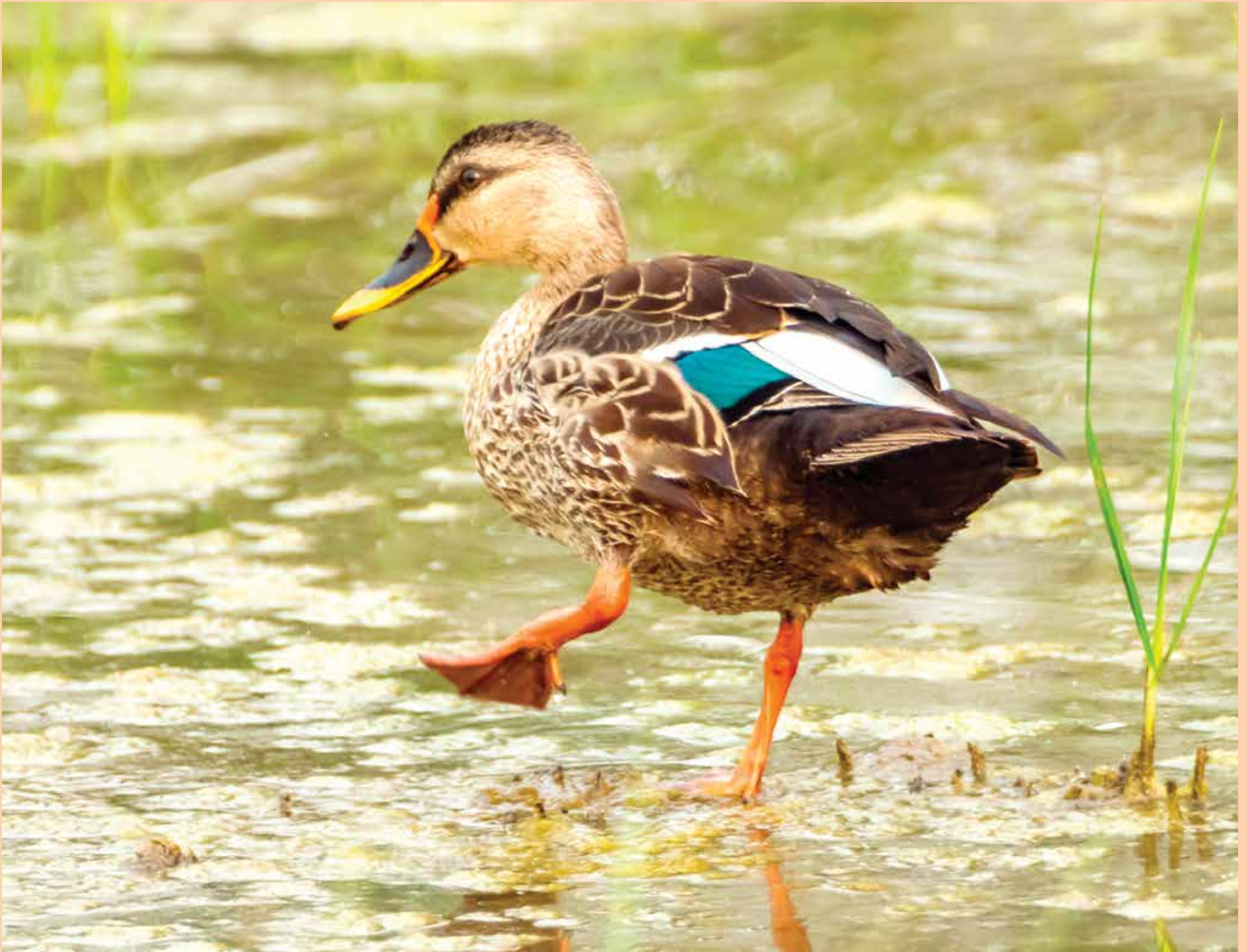


Kanjli Wetlands

Kanjli Wetlands is a reservoir on a permanent fresh water rivulet, the kali bein. It was notified Ramsar site in 2002. The rivulet & the wetland together are vital for maintaining the hydrological balance of the region. The carnivorous plant utricularia is found in these waters. Kali bein rivulet has a very important religious significance as the first Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Nanak went into the river at Sultanpur lodhi & came out near kanjli after attaining enlightenment



Grey Headed Swamphen (Porphyrio Poliocephalus)



Spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*)



Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*)



Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)



Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)



Black francolin (*Francolinus francolinus*)



Common redshank (*Tringa totanus*)



Indian eagle-owl (*Bubo bengalensis*)



Red avadavat (*Amandava amandava*)



Common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)



Yellow-footed green pigeon (*Treron phoenicoptera*)



Marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)



White-capped redstart (*Phoenicurus leucocephalus*)



Russet sparrow (*Passer rutilans*)



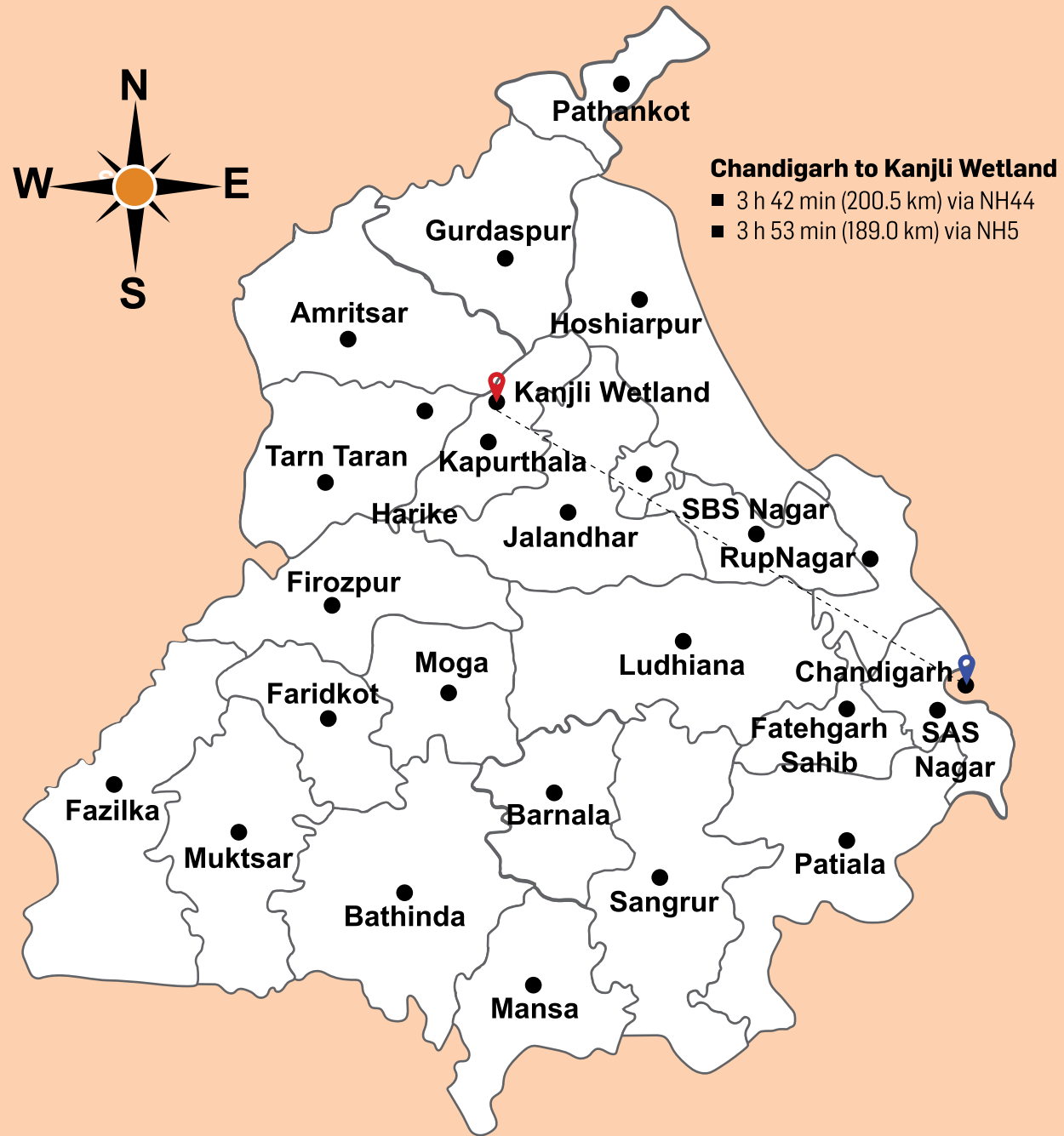
Painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)



Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)



