



Call for Applications: Manish Mehta Microgrant for Nocturnal Avian Ecology Research and Awareness

In remembrance of the late Mr. Manish Mehta, the Global Nightjar Network (GNN), jointly with Kshitij Foundation (India), invites applications for the first Manish Mehta Microgrant for Nocturnal Avian Ecology Research and Awareness.

This microgrant honours Mr. Mehta's lifelong passion for nature, education, and learning. It supports students, early-career researchers, and NGOs working on the ecology, behaviour, conservation, and awareness of nocturnal birds, especially nightjars (family Caprimulgidae).

This is GNN's first small-grants activity. The current phase is India-focused, and the grant program is intended to expand over time into a broader regional and global initiative.

Grant details (Phase 1: India only)

The grant provides **₹15,000 INR** (approximately USD150). Recipients may also receive mentorship from GNN experts (for example, guidance in analysis, writing, or outreach planning).

Permitted uses include compensation for outreach preparation/delivery time, field and communication equipment (for example binoculars, recorders, field guides/apps, headlamps), and direct project costs (printing, software for acoustic analysis, field travel/fuel, etc).

The current thematic focus includes the **Popularisation of Nocturnal Birds**, such as ecological/awareness studies, storytelling and media engagement, and local initiatives linked to nocturnal bird research and education.

Who can apply

Applicants must:

- Be Indian citizens, or based in India with valid Indian banking facilities
- Be under 35 years of age at the time of submission
- Be students, early-career researchers, or NGOs with demonstrated interest in ornithology, ecology, or nature education
- Propose an India-based project

Application process

Applications are submitted through an online form hosted by GNN:
<https://www.globalnightjar.org/microgrant>

Applicants should be prepared to provide:

1. Applicant profile and eligibility details.
2. Project summary (~500 words) that includes:
 - Clear objectives, methods, and expected outcomes
 - Work plan and timeline
 - Budget showing how ₹15,000 INR will be used
 - One-page CV (or organizational profile for NGO applicants)
 - Ethics/permissions note if relevant to fieldwork or outreach



Selection and disbursement

Selection will consider relevance to nocturnal avian ecology/awareness, feasibility, community or conservation value, and clarity of deliverables. Funds will be disbursed through Kshitij Foundation after verification of identity/institutional proof, Indian bank details, and a mutually agreed work plan. Processes will follow Government of India NGO-DARPAN and CSR compliance frameworks.

Timeline

Application deadline: May 1, 2026

Decision deadline: June 1, 2026

Deliverables deadline: October 15, 2026

Recipient deliverables

The successful recipient must submit a brief completion report (~500 words). If funding was used for equipment/supplies, include usage details and a photo of equipment in use. If used for communication, provide at least two outputs (for example blog posts, posters, talks, short videos, or media articles) with links/photos where applicable. All outputs must acknowledge Global Nightjar Network, Late Mr. Manish Mehta, and Kshitij Foundation.

Contact

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