

## Pangolin awareness programme at St. Joseph's High School, Tirunelveli, TN

On 1 February 2018, Pangolin awareness programme was conducted at St. Joseph's High School. A total of 86 students, 7 teachers and other office staff participated. The Headmistress of the school felicitated the gathering. The chief guest, Dr. Selvin Samuel, Principal (Retd). St. Johns College gave a talk about the World Wetlands Day and RAMSAR Convention. He further stressed about the importance of conserving water bodies especially Veinthankuam and Thamirabarani Rivers of Tirunelveli, preserving biodiversity, amphibians and technology involving vermiculture.

Then Ms. Rani Kirubairaj, Retd. Botany PG Assistant conducted pangolin awareness programme. She selected 5 students from the group and asked them to read one page from the Pangolin booklet. Then they played pangolin puzzle – using the questions, they found answers for all except 2 words related to illegal poaching and illegal trafficking. The meaning of those words were explained in detail. Jenifa, Krishna Divya, Deepika, Bapisha, and Kaviya raised their doubts on pangolins. Do Pangolins have teeth? Will they bite us? Why do people kill them against law and order? How do Pangolins eat ants and termites without being bitten by them? are some of the questions raised. Appropriate answers were provided and they were encouraged.

The students shouted pangolin slogans. Then they took pledge to conserve, be kind, pass conservation message to others, stop poaching and to 'love' this innocent animal. Pangolin paintings were done by the class 5 & 6 students. The students in chorus sang a song on pangolin written by Rani Kirubairaj.

They wore masks and holding placards mimicked like pangolin. They all took notes from the exhibited messages about Pangolin. All participants received memento for answering well during the quiz. The students liked the pangolin materials supplied by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore. They eagerly went through the poster, pamphlet, placard and stickers and learned about Pangolin.



**Taking pledge to save pangolin**

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..continued from p. 31

planted saplings at the zoo campus. Saplings were distributed to the students and zoo staff as well.

### World Water Day

The participants of the programme were Lady Irwin College, Arya Gurukul School, Ranibagh, Shanti Devi Gurukul, Sainik Vihar, Delhi students and visitors. Dr. Naaz Rizvi, Director, National Museum of Natural History gave a talk. The Director of NZP inaugurated the exhibition in collaboration with National Museum of Natural History. The exhibition was opened for public from 22 to 31 March 2018. Zoo Walk was also arranged.