

Indian Zoos celebrate the 58th Indian Wildlife Week with Zoo Outreach Organisation education kits



Students with ZOO's "Pollinators not just bees" posters

Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh Wildlife Week was observed at Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam from 1-7 October 2012. The weeklong celebrations included various education and awareness programmes conducted by the zoo management in collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore. More than 300 students ranging from II – X standards participated in various programmes throughout the week. Two separate education programmes on different themes namely "Pollinators" and "Wildlife Welfare" were conducted on October 2 and October 3 respectively. The programmes kicked off with a briefing session to the students on issues pertaining to the ecological role of pollinators in nature, why to save wildlife, endangered species conservation, Do's and Don'ts in a zoo etc. The students took a rally at the zoo by using the educational materials (wrist bands, masks etc) sponsored by Z.O.O, Coimbatore.

The focus of this year's programme was on changing attitudes of children towards wildlife, specifically weaning them away from: Using catapults to kill birds; Disturbing nests and removing eggs, fledglings from nests; Unnecessary killing of snakes and other reptiles; Keeping wild birds and animals as pets and harming, feeding or disturbing zoo animals. Various



Painting competition in progress at the Vizag Zoo

competitions like painting, essay writing, quiz and elocution to all the participants. The students enjoyed the activity "Make your own Invertebrate Stamp" as it tested their knowledge on the lesser-known and neglected animals like insects. Activities like "Who Am I", "Web of Life", were also organized to enlighten the students about the concept of the intricate interconnectedness among all the living and non-living things in an ecosystem. Various interesting wildlife documentaries were screened. A snake

show was also organized to dispel myths and false belief about snakes. The participants, students and teachers opined that the programmes were very informative and entertaining as well. The programmes concluded with a pledge taken by all the participants to protect wildlife. Sri G. Ramalingam, DCF & Curator distributed the prizes on the last day. **Submitted by: Mr. K.L.N. Murthy, Biologist. Email: klnmurthy25@gmail.com**



Tying pollinator rakhi and pledging to save all pollinators



Young participant with pollinator kit

movie on pollinators was also shown. Media such as Hindustan Times, Dinamani - Tamil Today, National Dunia etc. covered the event. We would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organization, Columbus Zoo & Aquarium and South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group for providing such informative packages that are highly applauded by the masses and are proving to be a boon for the wildlife conservation.

Submitted by: Mr. Riaz Ahmad Khan, Curator (Edn) & Mr. Saurabh Vashisth, Edn. Assistant. Email: vashisth88@gmail.com

Tata Steel Zoological Park, Jhamshepur, Jharkhand

Tata Steel Zoological Park celebrated 58 National Wildlife Week by organizing various educational awareness

programmes. We took out a Prabhat Pheri (walk for awareness) with students in the city with objective to spread awareness on wildlife conservation. Essay writing competition on the topic "Necessity of Energy Conservation" was held in which 54 students from 21 schools took part. Debate competition was organized in collaboration with Inner Wheel Club. The topic was "Should the print & electronic news media be involved for conservation of wildlife?". Thirty one students from 13 schools, who spoke for and against the motion. An inter school quiz competition was organized with the help of Rotary Club. The topic was Indian biodiversity and Wildlife. A Fancy dress competition was organized for young kids with the collaboration of Lions Club. Main theme of the competition was to emulate wild animals and plants, but many students also tried to emulate our domestic animals like rabbit, horse, cat etc. All total 305 students participated in the competition. This was the largest attendance recorded for this competition so far.

On the spot painting competition was organized in collaboration with Acharjyo Nandalal Bose Art Gallery, The Bengal Club and Zoo Outreach Organisation. Students were divided into 4 categories, Junior (K.G to Std. 1), Primary (Standard-II to V) Middle (Std.VI to VIII) and Senior (Std. IX to X), the themes were an animal, an animal in the zoo, pollinators and wild animal habitat respectively. A record of 1200 students participated in the competition. To create awareness and generate a better understanding of their respective themes, we distributed the materials that came from the Zoo Outreach Organization. The results were as expected and we got the output in form of beautiful and fantastic theme-based sketches drawn

National Zoological Park, New Delhi

The wildlife week program was celebrated from 1-7th Oct 2012. Different schools participated in on the spot painting, clay modeling, essay & debate, wildlife quiz competitions and awareness programme. On 06 October a special awareness programme on "Pollinators not just bees" was conducted for Little Star Public School, New Chauhan Pur, Delhi. They were told about the different kinds of pollinators through a talk and followed by tying rakhi and taking oath. Kits provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation provided to the school children. On 7 October, Mr. Mohammad Saffi, IIPC gave a special talk on conserving the pollinators and in order to create awareness among local visitors, a



Debate competition on "Should the print & electronic news media be involved for conservation of wildlife?".



