



NIPER Guwahati

July – Dec'23

NEWSLETTER

Vol. II Issue II



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Director's Message

I'm extremely thrilled to share the July-December 2023 edition of the NIPER Guwahati Newsletter, which showcases the remarkable progress and achievements of our institute over the past six months. It's truly inspiring to see how far we've come and how bright the future looks.



One of the most exciting milestones is the near completion of our permanent campus. This significant achievement paves the way for us to officially dedicate the institute to the nation, a moment we've all been eagerly anticipating. We're almost there!

In the latest NIRF ranking, NIPER Guwahati made a phenomenal leap, climbing from 13th to 12th place in the Pharmacy category. This outstanding result is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and students as well as our various stakeholders.

Our faculty members continue to excel, securing extramural funding from prestigious bodies like BIRAC, ICMR and SERB. They're also being recognized with prestigious awards on various platforms, including membership in the National Academy of Sciences and the Torrent Research Awards. These accolades reflect the high level of research being conducted at NIPER Guwahati.

Our students are making us proud as well. One of the students was offered a prestigious post-doctoral position at Ohio State University, while another received a post-doctoral fellowship from the University of California, Los Angeles. These opportunities are a testament to the quality of education and research training we provide.

I'm especially excited to announce that NIPER Guwahati has received a grant from NITI Aayog to establish an Atal Incubation Centre. This initiative will foster entrepreneurship, promote start-ups, and support the growth of MSMEs in the North-East region. It's a wonderful opportunity to drive economic growth and innovation in our region.

We've also been fortunate to establish collaborations with several prestigious research organizations, including the National Research Development Corporation, the CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, the Indian Institute of Science, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Guwahati, National Drug Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, and pharma-major Zydus Lifesciences. These partnerships will undoubtedly enhance our research capabilities and output.

I hope you enjoy reading about our accomplishments in this edition of the NIPER Guwahati Newsletter. I look forward to share with you the upcoming achievements in the next editions. Thank you for your continued support to NIPER Guwahati.

Dr. USN Murty

Foreword

One of the most important needs in performing research activities is to conduct experiments using animals. Taking this requirement into consideration, NIPERG has established a unique *state-of-the-art* facility, named Central



Animal Facility (CAF). The CAF, once functions fully, will cater the daunting needs like specific pathogen-free rodent research models aiming to assist the drug screening, marker compound identification and follow up at *in vivo* conditions, safety and efficacy checking etc. On receipt of animal requests from research institutions or companies across Northeastern states in particular, the CAF will ensure that the business model is not “paid their way out” without rendering the good scientific services, rather it should be “pay their way out” with good scientific services.

In this Newsletter, the activities, events, guest lectures, gear up sessions etc., happened inside the institute premises are compiled together to spread the essence of all these events and activities among the students, faculties, and staff members. One more added page in this Newsletter consists of the student-centric activities performed by SAHAY as well as plantation drive by student community.

Prof. (Dr.) Tamilvanan Shunmugaperumal
Chairman
Committee for Publishing of Newsletter

Central Animal Facility (CAF)

Compiled by
Dr. Jagdish K Balani, Veterinarian, NIPER-G

A new building for a unique state-of-the-art facility of Central Animal Facility (CAF) at NIPER Guwahati was established with financial support from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India on an area of 1100 square meters with a complete infrastructure to support the needs of various investigators of NIPER-G and other organizations of our nation. The facility aims to provide and maintain specific pathogen-free (SPF) rodent research models to investigators of NIPER-G, government institutions/universities and private industries working in the area of drug discovery and development from the North Eastern and other region of our country. The CAF is registered with the Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CCSEA), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi (Registration number: 2069/GO/ReBiBt/S/19/CPCSEA, dated 28.07.2021). All activities related to laboratory animal breeding and research at the NIPER-G are performed as per CCSEA, New Delhi, and in-house institutional guidelines under the supervision of the veterinarian in-charge and the direction of the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC).





