



vanghat वनघाट

Birding tour at  
Corbett, Vanghat and Hills of  
Sattal & Pangot  
guided by experienced naturalists.

Wallcreeper  
(*Tichodroma muraria*)

**Georgina Steytler**  
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# Guided Birding tour – Corbett, Vanghat and Hills of Sattal & Pangot

**Corbett National Park and Hills, Uttarakhand.**

<b>Landscape</b>	Broad-leaved & riverine hill forest and river valleys of Vanghat - Ramganga Valley – Corbett National Park – Hills.
<b>Best Time</b>	November to May.
<b>Birds Expected</b>	Ibisbill, Collared falconet, White tailed Rubythroat, Common green Magpie, Wallcreeper, Indian Pitta, Long Tailed Broadbill, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Lesser and Pallas's Fish Eagle, Brown & Tawny Fish Owl etc.
<b>Mammals Expected</b>	Ghoral Goat Antelope, Indian Crested Porcupine, Common Smooth coated Otter, Barking and Sambhar Deer, Himalayan Langurs, Numerous Bat Species and Asian Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, etc.



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# Overview

Beginning from Sattal and Pangot, which are best known for altitudinal migrants and wide range of resident birds; this trip will cover the buffer forests of Corbett Tiger Reserve.

Geographically hemmed between the Himalayan foothills and the Indo-Gangetic plains, the Corbett area along with the adjoining hills and the wetlands is definitely one of the richest bird habitats of Asia and boasts a bird count of over 600 species including long distance and altitudinal migrants. Our birding tour covers the diverse habitats of grasslands, broadleaf tropical forest, riverine and high altitude forest of conifers and oak with a backdrop of the mighty Himalayas. Birdwatchers will encounter Palearctic and altitudinal migrants like Siberian Rubythroat, Ibisbill and Wallcreeper, whereas summer visitors (April- September) will encounter Cuckoos, Indian & Hooded Pittas and the gregarious Chestnut-tailed Starling.

Accompanied by experienced guides you spend the maximum time in the field rather than travelling from lodge to bird sites and so forth. This tour aims to base you at A1 birding spots of the area, ensuring that your birding starts the moment you wake up, and you fall asleep to the calls of Owls or Thick-knees.

Focussing on the unique and rich experience of overnight stays in the heart of Corbett National Park and in temperate forests of the Himalayas. High possibility of seeing Ibisbill, Wallcreeper, Great Thicknee, Small Pratincole, Temminck's Stint, Yellow-bellied Fantail, Spotted, Little And Slaty-backed Forktail, White-Tailed Rubythroat, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Brown and Tawny Fish Owl and critically endangered vultures. Exploring the forest on 4 X 4 and on foot guided by some of the finest naturalist of the area. High possibility of seeing Tiger, Jungle Cat, Elephant, Sambhar, Barking Deer, Hog Deer.



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Great Hornbill  
*(Buceros bicornis)*

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# Operational Itinerary

## DAY 01: DELHI

<b>Activity</b>	Arrive Delhi.
<b>Gradient</b>	Gentle
<b>Detail</b>	Meet our representative upon arrival and transfer to hotel (rooms held from noon of this day).  Overnight at a hotel in Delhi. -



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## DAY 02: SATTAL

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Delhi - Sattal</b>
<b>Gradient</b>	Gentle
<b>Detail</b>	Reach Sattal for lunch, this pleasant hill station and its adjoining temperate forest of Oak, Deodar, Rhododendron & conifers with a backdrop of the higher Himalayas & open valleys, makes this region excellent for altitudinal migrants and a wide array of resident birds. Altitude varies from 1600mts to 2800mts. We may be lucky to see a Flying Squirrel late evening.
Overnight at a hotel in Sattal (L, D).	-



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## DAY 03: SATTAL

<b>Activity</b>	Sattal - Pangot
<b>Gradient</b>	Gentle
<b>Detail</b>	<p>After very early breakfast we leave with packed lunch for the moist Oak forest of Kilbury (Pangot) with a view of the higher Himalayas on the north and a vast expanse of Corbett &amp; adjoining reserve forests on the south. Chukar, Koklas &amp; Khalij Pheasant, Crested Bunting &amp; Upland Pipit could be spotted on the road early morning. Openings in the forest are foraging ground for Hill Partridge, Cheer Pheasant. Western &amp; Satyr Tragopan &amp; Himalayan Monal are also reported here, the Himalayan Quail was last seen in this region over a hundred years back, and awaits rediscovery. Mature oak forests are good for Speckled Wood Pigeon, Rufous, Himalayan, Brown Fronted &amp; Fulvous Breasted Woodpeckers and about 9 species of Tits including the not so common Fire Capped Tit. While returning to hotel by dusk we may come across Spotted Owlet &amp; Mountain Scops Owl.</p>