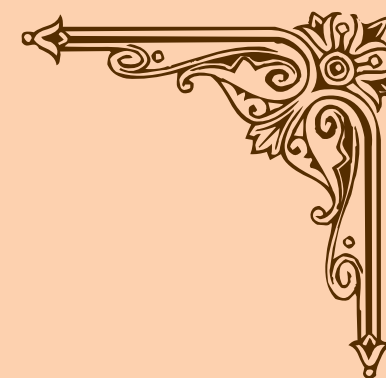
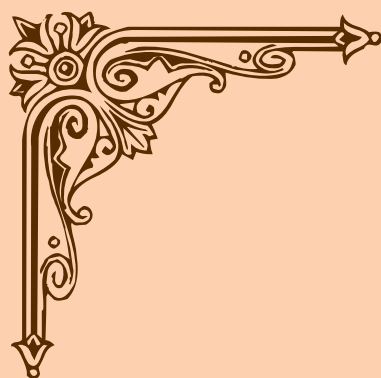




Nearby Place to Visit: Kila Raipur - Rural Olympics

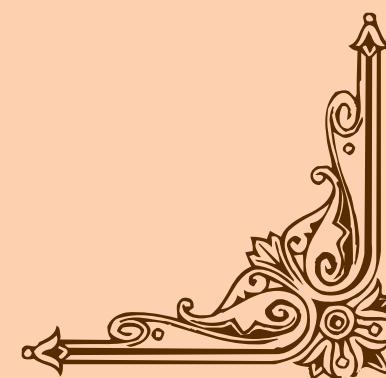
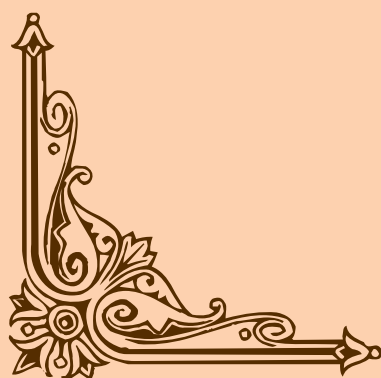
Kila Raipur is a noted village of Ludhiana district in Punjab, India as it hosts the annual Kila Raipur Sports Festival, known as the Rural Olympics. The events played often demonstrate the physical strength and valor of the Punjabi men and women.





Ropar Wetlands

Location	Punjab
Coordinates	31.02°N 76.50°E
Type	Freshwater
Primary in Flows	Sutlej River
Basin countries	India
Surface area	1,365 ha
Average depth	0.5 m
Max, depth	6 m
Surface elevation	275 m
Settlements	Rupnagar





Ropar Wetlands

Ropar wetlands were formed in 1952 with the construction of the barrage on the satluj. Located next to Shivaliks, it forms an important ecological zone and has a large influence on the micro-climate of the area. This is one of the reasons why it was chosen to be a Ramsar site in 2002. There are 150 species of resident & migratory birds.



Ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)



Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)



Little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)



Purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*)



River lapwing (*Vanellus duvaucelii*)



Yellow bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*)



Short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)



Baya weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*)



Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)



Black-throated bush tit (*Aegithalos concinnus*)



Greater coucal (*Centropus sinensis*)



Black-rumped flameback (*Dinopium benghalense*)

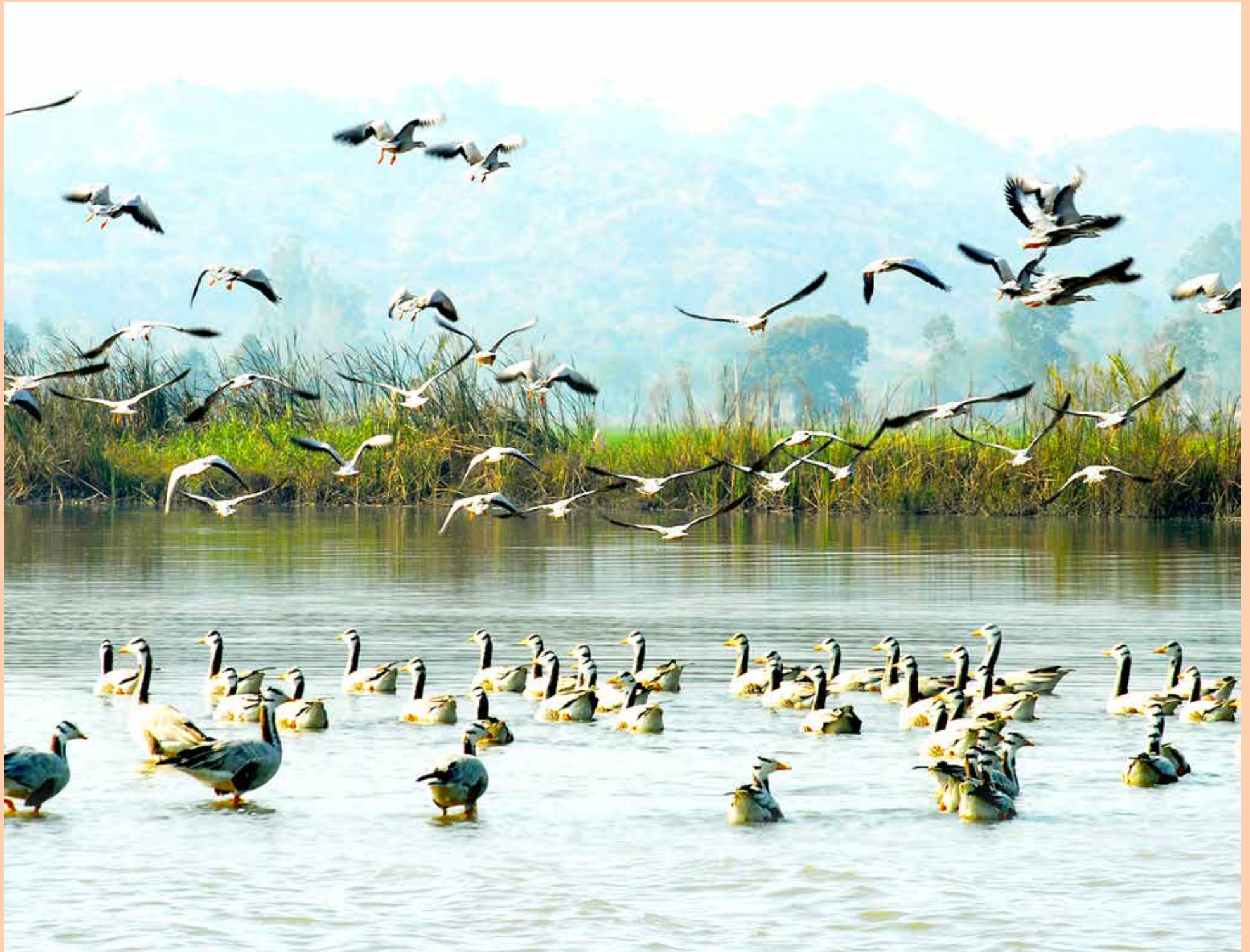


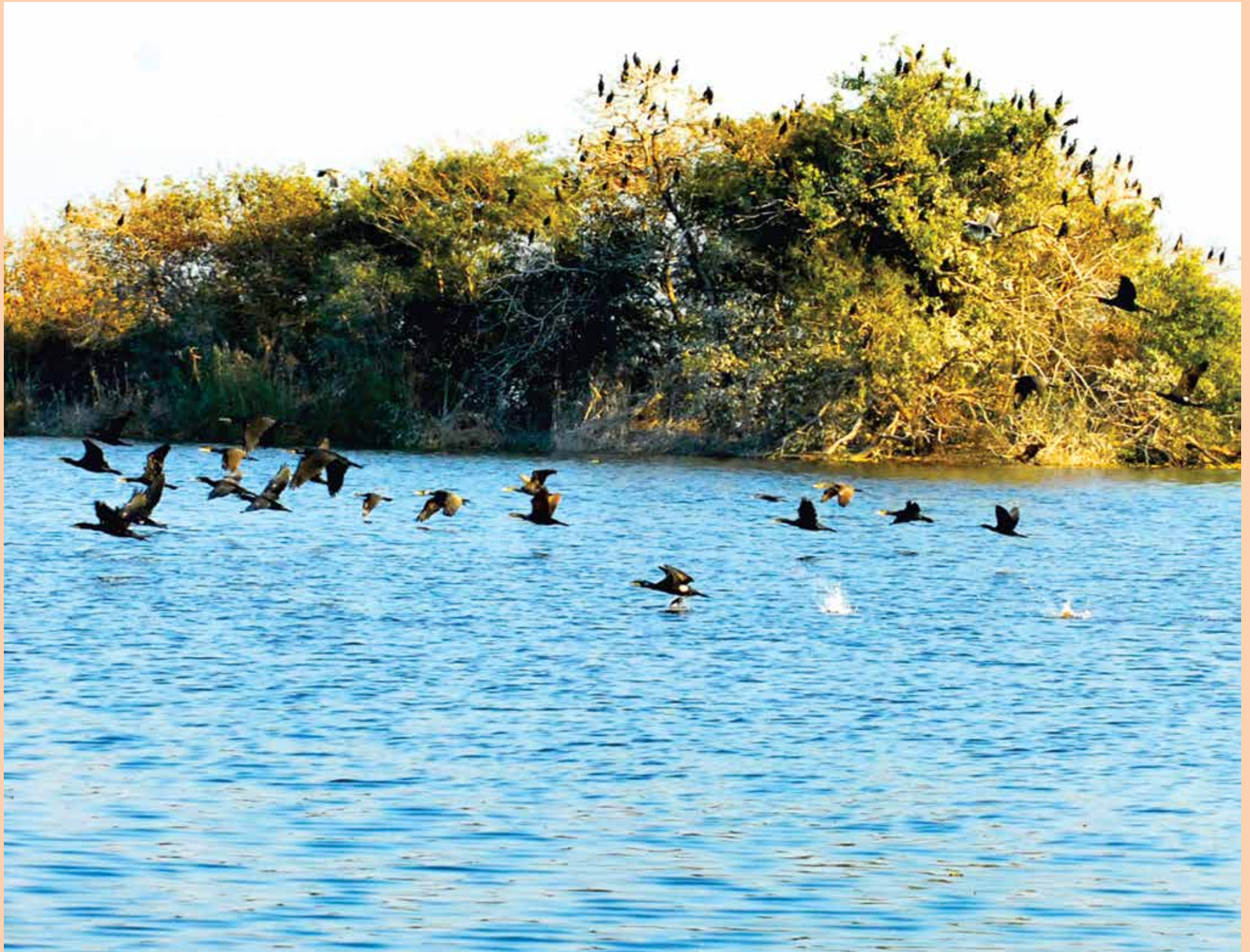
Black-shouldered kite (*Elanus axillaris*)



