

In Memoriam



Thomas Mathew

1948-2025



Mr. Thomas Mathew was part of the WWF Family from 1981 to 1996 and served as Secretary General of WWF-India from 1987 to 1993



His vision and leadership provided a strong foundation for WWF-India's growth and conservation impact.

Thomas Mathew was instrumental in the move of the WWF-India Secretariat from Mumbai to Delhi.



During his tenure, several iconic programmes were launched like:

- **The Conservation Corps Volunteers (CCV) programme designed to provide opportunities for young men and women keen to garner knowledge and skills related to biodiversity, conservation and environmental protection.**
- **The Community Biodiversity Conservation Movement (CBCM) aimed at conserving biological diversity at the grassroots level, identifying community participation as its essential pillar.**
- **The Nature Shop and the Centre for Environmental Law was set up an integral part of WWF-India when he was the Secretary General.**
- **WWF-India also received support from MacArthur Foundation in the 1990s to support conservation efforts in the Eastern Himalayas and Western Ghats biodiversity hotspots.**





This was also the period when the Nature Clubs of India was a popular and thriving initiative and the education programme was at the heart of WWF-India's image.

He was appointed Officer of the Order of the Golden Ark in 1994 by HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in recognition of his services to international conservation.

In 1998, Mr. Mathew was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for his contributions to conservation.

His legacy will continue to inspire WWF-India and future conservationists all over the world.



Messages from colleagues and friends

"I can't think of a person who was a more perfect gentleman than Tom. Such a wonderful person! I wish we had many more people like Tom here - we would have been a much better community if there were more people like him here. He personified honesty, humility, fair mindedness, correctness and gentleness! I will always miss him."

Koshi & George

"I was among the last few batches of the CCV program in 1995, which laid the foundation for my career in conservation. It was a program from WWF India that I will forever be grateful for helped find my feet, learn from the ground up, and also learn, that learning never ends. That was my experience in a gist of the CCV program. I never knew until now, that Thomas Mathew was responsible for its genesis and evolution.

I never met Thomas Mathew, despite him being my father's cousin. I have always known his youngest sister, and his parents in who's wooden green attic I had a few adventures as a small child. Despite not knowing him personally nor even having the fortune to meet him, I got to learn of and about him through some of his colleagues and my family as well. His approach to conservation as a science coupled with the importance of people - local, indigenous and urban to be involved in conservation was a big influence and continues to be an ideology and pathway I have imbibed."

Manish Chandi

"I knew Tom as a friend and our paths crossed over this and the other issue dealing with biodiversity over the years. I echo what the others have said about him, a humane person, a gentleman with a gentle sense of humour."

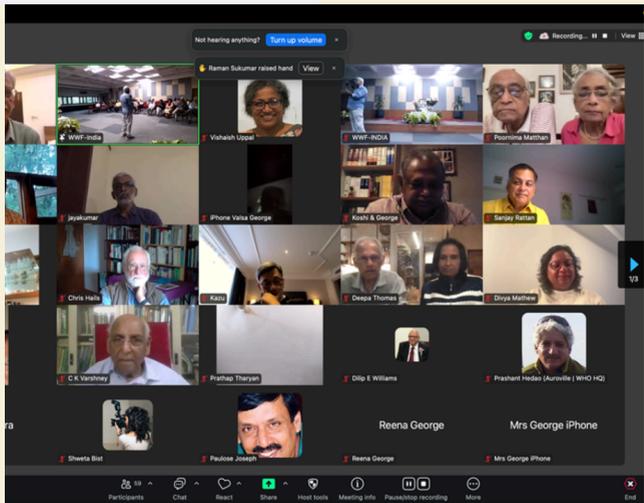
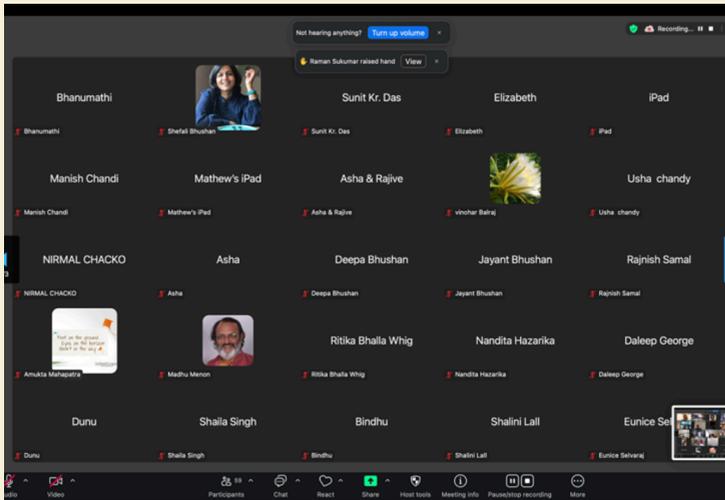
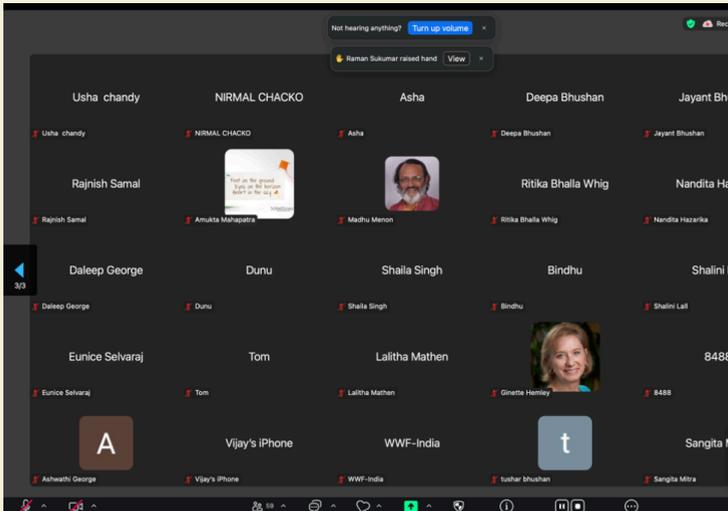
Suman Sahai





Memorial Meet







WWF - India Family will always cherish Mr. Mathews's memories and contributions.



You will never be forgotten Tom(ji).