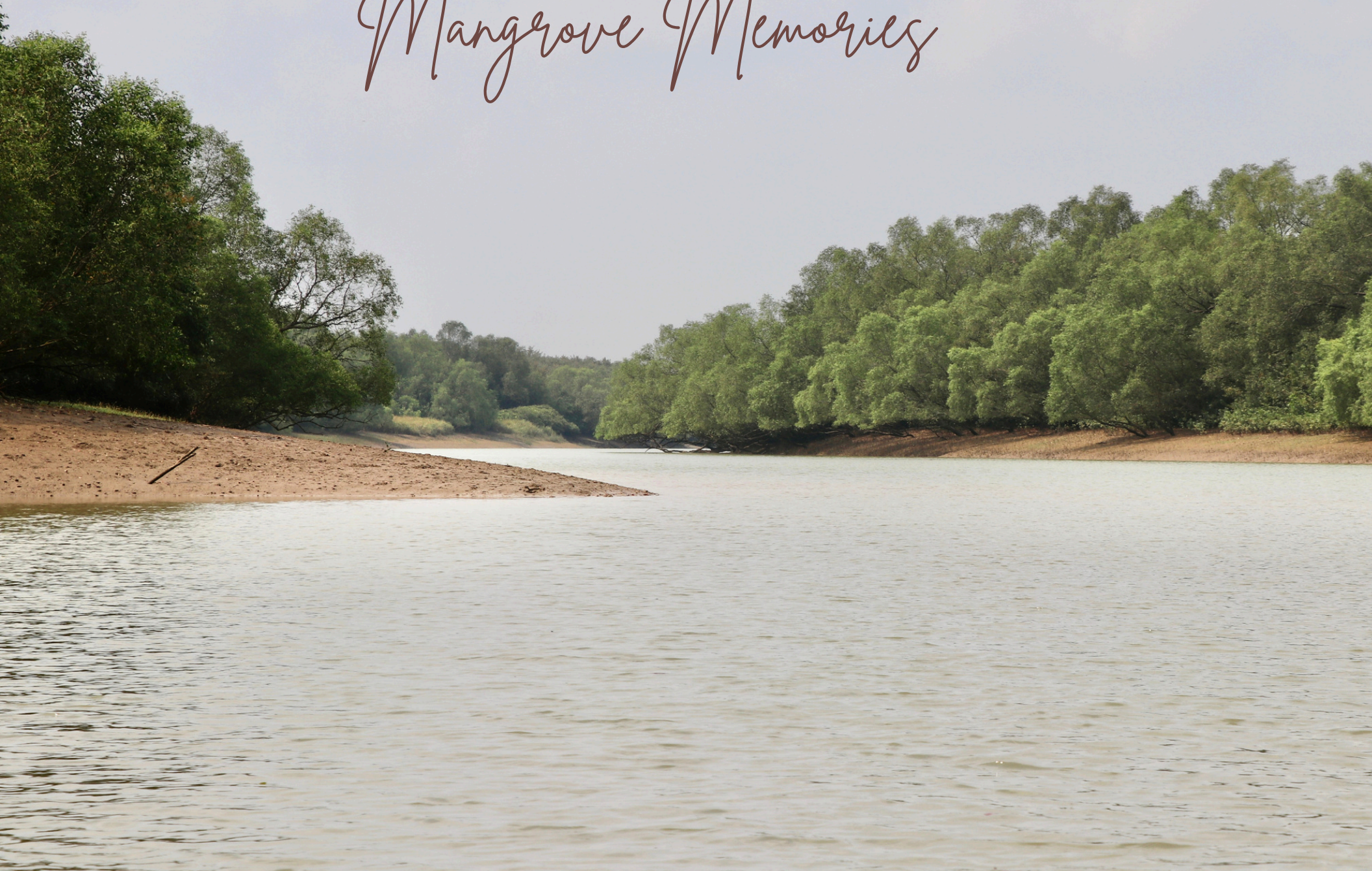


Mangrove Memories



Kayaking in the creeks

by Yashaswini Choudhary

At the spot where the Ithikkara river meets Paravur Lake, there is a picturesque tunnel of mangroves.

This is the spot I visited during a trip with my college friends in Varkala. We navigated narrow channels, dodged other kayaks, lost ways every single time, and laughed at how we were so physically unfit for this activity.

That day reminded me that the best lessons come from getting a little lost and not always getting things right.



Paravur, Kerala





Bhitarnika Mangroves, Odisha

Lifer, lifer...everywhere!

by Yaiphaba Akoijam



One of those days that reminds you why you enjoy birdwatching. Pure joy and full of excitement.

As we set out on the patrol boat, through the narrow creeks of Bhitarkanika, I could already hear their calls but couldn't spot them yet.

And with some patience and a little bit of luck, there they were...one after the other with every turn they kept appearing in front of us.

From the regulars like White-throated, Pied, and Common Kingfishers to the rarely spotted Brown-winged, Collared, and Black-capped kingfishers...it was a spectacle/feast to the eyes.



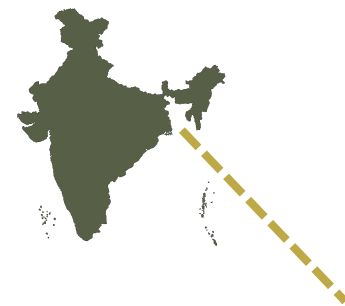


Memories of a landscape

by **Suddhabrata Chakraborty**

A childhood memory of watching Bonbibi-r Pala by the river, where Bonbibi, Dukhe and Dakshin Rai came alive on a small makeshift stage of a village in Sundarbans. What felt like a colourful performance then feels very different now. The Sundarbans are not just about forests, tigers and carbon storages. They are also home, faith, livelihood, risk, and resilience for the millions of people who live with them every day.

On World Mangrove Day, a small reminder that conservation requires perspectives and respect for the communities who understand these landscapes most closely.



**Sundarbans,
West Bengal**



The Royal Swimmer

by Kuladeep Roy



**Sundarbans,
West Bengal**

The Royal Bengal Tigers of the Sundarbans are the only mangrove-dwelling tigers in the world. Unlike inland tigers, they are exceptionally adept swimmers developing several features like webbed paws and saltwater tolerance.

In January 2026, a tigress with three cubs had been sighted by visitors (including a GIZ team) and forest guards in Peerkhali 1 area of Sundarban Tiger Reserve. It took some tries for the fearless mother to make her wary cubs cross the canal.

It was a fascinating sight to see this mother take on the afternoon sun amidst gawking tourists to bring her family to safety.

