

## Indian Zoo News

### New Postings

Mr. P. L. Ananthasamy, Chief Conservator of Forests has been posted as Director of Arignar Anna Zoological Park. Prior to this, he was working as a Chief Conservator of Forests, Afforestation Project at Forest Head Quarters, Chennai. Mr. K.P.M. Perrumahl has been transferred to his place.

Kalaiarasan of Chennai Snake Park has left the park and joined at WWF as State Director since 3rd July 2006.

### Rangarao assumes charge as Director of Mysore Zoo

**Mysore**, June 22 (ACP&NMG)-Indian Forest Service Officer V.A. Rangarao has taken charge as the new Executive Director of Mysore Zoo yesterday evening from former Executive Director Manoj Kumar, who was transferred. After taking charge Rangarao said that he has to learn a lot about the Zoo and will try to work for its development. He praised Director Manoj Kumar for looking after the Zoo so well. He hopes that the zoo staff will co-operate with him and help him complete the developmental works started by Manoj Kumar. Rangarao is the IFS Officer of 1990 batch and had completed probation in Chikkamagalur. He had served in Madikeri, Bidar and Karwar. **Source: Star of Mysore 22June 2006**

### Actor Suresh Heblikar opens Youth Club at Zoo

**Mysore**, June 25 The 'Youth Club', organised under the auspices of Zoo at its premises here was inaugurated this morning by noted environ-mentalist and actor-director Suresh Heblikar.

The Zoo has been organising the event for the 12th time in city for school children aged from 12 to 18 years, every Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm from June to December. The concept of Youth Club is excellent to promote awareness on environmental protection among students. The concept should spread to rural areas too, he suggested. **Source: The Star of Mysore 25th June 2006**

### Delhi Zoo restructuring on cards

The Central Zoo Authority has proposed restructuring the Delhi Zoological Park in a move that may see the involvement of corporates, Environment Secretary Prodipto Ghosh said here Tuesday. The Central Zoo Authority is looking at various measures to raise resources including setting up of a national zoo research centre and improve visitor facilitation. It has proposed an action plan for Delhi Zoo, which if successful will be later extended to other states,' Ghosh said during a media briefing. The draft action plan for restructuring the Delhi Zoo is awaiting approval by the ministry of environment and forest. Said Ghosh: 'The action plan may require additional funding and involve restructuring of the Delhi Zoo. It should start in six months.'

Besides additional resources to be made available by the government, the plan is to seek the support of corporates to fund research activities. In the case of the 90 zoos that have been derecognised, Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife) R.B. Lal said a proposal to close down some of them is under review. The problem with such an action is

the issue of housing the zoo animals, as most of the zoos in the country are cramped for space. The possibility of releasing the zoo animals in the wild is ruled out as they are no longer fit to survive in the wild having been used to sheltered existence. **Source: India enews 28th June 2006**

### Centre for Zoo Sciences to come up in Capital

*Will monitor standard of zoos throughout the country and recommend policies for development.* New Delhi, June 30: IN A few months from now, Delhi Zoo could have a say in the running of zoos around the country with a Centre for Zoo Sciences set to come up here. At a meeting called by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) yesterday over setting up of the centre, it was decided that a committee comprising a member each of the CZA, the Wildlife Institute of India and the Delhi Zoo will be formed to work out its modalities.

As of now, there are a number of problems in zoos around the country. The CZA is involved in a court case for the derecognition of 91 zoos, for some years now, because they fail to meet the standards required. According to B.R. Sharma, Member Secretary CZA, the formation of this centre will help prevent such problems.

The centre is scheduled to be set up in a year. "In a month, we will work out the details as to how Centre for Zoo Sciences will work. We have decided to form this body, which will mean that for the first time, zoos in the country will be run on a scientific basis," Sharma said.

**Source: Delhi Newslite July 1 2006**

### Plan envisages better facilities for visitors to Bannerghatta park; zoo to be expanded

**Bangalore:** *Rs. 20-crore project likely to improve biological park to international standards.* The Bannerghatta National Park, the piece of wilderness in the backyard of Bangalore, is set to expand and improve facilities for visitors.

Now designated a biological park in view of the biodiversity in terms of plant and animal life, it has a zoo area of about 40 acres, with a mini zoo, bird enclosures and lion and tiger safari parks. The zoo will be expanded to 100 acres. The entire park area, mostly forested hills, is spread across 1,800 acres. These forests spread across the border into Tamil Nadu and have wandering elephant herds and other animals.

The Zoo Authority of Karnataka, with financial assistance from the Union Department of Biotechnology, plans to spend Rs. 20 crore to bring the biological park to international standards. Inputs for the upgrade plans are known to have come from an internationally reputed expert in zoo design and management, Bernard Harrison, who is based in Singapore.

The consulting agency of Mr. Harrison is a pioneer in planning night safaris within a zoo environment, where visitors can view nocturnal animals such as panthers under controlled conditions. A night safari will be a first for Bannerghatta; larger national parks such as Bandipur

permit night safaris for small groups with licensed guides in limited areas under their jurisdiction.

