



International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

Member's Report | 38th General Meeting

9th – 13th September 2024 Jeddah, – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Reporting Period: 2023 & 2024

A. Member Information:

- Name of ICRI member: **Zoological Survey of India, MoEF&CC, GoI**
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: **Dr. Tamal Mondal, Dr. C. Raghunathan & Dr. Dhriti Banerjee**
- Position/Title: **Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist-D**
- Email: **t_genetics@yahoo.com**
- Are you a designated ICRI Focal Point: Yes No
 - If no, please indicate who you are completing the form on behalf of:
- Which was the last General Meeting you attended: **Attending for the first time**
- Will you be attending the 38th ICRI General Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Yes No
- Member social media:
 - Twitter/X: **@Tamalzsi**
 - LinkedIn: **dr-tamal-mondal-44133819**

B. Reporting on the implementation of the ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2024: turning the tide for coral reefs. *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the current Plan of Action. You can download the ICRI Plan of Action here: <https://icriforum.org/documents/plan-of-action-2021-2024/>*

What are the main contributions you, as an ICRI member, have made to the ICRI Plan of Action?

Theme 1 - Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs

Theme 2 - Coral Reef Science and Oceanography: Advancing and Utilizing the Latest Science and Technology

Theme 3 - Local Threat Reduction: Integrating Response Planning Frameworks

Theme 4 - Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the Coral Reef Community

Answer:

Theme-1: The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has played a crucial role in monitoring the extent and impacts of coral bleaching events. By conducting comprehensive surveys and studies, ZSI has documented the significant effects on hard coral species in all the major Reef areas of India like Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Gulf of Kachchh, Lakshadweep and Gulf of Mannar. Utilizing advanced climatic modeling, ZSI aims to understand the resilience of different coral species, providing valuable information for the development of effective conservation strategies and timely interventions. The studies on the resilient coral species and zooxanthellate against the bleaching are the major focal point for ZSI in recent time. The Zoological Survey of India with the support of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India is focusing on management strategies based on resilience to support the recovery of coral reefs from bleaching events and adapt to changing environmental conditions. These strategies involve protecting coral species that demonstrate resilience to thermal stress, thereby enhancing the overall resilience of the coral ecosystem. Initiatives such as coral nurseries and the transplantation of resilient coral species are essential components of this approach. These nurseries cultivate corals in controlled environments before reintroducing them to affected areas, contributing to the restoration of damaged reefs. ZSI has been actively involved in coral restoration and transplantation efforts, making significant contributions in the Gulf of Kachchh region. In order to address local stressors that contribute to coral bleaching, the government has established Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). These MPAs are designed to regulate activities such as overfishing, coastal development, and pollution, all of which can increase the vulnerability of coral reefs to bleaching. By creating these protected zones, the government aims to provide a safe environment for corals to recover and thrive without the additional pressures of human activities.

Theme-2: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is instrumental to introduce advanced technologies such as satellite imaging, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and underwater digital mapping which have greatly enhanced the ability to monitor coral health and detect early signs of bleaching. These tools provide real-time data on sea surface temperatures, coral conditions, and bleaching events, enabling more effective and timely responses to emerging threats.

Theme-3: The government has initiated programs to provide assistance for alternative livelihoods in coastal communities, with the goal of mitigating the economic impacts of coral bleaching on areas dependent on fishing and tourism. These initiatives advocate for sustainable fishing practices and ecotourism to ensure the ongoing prosperity of these communities while minimizing damage to coral ecosystems. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is taking a pivotal role of the environmental education and awareness campaign to educate people about the significance of the coral reef ecosystem. The systematic organization of seminar, symposium, training, workshop, Mission LiFE programme by the Zoological Survey of India played crucial role in reduction of coastal threats on the coral reef ecosystem especially in island habitats. Ongoing efforts are being made to enhance public awareness and educate local communities and the general public about the importance of coral reefs and the risks posed by climate change. These awareness campaigns emphasize the significance of sustainable methods and encourage community involvement in conservation efforts. Educational initiatives aim to cultivate a sense of responsibility among residents, empowering them to actively participate in protecting their natural environment. The government is implementing and revising environmental laws and regulations to offer improved safeguarding for coral reefs where ZSI is the major contributor for the policy development. This encompasses more stringent regulations on coastal development, pollution control, and sustainable tourism practices. Additionally, measures to reduce carbon emissions are being put into effect to tackle the broader issue of climate change, which is a major cause of coral bleaching. The government aims to integrate coral reef conservation into broader sustainable development goals. This includes promoting sustainable coastal development practices that balance economic growth with environmental protection. Through a holistic approach, the government seeks to ensure that coral reef conservation contributes to the overall well-being of coastal communities and the preservation of marine biodiversity.