Guest lecture on “Literature Search: A Structured Approach”

Mrs. Vasumathi Sriganesh, Founder and CEO of QMed Knowledge Foundation, Mumbai gave a guest lecture on 19th July 2023. Nearly 100 participants took part in the lecture. The lecture helped the participants in acquiring knowledge and skills about literature search in general and advanced search in PubMed in specific.



Two-day hands-on training on Biomedical Metrology

A two-day hands-on training on Biomedical Metrology was conducted on 27th and 28th July 2023. A three-member team of experts from CSIR-National Physical Laboratory of India, New Delhi consisting of Dr. Rajesh, Chief Scientist, Dr. G Sumana, Sr Principal Scientist, and Dr. Ved Varun, Sr Principal Scientist, conducted the training program. The training program was blended with theory and practical sessions for the calculation of metrology parameters, measurement of uncertainty, and metrological traceability.



Expert talk on “Integration of Evolving Technologies in Healthcare and Surveillance”

An Expert talk on “Integration of Evolving Technologies in Healthcare and Surveillance” was organized by Atal Incubation Centre NIPER-Guwahati Foundation on 12th October 2023. Mr. Tarun Gupta, Director, VaidyaRx Pvt. Ltd., IIT-Delhi, delivered the talk to a participant strength of more than 100. During the talk, the participants interacted with keynote speaker with their start-up idea in the field of Healthcare and learned how digital platform can provide healthcare facility to remote areas of the country.



Expert talk on “Needs, Relevance and Facets of Entrepreneurship Development and Startups” on the occasion of National Entrepreneurship Day

Atal Incubation Centre, NIPER-Guwahati Foundation organized an expert talk on “Needs, Relevance and Facets of Entrepreneurship Development and Startups” on 9th November 2023. Dr. Sriparna Bhuyan Baruah, Advisor (Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship) NEHHDC, Retd. Head - Centre for Industrial Extension, IIE, Guwahati, Assam, took the session where she talked about the scopes of successful entrepreneurship in Northeast India in tea, organic products, muga silk, castor oil, bamboo and cane furniture, ginger, fruits, traditional herbal medicine, jute, home furnishing, handicrafts etc.



Expert talk on “Global Bio-India Road Show-2023”

Keynote Speakers Dr. Raj Shirumalla, Mission Director, National Biopharma Mission, BIRAC, Govt. of India, Dr. Mohan Chandra Kalita, Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, Gauhati University and Dr. H. Purushotham, DPIIT-IPR Chair Professor, Govt. of India, took sessions during an expert conducted as part of the Global Bio-India Road Show 2023 on 10th November 2023.



Awareness activities on World Diabetes Day

AIC NIPER Guwahati Foundation conducted awareness activities as part of the World Diabetes Day on 14th November 2023. A rally was taken out in the Changsari area by the students of NIPERGU with placards and banners on diabetes. Later, a program was conducted where Dr. Kanhaiya Singh, Associate Professor, McGowan Institute of Regenerative Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, USA, gave a speech on targeted gene epigenetic editing to rescue diabetic Ischemic tissue. An in-house health screening camp was organized for the faculty, staff and students.



Expert talk on “Clinical Pharmacogenetics”

Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology organized an Expert talk on “Clinical Pharmacogenetics” on 15th December 2023. Prof. Smita N Deshpande, Department of Psychiatry, St John Medical College, Bangalore, delivered a talk to nearly 100 participants. The talk focussed on mental health issues worldwide and their efficient therapeutic strategies.



Session On “Opportunities in the value chain of tea and contributions in the Bio-innovations of Tea Industry”

A tea awareness program 2023 at Seminar Hall, NIPER-Guwahati was conducted on 15th December 2023 by AIC NIPER Guwahati Foundation. As part of the program, guest speaker Mr. Abhijit Hazarika, Consultant (Tea and Process Innovation), Ex-Head Process Innovation TBB India, TATA Global Beverages delivered a talk on “opportunities in the value chain of tea and contributions in the bio-innovations of tea industry”.





