



GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK

ग्रेट हिमालयन नैशनल पार्क

The Republic of India's  
Nomination of the  
Great Himalayan National Park  
for Inscription on the World Heritage List

JANUARY 2011



Conserve Nature . Preserve Nature . Protect Nature . Celebrate Nature

*Cover Photo : Tirthan Valley, 3,300 m*



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*Camping Site, 4,100 m, Khandedhar, Jiwana Valley*



*Earth, upon which this moving, breathing life exists;  
May she bestow on us the finest of her harvests!*

*Earth, the all-sustaining, treasure-bearing, resting-place;  
Golden-breasted Earth, home of all life,  
Who bears the sacred fire.  
Pleasant be thy hills, O Earth,  
Thy snow-clad mountains and thy forests.  
On this Earth do I stand,  
Unvanquished, unslain, unhurt.  
Set me, O Earth, amidst the nourishing strength  
That emanates from thy body.*

*The Earth is my mother, her child am I;  
Infinite space is my father,  
May he fill us with plenty.*

*Peaceful, sweet-smelling, gracious Earth.  
Whatever I dig from thee, O Earth,  
May that have quick growth again,  
May we not injure your vitals or your heart.  
Full of sweetness are the plants,  
And full of sweetness these my words.  
And with things that are full of sweetness,  
I prosper in a thousand ways.*

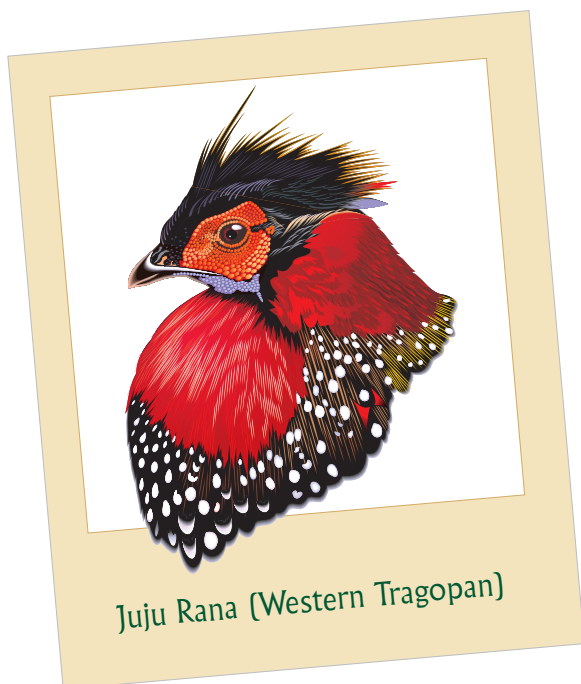
**Atharva Veda Book XII**

Sacred text of Hinduism, circa 12<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century BC.



The logo of the Great Himalayan National Park depicts a stylized silhouette of the Western Tragopan pheasant in the centre. It is the state bird of Himachal Pradesh.

The Western Tragopan is one of the most threatened pheasant species found in the upper reaches of the Western Himalayas, especially in the Great Himalayan National Park in the Kullu region of Himachal Pradesh.



## Western Tragopan

*Tragopan melanocephalus*

The Western Tragopan or Western Horned Tragopan is a medium-sized brightly plumaged pheasant found along the Himalayas from Hazara in northern Pakistan in the West to Uttarakhand in India to the East.

The Western Tragopan is a highly endangered and globally threatened, IUCN Red Listed species. Known as Juju Rana, in local, Kullu Pahari dialect, it is associated with many legends and songs. The most famous recounts how God created Juju Rana out of the most beautiful feathers donated by all the other birds.

It inhabits upper temperate forests between 2,400 m and 3,600 m in summer, and in winter, dense coniferous and broad-leaved forests between 2,000 m to 2,800 m elevations.

