

National Zoological Park, New Delhi

Shika Naylor *



National Zoo is unique in the world in being sited adjacent to such a beautiful historical site. This and its water bodies are remembered by all visitors. NZP photo

Background and early history

The Indian Board for Wildlife, constituted in 1951, felt that zoological parks should be established in all the major cities of India. Being capital of India, Delhi was given top priority. An *ad-hoc* Committee of prominent nature lovers of Delhi, including Smt. Indira Gandhi, was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner, to formulate a proposal to establish a Zoological Park for Delhi. Secretary of the Committee, E. F. Bowring Welsh, of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals scheduled the meeting on 9th Sept, 1953 which approved the site between Purana Quila and Humayun's Tomb for the park. At that time it was decided that Central Government would develop the park and hand it over in running condition to the Delhi Government. The first director from 1 October 1955, Mr. N.D. Bachkhetai was drawn from Indian forest service.

Major Aubrey Weinmann, then Director of the Ceylon Zoological Garden, Colombo was asked draw a co-ordinated plan for development of the park and he submitted a report and preliminary plan. As Weinmann could not continue, Carl Hagenbeck, owner of the famous animal park at Hamburg, West Germany was asked to design the zoo. Hagenbeck. He provided general layout plans of waterways, roads and paths, animal enclosures and sewerage system, presented in March 1956. These plans were amended in the light of local conditions and topography of the ground. The Government of India approved this amended plan on 31 December 1956.

List of Directors of National Zoo

Sri N.D. Bachkhetai, IFS Oct., 1955 - Nov., 1959
Sri B.V. Ramanjulu Dec., 1959 - Nov., 1965
Sri N.D. Bachkhetai, IFS Nov., 1962 - Nov., 1965
Sri K.S. Sankhla, IFS Dec., 1965 - May, 1970
Sri C.L. Bhatia, IFS May, 1970 - Aug., 1972
Sri N.S. Adhkoli, IFS Sep., 1972 - Apr., 1975
Sri K.S. Sankhla, IFS Apr., 1975 - Aug., 1975
Sri M.K. Appaya, IFS Aug., 1975 - Jan., 1976
Sri M.B. Peter, IFS Jan., 1976 - Mar., 1979
Dr. J.H. Desai Mar., 1979 - Mar., 1986
Sri M.K. Naidu, IFS Mar., 1986 - Sep., 1989
Sri S.S. Bist, IFS Sep., 1989 - Apr., 1990
Dr. B.M. Arora Apr., 1990 - Nov., 1993
Sri D. M. Singh, IFS Dec., 1993 - June, 1997
Sri Surinder Kumar, IFS June, 1997 - Oct., 1997
Dr. B.R. Sharma, IFS Oct., 1997 - Aug., 2000
Sri B.S. Bonal, IFS Aug., 2000 - till date.

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By the end of 1959, construction had sufficiently advanced with roads, waterways, moats, ponds, fences and animal houses having been constructed over the Northern half of the area. Lawns had been laid and plantings done. The announcement of a new zoo in the new nation's capitol brought gifts of animals from state Governments and individuals which were kept in temporary enclosures around Azimganj Serai -an enclosed square courtyard built for temporary halt of travellers during the Mugal days. The collection included tigers, leopards, bears, foxes, monkeys, deer, antelopes and many birds. The Park was formally inaugurated on November 1, 1959.

Historical significance of location and landscape

The area in and around the Zoo has much historical significance. It is believed that it was part of the Pandava's capital, the old Indraprastha. In recent history Sher Shah Suri constructed the old fort. Structures like Azimganj Serai, Kosh Minar etc., inside the Zoo indicate that the area was a nerve-centre of the empire of the Mugal emperor, Sher Shah Suri. Azimganj Serai was a square shaped structure with rooms all around opening into a large quadrangular yard. Dignitaries visiting the capital during the haydays of Mugal period used to stay here. The famous Lahore-Delhi-Agra highway of the Mugal times passes through the park and the first koshminar can be seen even today, reminding us of the grandiose road network of the time. The cavalcade of the Mughals always started from Kosh minar. A Makkarkhana, from where a band of drum beaters announced the coming and going of military units, princes and high ups, existed on a mound, close to the present Indian swamp. Near the southeastern ramparts of the Quila was an outpost to keep a close watch over the important southern gate of the Quila. These scattered historical sites inside the zoo work as icing on the cake and make the zoo site unparalleled anywhere in the world.

