Conclusion
CONCLUSION

Alongside human history, the wild life is equally a very delightful subject of study in history. This is a historical fact that the wild life had been a wonderful part of the Mughal rule in India. There are some pioneer works done by different scholars like Salim Ali, Divyabhanusinh Chavda, S.K. Saraswati, and M.A. Alvi which feature this aspect. Nevertheless, present work is different from others since it deals with various aspects of wild life related to different themes such as hunting, animal fights, catching of animals and birds, depiction of flora and fauna in illustrated manuscripts and albums, and in the surface embellishment of the buildings, different features of gardens, herbs and medicinal plants, management and breeding of various animals, and pictures of different animals and birds, which were depicted particularly in the Mughal miniatures, etc.

The flora and fauna of India was quite wonderful for Babur. Babur inherited a love for wild life and the nature in general. Both of his ancestors, Timur and Chingez were fond of hunting and passing their times in natural environs and garden landscape settings particularly during their expeditions. Nevertheless, Babur had a great zeal and affection for the natural beauty, of which he writes in his Memoir. During his advance towards Panipat in AD 1526 Babur passed through different parts of India and he closely observed many things in the surroundings, viz. forests, flowers, fruits, birds and animals of this country. After establishing his rule in India Babur took special interest in creating beautiful gardens like Aram Bagh, Bagh-i-Wafa (Garden of Fidelity) and others. Side by side he kept on his hunting operations, because it was his favourite pastime. Similarly, the Jahangir was another great naturalist
among the Mughals. In his *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri* he describes a number of birds like parrot, falcon, *saras*, duck, peacock, swallow, crow, *bulbul*, *koel*, etc. In the same way he writes about a number of animals like rhinoceros, deer, elephant, horse, blue-bull, antelope, wild buffalo, goat, sheep, camel, lion, *cheetah*, dog and monkey, etc. He domesticated a number of birds and animals and kept them under an organised management system for the purpose of breeding and rearing, etc. He had a great affection for nature and created beautiful gardens like Nishat *Bagh*, Shalimar *Bagh* and many more which are best examples of his interest in flora and fauna.

Apart from these personal interests, the Mughal Emperors like Akbar and Jahangir played a very remarkable role to maintain the images of flora and fauna in the form of paintings. The paintings of Mughal period depict wild life in the form of manuscript illustrations, album pictures, and margin paintings. These miniatures exhibit a great variety of flora and fauna. During the time of Akbar some painters like Basawan, Daswant, Lal and Miskin, etc. made a number of paintings on nature history. The paintings of *Baburnama*, *Akbarnama*, *Anwar-i-Suhaili* and *Ajaib-al-Makhluqat* are the wonderful examples of art which depict a variety of flora and fauna. During the time of Jahangir the art of painting depicting natural life reached its zenith. Such paintings give a comprehensive glimpse of wild life and the result of the most intimate and careful observation of the subject. During Jahangir’s period a large number of pictures of birds and animals, mostly ascribed to Mansur, Manohar, Inayat, Pidarath and Abul Hasan, were executed. These painters contributed a lot to the depiction of the flora and fauna in the naturalistic form. The themes related to hunting, animal-fights and trapping of birds and animals, etc., appear in context of their references in a particular event or episode.
described in the chronicles. Some of the finest examples of these paintings are
the illustrations from the Baburnama (f.305b, B.M., London) a hunting scene in
which Babur riding on the horse back is looking at the hunted rhinoceros; the
Akbarnama (Acc.55-56/117, double page, V.A. Museum, London) exhibiting a
Qamargah hunting scene in which Akbar riding on the horse hunts the black
buck near Lahore; and finally the Jahangirnama (Ed.win Binney, 3rd
collection, Sen Deigo). The latter depicts both Jahangir and prince Daniyal
looking of a pair of Nilgai shot by them. These miniatures form the best part of
the source material for knowing about the wild life in Mughal period.