For visitors, there will be an upgraded parking lot, possibly more bus services from the city on holidays, an entry plaza, more refreshment stalls, covered gazebos for resting or a picnic lunch, and a children's park. The first phase of the upgrade work, estimated to cost Rs. 10 crore, awaits the Government's approval. **Source: The Hindu July 2, 2006**

#### **Zoo Authority of Karnataka**

The ZAK gets a paltry Rs 1.5 crore annual grants from the government for the maintenance of zoos. Nonetheless, it manages the show by diverting the revenue earned from Mysore and Bannerghatta zoos, to other zoos, including the salaries of the employees.

A senior forest official, on condition of anonymity, confirmed to Deccan Herald that the ZAK is planning to shut down the zoos in the six cities as they have turned 'sick'. "Though a final decision is awaited, we have told the managements of the zoos to work out some strategies to become self reliant. We know that their revenue is not as high as in Mysore and Bannerghatta zoos, but we have no alternative as we have been told not to seek additional funds to manage them," the official said. The six zoos fall in the category of small and medium zoos. But none of them are earning revenue that can make them self reliant. Their expenditure is higher than their earning. "What's the fun in running a zoo which does not have a good animal collection or infrastructure. Either you make them attractive by enriching their collection and upgrading their infrastructure or shut them down," is what the government has clearly told the ZAK.

**Source : Deccan Herald, Thursday, June 29, 2006**

#### **Trivandrum — 'Nocturnal home' a distant dream**

A change of management at the city zoo appears to have brought in its wake a change of thinking too: regarding the construction plans relating to the ongoing zoo modernisation programme. During the tenure of the former Director C.S. Yelakki, one of the much touted programmes that the zoo planned was the setting up of a 'nocturnal home'— a specially designed enclosure that would simulate night time during the day for animals that are active in the dark.

Now the zoo appears to have given up the idea. "Actually the nocturnal home was not part of the zoo modernisation scheme. It seems as much easy to build as the proposed walk-in aviary," a source at the zoo said. The walk-in aviary remains very firmly on the drawing board with various agencies unable to come up with a workable design for the same. Now, the nocturnal home seems headed for the same end. **Source: The Hindu 30th June 2006**

#### **Lonesome existence for exotic monkeys at zoo**

Hyderabad: It is tough to find mates for these animals, says official. Alone and forlorn, the Patas Monkey nibbles the food, goes on a leisurely stroll and then perches itself on a small branch in the moat. It's a lonesome existence sans friends or a mate. Same is the condition of Black and White Colobus Monkey, a few moats away and that of Wolf's

Monkey. And also the Orangutan. Though the aptitude for group living of these primates is well documented, at Nehru Zoological Park, they are forced to lead a companionless life. The plate at the enclosure of Patas Monkey informs that they live in groups of 15 while the one at Black and White Colobus says these primates live in groups of seven. However, here they are condemned to a life without even a mate.

**Endangered species :** Zoo officials admit that some of the animals housed here have been single for quite some time, but hasten to add that their best effort to find one have failed. Incidentally, but for a few like the Wild Ass, a highly endangered species from Gujarat, all others that are single happen to be exotic. The Black and Colobus Monkeys are found in Central Africa from Cameroon to Ethiopia and Tanzania inhabiting Tropical Rain and Montane forests. Large monkeys, they have a glossy black coat with white running from shoulders down the sides of its back to the tail. The Patas Monkeys are found in Sub-Saharan Africa from Senegal to Sudan and prefer flat open arid conditions.

**CZA norms:** The Central Zoo Authority norms under 'Breeding of Animals' say that 'No animal shall be kept without a mate for a period exceeding one year unless there is a valid reason for doing so or the animal has already passed its prime and is of no use for breeding purposes. In the event of a zoo failing to find a mate for any single animal within this period, the animal shall be shifted to some other place according to the directions of the CZA'. "We are finding it tough to get mates for these animals since most are exotic. Someone has to gift us. We are trying to get them as part of exchange with other zoos," says K. Sekhar Reddy, Assistant Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Zoo Assistant Conservator. **Source: The Hindu, Thursday, June 29, 2006**

#### **Internship Programme at the zoo**

A BATCH of 12 students of Mathura Veterinary College (MVC) arrived at the Kanpur Zoological Garden (Zoo) here on Friday for seven-day internship programme. All these students are in the final year of veterinary course at the MVC. According to Zoo director Hemant Kumar, the students would be given training in zoo keeping and animal health maintaining. On the first day at the zoo, the medical students were taken around the zoo and told about the behaviour and habits of each animal by the zoo veterinary Dr UC Srivastava. Dr Srivastava showed them a deer that had suffered multiple leg fracture recently and had to undergo surgery. The students were explained in detail about the operation conducted upon the deer. They were also shown the leopard which was undergoing "treatment for behaviour change" in one of the enclosures at the Zoo hospital. The leopard was caught from a forest and was very wild. They were explained how the wild leopard was made to change its behaviour in the past one month. Kumar said the students would be given training in vaccinating the animals at the Lucknow zoo and training for feeding the animals at the Central Dairy Farm in Aligarh.

**Source: Hindustan Times 30th June 2006**