Pollinators was one of the theme in the drawing competition

on their sheets. The material made the programme more beneficial because of its pictorial description and other supportive data added with the each material, which created enthusiasm among the participants.

During the wildlife week the naming of newly arrived lion cubs were also held. The names were chosen from 4200 entries of the public. Eco-club teacher award (2011-12) and Annual performance award to zoo personnel were also distributed. I would like to thank the Management of Tata Steel Zoological Society and Mr. Bipul Chakrabarty, Director for their support and guidance. **Submitted by: Ms. Seema Rani, Biologist cum Education Officer. Email: cmarani00@rediffmail.com**

Dr. Shivaram Karanth Pilikula Biological Park, Mangalore, Karnataka

During wildlife week drawing and quiz competitions for school children were conducted and more than 400 children participated. "Wild Animal Treasure Hunt" competition was conducted for High school students with the assistance of NITTE Engineering College. Wildlife photography competition was also held for amateur photographers. Photographs were displayed in the zoo museum hall for the benefit of the public. Prizes were distributed to the winners in all the categories. Public function was

conducted, in which more than 1,000 zoo visitors and students attended. H. J Bhandary, Director spoke on importance of the Wildlife week celebration. Chief Guest Sri Ajith Kumar Hedge, Executive Director, Pilikula Nisarga Dhama distributed the prizes to the winners. Education kits supplied by the Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore on Bats, Pollinator and Wild flora and fauna were distributed to the participants and also a informative session on these were conducted by Dr.Vibha, Veterinary Officer and Vikram Lobo, Scientific

Officer, Pilikula Biological Park. Mr. H. J Bhandary, Director, Pilikula Biological Park thanked the Zoo Outreach Organization for providing necessary educative materials kits for the participants. Suchithra, Zoo Education Officer and Roshan Menezes took the students around the Zoo. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board was the sponsor of the programme. **Submitted by: Mr. H.J. Bhandary, Director. Email: pilikulazoo@gmail.com**



Mr. H.J. Bhandary tying butterfly mask to one of the participants



Participated students posing with ZOO education materials

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal

Wildlife week 2012 was celebrated at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. The focus of this year's programme was on changing attitudes of children towards wildlife, specifically weaning them away from: Using catapults and wanton killing of birds; Disturbing nests and removing eggs and fledglings from nests; Killing of reptiles particularly snakes; Keeping wild birds and animals as pet. About 400 students and 40 teachers from West Point School, Kumudini Homes Higher Secondary School, Divya Jyoti School, St. Robert's Higher Secondary School, Gyanoday Niketan, Living Stones Academy, Bright Academy, Kanchanjunga Primary School, Municipal Boys' Primary School and Hill Social Welfare Society participated.

The students were taken around the zoo to see the animals ranging from herbivores, carnivores including lesser carnivores, birds and the pheasants. The students were also explained about the floral diversity of the Park. After Zoo round the students were taken to the hall for the interaction along with the Director and other Zoo Officials of the Park. The students actively participated during the interaction session concerning about "Conservation of endangered species", "Role of Zoos towards Conservation of endangered species", "Role of Mankind in Nature" and "Future of Tigers in India". Educational materials received from Zoo Outreach Organization include "Pollinator! Not just Bees", "End of the year of the Bat Threats remain", "Daily Life Wildlife", posters, postcards, and different masks of animals were used. Different schools were invited and explained about the educational kits and the aim of the programme. Interclass quiz was

organized for the students of class VIII on the topic "Wildlife".

