

excursions in Tarai farmlands and wry observations compiled by Dr. R.K. Shukla offer most cogent analysis of Sugarcane Tiger feature that scientifically supports their sustainability in farm lands. This chronicle of great wanderings immortalizes Tarai farmlands, where dramas and unusual incidents are taken for granted. It is full of the same edge-of-the-seat narration, witty and chilling anecdotes with a cool assay of “look into points”, that have made Rahul's earlier books so popular.

“You have entered a wrong zone, you will get puzzled” Billy Arjan Singh warned Rahul Shukla, “You would end up realizing that you have started a wrong thing. Tigers can’t live in sugarcane”.

“Don’t kill his impetus.” I butted in, “Let him go his way. He has already put himself on a litmus-test to prove tiger’s presence in sugarcane. Let the data come. We will verify it together.”

No system of nature can be understood from outside. To understand a system you need to enter it, experience it and find out its truth. If you understand the basic concepts as how tigers work out practically and settle into smooth functionality, there isn’t much theory building behind sugarcane tigers but they certainly offer a new terrain and a new experience.

- G.C. Mishra, Former Field Director, Dudhwa Tiger Circle to Billy Arjan Singh, 1980, at the nascent stage of Sugarcane Tiger Research



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SUGARCANE TIGERS OF AMARIA
JOINING THE DOTS WITH RAHUL SHUKLA

Edited by
RK SHUKLA
IFS



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Edited by
RASHMI KANT SHUKLA, IFS



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For wildlife aficionados', this book presents an exclusive record of tigers that are adapted to farmland ecology in Rural Tarai. They emerge out of jungle and live in tall crops of sugarcane, spending more time there than in the jungle. Their gradual acclimatization to environment naturalizes them on human land terrain where they produce progenies and turn them into generational farmland tigers. *Sugarcane tiger* is fall out of this phenomenon; a unique category of big cats that has willingly adapted sugar plantations. Dr. R. K. Shukla, IFS, retired Principal Chief Conservator of UP Cadre has watched this paradigm-shaking development first hand in Tarai

Now today things have changed from confusion to understanding and cane-tiger is no longer a debating point. Their existence is established beyond doubt as ecotype animals. The text of this book has been integrated with lavish pictures that tell about ironic segments of sugarcane tigers, which inhabit Tarai flood plains in Amaria and Mohammadi areas. Like adopted children in a safe sanctuary, the hyper-carnivores survive sustainably under the protection of tiger guardians. Native support to this wild feature suggests that the putative creed must live on through the twenty-first century.

Rahul Shukla's research on Sugarcane Tigers has established him as modern day master of Tarai adventure writings. Former sportsman, adventurer, vividly intelligent and acute Indologist and a raconteur *Par excellence*, Shukla has in many ways done for contemporary wildlife writings which F.W Champion and Billy Arjan Singh had done decades back. The stories of his very personal

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