Celebration of 77th Independence Day

The 77th Independence Day was celebrated at NIPER Guwahati with due fervour. Dr. USN Murty, Director, NIPER Guwahati, addressed the gathering at the program where he recalled the contributions made by the freedom fighters that earned the independence from British rule.



Inauguration of Children Park

Keeping in view to improve the life at the campus, Dr. USN Murty, Director, NIPER Guwahati, inaugurated a children park near the Type III quarters on 11th September 2023. The park provides the playing and recreational facilities for the kids living in the resident quarters.



Orientation program for the newly admitted students

An orientation program for the fresh batch of M. S. and M. Tech. students was conducted on 12th September 2023 at the auditorium (Recreation Complex). Dr. USN Murty, Director, NIPER Guwahati, addressed the students and shared his thoughts with the newly joined students. He also interacted with the guardians and addressed their queries.



Hindi Pakhwada

Hindi Pakhwada was organized at NIPER Guwahati from 18th to 27th September 2023 through a series of programs. A workshop was conducted on 20th September 2023 where faculty and staff members learned about the Hindi language implementation in office procedures. Various competitions were also organized among staff and students to promote use of Hindi language in official works.



State Bank of India donates Ambulance to NIPER Guwahati

State Bank of India under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme handed over an ambulance to NIPER Guwahati on 20th September 2023. Mr. Vincent MD, Chief General Manager of North-East Circle, SBI handed over the keys of the ambulance to Dr. USN Murty, Director, NIPER Guwahati, during a ceremonial function organized at the NIPER Guwahati campus.



Oath-taking on Pharmacists Day

An oath-taking ceremony was conducted to commemorate the Pharmacists Day on 25th September 2023. Dr USN Murty, Director, NIPER Guwahati, administered the oath to the faculty, staff and students at the institute.



Vigilance Awareness Week 2023

An integrity pledge-taking session was conducted on 30th October 2023 to commemorate the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2023. The faculty and staff members took the integrity pledge to maintain fairness, transparency, and accountability in office works.



Special Campaign 3.0

As per directives from the Government of India, Special Campaign 3.0 was conducted from 2nd to 31st October 2023 by NIPER Guwahati. As part of the campaign, students, faculty and staff members conducted cleanliness drives both inside and outside the NIPERG campus, and created awareness on the significance of Swachhta to the public.



Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Week

NIPER Guwahati observed the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Week from 4th to 9th December 2023 through a series of program. Col. Dibya Shankar Bhattacharya, a senior advocate with the Gauhati High Court, gave a talk on the legal aspects of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.



Hon'ble Prime Minister's address to students on Viksit Bharat

Students of NIPER Guwahati attended the online nation-wide address of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at IIT Guwahati and NIPER Guwahati on 11th December 2023. The Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the student community across the country and urged them to contribute effectively towards a Viksit Bharat.



NIPER's Common Research Program

NIPER's Common Research Program was held on 29th December 2023 at NIPER Guwahati. Faculty members from all the NIPERs at Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Hajipur, Kolkata, Raebareli, SAS Nagar and Guwahati took part in the program and presented their research works.



MoUs



NIPER Guwahati renewed an MoU with National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), Govt. of India, New Delhi on 31st October 2023. The MoU reiterates efforts for research collaboration between the two institutes on various fronts.



NIPER Guwahati renewed an MoU with Zydus Lifesciences Limited, Ahmedabad on 29th November 2023. As part the MoU, both the institutes will jointly work on drug discovery and development, use of facilities and student projects and placements.



NIPER Guwahati signed an MoU with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), Govt. of India, New Delhi on 11th August 2023. The MoU opens avenues for technology transfers.

Awards & Achievements



Dr. Ramu Adela, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice, is selected as a **Member of the National Academy of Sciences India (MNASc) 2023**.



Ms. Rutuja Kailas Kale, a Medical Devices student, won the **Best Oral Presentation** in Medical Devices Section at NIPER Pharmacon on September 14 -16, 2023 at Hyderabad.

