

# BEYOND THE CHAOS: A captivating encounter with a Rhesus monkey

- PANCHALI HAZARIKA

In the heart of the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, I found myself in a captivating encounter with a female Rhesus monkey. As our team disembarked from our boat for a brief halt at a picturesque Forest Rest House, I took my DSLR camera to explore the serene surroundings. Suddenly, a troop of Rhesus monkeys descended into chaos, their antics causing a stir among us. Amidst the mania, one individual caught my eye. Perched atop a fence, she remained serenely observant, unfazed by the commotion around her. She rubbed her eyes in a gesture that seemed to display fatigue or perhaps a moment of introspection. Driven by the desire to capture this fleeting moment, I approached cautiously.

As I clicked my lens, she paused, meeting my gaze with a sense of silent comprehension. I braced for her reaction, expecting aggression or alarm. Yet, to my astonishment, she simply acknowledged me before returning to her tranquil vigil. In that singular moment, a profound realisation dawned upon me: amidst life's chaos, there exists a quiet dignity in simply minding one's own affairs. I could no longer blame an entire species for the actions of a few. Instead, I found solace in the quiet grace of individuals like her, who navigate their world with gentle resolve.

## About the Author

Since joining WII in 2020, Panchali has been involved in conservation research. Since 2021, she has been a Project Associate in the CAMPA Dolphin project, focusing on the plankton ecology associated with the habitat of river dolphins in the Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems. Her core research interest lies in studying the impact of environmental variables and human

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