Theme-4: The Zoological Survey of India with the active support of Indian Government has launched Long Term Permanent Monitoring Plots to evaluate and monitor the coral reef ecosystem in the Anaman and Nicobar Islands in 2009 and later on expanded in Lakshadweep, and Malvan to record the systematic changes in coral reef diversity and the climate change impacts. It was the first of its kind initiatives of ZSI in India to promote coral monitoring and sustainable conservation. The main objective is to document the ecological changes in the reef structure caused by climate change. ZSI is also researching climate-resilient zooxanthellae to mitigate the effects of coral bleaching.

- (ICRI) What are your upcoming priorities for coral reefs?

Answer:

Exploration and documentation of all the reef areas of India including major and minor reef.

Restoration of degraded reef areas of India.

Establishment and expansion of new reef areas of India.

Exploration and discovery of deep-sea corals of India.

Establishment of Long-Term Permanent Monitoring Plots across the reef areas of India.

Detailed mapping of Reef Areas of India.

Development of Health Card for the reef areas of India.

C. Reporting on the Restoration of Coral Reefs (*Target 2 GBF/Action Point 3 Coral Reef Breakthrough*)

- (ICRI) Are you able to estimate the total area (km²) of coral reef under active restoration and the total area you consider to be 'restored', as a result of your organisation/country's in 2023?
 - Total area under active restoration in 2023: km²
 - Total area considered to be restored in 2023: km²
- (ICRI) If available, please provide further information on the total area considered to be restored, and under active restoration for the total period of the restoration programme, including the timeframe:

Answer:

India's Largest Coral Translocation Project Protecting Our Reefs for the Future in the Gulf of Kachchh region. It is a ZSI-IOCL Coral Translocation Project. 16,522 corals were excavated (10,088 colonies from the intertidal, and 6,434 from subtidal locations) and translocated to suitable recipient sites in and surrounding Narrara. 2,000 coral cement frames were moved to 8 safe locations, with corals fixed to frames using copper wire and underwater cement. 21 species from 16 genera and 8 families were identified in the translocates.

- (ICRI) For the purpose of the above, please provide definitions for how your programme/organisation/country considers coral reefs to be:
 - A) Under active restoration
 - B) Restored

Answer:

Under active Restoration:

The survival rate was 96.26% (exceptional), Loss of 10% was noted due to cyclone Biparjoy. The current rate is 85.11%.

Restored:

Degraded Reef Aea restored in the Gulf of Kachchh region since 2010 and it is the only success story of Coral Reef Restoration in Indian history and developing with greater hope for future.

Does your country have any restoration policies or regulations?

Many locations have outdated and insufficient regulations for coral reef restoration, resulting in inadequate oversight of restoration efforts. In addition, the absence, limitations, or differences among regulations between countries prevents the development and implementation of effective regional coral reef conservation strategies.

- (ICRI) Please describe the restoration policies or regulations (if any) that are in place in your country.

Answer:

The coral reefs in India are being safeguarded and maintained by the Government through a combination of promotional and regulatory measures. The promotional efforts are being carried out through a Central Sector Scheme as part of the National Coastal Mission Programme, focusing on four specific sites: Lakshadweep, Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. These initiatives aim to restore, monitor, conserve, and manage the coral reefs in these areas.

Regulatory measures are being enforced through the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification (2019) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and relevant rules that have been periodically updated. All the hard corals, specifically the Scleractinian coral species, Octocoral species, Antipathirian species, Millepora coral species, Organ Pipe Coral are protected under the India Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and are listed in Schedule-I category, prohibiting the collection of both live and dead corals. Furthermore, significant coral reef locations across the country have been designated as Protected Areas. During the recent Amendment of India Wildlife (Protection) Act Amendment, 2022, Actinarians, Corallamorpharians, Zoanthids, Ceriantharians are also included under Schedule-I to protect them.

The National Coral Reef Research Institute has been operating within the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, since 2002 as part of a project.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been established and expanded to restrict human activities, enabling ecosystems to recover and flourish. Efforts are being made to restore degraded reefs through projects like coral nurseries and transplantation.

D. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

The production of future GCRMN reports, both at the regional and global level, relies on the ongoing support of data contributors who are willing to share their coral reef monitoring data for this purpose. As such, from 2024 to 2026, the GCRMN will undertake the rigorous process of developing the **Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2025** global report, including an extensive data collation process.

[Do you have data to contribute to the upcoming GCRMN global report?](#)

Yes, Zoological Survey of India harbours data on the coral reefs of entire Indian Reef Ecosystems.

- Please provide the contact information for the data providers to allow for the GCRMN data collation team to request data and discuss the process of data contribution.

Please add further contacts as needed.

Answer:

*Contact Name: Dr. Tamal Mondal
Organisation: Zoological Survey of India
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*Contact Name: Dr. C. Raghunathan
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E. Capacity Building & Communications

Have you found the ICRI #ForCoral Webinar Series useful?

Through 2024, ICRI has hosted multiple webinars that aim to share knowledge and foster collaboration across critical topics concerning the conservation, protection, and restoration of coral reefs. These webinars form the #ForCoral webinar series, and topics include the 4th Global Bleaching Event, impacts of land-based sources of pollution and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

The full list of webinars and recordings can be found here: <https://icriforum.org/forcoral-webinar-series/>

- (ICRI) Did you attend any of the series' webinars, and if so which topics have you found the most useful and engaging? If you did not attend the webinars, please explain why, and how what we could have done better.

Answer:

- (ICRI) Do you have any suggestions or request for topics that you wish for ICRI to host as part of this series? If you have a specific topic in mind, and would like to host a webinar, please indicate below.

Answer:

Have you found the ICRI communications useful?

- (ICRI) Do you find the ICRI Monthly Round of News Useful? If yes, what do you like about it and how would you suggest improving ICRI's communications?

Answer:

Yes

F. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

ICRI has continually supported the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Post-2020 process, developing a recommendation for coral reef indicators to be included in the Global Biodiversity Framework and supporting Parties during the negotiation process. Following the Framework's adoption in 2022, ICRI's support now aims to support parties in implementing the framework, especially through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPS) and the Marine and Coastal Work Programme.

In 2024, ICRI released [A Guide for Integrating Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans](#) to support coral reef countries to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into their NBSAPs.

- (ICRI) Did you use read, use, and/or apply the Guide on integrating coral reefs and associated ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) useful? *Where possible, indicate specific elements that were useful or alternatively provide information if you did not find the guide useful.*

Answer:

- (ICRI) Did you revise your current National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) to include coral reefs? *N.B. if you are not a country representative, are*

you working with national focal points to help update their NBSAPs? Please provide further details.

Answer:

- (ICRI) How are you planning to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework? Please list the target(s) and decisions that your work attributes to.

Answer:

G. Upcoming events

Please tick the most any events that you will be, or are planning to attend:

- September 10th – 24th: 79th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79)
- September 23rd – 26th: GEF International Waters Conference
- October 13th – 18th: 7th International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC7)
- October 21st – November 1st: CBD COP16
- November 4th – 8th: 77th Annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI77)
- December 10th – 12th: The International Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Conference
- December 9th – 13th: Reef Futures
- June 9th – 13th 2025: United Nations Ocean Conference
- October 9th – 15th 2025: IUCN World Conservation Congress
- Other

Please list any upcoming regional / international events relevant to ICRI that your organisation plans to attend:

Answer:

*Coastal and Marine Biodiversity: Threats, Mitigation and Way forward
Coral Reef Ecosystem: Issues in conservation and management*

