

This month - That age: ZOONOOZ in 1986

The Patna Zoo, Bihar has acquired two more Clouded leopards. The Zoo is the only zoo in the country which has had success in keeping and breeding these rare and beautiful cats. A pair of orphaned panthers also joined the zoo last month.

The first Tiger Safari in the country was declared open in Bannerghatta National Park on August 3rd. Two tigers were brought from the Mysore Zoo to begin the experiment, Rani (aged 12) and Lakshmana (aged 7). More tigers will be added later when these two adjust to their new situation. The Bannerghatta National Park also has a lion safari, a deer safari and a mini zoo. Mr. M. K. Appayya, Chief Wildlife Warden, who is also Chairman of the Zoo Authority of Karnataka has initiated many improvements in the Park in the past year, including new modern spacious primate enclosures based on new designs in Mysore Zoo.

The National Zoological Park is attempting a noble experiment with veterinary students from Hissar Veterinary College. Students from the college will spend several weeks interning at the National Zoo in Delhi so that they can learn vital treatment of wildlife which is not normally emphasized in the average veterinary college curriculum. The NZP Director, M. Kamal Naidu conceived the idea when an young student visited him who had been shown a snake by Naidu when he was Director of Hyderabad Zoo. The student said Naidu's talk to her class that day so impressed her she decided to become a vet and was now a student at Hissar. One thing led to another and now this. It is welcome and we hope the idea will be copied by veterinary colleges all around India.

A clutch of 32 Russell's vipers were born at Madras Snake Park at Guindy last month. The Park is expecting a second generation captive birth of Pythons any day now.

A frustrated male elephant, bored by the chaste existence he was forced to lead at the Chidambaram Nataraja temple in Tamil Nadu rebelled and behaved so badly, that temple officials appealed to the State Government for help. It was decided to shift Natarajan to the Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Madras where he could enjoy the company of female elephants. Now Natarajan is settling down with Vijayalakshmi as his mate and is much happier, as are the temple authorities.

India gifted 16 animals to Zambia as a gesture of goodwill from the Prime Minister of India to the Government of Zambia. The Prime Minister selected typical Indian species himself to send including spotted deer, black buck, nilgai and sambar.

Mr. C. D. Krishne Gowda, Director, Mysore Zoo left for a month long tour of American National Parks, Natural History Museums and Zoos on 9 August as part of an Indo-US team for participating in a workshop on Environmental Education sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute. After the workshop Mr. Gowda will tour different zoos in the United States and in Europe. This is Mr. Gowda's second trip abroad, the first being over two decades ago when he accompanied a consignment of one dozen elephant calves which were sent to Germany by ship.

The snake problem at Delhi Zoo claimed more victims last month, a spotted deer and two porcupines. One of the porcupines put up such a fight that she tore the cobra into five pieces before which however, he managed to land a poisonous bite on her unprotected foot.

Mr. V. K. Bissa, Superintendent Jodhpur Zoo, is the proud father of a female Homo sapien, born in captivity this month. It is his first offspring. We hope she'll grow up to be a zoo vet.

India's third Snake Park was opened on 11 August at Katraj on the Outskirts of Pune. The park is owned by the Municipality but will be run by the Raja Shivaraj Pratishtan. Park Director is Mr. Neelimkumar Khaire. There are 13 pits for 170 snakes of 23 species

A new zoo group called Wildlife wanderers is assisting at Bombay Zoo. More next month on this.