A documentary film on PNHZ Park titled "Mission Survival" was shown to the students of class XI. After the film they were explained about the using zoo kits, Pollination- definition, its importance, types of pollination & pollinators, role of pollinators and finally our role to keep the environment clean and healthy. They learned about the Bats, types of bat, their role in the ecosystem and their conservation values. The students were asked to tie rakhi as a symbol of their commitment to conservation. Posters were given to the teachers and asked them to hang on their school notice board. The animal masks were distributed to the primary level students. Educational materials including Zoo's publication were distributed to the students and teachers including refreshments.

Submitted by: Mr. Alankar.K. Jha, Director. Email: alankarkjha@gmail.com.

Sepahijala Zoological Park & Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura

Like every year to celebrate the 58 Wildlife Week-2012 in a befitting manner, we convened a preparatory meeting including all representatives of this surrounding area and the Presidents of EDCs, school authority, ICAT, Sports, Fire service and Clubs etc. In that meeting we chalked out various programmes. In sit and draw competition 64 participants in 3 groups participated. We conducted colourful Prabhat Pheri in 8 EDC under the jurisdiction of Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary and representatives from the department also participated. These events have created much awareness among the students and youths in the surrounding and had a positive impact for conservation of wildlife. Debate and Quiz competitions were conducted for XII students. The author and Sri. S. Debbarma, Addl. Wildlife Warden along with teachers gave presentation on topics related to wildlife conservation. About 600 students attended and at the end we arranged for a film show on Wildlife, which the students enjoyed. The same talk and film shows were given at Pekarjala H.S. School and Sudhnya Memorial Class-XII School, Jampurajala. We conducted marathon race for boys and girls involving the Sub Divisional Sports Department. As many as 110 boys and 29 girls participated in the aforesaid competition, which created a huge awareness in the surroundings and carried wildlife conservation message. The final event as per schedule was the Tug of War that was where 6 (out of 8) EDCs groups participated. The district level competition was held at Sepahijala on 16 October. In this programme we explained about the materials received from Z.O.O among students of Schools & Colleges and photographs were taken. The students and the teachers were very much enthusiastic and pleased to have the materials. After all, the materials received from Z.O.O were very much useful for generating



Mr. A.K. Bhowmik interacting with the students about wildlife conservation

awareness programme among youths. Submitted by **Mr. A. K. Bhowmik, Director. Email: dszoo141@gmail.com**

Indira Gandhi Park Zoo, Rourkela, Odisha

Horticulture Department, SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant has been celebrating wildlife week since 2007 to create and spread awareness among the school students. To mark the occasion, IG Park Zoo, SAIL, RSP, Rourkela has organized to celebrate 58th Wildlife Week for three days. The education materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO), Coimbatore, TN helped to organize different interactive sessions among the students. On 4 October 2012, at the Indira Gandhi Park a programme

On 5 October a programme was conducted at Civic Center. About 550 students from six different schools were present. Sri P.K. Pradhan spoke about the importance of Wildlife Conservation not only in locale specific rather globally. He highlighted the community participation towards the conservation of wildlife and their natural habitats. The celebration was carried forward by the enlighten speech of Sri D. Basu. He spoke about the role of the students towards the conservation of wildlife in our country. As the students are the future of this country, they have to really care about the forest, wildlife and natural resources of the country. President, Deepika Mahila Sanghati, Smt. Manjari Prasad opened the education material provided by Z.O.O., Coimbatore and

Another programme was arranged on the same day for Thirty-four students and two teachers of Delhi Public School, Sector-14. Mr. T.B. Toppo, Assistant Manager, emphasized the importance of the wildlife conservation in present scenario unless it will be too late to see the animals in the pictures only. Mr. V.K. Garg, forward the session highlighting the forest conservation in our State. The session went on with the interactive session by Mr. S. Mishra, and he interacted with the students with special reference to the pollinators. The students understood the pollination process and how important are the pollinators in the propagation of the plants. The education materials provided by the Zoo Outreach Organisation (Z.O.O.), Coimbatore, TN were distributed to the students. The students were explained regarding the contribution of different group of animals towards the pollination processes, which is directly related to plant propagation. The students also put forth their understanding, as fruits that we eat are also the result of the pollination. Submitted by: **Mr. Satyanarayan Mishra, Curator. Email: satyanarayanster@gmail.com.**