Mr. Nishanta Kakati and **Mr. Intikhab Alam**, students from Medical Devices, received **Best Futuristic Model Award** at "Biodesign Hackathon for Innovation in Medical Device and Systems" organized by SIBDS-IIBC, IIT Guwahati on September 13-16, 2023.



Mr. Harsh Manish Varia, a student from Medical Devices, received **Best User-Friendly Model Award** at "Biodesign Hackathon for Innovation in Medical Device and Systems" organized by SIBDS-IIBC, IIT Guwahati on September 13-16, 2023.

Ms. Masure Sonal Narayan and **Mr. Jadhav Sachin Dnyaneshwar**, students from Medical Devices, received **Best Life Saving Model Award** at "Biodesign Hackathon for Innovation in Medical Device and Systems" organized by SIBDS-IIBC, IIT Guwahati on September 13-16, 2023.



Mr. Khan Shahdab Shahjahan, a student of Medical Devices, received **Best Use of Technology Award** at "Biodesign Hackathon for Innovation in Medical Device and Systems" organized by SIBDS-IIBC, IIT Guwahati on September 13-16, 2023.



Mr. Pawar Nirnanjan Ganesh, a student of Medical Devices, received **Best Innovation Award** at "Biodesign Hackathon for Innovation in Medical Device and Systems" organized by SIBDS-IIBC, IIT Guwahati on September 13-16, 2023.

Ms. Kumari Kaushiki, a student of Medicinal Chemistry, received the **Best Poster Presentation Award** for the poster titled "Economical scale-up process development for the high yield and high purity lutein from marigold" in the International Hybrid Conference Bioeconomy 2023 held in October 11–12, 2023 at IIT Guwahati.



Mr. Christy Thomas, a PhD Scholar of Pharmacy Practice, won **Rising Star Award** at the 15th Asian Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology organized by International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology in Bengaluru held in 26th-28th October 2023.

Ms. Ruby Kasana, a PhD Scholar of Pharmacy Practice, won **Best Spotlight Poster Presentation Award** at the 15th Asian Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology organized by International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology in Bengaluru which was held during 26th-28th October 2023.



The ACPE International Steering Committee of International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology granted scholarships to the above students to attend and present their research work at the ISPEs 15th Asian Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology. Each student was granted Rs. 41,000/- to cover travel and accommodation expenses and were given complementary registration to the educational sessions and conference.

From Left: Christy Thomas, Ruby Kasana, Rathod Mahesh, Vijaysangheetha G, Shilpa A, & Saif K Ali



Ms. Aditi Battu, M Pharm student of Pharmacy Practice, was selected to receive the prestigious 2023 John Snow Award and a scholarship of USD 4,625 for attending the International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology in Nova Scotia, Canada on 23rd-27th August 2023.

EMR Grants



SN	Title of Project	Funding Agency	PI	Duration	Amount Sanctioned (in Lakhs)
1	Bioprospecting the North-East Himalayan plants for its Cardioprotective activity through metabolomics approach	SERB	Dr. Radhakrishnanand Pullapanthula	3 Years	39.10
2	Exploring the collagen synthesis and cross-linking by targeting lysyl oxidase like-2 (LOXL2)-TGFβ1 axis in mitigating alcoholic liver diseases: Preclinical development of phytotherapeutics	ICMR	Dr. Bidya Dhar Sahu	3 Years	30.66
3	Efficient process development strategies for prevalent 'rare disease' drugs	DST	Dr. Kapileswar Seth	3 years	49.50
4	Process development to prepare high pure capsaicin and dihydrocapsaicin	DST (Nidhi Prayaas)	Dr. Pramod Kumar	1 year	7.0

Student Corner



NIPER-G Student NGO SAHAY opens its office

The opening of the office for the SAHAY on the NIPER-G campus on 19 August 2023 marked a valuable approach to encourage the NGO. This has laid a new milestone in the history of NIPER by opening an office for the NGO formed by the students of NIPER-G. The inauguration took place at the girl's hostel beside the SBI ATM on the campus. Dr. USN Murty, Director, NIPER-G inaugurated the office. The ceremony commenced with the cutting of the ribbon followed by performing pooja by the respected director sir and students at the SAHAY's office. Dr. Murty gave

an account of the significance and objectives of SAHAY. Further, he said that he would be ready to provide support for any sort of task that can enrich society. He also suggested a few activities apart from donations and hospital visits, like teaching the orphanage students free of cost whenever possible, especially science and mathematics.



