From: Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation <CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU> on behalf of Kartik Shanker <kshanker@GMAIL.COM>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 3:22 AM
To: CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU <CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU>
Subject: [CTURTLE] On Satish Bhaskar

Dear all,

I am sorry to share the news that Satish Bhaskar passed away yesterday. Satish was a pioneer of sea turtle research and surveys in India. He covered nearly all the beaches of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during one long visit in 1978-79, and returned many times over the next decade to survey nesting beaches. He was the first to document leatherback nesting in Great Nicobar and Little Andamans, which became index sites for monitoring; and spent several seasons at South Reef Island to monitor hawksbills. His 5 month solitary stint at Suheli in the Lakshadweep, a remote island with no habitation, to monitor green turtles is another legendary Satish story. Over the years, he covered almost all the beaches across India, but also conducted pioneering surveys in West Papua, Indonesia.

Satish was my mentor from my undergraduate days in Chennai, but more importantly, he laid the ground for subsequent generations to conduct sea turtle research in India. His interaction with the international community was brief. He attended the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in 1979 and contributed a paper to 'Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles', which became a standard reference for us. We gave him the Sea Turtle Champions Award at the ISTS in Goa in 2010.

A lot has already been written about his adventures. You can read about him here, and there is a compilation of his work here. His own articles in Hamadryad and elsewhere can be found in the STOI bibliography. There's also (inevitably) a lot about him in my book on the history of sea turtle conservation in India.

Let's all share a moment of appreciation for this amazing man.

Best
Kartik
--
Kartik Shanker, Ph.D.

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