

Wildlife Week 2014 - Report

TATA Steel Zoological Park celebrates Wildlife Week on its 20th Anniversary

Tata Steel Zoological Park has been celebrating wildlife week since 1994. This year marks the 20 Anniversary of Tata Steel Zoological Park and hence wildlife week was especially significant one. During 20-year journey, the Zoo has undergone a transformation and has constantly developed to offer the citizens of Jamshedpur and tourists one of the best experiences they could have in any zoo across India. Zoo's Education Department has played a stellar role with the sole intention of instilling and reinforcing the value of biodiversity conservation and seeks to promote inclusive participation in this initiative from diverse sections of the society from in and around Jamshedpur.

According to Aichi Biodiversity Target-1- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2020, the Zoo has taken the initiative to make more and more people to aware the value of biodiversity by organizing various educational activities throughout the year and more than 15,000 students benefitted last year. During this wildlife week, a slew of events and activities such as the best eco club teacher award, inter school essay competition, inter school debate, slogan writing, inter school quiz competition, fancy dress competition and on the spot painting competition were organized.

Mr. Y.K.S. Chauhan, IFS, Regional CCF, Singhbhum inaugurated the celebration in the presence of Mr. Rishad M Chinoy – Head (Services), Tata Steel. Mr. Chauhan, handed over the best eco club teacher award 2013-14 to the Ms. Moumita Sarkar from Motilal Nehru Public School, Jamshedpur and runners-up award to Mr. Arun Kumar Mahato from



Inauguration by Y.K.S. Chauhan, IFS, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Singhbhum



Winners of fancy dress competition

Kerala Public School, Burmamines and special award to Ms. K. Jaishree from Jusco School South Park. The winners of inter school essay competition in Hindi and English were also felicitated. The topic was "Managing island biodiversity in the face of alien species and climate change". On the second day, debate competition was organized both in Hindi and English and the topic was "Are zoos an important instrument in raising awareness towards conservation of biodiversity?". The judges were

Ms. Amrita Rao and Dr. Rita Jha. Harshita Singh from RVS Academy and Harneet Sahni were winners of Hindi and English respectively. The inter school quiz competition was held on the third day.

Seventy participants from 18 schools took part and Sandeep Raj Singh conducted it. The winners were Anirban Paul and Tanuj Guha and the runners-up were Akshit Akhoury and Rahul Vishal Mishra both teams from Loyola School. Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Steel City sponsored the event and Ms.



Inter school debate

Dipali Dokania presented the prizes. The questions included topics such as extinct life forms, national parks & sanctuaries, wildlife personalities, ecology and conservation and others.

On the fourth day, Mr. Bipul Chakrabarty, Director, Tata Zoo, flagged off a rally. Around 80 students from N.T.T.F., T.K. Academy and Madrassas along with Tata Zoo staff marched around Jayanti Sarovar and inside Jubilee Park raising slogans and displaying banners in order to raise awareness on the need to protect our biodiversity and wildlife. The slogan writing



Rally to raise awareness on the need to protect Biodiversity



Young participants during on the spot Painting competition

competition in Hindi and English followed this and the topic was 'Role of plants in water conservation'. Eighty-one students from 10 schools participated and Sumit Kumar of Kerala Public School was the winner. Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur ZEST sponsored the event and Ms. Nalini Ramamurthi presented the prizes. The judges for the competition were Dr. Srikant Nair and Basuki Nath.

On the penultimate day, a fancy dress competition was organized. A total of 117 children from 8 schools participated. The winners were: Nitya Kumari (Junior

Category) and Daksh Jain (Senior Category). Lions Club of Jamshedpur Steel City sponsored the event. Mr. Rajeev Ranjan, District Governor, Lions Club International was the chief guest. Pranati Das and Sunita Singh who also judged the competition presented the prizes to the winners. On 12 October, on-the-spot painting competition was organized in association with Off The Wall Art Gallery. A total of 182 students from 23 schools participated. The winners were Tanishka Tiwari of Loyola School (Primary), Baivhav Kumar (Junior), Aayush Poddar (Middle) and Akash Nandi (Senior). The



One of the participants during fancy dress competition

judges for the competition were Brindavan Debnath, D. Tulsi, Mrinmoy Pramanik and Monika Banerjee. After that the closing ceremony was held. Dr. J.K. Sinha, District Animal Husbandry Officer, East Singhbhum was the chief guest and guest of honour Mr. K.N. Venkat presented awards to the winners.

Ms. Seema Rani, Biologist cum Education Officer, coordinated the event along with her team Mr. Rahul Tiwary, Mr. Sandeep Raj Singh and Mr. Pratap Singh Gill. Ultimately, 544 children from 23 institutions enthusiastically participated. **Submitted by: Ms. Seema Rani, Biologist cum Education Officer. Email: cmarani00@rediffmail.com**

Other Report

Snake Awareness Programme for Institutions and Industries

Sundarvan Nature Discovery Centre is an activity of Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad. It is recognised as a Mini Zoo by the Central Zoo Authority. The facility is well known for snake rescue and awareness programmes in the city. It conducted a snake awareness programme for staff of Bidaj Farm of Sabarmati Ashram Gashala on 22 August 2014 at Sundarvan. About 50 participants attended this programme. The same kind of programme for staff



Awareness programme for Ladies Club members of Lafarge India Cement Plant, Sonadih, Chhattisgarh

of Redbricks school located at Santej, Ahmedabad, was conducted on 23 August. General information on snakes, commonly seen snakes of Ahmedabad, venomous and non-venomous, precautions to avoid snakebite, snakebite and treatment, myths and facts, ecological role and conservation issues were shared with the participants.

Snake survey and awareness programme was conducted to Sonadih cement plant of Lafarge India Pvt. Ltd., located in Chhattisgarh from 27 August to 3 September. Ten snake species were recorded in their premises. About 40 reptiles, including four were rescued and relocated in nearby area. Six awareness programmes were also carried out for different walk of people such as employees, school children and ladies club members. **Submitted by: Mr. S. Sivakumar, Park Manager, Sundarvan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Email: sundarvan@ceeindia.org.**

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