Overnight at a hotel in Sattal (B, L, D)



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Spotted Fork tail  
(*Enicurus maculatus*)

**Christopher Mills**

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Koklass Pheasant  
(*Pucrasia macrolopha*)

**Kalyan Singh Sajwan**

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## DAY 04: JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

<b>Activity</b>	Sattal to Corbett
<b>Gradient</b>	Gentle
<b>Detail</b>	<p>Today we do the southern slopes of Nainital till Mangoli valley. A mix of Temperate Forests, Conifers, Grassy slopes &amp; cultivation brings about a rich variety of birds. Massive rock faces &amp; open valleys makes it particularly good with raptors like a, Common Buzzard, Steppe Eagle &amp; Common Kestrel. Lammergeyer, Himalayan &amp; Eurasian Griffon takes advantage of the late morning thermal. Huge flocks of Slaty Headed &amp; Plum Headed Parakeets are seen here, so are mixed flocks of Alpine, Himalayan Swiftlet &amp; White Rumped Needletail. Some birds of Mangoli valley are Wedge Tailed Green Pigeon, Bar Tailed Treecreeper, Plain-backed and Mistle Thrush, Mountain Bulbul and Goulds &amp; White Browed Shortwing,. Village Edges &amp; fields are good for Blue Capped Redstart, Black Lored Tit, Black-Chinned Babbler, Blue Winged Minla, Whiskered Yuhina, Green Tailed Sunbird, Fire fronted Serin, Altai and Alpine Accentor. After lunch drive down to the foothills at Corbett Tiger Reserve.</p>

Overnight at a lodge located in the peripheral of Corbett Tiger Reserve. (B, L, D).



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## DAY 05: JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

**Activity** **Safari 4 X 4**

**Gradient** Undulating terrain

**Detail** Morning and evening open jeep safari inside the Corbett National Park.

Overnight at a lodge located in the peripheral of Corbett Tiger Reserve. (B, L, D).



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# DAY 06: JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Corbett to Vanghat .</b>
<b>Gradient</b>	Undulating terrain
<b>Detail</b>	<p>After breakfast drive to Marchulla. Awaiting birding guide and porters guide you over a hike of 1.8 km; this hike itself will offer us views of numerous Birds of prey this valley is famous for. As we approach the banks of the Ramganga River, Crested Kingfishers and Lesser &amp; Pallas's Fish Eagles greet us. As bamboo raft ferries you across to remote Vanghat, Plumbeous and White Capped Water Redstarts, Brown Dipper &amp; Wallcreeper are seen frequently. Our birding lodge Vanghat is nestled deep in the awe-inspiring Ramganga valley exclusively crafted for birders, wildlife and nature enthusiasts. The enviable location of the lodge affords long walks in the wild country and unexplored territories.</p> <p>The rich riverine habitat of the Ramganga, surrounded by broad-leaved forested hills and proximity to higher hills will reveal an exceptional variety of bird life. Birders will find it a privilege to be able to walk in this rich bird habitat. From the thatched dining area at a vantage point one is able to spot gems like Pallas's and Lesser Fish Eagles, and Great Hornbills flying over the lodge provide a delightful sight. Slaty-headed Parakeets, Gold-fronted Leafbird and Spot-winged Starling abound in the giant Silk Cotton trees that dominate the lodge. Probing bushes close by will reveal White-tailed Rubythroat, Bluethroat and the vocal Scimitar Babbler. Moist undergrowth will be investigated for Chestnut-headed Tesia&amp; the Nepal Wren Babbler.</p>

Overnight at Vanghat (B, L, D)



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Vanghat Dining

**Sunal Kumar**

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Himalayan bulbul  
(*Pycnonotus leucogenys*)