Red-headed bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*)









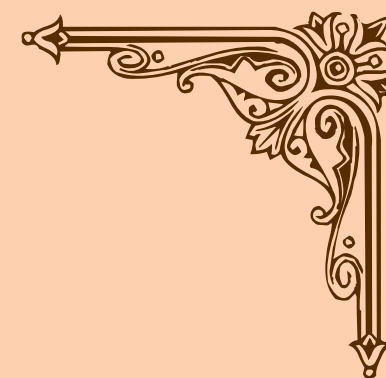
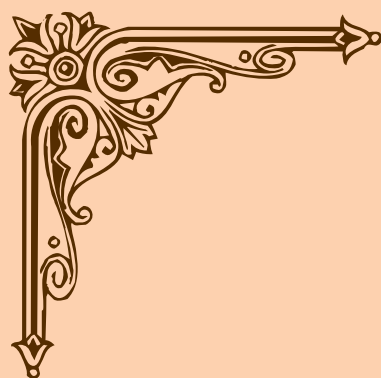


Nearby Place to Visit:

Anglo Sikh Treaty Signing area: On the banks of the Sutluj and near the barrage, is the site where Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Lord William Bentick signed the Treaty Of Amritsar on 1809.

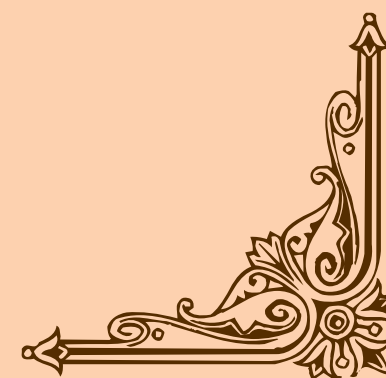
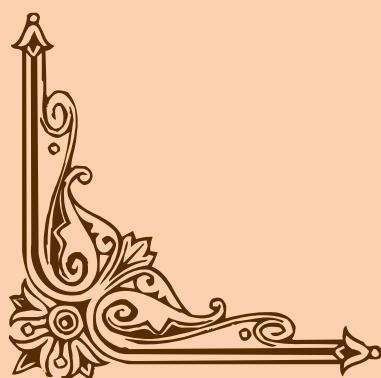
Also, the remains of Indus valley civilization excavations are nearby.





Nangal Wetlands

Location	Punjab
Coordinates	31°24'N 76°22'E
Type	Freshwater
Primary in Flows	Sutlej River
Basin countries	India
Surface area	700 acres
Surface elevation	326 m
Settlements	Nangal





Nangal Wetlands

Nangal wetland came into being with the completion of the Bhakra & Nangal dam in 1963 and is a wetland of national importance. Its marshy habitat merges with the hilly shivaliks harbouring many migratory birds in winter. Around 9000 migratory birds of 30 different species. The beautiful Asian Paradise Flycatcher can be seen here.



Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)



Red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*)



Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*)



Shikra (*Accipiter badius*)



White-breasted waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)



Indian roller (*Coracias benghalensis*)



Asian paradise flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)



Spotted owlet (*Athene brama*)



Purple Moorhen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)



Red-naped ibis (*Pseudibis papillosa*)



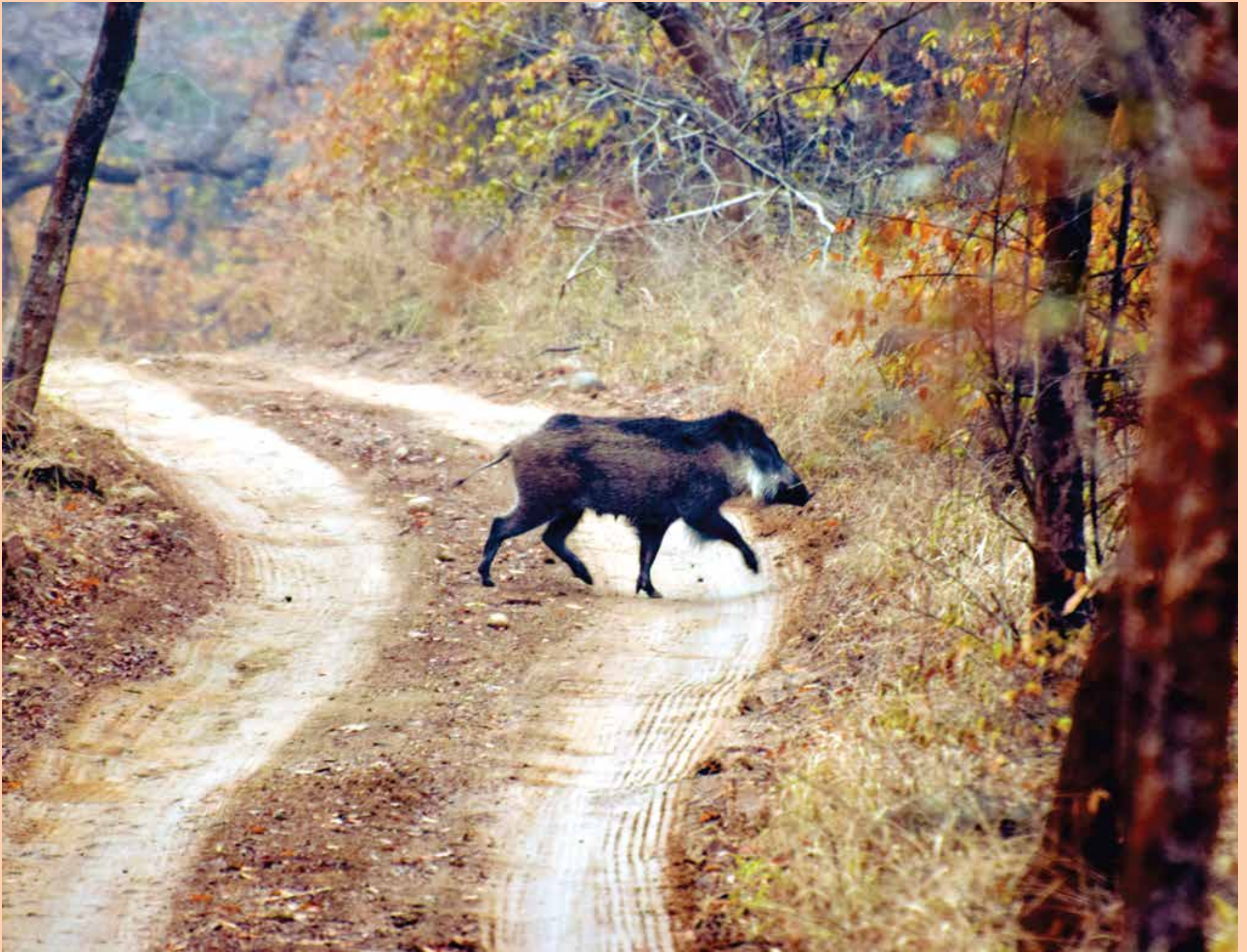
Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse (*Pterocles exustus*)



Bronze-winged jacana (*Metopidius indicus*)



Oriental skylark (*Alauda gulgula*)



Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)