H. Publications. Please list relevant publications / reports you have released recently (+ add a link if possible)

Publication	URL
Papers	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rajendra, S. and Raghunathan, C. 2024. New records of soft corals, genus <i>Sarcophyton</i> (Octocorallia: Malacalcyonacea: Sarcophytidae) from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. <i>Biodiversity</i>, pp.1-14. 2. Rajendra, S. and Raghunathan, C. 2024. A new species and new record of the soft coral genus <i>Lobophytum</i> (Octocorallia: Malacalcyonacea: Sarcophytidae) from the Andaman Islands, India. <i>Thalassas: An International Journal of Marine Sciences</i>. DOI: 10.1007/s41208-024-00669-3. 3. Rajendra, S. and Raghunathan, C. 2024. A New Record of Soft Coral, <i>Lobophytum varium</i> Tixier-Durivault, 1970 (Sarcophytidae: Malacalcyonacea) from the Andaman Islands, India. <i>National Academy Science Letters, India</i>. DOI :10.1007/s40009-023-01378-w. 4. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2023. Pink spot: A serious threat to scleractinian corals (<i>Porites</i> spp.) in Andaman archipelago. <i>Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences</i>, 52(7):339-342. DOI: 10.56042/ijms.v52i07.10412 5. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2023. First report of South African flabellid coral <i>Truncatoflabellum zuluense</i> Cairns & Keller, 1993 (Scleractinia: Flabellidae) from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. <i>Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences</i>, 52(7): 343-346. DOI: 10.56042/ijms.v52i07.10413 6. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2022. Decadal status of <i>Acanthaster planci</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) along the coral reef habitat of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. <i>Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences</i>, 51 (09): 753-759. DOI: 10.56042/ijms.v51i09.2331 7. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2023. First report of free-living, solitary zoanthid from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. <i>Zootaxa</i>, 5244 (3): 293–298. DOI: 10.11646/ZOOTAXA.5244.3.7 8. Ghosh, A., Sajan, S., Tamal Mondal, Tripathy, B. and Mukhopadhyay, A., 2023. First Record of Cordiform Bivalves <i>Cardilia martini</i> Deshayes, 1844 (Mollusca, Cardilidae) from India. <i>Thalassas: An International</i> 	<p>URL are mentioned along with the publications.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Journal of Marine Sciences</i>, https://doi.org/10.1007/s41208-023-00647-1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2022. First report of endemic Taiwanese caryophyllid coral <i>Polycyathus chaishanensis</i> from Indian waters. <i>Vie et milieu - Life and environment</i>, 72 (1-2): 17-22. https://doi.org/10.57890/VIEMILIEU/2022.72.1/2:17-22 10. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2022. First Report of Stranded By-the-wind Sailor from Coastal Areas of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. <i>Thalassas: An International Journal of Marine Sciences</i>, https://doi.org/10.1007/s41208-022-00509-2 11. Tamal Mondal, Raghunathan, C. and Chandra, K., 2022. <i>Acropora teres</i> (Verrill, 1866): in the verge of regional vulnerability from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. <i>Indian Journal of Geo Marine Sciences</i>, 51(08):718-720, DOI: 10.56042/ijms.v51i08.39410 12. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2022. First Report of Deep-Sea Azooxanthellate Coral Under the Family Anthemiphylliidae (Order Scleractinia) from India. <i>National Academy Science Letters</i>, 45: 383–387; https://doi.org/10.1007/s40009-022-01143-5 13. Tamal Mondal, Bineesh, K.K. and Raghunathan, C., 2022. A note on zoogeographic range extension of <i>Endopachys grayi</i> Milne-Edwards & Haime, 1848 (Scleractinia: Dendrophyllidae) from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. <i>Indian Journal of Geo Marine Science</i>, 51(4): 358-362. 14. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2022. Zoogeographic Range Extension of Four Species of Flabellid Corals Under the Genus <i>Truncatoflabellum</i> (Scleractinian: Flabelliidae) From Indian Waters. <i>Thalassas: An International Journal of Marine Sciences</i>, https://doi.org/10.1007/s41208-022-00446-0 15. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2022. Differential thermal stress with associated bleaching on stony corals in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal: yet another impact of the El Niño. <i>Cahiers de Biologie Marine</i>, 63(2): 103-117; DOI: 10.21411/CBM.A.181085AF. 16. Raghunathan, C., Tamal Mondal and Chandra, K, 2021. Invasion and potential risks of introduced exotic aquatic species in Indian islands. <i>Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management</i>, 24(2): 76–85; DOI: 10.14321/ae hm.024.02.11. 17. Rajendra, S., Nigam, N.K. and Sivaperuman, C., 2023. A new record of Opisthobranch, <i>Tayuva lilacina</i> (Gould, 1852) and notes on <i>Euselenops luniceps</i> (Cuvier, 1816) from the Andaman Sea, India. <i>Indian Journal of Geo-</i> 	
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- Marine Sciences*, 51(10): 850-853. DOI: 10.56042/ijms.v51i10.2934
18. Sreeraj, C.R., Sen, A., Raghunathan, C., 2023. First records of two gobies, *Eugnathogobius kabilia* and *Pseudogobius fulvicaudus*, in the Indian Ocean from Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, India. *Iranian Journal of Ichthyology*, 10(1): 49-58.
 19. Mondal, S., Ganesh, S.R. and Raghunathan, C., 2023. Some rare species of sea snakes (Hydrophis, Microcephalophis) from the Indian Coasts and nearby waters, lodged in major systematic Indian zoological collections. *Bonn Zoological Bulletin*, 72(2): 209–222.
 20. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2023. New Record of One Species of Sea-Spider [*Pallenopsis hoeki* (Miers, 1884)] to Indian Waters & a Checklist. *Thalassas: An International Journal of Marine Sciences*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41208-023-00600-2>
 21. Rajendra S. and Raghunathan, C., 2024. A New Record of Soft Coral, *Lobophytum varium* Tixier Durivault, 1970 (Sarcophytidae: Malacalcyonacea) from the Andaman Islands, India. *Natl. Acad. Sci. Lett.*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40009-023-01378-w>.
 22. Prasada, H., Siddique, A., Purushothaman, J and Raghunathan, C., 2024. Perspectives on marine dinoflagellate bioluminescence: Is the current prevalence along the Indian waters only reckoned with aesthetic pleasure? *Indian Journal of Geo Marine Sciences*, 52(06): 273-283 DOI: 10.56042/ijms.v52i06.8348
 23. Kodeeswaran, P., Kathirvelpandian, A., Ray, D., Mohapatra, A., Ajith Kumar, T. T., Raghunathan, C. and Sarkar, U.K., 2024. Two new species of the congrid eel genus *Ariosoma* (Anguilliformes, Congridae, Bathymyrinae) from Indian waters. *Zoosystematics and Evolution*, DOI 10.3897/zse.@@.116611.
 24. Rajendra, S. and Raghunathan, C., 2023. Comparative analysis on Sclerite Morphometry: a useful tool in the soft corals *Lobophytum* sp. (Sarcophytidae: Octocorallia: Anthozoa) identification from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Records of Zoological Survey of India*, 123(iS2): 219-230. DOI: 10.26515/rzsi/v123/i1S/2023/172458
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27. Sen, A., Sreeraj, C.R. and Raghunathan, C., 2023. First report of two euryhaline gobiid fishes (Gobiidae cuvier, 1816) from West Bengal, India. *Species*, 24: e29s1512
28. Pereira, P. A and Raghunathan, C. 2024. Three new records of Keratosa sponges (Demospongiae: Porifera) from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Discover Oceans*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44289-024-00002-z>
29. Tamal Mondal, Bineesh, K.K. and Raghunathan, C., 2021. First report on *Caryophyllia (Caryophyllia) transversalis* Moseley, 1881 from Indian Deep-Sea. *Vie et Milieu- Life and Environment*, 71: 35-40.
30. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2021. A Note on Jellyfish *Crambionella orsini* (Vanhoffen 1888) (Cnidaria: Scyphozoa) from Lakshadweep, Arabian Sea. *Thalassas: An International Journal of Marine Sciences*, 37(2): 621-626. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41208-021-00357-6>.
31. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2021. Report of stranded skeletal system of Short-finned Pilot Whale from South Reef Island, Middle Andaman, India. *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 46: 101872; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2021.101872>.
32. Tamal Mondal, Raghunathan, C. and Chandra, K., 2019. Status survey of scleractinian corals at Long Island and adjoining areas of Middle Andaman Archipelago. *Indian Journal of Geo Marine Sciences*, 48(10):1556-1566.
33. Tamal Mondal, Raghunathan, C. and Chandra, K., 2018. Report on status of invasive *Tubastraea coccinea* Lesson, 1829 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Indian Journal of Geo Marine Sciences*, 47(11): 2241-2247
34. Mondal, J., Raghunathan, C. and Tamal Mondal, 2018. New records of three styelid ascidians (Order: Stolidobranchia) to Indian waters from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences*, 47(08): 1665-1671.
35. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2018. Diversified scleractinian of Andaman and Nicobar Islands- a range extension of CORAL TRIANGLE?. *Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences*, 47(02): 453-455.
36. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2017. Shipwrecks in Andaman and Nicobar Islands: An artificial habitat for corals. *Journal of Marine Biological Association, India*, 59(2): 92-101. doi: 10.6024/jmbai.2017.59.2.1910-12
37. Tamal Mondal and Raghunathan, C., 2017. Age and growth of fungiid corals of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Sciences*, 46(08): 1632-1640.
38. Tamal Mondal, Raghunathan, C. and Venkataraman, K., 2017. First report of four species of azooxanthellate scleractinian corals in Indian waters from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Indian Journal of Geo Marine Sciences*, 46(08): 1627-1631.

