

National Zoological Park, New Delhi celebrates Wildlife Week 2014 Saurabh Vashisth¹ and R.A.Khan²

In order to preserve India's biodiversity, the Government of India established an Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) in 1952. IBWL mainly works in the areas of arousing people consciousness in favour of wildlife preservation and protection. For fulfilling its aim the IBWL has decided to celebrate the Wildlife Week from October 2 to October 8 every year and since then during wildlife week different activities related to wildlife conservation is arranged by forest department, zoos, Ngo's, educational institutions and others.

So, wildlife week celebration is a platform to arouse people's participation towards protection of wildlife. In India many species are threatened with extinction, therefore there is an urgent need to educate people of all age groups particularly the young generation about the importance of biodiversity and also about consequences of losing it.

The National Zoological Park, ceremoniously and traditionally started its wildlife week on 1 Oct 2014. and it has been celebrated at the zoo since its inception in 1957. The main objective of celebrating the wildlife week includes: a. Creating awareness and sympathy among the people about conservation and protection of wildlife. b. Focusing people's attention towards the importance of conservation of wildlife. c. Implementing more services to preserve the wildlife. d. Discussing all the issues related to the protection and preservation of the wildlife with special emphasis on India's biodiversity.

During the wildlife week, the whole premise of the National Zoological park were full of enthusiastic kids who had come to participate in wildlife week celebration. These students were from government, public and private schools and colleges. Various activities have been organized with the help of environmentalists, activists, educators who encourage and accelerate the visitors and students mind to become aware of the wildlife conservation. The following competitions have been conducted during the wildlife week celebration for students of different age groups.

On the spot painting competition was held on 1 Oct. The topics were animals that kept in the zoo such as elephant, giraffe, Himalayan black bear, painted stork, pelican and white tiger. Keeper's talk was arranged on 2 Oct a huge number of visitors interacted with keepers and learned about the up keeping and maintenance of animals. Clay modeling activity was conducted on 3 Oct and students of class 6-12 participated and they done a wonderful animal clay models.



Hon. Minister inaugurates the small bird enclosure



On the spot painting competition



Student's creative and colourful posters

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Debate competition



Animal clay models



Winners of the competition receiving prizes



Hon. Minister planted sapling at the zoo



Minister releasing new entry tickets

was wildlife quiz competition and students of class 6-12 participated on 7 Oct.

The closing ceremony was held on 08 Oct. and the Chief Guest was Shri. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. Officials from various divisions of the Ministry also attended. The minister gave all the winners of the wildlife week competitions mementos, certificates and cash prize. The Hon'ble Minister also inaugurated the small bird enclosure on that day. The wildlife week celebration came to an end with vote of thanks by National Zoological Park staff.

On 4 October, debate completion on the topic "Role of zoos in wildlife conservation" was held and students of class 9-12 were participated. An expert talk on the same topic was held on 5 October at the education centre. Many visitors and students attended and enjoyed the talk. For the university students a poster competition was held on 6 Oct. and topic was role of zoos in conservation too. The last activity of the week