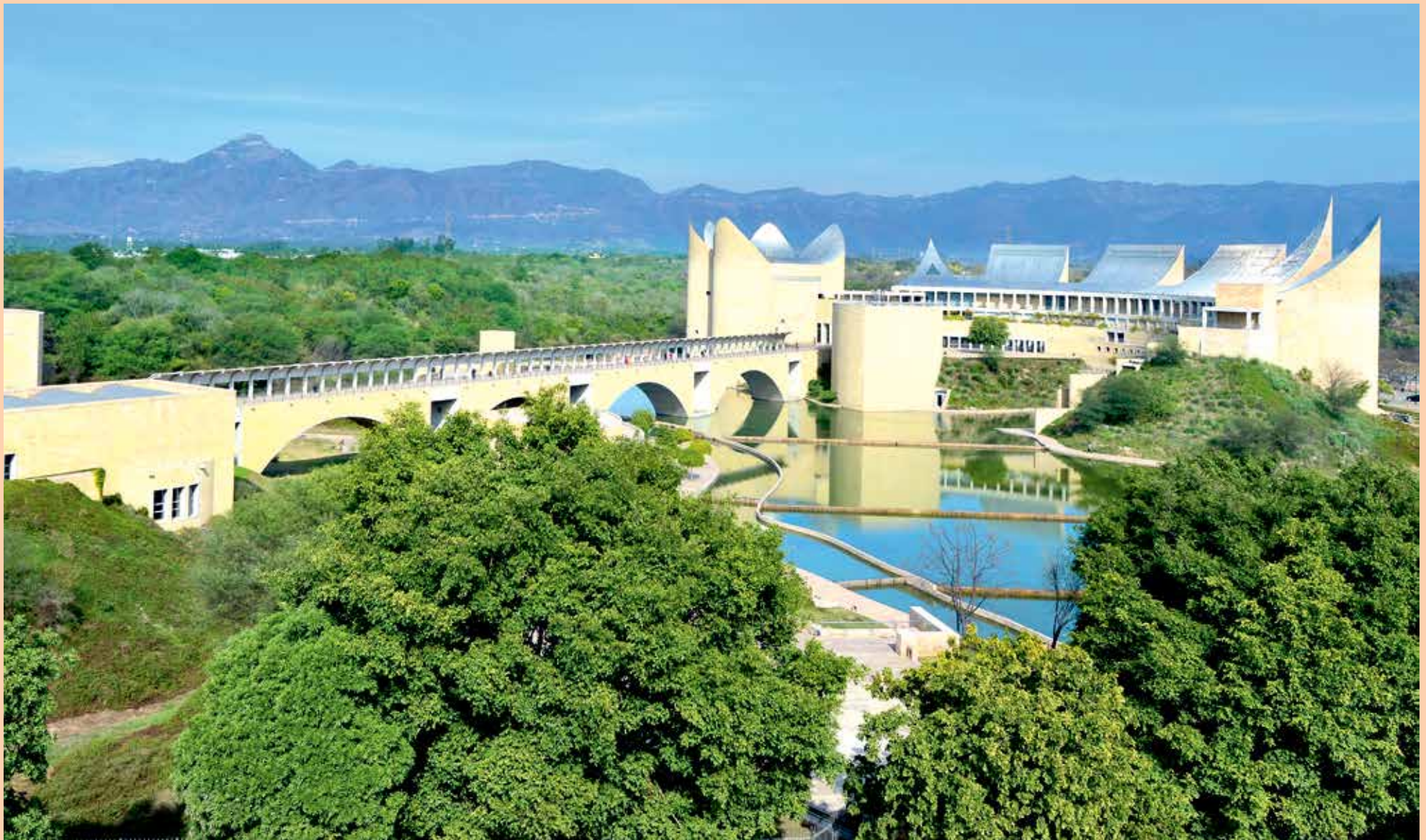


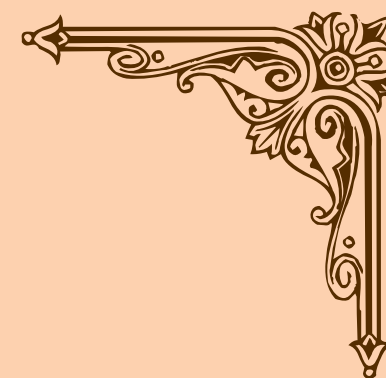
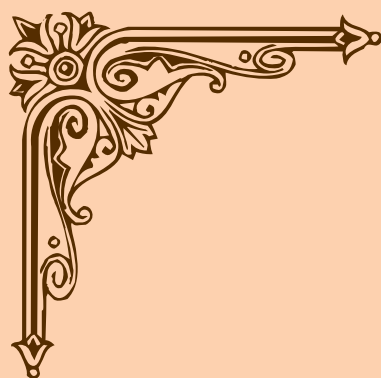


Nearby Place to Visit: Virasat-e-Khalsa

Anandpur Sahib: Literally meaning the Holy City of Bliss, it is one of the most important cities of Punjab in terms of history and heritage. Many important Gurudwaras including the Keshgarh Sahib, one of the 5 takhats of Sikhism, is situated here.

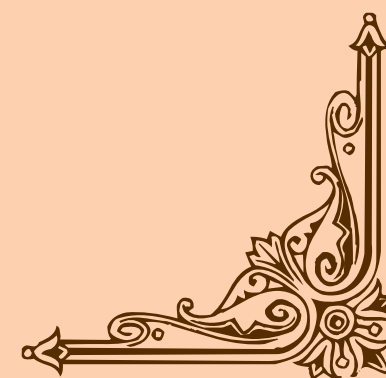
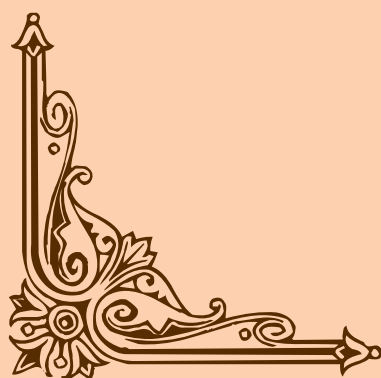
Virasat-e-Khalsa: Designed by world renowned architect Moshe Safdie, Virasat-e-Khalsa was constructed in 2011 to commemorate the 500 years of Sikh history and 300 years of the Khalsa. The museum aims to illuminate the vision of the Sikh Gurus, their message of peace and brotherhood and the cultural heritage of Punjab.





Keshopur Community Reserve

Location	Punjab
Coordinates	30°05'N 75°24'E
Type	Freshwater
Primary in Flows	Sutlej River
Basin countries	India
Surface area	700 acres
Settlements	Gurdaspur





Keshopur Community Reserve

Spread over 340 ha of Panchayat Chhamb area of five villages of Gurdaspur district, Keshopur became the first Community Reserve of the country in 2007. The area is basically a swampy area surrounded by prime agricultural lands of the villages, but because of its unique nature, attracts thousands of migratory birds every year. The love and care extended by the local people towards the winged visitors has ensured that the number of birds reported from the area has increased every year.



Sarus crane (*Grus antigone*)



Demoiselle crane (*Grus virgo*)



Chestnut-crowned laughingthrush (*Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*)



Chestnut-headed bee-eater (*Merops leschenaulti*)



Eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)



Crimson sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*)



Himalayan bluetail (*Tarsiger rufilatus*)



Rufous sibia (*Heterophasia capistrata*)



Red-whiskered bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*)



