

# Corbett's ghost comes alive in new book on tigers

Kolkata, July 25: The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Oxford Bookstore launched Anjana Basu's *In the Shadow of Leaves* in Kolkata today to mark naturalist Jim Corbett's 139<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary which, incidentally is also Tiger Day in Bengal.

The TERI publication is a fictional tale of two young kids, who, with help of Jim Corbett's ghost, stop poachers from killing a tiger in the Kumaon Hills. "While discussing Jim Corbett and man-eaters, my friend once told me that security guards in the Corbett National Park even today believe that Corbett's ghost still walked in the jungle and they could see strange blue lights all around. All this inspired me to write a children's story as it has ghosts and tigers," said Basu, the author.

The author, an advertising consultant, talks about rampant tiger poaching in India. "Poaching is the fallout of poverty, where people are so poor that they try to make money out of whatever comes easy. No one has come up with a way to enable poor villagers to earn a living and also protect the wild animals," said Basu.

The book was released in the presence of renowned filmmaker Anik Dutta, actor-director-playwright Vinay Sharma, wildlife expert Rishin Basu-Roy.

Some excerpts from the book:

*Rohan and his mother are holidaying in the Kumaon Hills. Rohan should be practicing Maths, he has failed in his exam, but he is spending time reading Jim Corbett's 'Man-eaters of Kumaon' and wandering in the hills with fearless Manjul, who herds cows. Rohan admires the way she jumps streams like a little cat and her knowledge of the woods. Peace and tranquility, in the hills, is lost when they hear that a tiger has been killing cattle in the nearby villages.*

*A mysterious man with a moustache materializes at night and seems to spellbind the children and tigers. Rohan is convinced that it is Jim Corbett's ghost. Manjul disagrees. Whoever the mysterious man is, he is on a mission—save the tiger from poachers and herd it back into the National Park. The result is a story of mystery and magic.*

About the author:

Anjana Basu was born in Allahabad and started school in London. She works as an advertising consultant in Kolkata. She has a book of short stories, published by Orient Longman, India, to her credit. The BBC has broadcast one of her short stories and her poems have featured in anthologies brought out by various publishers. This is her fifth novel and second children's book. The first, *Chinku and the Wolfboy* was published by Roli.

Basu has also worked on scripts with late filmmaker Rituparno Ghosh for many of his films, most notably *Antarmahal* and *The Last Lear*.

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Headed by Dr. R.K. Pachauri, also the chairperson of the Nobel Peace Prize winning climate change body, IPCC, TERI has emerged as an institution of excellence for its path-breaking research, and is a global brand widely respected by political leaders, policy makers, corporate entities as well as the civil society at large.

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