The Master plan of the zoo was so designed that all these historical structure fits into the landscape design. The animal display was designed by geographical regions viz. Asian, Australian, African and American. Swamp lands were created in each section where water birds, waders and swimmers of the region could inhabit. Around these swamplands, enclosures for small and large animals and aviaries for land birds were constructed. Despite the inhibiting factor of water-logging and salinity, every effort was made to replace the thorny growth of *Prosopis juliflora* in each geographical section with trees natural to that region.

In the Asian section, a wide variety of plants have been planted including Neem, Semel, Teak, Amaltas, Jamun, Siris, Ashok, Maulsari, Peepal etc. Pine trees were planted to give a Himalayan flavour. In the Indian swamp area, indigenous reeds like *Typha* sp. and *Arundo donan* provide Indian background to its inhabitants. The African section has plants like *Baobab*, *Kigellia pinnata*, Gulmohar and *Colvillea racemosa* whereas *Prosopis juliflora* and *Jacaranda mimosaefolia* have been liberally planted in American section. In the Australian section, *Eucalyptus*, *Acacias*, Silver oak, Casuarinas and Bottle brush can be seen easily.

Carl Hagenbeck was committed to the new concept of

housing animals in large enclosures simulating their natural habitat. Hence after entering, a person feels free in nature with animals. The animals are housed in spacious, moated enclosures in an environment as close as possible to their native, thereby maintaining their dignity as fellow creatures. The viewer and the viewed are on the same level with a physical barrier in the form of dry or wet moat with outer wall slightly high to conceal the moat. The backside of the moat of the enclosure is chainlink fixed on pipes or angle iron posts. These have been made invisible by the simple technique of growing a few lines of bamboos, shrubs and climbers etc. Hedges have been used on the front side of the enclosures to hide the moat edges. This results in looking over the hedge to the enclosure without seeing the moat barrier. These apparently insignificant looking techniques result in melting away the front and back barriers of the enclosure and given an effect of naturalness, continuity and free approach to the animal enclosure.

General Information

Admission Hours:

April, 1 to October, 15	9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
October, 15 to March, 31	9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Entry Fee:

Adults	Rs. 5/- per head
Children (5-12 years)	Rs. 2/- per head
Children below 5 years	Free
Organised groups of adults from educational institutions	Rs. 2/- per head
Foreigners (includes map)	Rs. 40/- per head
Foreigners below 5 years	Free

Facilities for Visitors

Battery operated trolley Adult	Rs. 25/- per head
Child (Between 3-12 years)	Rs. 10/- per head