Education materials are being shown by the dignitaries

was organized for 40 students along with 2 teachers from Ispat Vidyalaya, Sector - 18, Rourkela. About 1000-bat population in Indira Gandhi Park attract many wildlife lovers to know about the unique animals. Sri S. Mishra, Curator, Indira Gandhi Park, Rourkela Steel Plant conducted an interactive session on bats. The students were allowed to play a game 'A blind can see' which was related to the vision in nocturnal animals like bat. Then the students were briefed about the echolocation mechanism by which a bat can detect any kind of objects. The students enjoyed the game. At the end of the programme, the education units provided by Z.O.O., Coimbatore were given to the students which were full of fun materials like Rakhis / Wrist bands, Placards, Information booklet, Posters, Stickers, etc. All the education materials were related to Bats and their Conservation.

graced to distribute the education material to the school representatives. It was a fun to welcome six group of school representative with the mask of wild animals like Tiger cubs, Brown bears, Black bears, Wild boars, Ceacilians and human kids. The CEO, Rourkela Steel Plant addressed the participants in the celebration programme. He gave emphasis on the balanced ecological system. He also highlighted the present pollution level of the Rourkela city with reference to the use of polythene bags. In his speech, he spoke about the clean and green environment. He ignited the young minds towards the conservation of the forest and wildlife giving a light to the present resource usage. The session ended with a short wildlife film 'Animals are beautiful people'. The students as well as the august gathering enjoyed the film on wildlife.

Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan-Zoo, Mumbai, Maharashtra

The Wildlife Week festivities were flagged off at 10.30 a.m. on 1 October 2012 by a pledge-taking ceremony; written in Marathi, Hindi and English, which was led by Mr. Anil Paranjpe, Education-cum-PRO, where-in the Municipal School teachers and students from the private schools took oath and promised to "value and conserve the wildlife of our country". A Zoo Awareness Programme conducted for 20 Municipal School teachers & two Beat Officers followed this and the programme included an introductory lecture, zoo guided tour & presentations.

On 2 October 2012, a drawing camp for the students of Gurukul School of Art, Lalbaug, Mumbai was organized. In all 107 school students participated in three categories. A presentation of the Educational materials received from Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore was made and the same was distributed among the participating children. On 5 October, a day-long workshop was organized for 24 first year of B.V.Sc. & A.H. students and two professors of Bombay Veterinary College, Parel to understand concepts of modern zoo-keeping, involving enclosure design, animal care, treatment and education. The workshop began by a guided tour of the zoo. Subsequently, they were



Mr. Anil Anjankar judging the drawing competition



ZOO education materials distributed to the teachers to use in the school

addressed by Mr. Anil Anjankar, Director (Zoo), & Dr. Sanjay Tripathi, Dy. Supdt. (Veterinary), who gave them a brief idea about zoo management practices and the policies governing zoos of India. This was followed by presentation on educational activities by Mr. Anil Paranjpe. On 6 October, the Veterinary college students were involved in feed preparation and its distribution and enclosure environment enrichment activity. A total of 26 students attended. In the afternoon, at the zoo hospital the students were shown and demonstrated different equipments used for animal restraining like tranquilizing syringes, darts, blow pipe, surgical skin stapplers, endo tracheal tube, etc and also given hands on training. Then they were taken to different enclosures for learning concepts of enclosure design.

The Educational packets on the topics, pollinators, animal welfare, vultures and bats were received from the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. A demonstration on how to use the materials for creating empathy and awareness about these non charismatic animals such as bats, vultures in particular and wildlife in general was given to the teachers participated in zoo awareness programmes on 1 and 4 October and the school students participated in the drawing competition held on 2 October 2012. The educational packets were given to students and teachers after the programme. The teachers expressed that the material is highly useful for conducting awareness programmes in their schools.

On 6 October, a training session was conducted for the (5) volunteers of Ecofolks. A guided tour and a question

answer session were conducted in order to train them in interacting with the visitors to the zoo. The Ecofolks organized an exhibition titled 'Plastic in my city' on 7 October. The purpose of this exhibition was to create awareness in the minds of people about the hazardous effects of plastic on the environment.

