



Annual Report

2023-2024



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Foreword

Pagdand is a coming-together of committed individuals, a meeting of minds, a synthesis of intention and action, and a mission to walk the eco-talk.

Most of our members and contributors voluntarily contribute their precious time and energy to work with us.

Welcome to Pagdand.

And thank you for walking with us.

Pagdand's Founding Trustees

Mr. Nishith Dand

Founding Trustee, Pagdand

Sure Safety Private Limited, Owner & Managing Director

Mr. Bhavesh Lodaya

Founding Trustee, Pagdand

dot2dot Advertising Private Limited, Owner & Managing Director

About PAGDAND

'Pagdand' is a Vadodara-based NGO working in the field of biodiversity conservation since 2016. Pagdand is registered under the Trust Act, 1950 (Bombay Act No 29 of 1950) with registration number E/80481/Vadodara.

Pagdand's Purpose

Pagdand is, in essence, a thought, an idea. a conscience-call even. It's not a structured concept, with well-defined edges & established parameters.

Like all thoughts, it promises to be organic, leading from one thing to another, encompassing one cause after another, as our steps take us further & farther into biodiversity conservation. So, while its true scope can only be determined over time, & its direction can only be ascertained by our future thoughts & actions, here is the first step towards articulating our purpose:

- To Mainstream Eco-consciousness
- To Highlight Co-existence
- To Engender Eco-awareness
- To Sensitize, Educate & Energize Communities
- To Stimulate Public Thought, Dialogue & Action.

The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.

-David Attenborough

Pagdand's Programs

2023 began with a bang, and Pagdand's team brainstorming ideas on how to increase our reach, awareness and understanding of nature conservation among residents of Gujarat.

We decided to begin with a more structured approach to our work, and this led to the creation of three programmatic themes.

Pagdand's core agenda which is urban forestry and farming, water conservation, environment education and policy advocacy are now integrated into three programs:

Environment Education & Awareness Program (EEAP)

Biodiversity Conservation & Restoration Program (BCRP), &

Environmental Policy Advocacy (EPA)

Activities 2023-2024

In 2023, we expanded our team and invited new members onboard.

We are also in conversation with various members of the Vadodara Municipal Corporation, the Gujarat Forest Department, the Vadodara Railway Administration, various colleges across the city, and the people of Kotna village. We hope to establish collaborations with all these stakeholders across different aspects of our work.

Celebration of National Wildlife Week

This year we decided to celebrate National Wildlife Week by engaging with school students, youth and adults.

Painting Competition for School Students

Event Highlights

For the painting competition we invited our regular eco-club school groups to participate in a Painting Competition. Considering that we had shared all announcements over WhatsApp groups and most of our correspondence was through a google form, we had a very pleasing response – we received 75 entries from 4 schools in Vadodara, where we conduct eco-club sessions on a regular basis. We received entries from Alembic Vidyalaya, Tejas Vidyalaya, Utkarsh Vidyalaya and Dr. Amin Memorial School.

We asked students to represent Indian Wildlife in their painting submissions. We were so amazed by the beautiful paintings these students submitted – this year we gave away many additional prizes.



FIRST PRIZE WINNERS

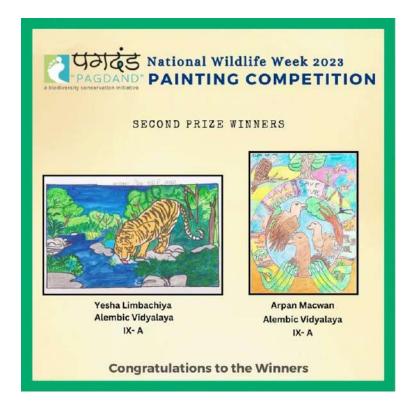


Aarushi Chaudhary D R Amin Memorial School VIII- B

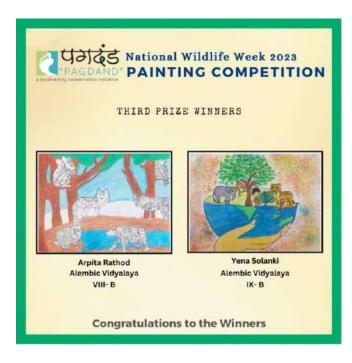


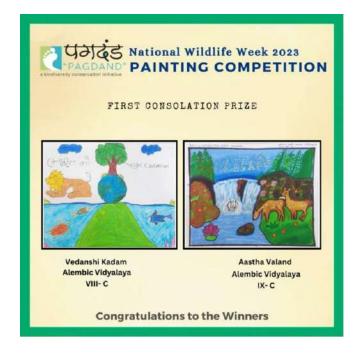
Maharshee Patel Alembic Vidyalaya VIII- C

Congratulations to the Winners















Story Writing & Narration for Youth & Adults

The Wildlife Storytelling Contest was a platform for people to share captivating tales of their experience of Indian Wildlife, whether they had a remarkable encounter with India's magnificent fauna or they wished to highlight crucial conservation initiatives, it was a chance for these stories to be heard and shared with like-minded people.

Storytelling is an art - while there are many forms of expression - story writing, narrative writing, blogging etc. The winners of this competition - made us a part of their story by taking us on an experiential journey, and although it was difficult for us to choose, these stories stood out amongst the rest. There were a total of 6 winners, 4 in adults and 2 in youth category.

The winners and their story titles are listed below:

Adult Category (18 years & above)

First Prize: Amisha Singh	Maithli's Midnight Promise: "A Tale of Friendship and Conservation"	
Second Prize: Rishikesh Tripathi	Arachnid Quest: Discovering Sky and the Hidden Gem of Nilgiri Hills	
Third Prize: Nikhil More	Owl Post – My Weekend Buddy	
Appreciation Prize: Shweta Ramani	Legacy of Sultan	
Youth Category (12-17 years)		
First Prize: Amey Jain	Kaziranga's Project Rhino	
Second Prize: Aarna Fofaria	Tiger Sighting in Ranthambore	

Please reach out to us in case you are interested in reading any of these stories.

Eco-club Session on Biogeography of India







This year during our eco-club session we had a discussion on the Eco-Biogeography of India with

students of various government schools, and it is encouraging to know how well they are able to relate to, and understand aspects of biogeography of India.

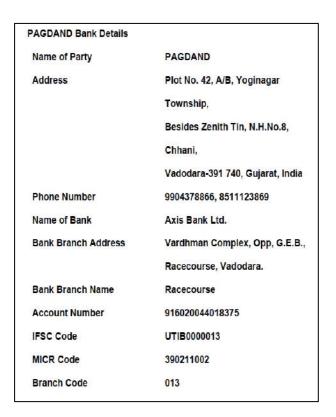
Partner with Us

We welcome you to partner with us.

Pagdand is a Vadodara-based NGO working in the field of biodiversity conservation since 2016. Pagdand is registered under the Trust Act, 1950 (Bombay Act No 29 of 1950) with registration number E/8048/Vadodara.

Donors can avail tax benefits under 80G by donating to Pagdand.





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