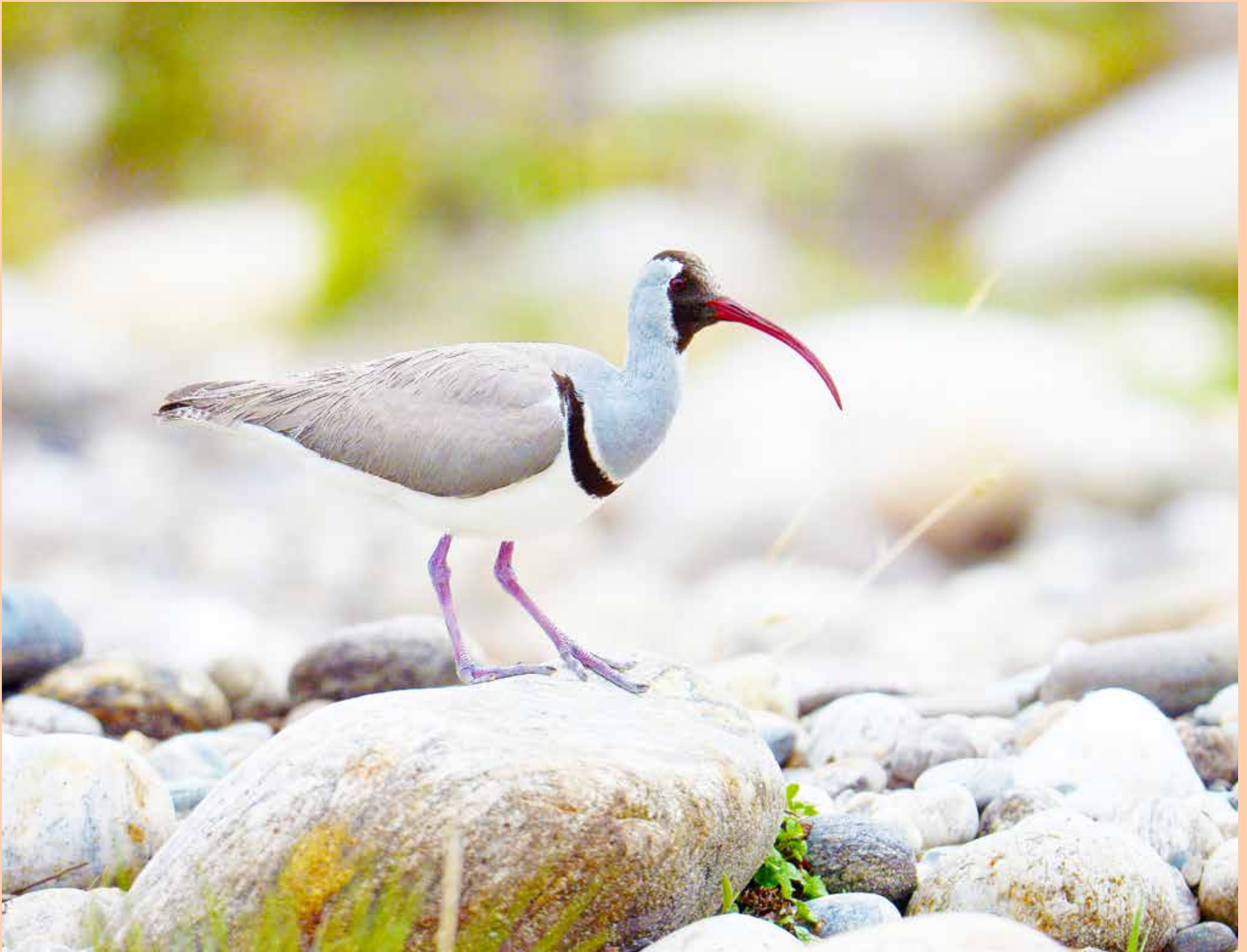
Yellow-breasted greenfinch (*Chloris spinoides*)



Pond heron (*Ardeola grayii*)



Blue winged siva (Minla cyanouroptera)



Ibisbill (*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*)



Steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)



Sunset





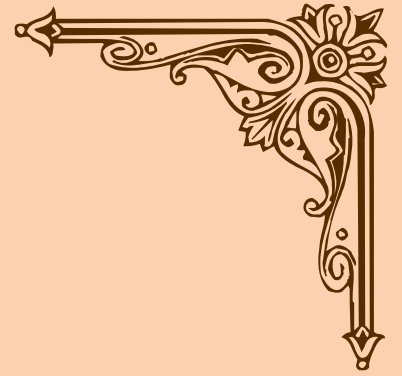
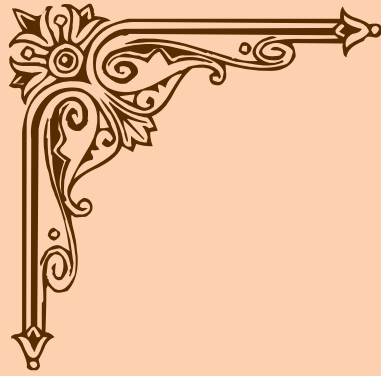




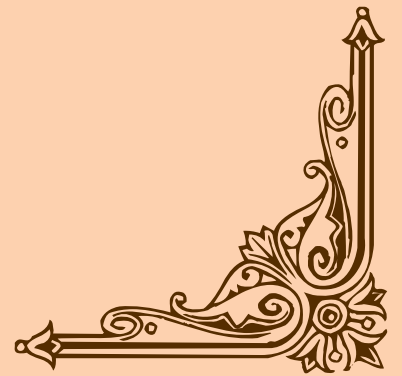
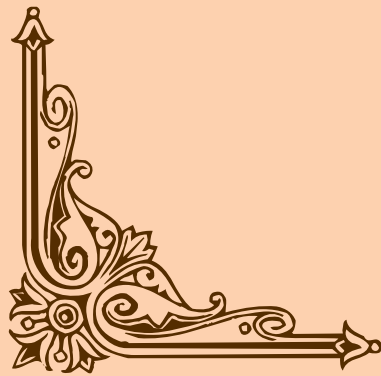
Nearby Place to Visit: Chhota Ghallughara

The Chhota Ghallughara Memorial was constructed in Kahnuwan village of Gurdaspur in 2011 to pay tribute to the sufferings and valour of the Sikhs who fought against the atrocities of the Mughals in 1746. Thousands of Sikhs, including women and children were captured, tortured and killed during this dark period.





Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary





Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary

Spread over 13 villages inhabited by the Bishnoi community, Abohar is a unique Sanctuary in the sense that there is no “Protected Area” separate from habitations, as is the case in all Sanctuaries and National Parks. It is a perfect example of how man and animals can live in complete harmony, even before the concept of Community Reserves came into being. Here one can see the highly endangered black bucks roaming freely like cattle in the villages. Mothers with young children are often seen suckling young black bucks on their breast feeding them milk, along with their child.



Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*)



Yellow monitor (*Varanus flavescens*)



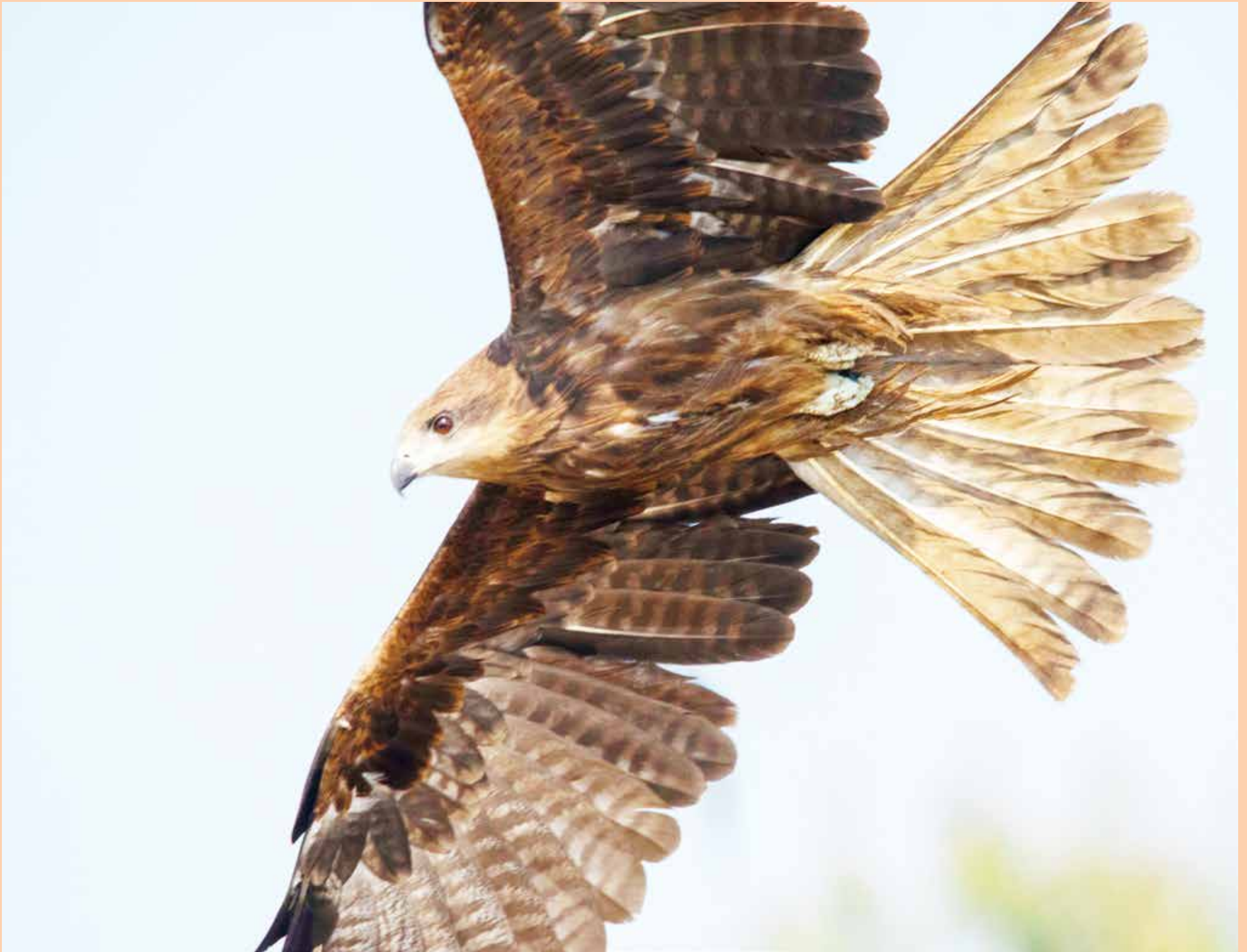
Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*)



