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Admin. Off. : PLOT NO 39,MURA BHAVAN,KOODAL NAGAR,RAJAGOPALAPURAM POST,  
PUDUKKOTTAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA.

[ijonstnsro@gmail.com](mailto:ijonstnsro@gmail.com), [editorijons@gmail.com](mailto:editorijons@gmail.com)-[www.tnsroindia.org.in](http://www.tnsroindia.org.in)

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Phone Nos:	04322- 458193, 04322 –261088 (10.00 A.M to 05.00 P.M)
Email	ijons@tnsroindia.org.in & ijons@tnsro@gmail.com
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Registered office Address	No 46-141, Meenakshipuram Rd, Near Post Office, Arimalam 622 201, Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu, India.
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## **Editorial..**



*The United Nations has declared this year as the International Year of Camelids 2024. Camels are generally adapted to dry deserts with low rainfall. The ancestral species of the*

*camel appeared in North America about 45 million years ago. Then they migrated southwards. Today, camels have evolved into a specialized animal that survives in extreme heat and water scarcity in the widespread deserts. Indigenous peoples and local communities living in more than 90 countries around the world depend on camels for their livelihood. Camels include alpacas, bactrians, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas and vicunas. Camels play an important role in food security, nutrition and economic development. Camels provide strong cultural and social significance to various communities in the world. In particular, from providing milk, meat products and fiber to transporting organic fertilizers, camels are capable of living in places where other livestock species cannot.*

*Camels play an important role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to the eradication of extreme poverty, the fight against hunger, the empowerment of women and the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Camels play an essential role in the culture, economy, food security and livelihoods of communities in arid and semi-arid lands, including indigenous peoples in Asia and Africa. There are nine registered dromedary camel species in India. In the challenging desert ecosystems of states like Rajasthan and Gujarat, camels are lifelines for communities like Raika/Rabari. The International Camel Festival in Bikaner, Pushkar Mela, Ran Utsav in Kutch and related arts showcase the enduring cultural heritage of camels. Camel-based tourism activities provide many economic benefits to people.*

*The International Year of Camelids 2024 provides a unique opportunity to raise awareness about the role of camels in combating climate change. The year also aims to call for investment in research, capacity building, and the use of innovative practices and technologies in sectors where camels contribute. Awareness workshops, training camps, exhibitions, seminars, publication of pamphlets, formulation of policy documents, marketing of camel food products and other resources can be implemented to celebrate International Year of Camelids. We are delighted to participate in this special awareness program through our research journal. Let's celebrate and protect camels, an animal that completely dedicates itself to the welfare of Human kind.*

**Editor, IJONS**

Cover page image: Camel in Desert / Credit :© Denys Gromov & FAO