The hunting and other sports also brought or derived to the Mughals
very close to the flora and fauna. At the time of hunting operations they got an
opportunity to look at the different wonderful aspects of the wild life. Right
from Babur till Aurangzeb’s time, hunting had been a favourite pastime and
interesting source of entertainment for the Mughals. Akbar and Jahangir were
very fond of tiger and lion hunting. Apart from these animals they used to hunt
other animals like deer, blue bull, wild buffalo and different kinds of birds.
Royal ladies like Nur Jahan also participated in hunting operations. It has been
mentioned in the Mughal sources that they used mostly guns, matchlocks,
spears, swords, bows and arrows for hunting. In general, the Mughals enjoyed
hunting as a big game of that time.

Another beautiful aspect of the wild life in Mughal India was the keen
interest of the Mughal emperors which they showed in their surface decoration
of the architecture by preserving the images of the flora and fauna. The forms
of the flowers, plants, birds and animals appear to have been beautifully
painted and carved in their buildings like the dados of Kutub Khana at Fatehpur
Sikri, Akbar’s tomb at Sikandara, Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and in many other buildings. The lawns and gardens were also created around these buildings which provided shelter to a number of birds and animals. Many flower, plants and fruit trees were planted there to keep the surrounding cool and afresh.

The zeal of the Mughal emperors reached on its zenith when they continued the tradition of their ancestors to create beautiful gardens in India. Though the climate of India has different forms but Babur and other Mughals found it favourable for the purpose of beautiful gardens. Babur introduced the Chahar-bagh ("Fourfold Garden") system. He was inspired by the gardens of his ancestors at Kabul, Herat, and Samarkand. The Mughal gardens were based on the concept of Paradise gardens which are described in Holy Quran. Eventually Babur designed his first garden Aram Bagh at Agra. Similarly the Emperor Jahangir also created gardens like Shalimar garden, Nishat garden, etc. in Kashmir. All these gardens were created in systematic way comprising water channels, water tank (hauz) and trees like chinar, pipal, mango, plantain, cypress, etc. A number of flowers, plants and trees of fruits were planted in partresses in these gardens which show the deep affection of the Mughals for flora and fauna, and the nature, in general.

The Mughals also used the flowers, plants and trees in the form of herbs and medicines to cure several diseases. It is notable that during the sixteenth and seventeenth century the Indian and European system of medicine came into close interaction.

The most important aspect of the wild life in Mughal India was the management, treatment and breeding of the birds and animals. During Mughal period, particularly the reign of Akbar and Jahangir a number of animals like
elephants, cheetahs, horses, camels, dogs, deer, mules, buffaloes, goats, sheep, cows were kept under a management system for different purposes like, hunting, animal-fights, domestication, breeding and rearing, etc. Apart from these animals a number of birds like, falcon (baz), hawks, saras, crane, parrot, duck and peacocks, etc. were also kept for different purposes. A number of experiments regarding, hunting, animal fights, breeding, entertainment and understanding of the behaviour of these birds and animals were done during this period. All the birds and animals were kept under a management system and a number of servants were appointed to provide considerable food to them. Abul Fazl mentioned that Akbar made the categories of each animal. Similarly Jahangir also played a remarkable role to keep the birds and animals for different purposes.

Mughal miniatures depicting wild life appear to be visual evidence for studying various kinds of animals and plant especially the curious ones brought from different parts of India such as Goa, Kashmir and also from other countries. The turkey cock, spotted forktail, shahi falcon, zebra, black buck, Himalayan blue throated barbet and Bengali florican, were the favourite animals, likenesses of whom were painted by different painters at the Mughal studio.

To sum up, the Mughal India had been very favourable for the relationship between the man and nature. The Mughal emperors were great lovers of nature, they had qualities of the naturalists, environmentalists, and had an artistic approach and a, scientific attitude, towards the wild life which made it an important and an integral experience of medieval India.