Grey francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*)



Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)



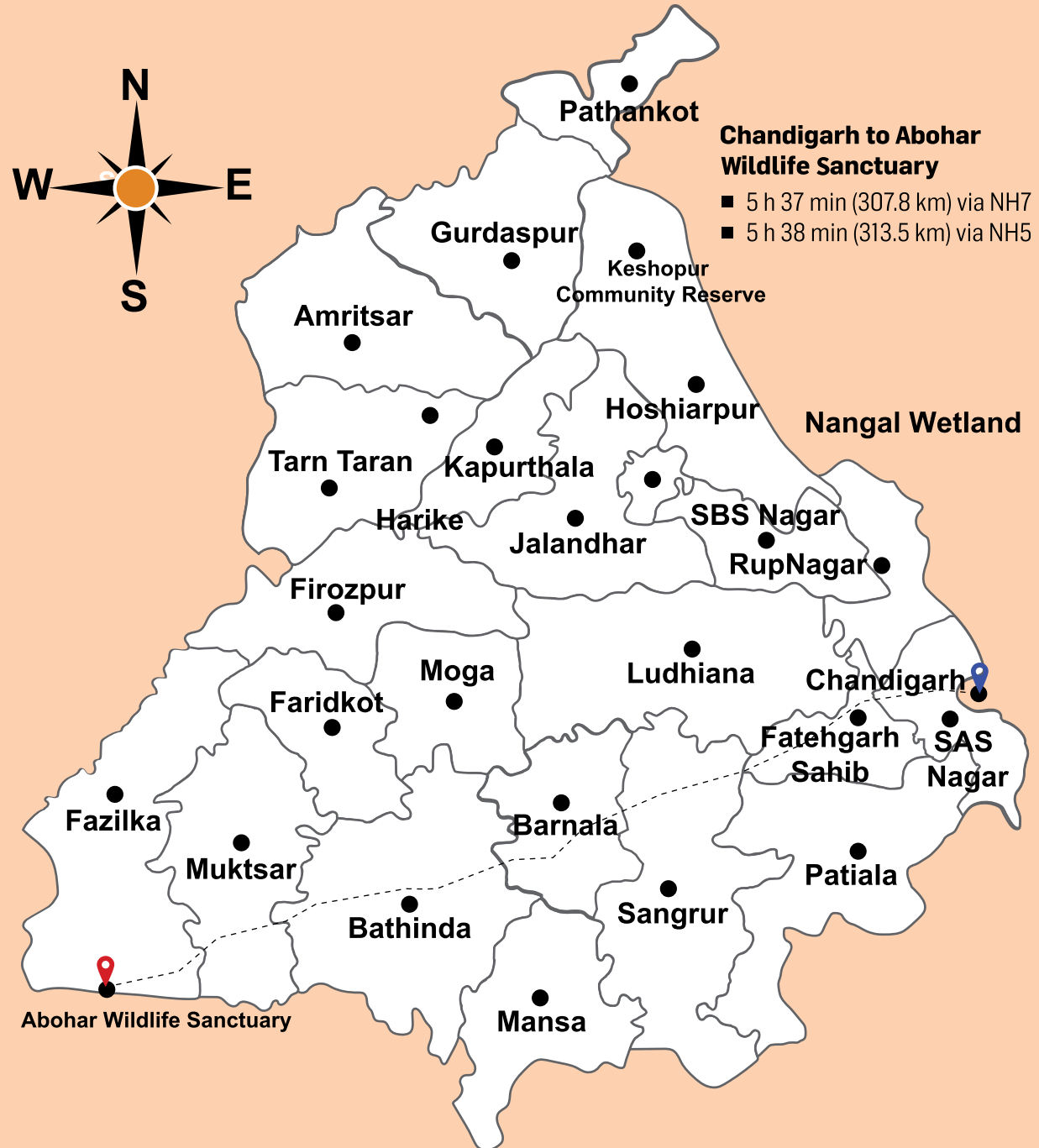
Black kite (*Milvus migrans*)



Purple sunbird (*Cinnyris asiaticus*)



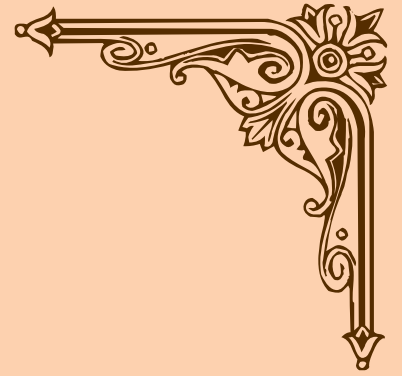
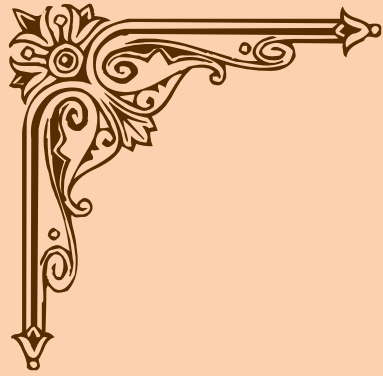
Red vented bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)



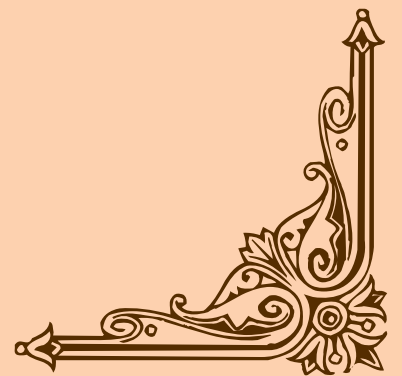
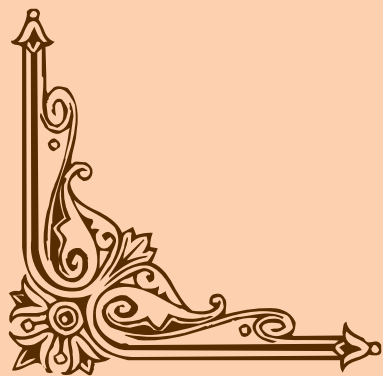
Nearby Place to Visit: Kinnow Orchards

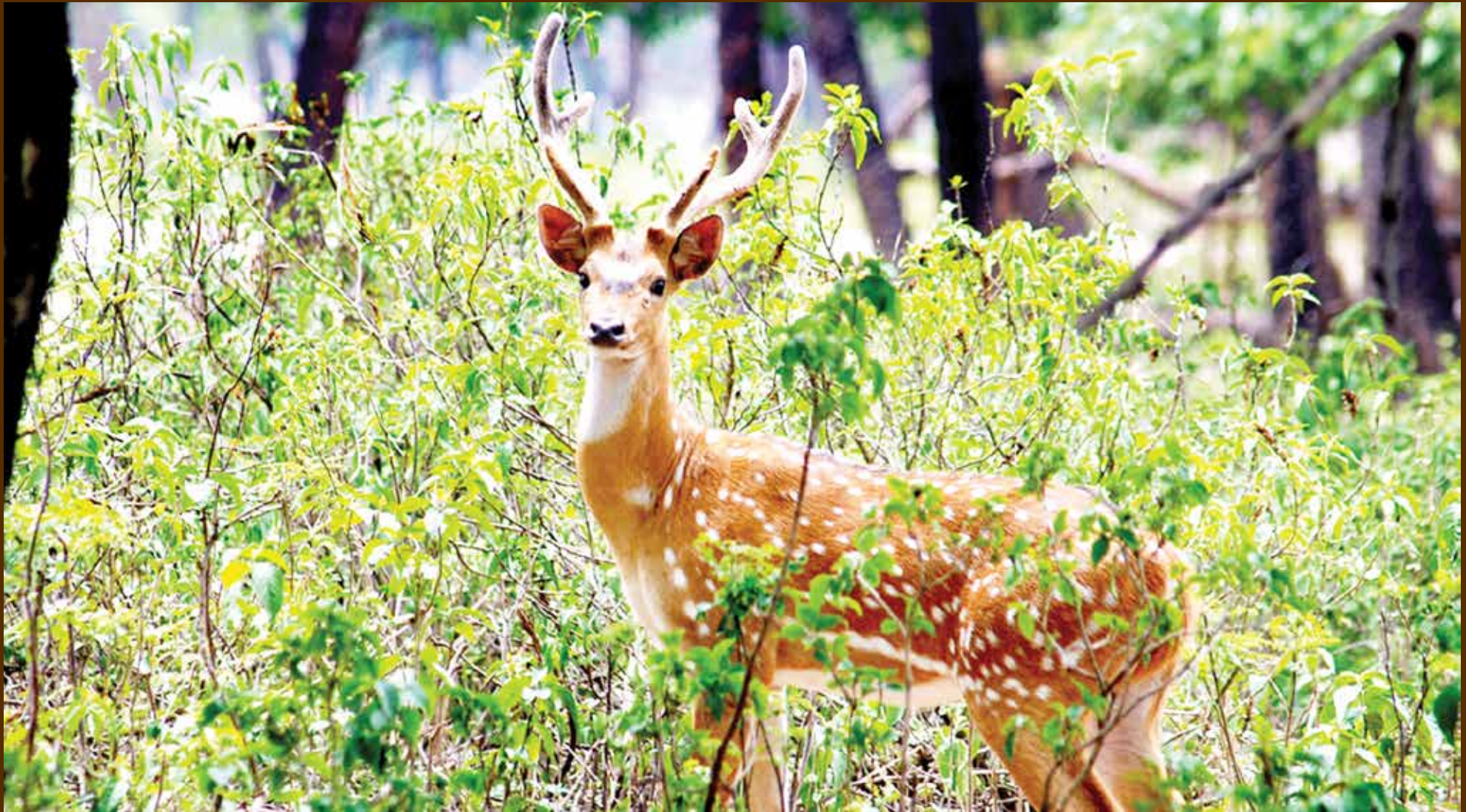
Abohar and the nearby Fazilka area are known throughout the world for the special kind of oranges they produce – Kinnow. The area has several orchards of Kinnow which not only caters to the local people but is also exported. Some farm houses have started “Farm Stays” and Rural Tourism initiatives, whereby visitors can enjoy the beauty of nature, while leaving in a rural setting of Punjab.