Activities performed by SAHAY

- Two of SAHAY's volunteers donated blood at GNRC Hospital, Guwahati marking an important social activity.
- Kavitha Kalita, is a contract-based MTS worker at NIPER-G. Her son was hospitalized for severe health issues and was in the ICU for a couple of days. SAHAY had donated Rs. 5000/- cash to help her clear a few medical bills.
- Donated a few groceries and provided a day lunch for all the old age people at Mother Old Age home-Guwahati.

Plantation Drive by Students

A plantation program was taken up by the students of NIPER Guwahati on 10th February 2023. Faculty members of NIPER Guwahati too actively participated in the plantation program.



Patents & Publications



PATENTS

- Nanomicellar composition of lithocholic acid tryptophan conjugate and preparation methods thereof – Oct 2023, Grant no: 454580.
- Process for preparation of 6-gingerol and ginger oleoresin powder from *Zingiber officinalis*, an Indian Patent filed on 28/11/2023. Application number: 202331080570
- Topical composition and method to prepare thereof, an Indian Patent filed on 07/12/2023; Application number: 202331083488

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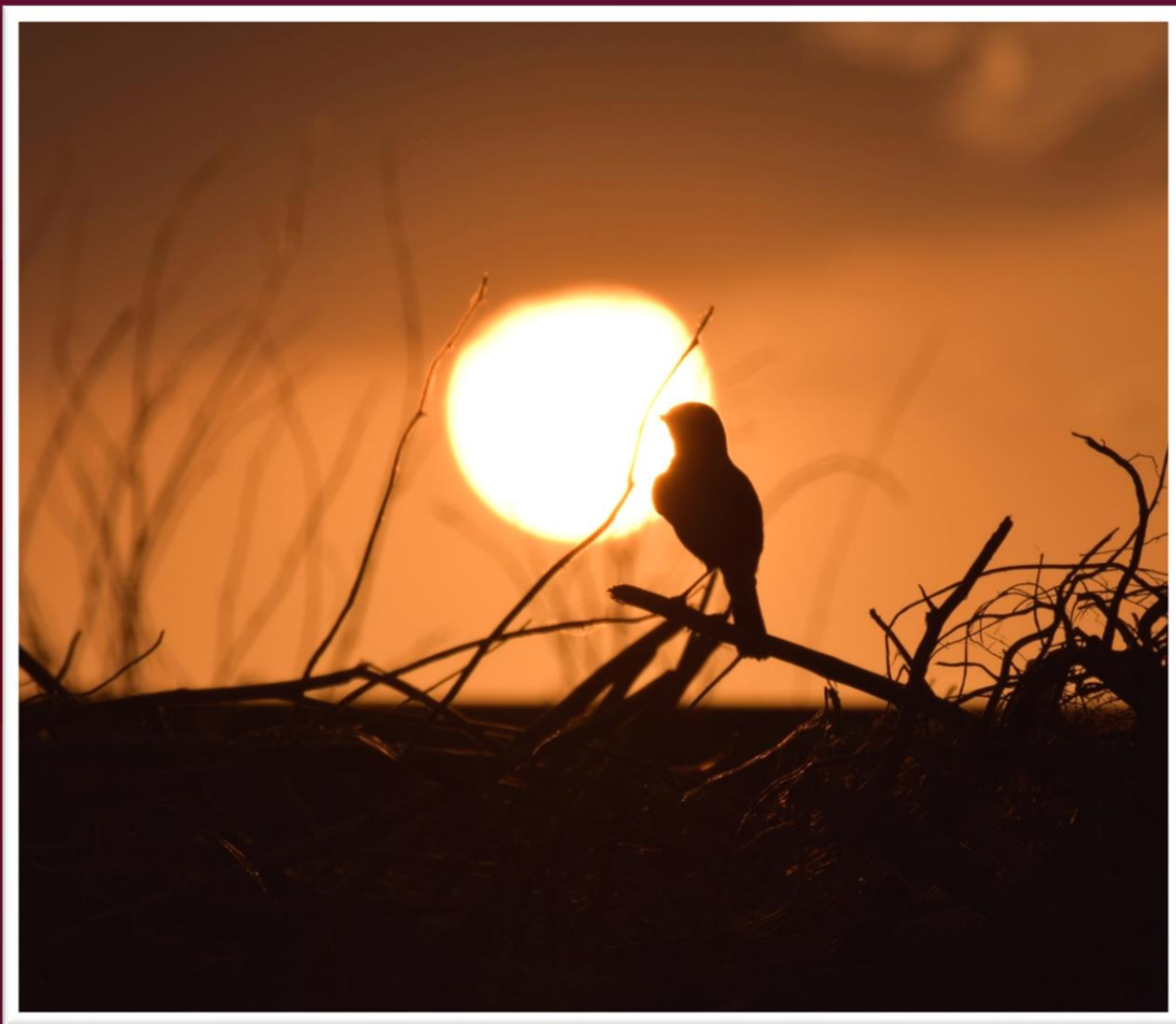
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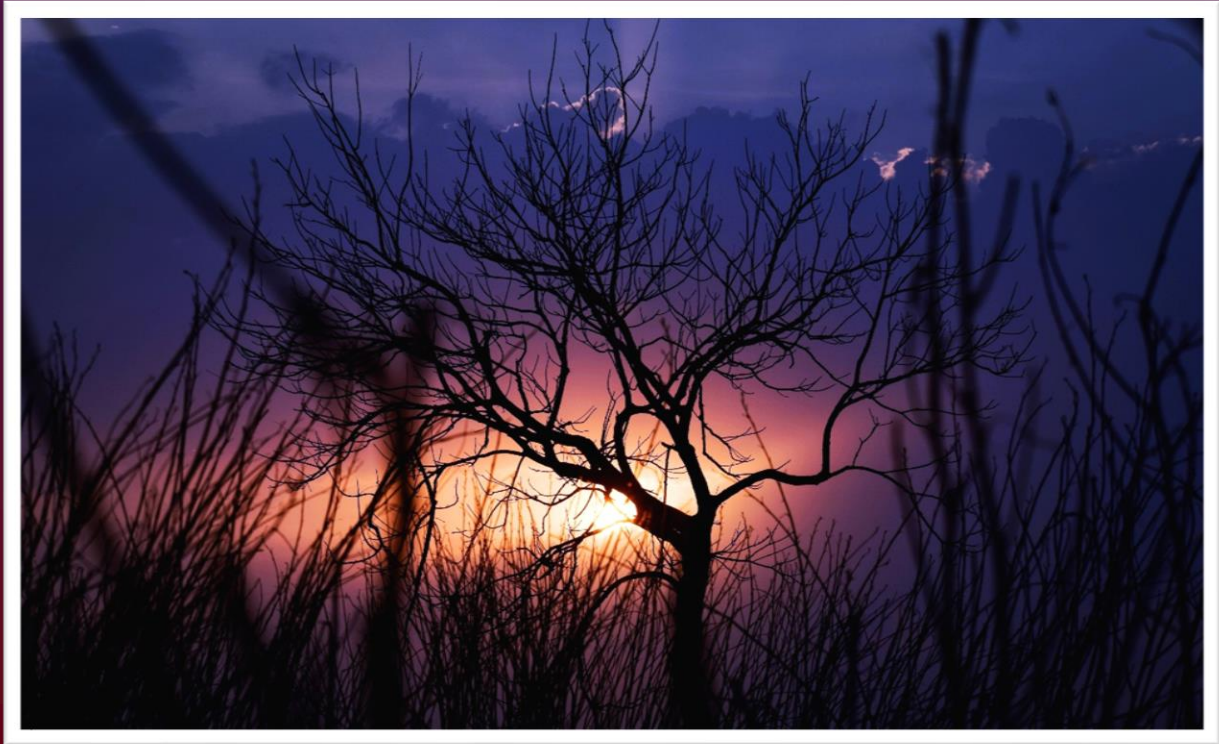
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LENSCAPE