<p>39. Mondal, J., Raghunathan, C., Tamal Mondal and Chandra, K., 2017. New records of four Aplousobranch ascidians in Indian waters from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. <i>Journal of Marine Biological Association, India</i>, 59(1): 82-86.</p> <p>40. Rajendra, S., Raghunathan, C., Tamal Mondal and Venkataraman, K., 2017. First report of soft coral <i>Sarcophyton birkelandi</i> Verseveldt, 1978 (Anthozoa: Alcyonacea) in Indian waters from Andaman Islands. <i>Journal of Threatened Taxa</i>, 9(8): 10577–10580; http://doi.org/10.11609/jott.2285.9.8.10577-10580</p> <p>41. Rajendra, S., Raghunathan, C. and Tamal Mondal, 2017. New distribution records of three Sarcophyton species (Alcyonacea: Alcyoniidae) in Indian waters from Andaman Islands. <i>Journal of Threatened Taxa</i>, 9(7): 10426–10432; http://doi.org/10.11609/jott.2498.9.7.10426-10432</p>	
Book	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rajendra, S., Raghunathan, C., Chandra, K. and Banerjee, D., 2023. Soft Corals (Malacalcyonacea: Octocorallia) of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Families Cladiellidae, Sarcophytidae and Sinulariidae). Occasional Paper No., 413: 1-174. (Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata). 2. Chandra, K., Raghunathan, C., Pillai, H.U.K., Jasmine P. and Tamal Mondal, 2021. Deep Sea Faunal Diversity in India. 1-634 (Published by the Director, Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata). ISBN 978-81-8171-569-2. 3. Chandra, K., Raghunathan, C. and Tamal Mondal, 2020. Faunal Diversity of Biogeographic Zones: Coasts of India. 1-807. (Published by the Director, Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata). ISBN 978-81-8171-543-2. 4. Chandra, K., Raghunathan, C. and Tamal Mondal, 2018. Faunal diversity in major seagrass ecosystems in India. Occasional Paper No, 392:1-154 (Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata). (ISBN-978-81-8171-511-1). 5. Raghunathan, C., Tamal Mondal, Raghuraman, R., Kumaralingam, S. and Yogesh Kumar, J.S., 2018. Status of corals and reef associated faunal communities in Rani Jhansi Marine National Park, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. <i>Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. Paper No.</i>, 390:1-164. 	

