



Puducherry ENVIS Hub

(Environmental Information System)

Host Centre : Puducherry Pollution Control Committee
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Government of India, New Delhi

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF **SALIM ALI** “BIRDMAN OF INDIA”

12TH NOVEMBER 1896



Who He is?

Dr Salim Moizuddin Abdul Ali was the pre-eminent ornithologist of India who was born on November 12, in 1896, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Orphaned at a very young age, Ali was brought up by his maternal uncle, Amiruddin Tyabji. Uncle Amiruddin was a keen hunter and nature-lover. Under his guidance young Ali learnt his first lessons in hunting and became aware of the nature around him.

WS Millard, the then secretary of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), introduced the young Ali to the serious study of birds and also showed him the BNHS's collection of stuffed birds and provided other valuable help and encouragement.

His research work is considered highly influential in the development of ornithology. He published a research paper discussing the nature and activities of the weaver bird in 1930 which made him famous in the field.

A Few Facts about Salim Ali

- Ali became a guide lecturer in 1926 at the natural history section of Mumbai's Prince of Wales Museum
- He was one of the very first scientists to carry out systematic bird surveys in India and abroad
- Ali was an influential figure in Indian wildlife conservation and environmentalist circles in the post-Independence era
- Salim not only researched about birds, but also contributed to the arena of protection of nature



Indian Roller

- He received Padma Bhushan in the category of Civilian Award in the field of Science and Engineering in 1958 and was honoured by the Government of India with Padma Vibushan in 1976
- He wrote *The Book of Indian Birds, Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent and Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan* (8 volumes), co-authored by Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley
- In a tribute to Salim Ali, ecologist Madhav Gadgil wrote in November 1996 in *Current Science* that, "Salim Ali will be remembered as the man who taught Indians to appreciate, to study at first hand, to treasure, to work towards conserving the rich living heritage of the country."
- Dr Ali passed away in 1987 at the age of 91, after a prolonged battle with prostate cancer

**Puducherry ENVIS Hub has also released a book titled
"Birds of Puducherry Volume II"**

The book can be accessed at the given below link

<https://dste.py.gov.in/Envispdy/Book.html>