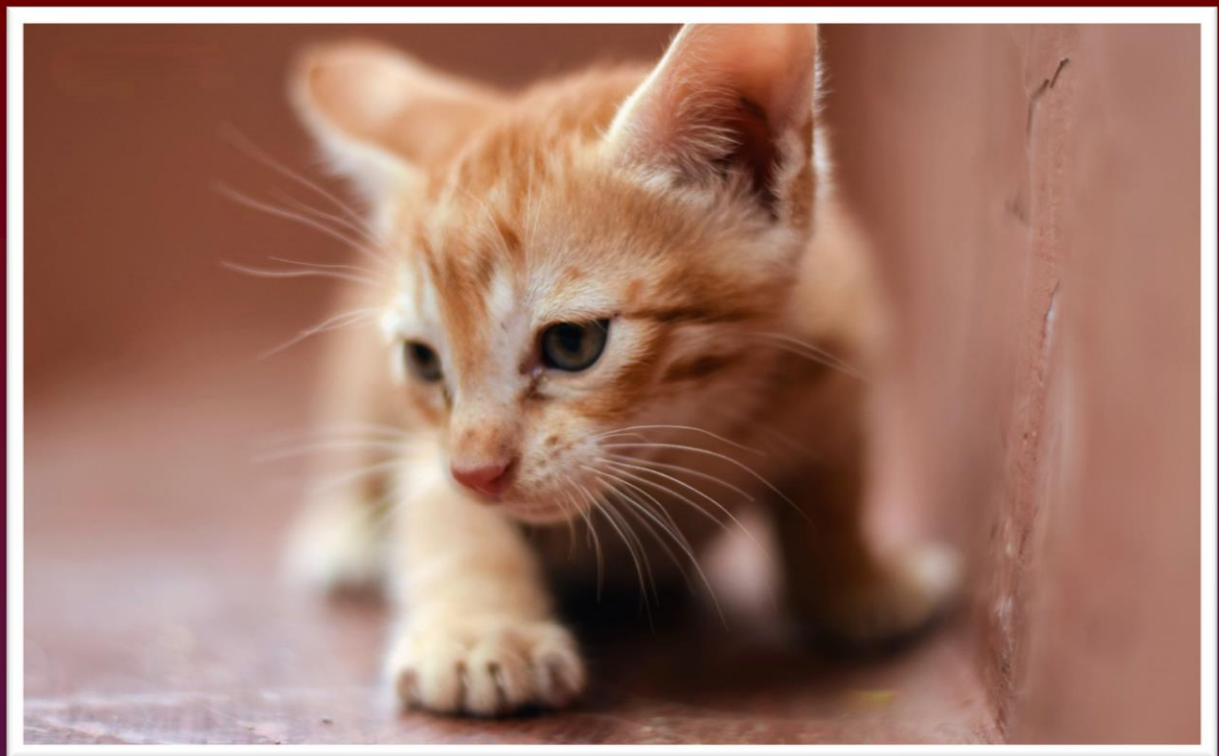
*This feature of Lenscape brings forth the immense talent of **Mr. Prajyot R. Sonone**, a 2nd year M.S. (Pharm) student from the Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, NIPER Guwahati.*



Silhouette of a bird against a stunning sunset at Katepurna Wildlife Sanctuary, Akola, Maharashtra



Silhouette of trees against sunset sky at Tadoba National Park, Nagpur, Maharashtra



A cute brown kitten clicked at his residence in Maharashtra



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