- (Published by the Director, Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata). (ISBN-978-81-8171-480-0).
6. Venkataraman, K., Raghunathan, C., Tamal Mondal and Nigam, N.K., 2018. A guide to Common Echinoids (Echinodermata) of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. 1-44. (Published by the Director, Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata). (ISBN-978-81-8171-498-5).
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I. ICRI Member Feedback. What do you find most valuable about being a member of ICRI as well as completing the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas to improve the Member Reports, please list below:

Answer:

Membership in the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) as the scientist of the Zoological Survey of India (a subordinate office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India) holds significant importance for several reasons. It offers an opportunity to engage in global conservation initiatives aimed at protecting coral reefs, which are vital ecosystems that sustain both biodiversity and human communities. This affiliation facilitates collaboration with international specialists, enabling the exchange of knowledge and the acquisition of insights into cutting-edge conservation methods. Additionally, the preparation of ICRI member reports is essential, as it aids in evaluating the condition of coral reefs, monitoring the effectiveness of conservation measures, and recognizing emerging threats. This

process promotes accountability and supports evidence-based decision-making, thereby ensuring the preservation of India's coral reef ecosystems for future generations while contributing to overarching global sustainability objectives.

J. Contact information & member information. (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <https://icriforum.org/members/>).

Please use the table below to provide us updates to your member's focal points as well as the blank cells to indicate changes to information (please add more rows, as needed):

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<i>Section</i>	<i>Update</i>

Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI. Members reports, meeting outputs and resources will be uploaded to: <https://icriforum.org/events/icrigm38/>