**Kevin Bartlett**

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## DAY 07: VANGHAT

<b>Activity</b>	Vanghat and adjoining forests.
<b>Gradient</b>	Undulating terrain
<b>Detail</b>	<p>Birdlife -We continue our exploration of the bird habitats surrounding the lodge. Brown Dippers and the Little Forktail breed close by and the beautiful Wallcreeper is regularly sighted. White-capped and Plumbeous Water Redstarts and wagtails are common in winter. River Lapwings and Common Sandpiper are seen along with Ruddy Shelduck and sometimes Black Storks.</p> <p>Probing higher treeless ridges may reveal Mountain Hawk Eagle, Himalayan Griffon, and Red-headed Vultures, and often in the same party... Lammergeyer!</p>
Overnight at Vanghat (B, L, D)	



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## DAY 08: DELHI

<b>Activity</b>	Drive from Ramnagar to Delhi (7 hrs)
<b>Gradient</b>	Gentle
<b>Detail</b>	<p>Morning after breakfast, either make a 7 hours drive or take train to Delhi. On arrive check in the hotel.</p> <p>Overnight at a hotel in Delhi.</p>



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## DAY 09: DELHI

<b>Activity</b>	Depart from Delhi.
<b>Gradient</b>	Gentle
<b>Detail</b>	Wake up at ease. Dropping from Delhi Hotel to airport.



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**Cost inclusions:**

- Accommodation for 08 nights at hotels, homestays & resorts mentioned above on twin share basis.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary as B, L, D (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Service of English speaking local naturalist.
- Services of Naturalist tracker during trek.
- Porters wherever needed.
- 4 X4 and taxi transfers.
- All applicable taxes at the time of quoting.



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**Cost exclusions:**

- Any expenses of personal nature such as telephone calls, tips, use of payable items in room mini bar, any kind of alcoholic non-alcoholic beverages (unless specified).
  - Air Fare.
  - Cost incurred in obtaining visa, insurance etc.
  - Cost incurred in case of hospitalization or evacuation.
  - Tips gratuities given to drivers/ guides, restaurant waiters etc.
- \* Please note that in case of any revision in government tax structure or substantial fuel hike we reserve the right to revise the tour cost. However, marginal difference will be absorbed by us.

**Important:**

- In case of any price hike by the Govt. you'll be duly informed and the deference will be shared equally.
- Itinerary order may change however number of days and general programme will remain the same.



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# BOOKING & CANCELLATION POLICY

## **Booking Conditions:**

A 50% advance confirms your trip with us. Balance needs to be deposited at least 30 days before trip date.

## **Cancelation Policy:**

- Less than 15 days before the arrival date - no refund
- Less than 20 days before the arrival date - 60% refund
- Less than 25 days before the arrival date - 75% refund
- No refund in case of road block, accident, no show etc.



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- ❖ The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credit will be given for services not used. We recommend that you obtain travel insurance upon booking.
- ❖ It is mandatory for guests to present valid photo identification at the time of check-in.
- ❖ The inclusion of extra bed with a booking is facilitated with a folding cot or a mattress as an extra bed.
- ❖ Early check-in or late check-out is subject to availability and may be chargeable by the lodge. The standard check-in time is 1 PM and the standard check-out time is 11 AM.
- ❖ The room tariff includes all taxes. The amount paid for the room does not include charges for optional services and facilities (such as room service, mini bar, snacks or telephone calls). These will be charged at the time of check-out.
- ❖ The hotel/lodge reserves the right of admission. Accommodation can be denied to guests posing as a couple if suitable proof of identification is not presented at check-in. Rural Traveller will not be responsible for any check-in denied by the hotel/lodge due to the aforesaid reason.



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**Important Note:**

In case of any revision in government tax structure or fuel prices, Rural Traveller reserves the right to revise the tour price. However, marginal revision in tour price will be absorbed by us.