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6. GHNP Research by the Wildlife Institute of India
7. Published Articles in Magazines
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10. Published Papers in Journals
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### DVD # 1: VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES

- a. *Voices and Choices* (2005)
- b. *Impressions of GHNP* (2010)



*GNP from Dhel Meadow (3,737 m)*



Sh. Avay Shukla, IAS

Additional Chief Secretary  
Himachal Pradesh

No.FFE-B-F(3)-2/99-III  
Dated: Shimla -2, the 3 November 2010

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
Government of India  
New Delhi, 110003

Dear Sir,

May I bring to your kind notice that the Great Himalayan National Park has been mentioned in the Tentative List of the Nominations to the World Heritage List of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The nomination of this site has been a key goal of the state of Himachal Pradesh. It reflects the importance that the state gives to the wilderness of the Great Himalayan National Park with its unique landscape, and habitats that are rich in biological, ecological, and geological heritage. Himachal Pradesh recognizes the significance of Great Himalayan National Park's consideration as a natural site.

The boundaries of GHNP are contiguous with the Pin Valley National Park (675 km<sup>2</sup>) in Trans-Himalaya, the Rupi Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary (503 km<sup>2</sup>) in Sulej watershed and the Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuary (61 km<sup>2</sup>) covering a range of wildlife habitats representing the biodiversity of Western Himalaya - from tropical to alpine. GHNP is the crucial link that connects the above Protected Areas making this region a compact patch of inter-linked wildlife habitats. In July 2010, an area of 710 sq km on the northern part of the Great Himalayan National Park has been notified as Khirganga National Park, adding to increasing levels of protection to a consolidated patch of landscape with varying flora and fauna.

As per provisions of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972, the Wildlife Wing of Himachal Pradesh Forest Department shall, insofar as possible, take all appropriate measures including legal, scientific, technical, and administrative, necessary for protection, conservation, and preservation of the outstanding universal value of the Great Himalayan National Park and its resources.

Himachal Pradesh fully supports the India's efforts to nominate Great Himalayan National Park to the UNESCO World Heritage List, and offers any needed assistance

To ensure the nomination successfully navigates the approval process through the India and UNESCO.

(Avay Shukla)  
Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest) to the  
Government of H.P.



**Ashwanii Gulaati**  
IFS

PCCF(WL)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden,  
Himachal Pradesh

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D.O. No.  
Dated 12 January 2011

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
Government of India  
New Delhi, 110003

Dear Sir,

It is with great honour and enthusiasm that the Wildlife Wing of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department recommends nomination of the Great Himalayan National Park which had been mentioned in the Tentative List of the Nominations to the World Heritage List of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The HP Forest Department recognizes the honour of the Great Himalayan National Park's consideration as a site of superlative natural phenomena with areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance. The GHNP contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science/conservation.

GHNP is exceptionally biodiverse for its compact size, and home to a number of Threatened species of global concern, providing them with viable and secure protected habitats essential to their continued survival. Threatened pheasant and large mammal species, along with other common and rare animals and plants find their last refuge in the GHNP. The Park has distinct regions and ecosystems needed to sustain ecological integrity and continued conservation of the Park's exceptional diversity.

In addition to supporting Threatened and near-threatened species, the Park includes examples of unmodified low-altitude (<2500 m) West Himalayan broad-leaved and coniferous forests with intact understory vegetation, supporting a high diversity of typical bird and mammal species. These assemblies of plants and animals represent functioning ecosystems once characteristic of large areas in the Himalayan front-ranges but now hugely reduced by conversion for temperate agriculture or commercial rotation forests. The GHNP represents the best chance for scientists and visitors to observe a full range of West Himalayan montane ecosystems, from temperate to alpine, within a compact and well-protected area.

The Management Plan for the Great Himalayan National Park is current up to 2010. The State government of Himachal Pradesh has already set in motion the process of preparing a new Management Plan for the next five years starting from 2011. Until such time as that revision is approved the 2005-2010 plan shall be the guiding document.

The Wildlife Wing of HP Forest Department will ensure protection, conservation, and preservation of the outstanding universal value of the Great Himalayan National Park and its resources.

