

## Indian Zoo News

### New Zoo and Wildlife Directors

K.P.M.Perumal, CF and Dean, Southern Forest Rangers College, Coimbatore, has been posted as CCF and Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur.

R.Annamalai, CF and Field Director (Project Tiger), Tirunelveli, has been posted as CCF (Personnel and Vigilance) in the office of the Principal CCF, Chennai.

Shri. D.N. Singh has been posted as Director of National Zoological Park-better known as Delhi Zoo. Mr. Singh is from 1987 IFS batch and worked in Arunachal Pradesh Protected Areas such as Namdhapa and Pakui for 12 years. Prior to this post, he was under deputation to Lakshadweep government as Finance Secretary for a year. He wants to offer visitors special facilities so that their trip to the zoo will be exciting and educational.

Shri. A.K. Bhattacharya took over as the new director of Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. He worked as a Conservator of Forests at PCCF office, Bhopal. During that time he was in charge of Development, Production and also member secretary of State Eco-tourism cell. Besides, he worked at Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal for sometime. Mr. L.K. Chowdhury, the former director has been posted as Conservator of Forests, Rewa Wildlife Circle.

Shri. P. N. Unnikrishnan, Chief Conservator of Forests has been posted as Director of Museum & Zoos, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Prior to this post, he was CCF of Tribal welfare and Eco-development at the Forest Department Head Quarters at Thiruvananthapuram. Shri. C. S. Yalackki, former director has been posted at Palakkad wildlife circle as Conservator of Forests.

### Kamla Nehru Zoo News

Birdwatchers Club of Gujarat meets at Kamla Nehru Zoo. Recently on 21 August 50 members of the the Bird- watchers Club of Gujarat gathered at the zoo and discussed many aspects of heronry and birdwatching. Since many trees of Ahmedabad Zoo are also having good heronry, they have appreciated the zoo staff for maintaining and encouraging this. Otherwise, many zoos are cutting trees and not allowing birds to make nests due to the bad smell and chances of disease outbreak. At present, the zoo is having 3000-4000 birds and their nests since 1980. Egrets (cattle, large, medium and small), Herons (Night, pond), Cormorants (litte and large), White ibis, Spoon bill are among the birds nesting at the Kamla Nehru Zoo.

With the Nagpanchmi Festival on 24th August, the zoo organised snake shows for visitors with the volunteers of ANALA to create awareness in the visitors who are misled by the aforementioned festival which commits cruelties on the snakes. **Submitted by Dr. R. K. Sahu.**

### Van Vihar snakes facing death

Bhopal, Sept 9 The snakes seized by Van Vihar authorities on Nagpanchmi are on the verge of death. In a last ditch effort to save them the zoo authorities are releasing the deadly snakes in the jungles of Budni, their natural habitat, of which they are fond. Their survival is highly questionable however, as their poison glands have been removed during the festival, making them vulnerable for infections. Scores of snakes may have been confiscated from snake charmers who had caught them from the wild for display among the public for payment. Hindu religious stories describe snakes as garland of Lord Shiva. Supplicants offer milk to the snakes apart from offering money to the snake charmer, which directly goes in the pocket of the snake charmer. In lieu of money snake charmers usually make snakes as captives. However, catching any wild life creature is a crime. With the intention to save, authorities have siezed dozens of snakes and later were handed over to snake park at Van Vihar. **Adapted from an article in Central Chronicle, Saturday, September 10, 2005**

### Indian civets rescued from dairy farm and given to Indira Gandhi Zoological Park

Indian civets were rescued from Government Dairy Farm and now are tended by zoo authorities after their rescue. Out of the three siblings, one died some weeks after it was brought to the zoo along with the others and put on a special diet. The young civets were very weak right from the beginning. The remaining two siblings were stronger. They are kept in a small caged box now but soon they will be moved to a separate enclosure in the zoo. They are fed minced chicken along with doses of calcium and vitamins twice everyday to keep them healthy. Their stools is examined periodically to check for the presence of parasites or its ova. **Adapted from The Hindu, Tuesday, September 13, 2005 Correspondent : Nivedita Ganguly**

### Deer attack lands employee in hospital

CHENNAI: A spotted deer roaming freely in the Children's Park, Guindy turned aggressive as a canteen employee of the park learnt on Friday. He tried to chase a fully-grown deer, which ran a few metres before veering to attack him with its horns. He suffered injuries in the chest and lower abdomen. He said the stag had attacked several visitors before and he was trying to chase it from the canteen. Another day a girl trying to take a photograph of this deer was attacked escaped with minor injuries, Wildlife authorities said. K.S.S.V.P. Reddy, Wildlife Warden gave the press some tips for visitors to leave the roaming deer alone. Do not offer them food. After last Friday's incident, the deer disappeared into the park. Park staff said they planned to replace the fence with a wall. **Adapted from The Hindu, 18th September, 2005. P. Oppili**

**Mysore Zoo achieves financial self-sufficiency** The century-old Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens stands above all the other 162 zoos in the country in meeting financial requirements from its own earnings. During 2004-05, its revenue stood at Rs 3.45 crore. The zoo's single day record collection came on the Vijaya Dasami day last year, when a gate fee of Rs. 4.11 lakh was earned. The adoption of animals and birds by public fetched an additional revenue of Rs 4 lakh. Out of its annual earnings, the Zoo spent Rs 85 lakh for feeding its collection of birds and animals and Rs 10 lakh for medicines. With the zoo able to manage on its own funds, the Karnataka government has suspended the financial assistance of Rs. One crore to the zoo. According to Zoo's executive director Manoj Kumar, Mysore Zoo is the only zoo in the country to have achieved financial self dependence without looking for funds from elsewhere. A programme is being launched next month for further development of the zoo on the suggestions being received by the public and visitors. **Source: Business Standard Correspondent / Mysore September 20, 2005**

### State Zoo Authority to be set up

TIRUPATI: For bringing all the zoological parks in the state under one umbrella, the Andhra Pradesh State government will establish 'state zoo authority' soon, along the lines of Central Zoo Authority, Forest Department principal secretary T. Chatterjee said. Speaking to *this website's newspaper*, Chatterjee said that the State Government would issue a GO regarding formation of state zoo authority and a board for it, next month. He explained that the idea behind the move was to make the zoos self supporting and to provide a uniform and able administration, which will also reduce the maintenance costs. The board will be constituted with experts, department officials, non-officials, eminent persons and the representatives of NGOs, he said. Currently, all the three zoos in the State are getting only 40 per cent of the expenditure as income and the administrators of the zoos are instructed to prepare proposals for making them self-sufficient in the form of commercially viable plantations and several other commercial activities to cater to the financial needs of the zoos. He said that the services of all the animal keepers working in the SV Zoological Park would be made permanent if they have minimum qualification of SSC. **Source: newindpress.com. Tuesday September 20 2005 15:12 IST**