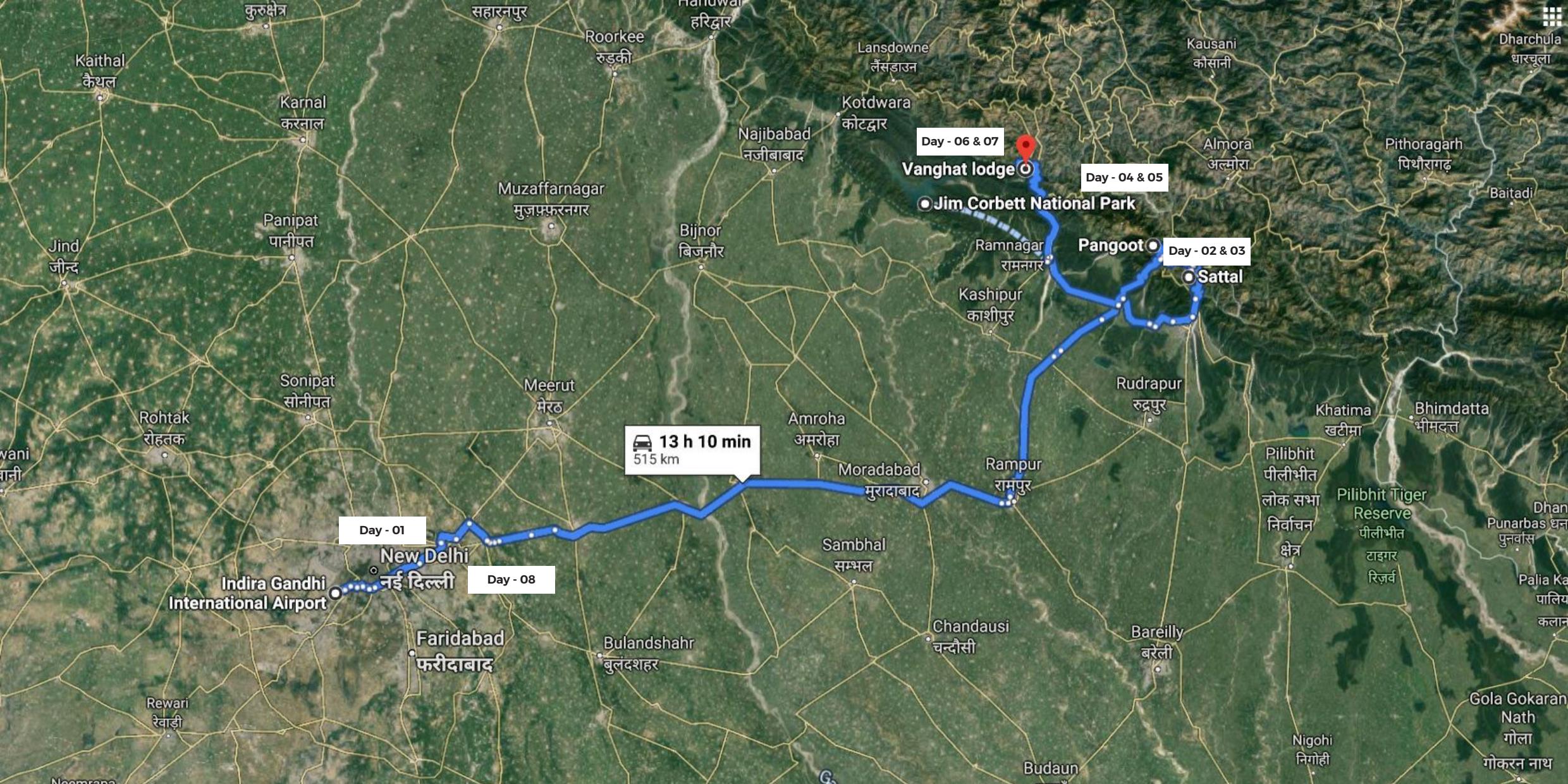
- ❖ To book the above tour, please write to Sumantha Ghosh at [vanghat@gmail.com](mailto:vanghat@gmail.com). We will be happy to tailor - make a bird tour to suit the number of days that you may have.
- ❖ Do write to us if you want us to pick you up from Delhi airport, make arrangements for accommodation in Delhi, taxi and organize guided tours in Delhi or Rajasthan.

**Things To Carry:**

Binoculars, personal medicines, insect repellent, camera, film rolls, batteries, flashlight, clothing in Jungle colors such as beige, brown, khaki and green as they are least disturbing to the environment, shoes made for easy walking and sandals for wading in the river, sun hats, sweaters and heavy jackets for the winter months, light cottons for the summer months, rain gear for monsoons.



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Birding at Vanghat  
**Sudarshan Juyal**