Bir Moti Bagh Wildlife Sanctuary





Bir Moti Bagh Wildlife Sanctuary

Situated right across the old Moti Bagh Palace and the famed Sheesh Mahal in Patiala, the Moti Bagh sanctuary used to be a game reserve of the erstwhile Maharaja of Patiala. Declared as a sanctuary in 1952 and spread over an area of 640 ha, Bir Moti Bagh today is a thriving sanctuary, having a deer park and mini zoo.



Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*)



Grey mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*)



Indian hog deer (*Hyelaphus porcinus*)



Green Bee Eater (*Meriops orientalis*)



Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*)



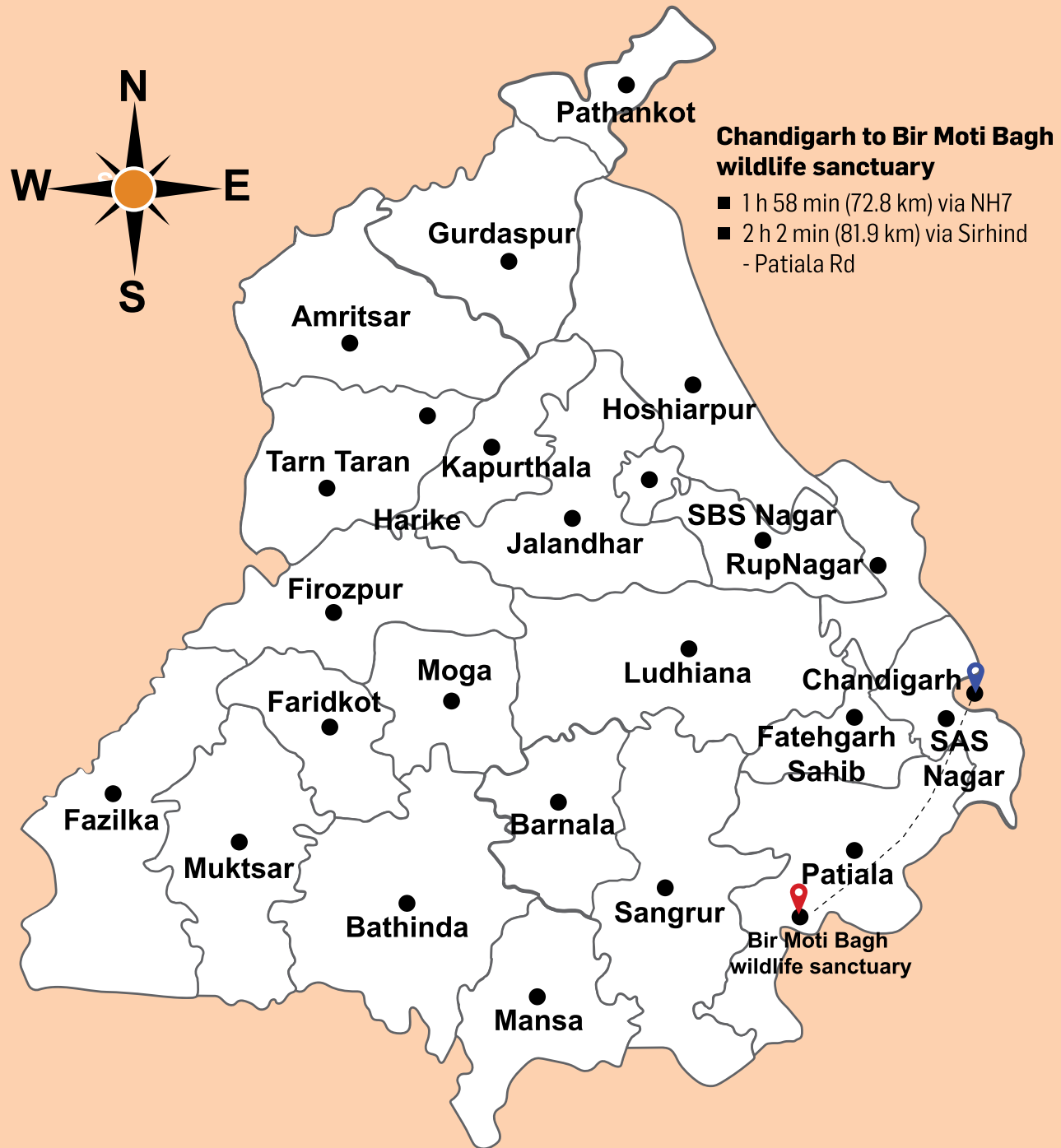
Red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*)



Grey hornbill (*Ocyrceros griseus*)



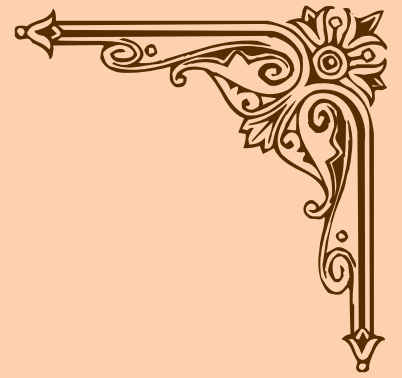
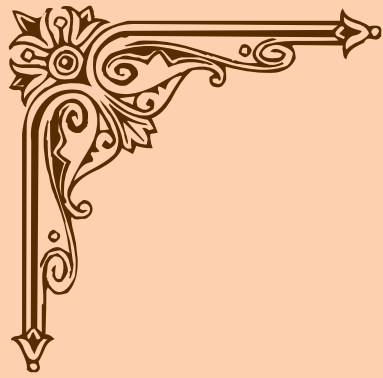
Indian cobra (Naja naja)



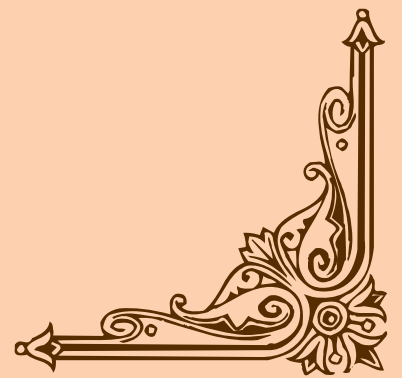
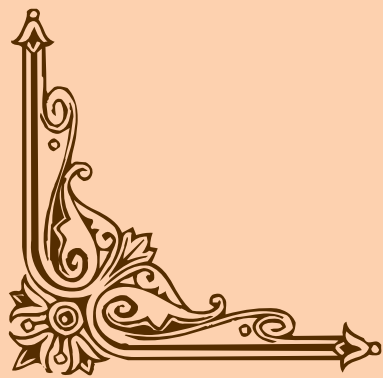
Nearby Place to Visit: Qila Mubarak

Constructed in 1763 by Baba Ala Singh who established the Patiala Dynasty, Qila Mubarak played a vital role in making Patiala one of the foremost princely states in India. The Fort is today partly converted into a museum and among others houses one of the finest and largest collection of Chandeliers.