A guided tour was conducted for 25 students (7 -10 std.) from the Shradhanand Aashram, Matunga, Dadar. These students and teachers visited the exhibition and expressed that it was very effective in knowing about the hazardous effects of plastic on the environment. There was a special Quiz Session for all those who attended the Guided Tour as well as the Photo Exhibition. **Submitted by: Mr. Anil M. Anjankar, Director. Email: vjbudyanzoo@yahoo.co.in**

Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park & Wildlife Research Centre, Pune, Maharashtra

Pune Municipal Corporation's Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park & Wildlife Research Centre, celebrated this year's Wildlife Week in collaboration with *Indradhanushya* Environment Education Centre. Around 1500 students had participated in various educational programmes. Drawing competition on the theme "Wildlife and Environment" was organized for three different categories. Student's drawings were displayed in the exhibition hall at zoo, was observed by several thousand visitors of the zoo.

On 1 October, Exhibition on 'Best out of Waste' was conducted. In this exhibition students had displayed various innovative things made up of waste materials such as cloth bags, bricks from waste papers, gritting cards, ornamental jewelry, equipment to keep fruits or vegetable cool, weighing machine etc. were some of the articles displayed in the exhibition. It has definitely given chance to students to think differently and in more sustainable manner. 'Shoot at Sight' photography competition was organized at the zoo, which was open to all immature photographers. During this competition participants were asked to click any best 10 pictures of the zoo flora, fauna and or zoo landscape and submit the same at the end of the activity. It was aimed to encourage budding photographers towards wildlife photography.

'Half day Workshop' was organized for 60 students and 10 teachers from three different schools on 2 Oct. Workshop included trip to the zoo and audiovisual talk on 'Biodiversity

Conservation in India', which was conducted by the zoo's Educational Officer, Ms Ashwini Shitole. During this workshop zoo's activity booklet 'Maitri Karuya Pranisingrahalayashi' was also distributed freely to the participants. Wildlife photo exhibition was organized for the students along with trip to the zoo on 3 October. Wildlife documentary screening was also arranged in the week, which was an added attraction for the zoo visitors. Documentaries screened during the wildlife week at above mentioned venues includes: The Mountains of Monsoon (Sahayadri), The Fragile Web, Man v/s Animal, Sanctuaries of the Future, Wilderness Calling, King of Sasan, Wild Periyar, Vanishing Vultures, Cherub of the Mist and Ranganthittu etc.

'Chalta Bolta Wildlife' programme conducted on 4 October for school children was very unique and innovative. During this activity students were supposed to give right answers for three consecutive questions. Winner students were felicitated by giving 'zoo cap' as a token of appreciation. Street Play Competition was organized at zoo in which 9 schools had participated. Students performed street plays on the theme 'wildlife and environment protection'.

Half-day workshop for students was organized at *Indradhanushya* Environment Centre on 5 October. Around 75 students and 5 teachers participated from 4 different schools. Zoo Educational Officer interacted with students and gave presentation on 'Biodiversity of India and its conservation Status'. Cultural programme on the theme 'Wildlife and Environment' was organized in which 70 students and 10 teachers from 6 different schools had participated.

Quiz Competition was organized at *Balgandharva* Art Gallery on 6 October in collaboration with PMC and Nature Walk organization, which was conducted by Ms. Pooja Bhale. In this competition students from different govt. and private schools and colleges had participated. All questions asked were about wildlife and environment. On the same day documentaries screened 'The Pack' (entire series on Indian Wild Dogs) at *Balgandharva Rangamandir* by the joint venture of PMC and Nature Walk NGO.



Zoo visitors observing wildlife drawings displayed at the zoo



Students while performing street play

Students Rally was organized on 7 Oct. from Shaniwar Wada to *Balgandharva* to spread awareness about Environment and Wildlife Conservation. During this rally around 800 students from different schools had participated. Winners of all competitions were felicitated by the Hon. Mayor of Pune, Mrs. Vaishali Bankar and Hon. Ex. PCCF of Maharashtra, Mr. Madhav Gogate and Mr. Sunil Kesari, Deputy Commissioner, PMC during Valedictory

function of the wildlife week held at *Balgandharva Rangamandir*, Shivajinagar. Dr. Rajkumar Jadhav, Zoo In-charge and Mr. Ghorpade, Garden Superintendent (Tree), PMC were also present during the function.

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