Sincerely

Ashwanii Gulaati

# Impressions of GHNP

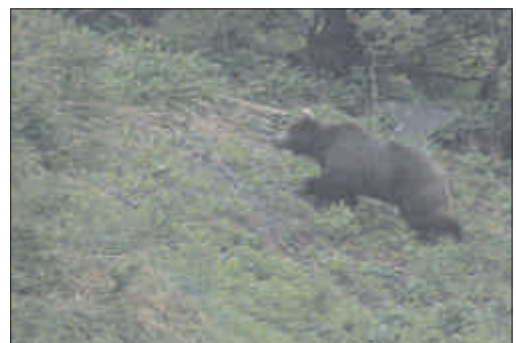
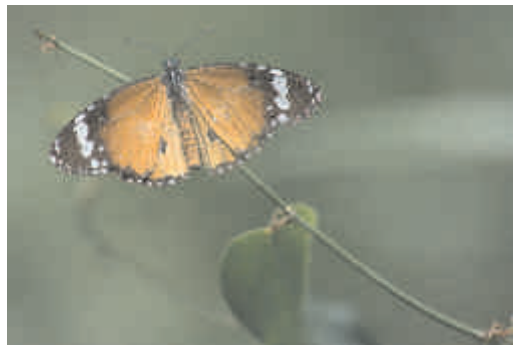
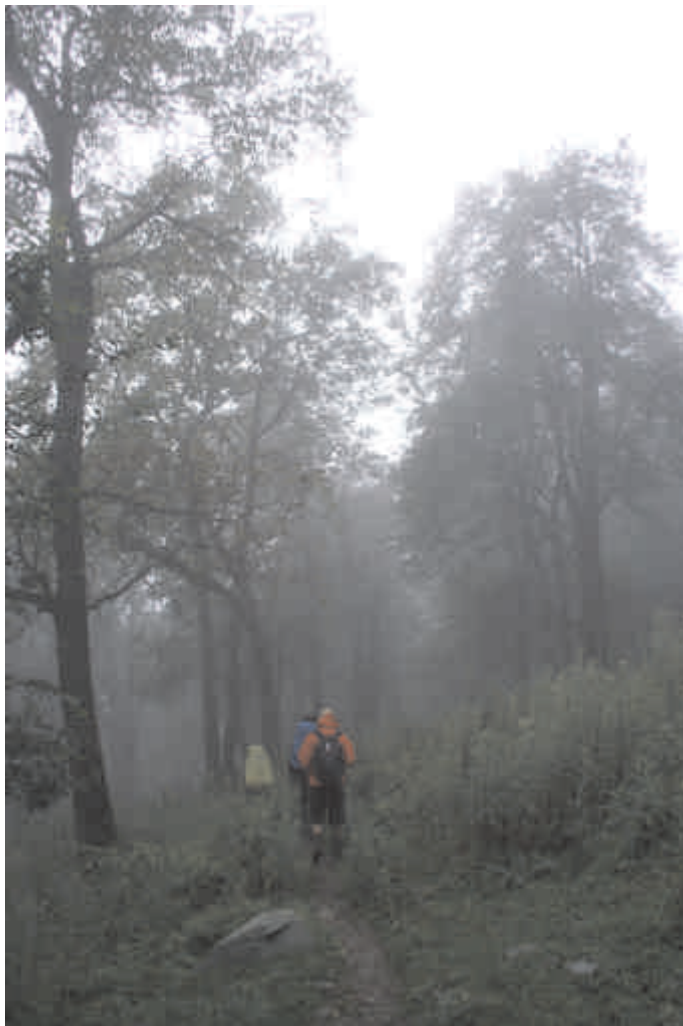
Dhritiman Mukherjee











maharsinam bhrgur aham  
giram asmy ekam aksharam  
yajnanam japa-yajno 'smi  
sthavaranam himalayah

*"Of the great sages I am Bhrigu; of vibrations  
I am the transcendental Om.  
Of sacrifices I am the chanting of the holy names [japa],  
and of immovable things I am the Himalayas."*

*Bhagavad Gita 10.25. Gita is a sacred Hindu scripture,  
considered among the most important texts in the history of literature and philosophy.*



*Panoramic View from Dhel Meadow 3,737 m*