Chatbir Zoo





Chatbir Zoo

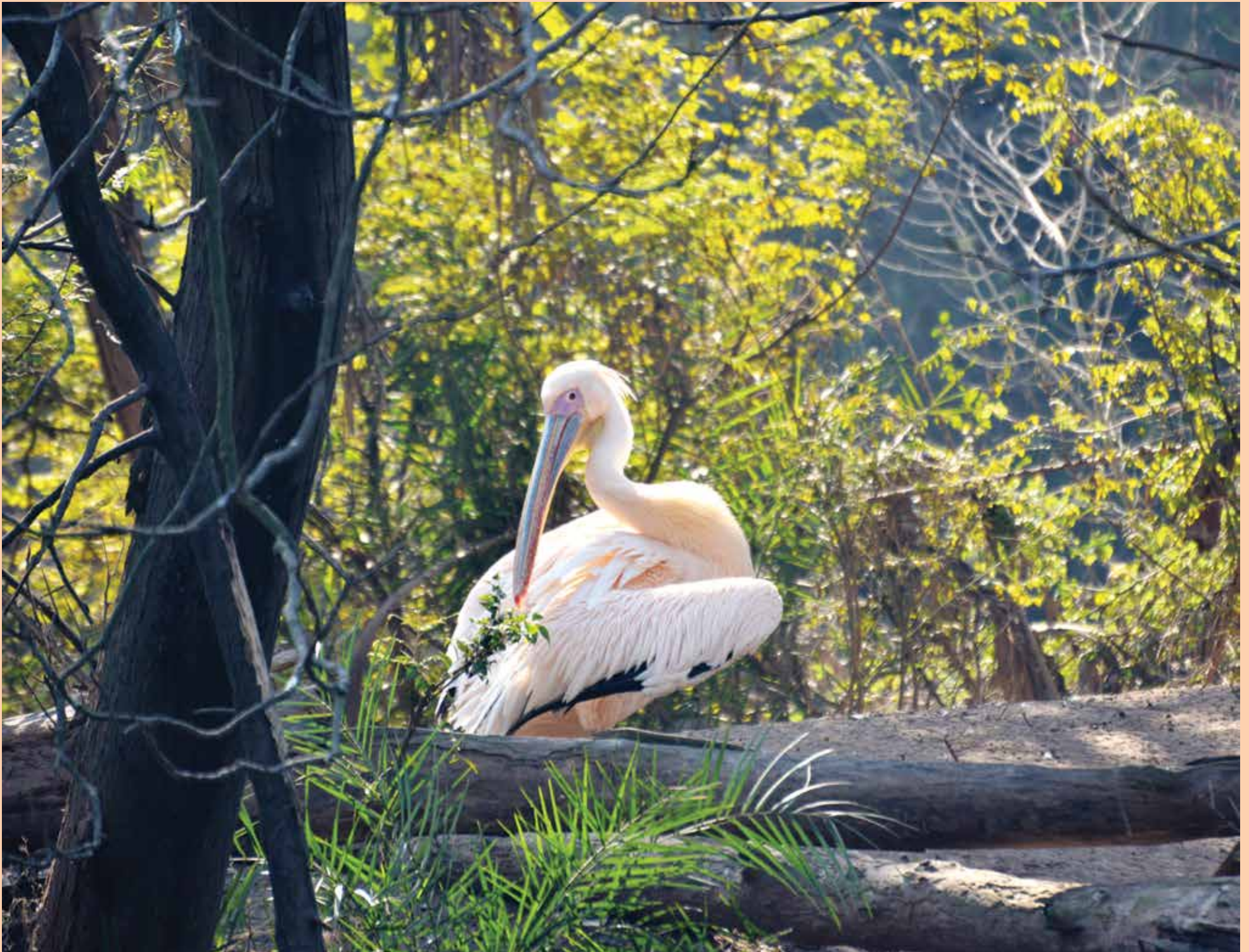
Set up in 1977 by SH Mahendra Chaudhary, the then Governor of Punjab, Chatbir zoo is one of the largest zoos in north India. Spread over an area of 202 ha, the zoo has more than a thousand animals and birds representing about 100 different species. Located just about 20kms from Chandigarh, the zoo is one of the cleanest and well maintained zoo of India and a good place for outing for families of the surrounding areas as well as visitors. Here one can enjoy a lion safari, a deer safari and see many exotic as well as indigenous and endangered animals and birds.



Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)



Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*)



Great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*)



Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*)



Zebra (*Equus quagga*)



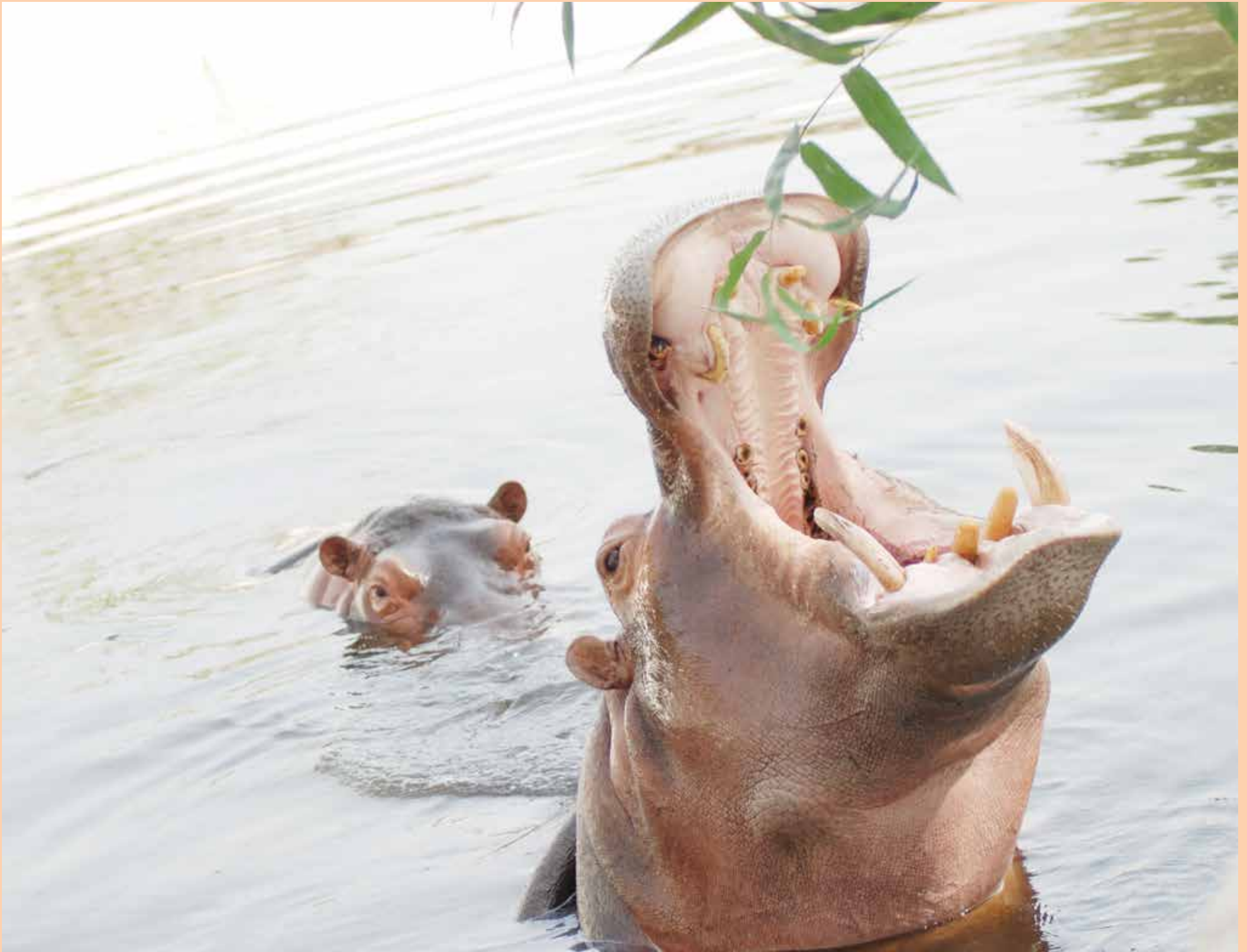
Painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)



Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*)



Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*)



Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*)



Wild Bisen (Bubalus arnee)



The Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)



Crested honey buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)



White Buck (Doe)



Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*)



White Royal Bengal Tiger





Nearby Place to Visit: Fateh Burj

The victory tower standing 323 ft is the tallest minar in India and constructed in 2011 to commemorate the historic battle wherein the mighty Mughal force was defeated by the Sikh Army led by the indomitable Banda Singh Bahadur in 1710. It is situated in Chappar Chiri in Mohali, just adjacent to Chandigarh.



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Ropar Wetlands



Kanjli Wetlands



Keshopur Wetlands



Nangal Wetlands



Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary



**Bir Moti Bagh
Wildlife Sanctuary**



Chhatbir Zoo



Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board

Govt. of Punjab, Department of Tourism

Plot No.3, Sector 38-A, Chandigarh. INDIA