Photography Charges

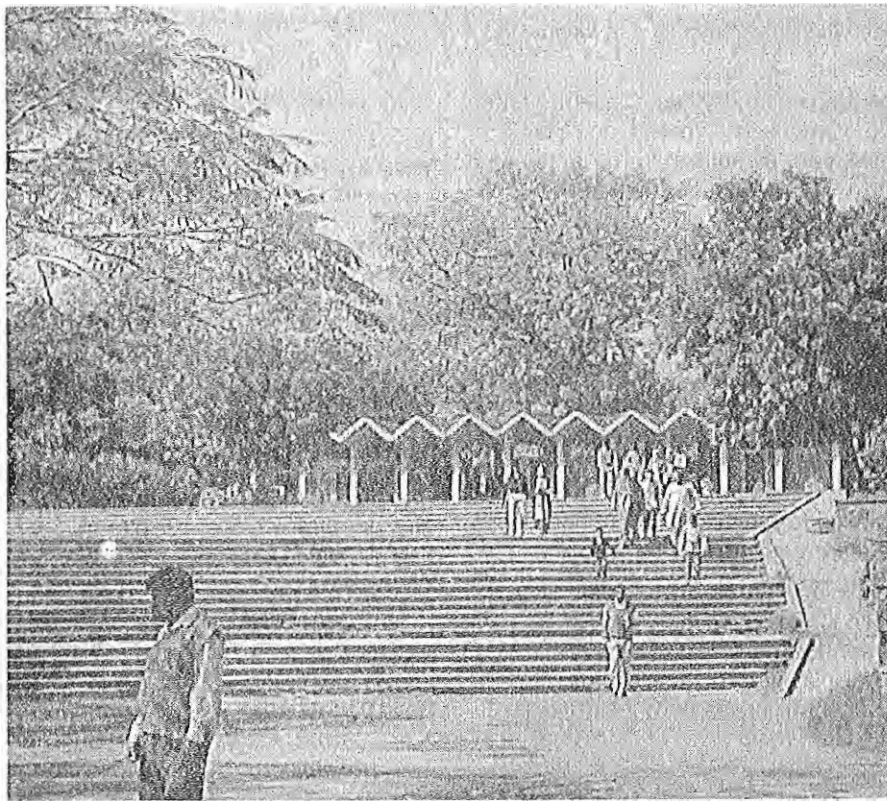
Professional camera/video	Rs. 500/- per day
Personal video camera	Rs. 50/- per day
Still camera (personal)	Free

No Private Vehicle is allowed Inside the Zoo
Zoo Closed on Fridays

Zoo Telephones: 4358500;4359825



No Private Vehicle is allowed Inside the Zoo but these handy three-wheelers carry visitors around the 176 acre zoo for a fee.



The entrance to the National Zoological Park will compare with that of any zoo in the world.

Display of wildlife

National Zoological Park houses 1200 animals from three major classes of vertebrates viz. mammals, birds and reptiles. Design of enclosure and house suit a particular animal's ecological needs but care is taken to keep a reasonable safety margin to avoid escapes. The safety factor varies from species to species and so each enclosure has its own specifications.

Deer and Antelope

National Zoo houses two largest antelopes, one largest in India viz. Nilgai and the other largest in the world viz. Eland. Besides these, many other antelopes and deer like black buck, Hog deer, Japanese Sika deer, the big sambhar, the beautiful cheetal, swamp deer, highly endangered brow-antlered deer, Barking deer, chowsingha, the African Red lechwe, and the magnificent chinkara are also present.

These deer live in herds and therefore need to have a spacious enclosure sufficient to accommodate 40-50 animals. The enclosure provides space for exercise, fights, courtship chase and seclusion to the defeated male. A special kraal has been provided for mother and newborn

fawns. Animals like sambar and swamp deer love to wallow, so a small marshy area has been provided. Their enclosures usually have a wet moat with viewing side slightly higher than the inner one to avoid escape.

Felids

Cats have always been center of attraction in any zoo. National Zoo houses both large and small cats. The big cats are - Lions, Tiger, Leopard and Jaguar. In National Zoo, Lions and Tigers are exhibited in open enclosures. Leopard and Jaguar are exhibited in wire netted covered enclosure because of their climbing ability. To satisfy their urge for climbing, sharpening their claws and comfort movements trees have been provided liberally inside the enclosure.

The Lion house is a massive structure, especially the sidewalls. There is a den in which the lion can make himself invisible to visitors. The moat is dry since lions do not swim. Landscaping resembles dry grassland and bushes of *Zizyphus*. The ground slopes downwards towards the viewing side. This provides negative acceleration and prevents escape.

Some Important Animals of NZP

Birds

Great indian hornbill *Buceros bicornis*
Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*
White spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Mammals

Black buck *Antelope cervicapra*
Fishing cat *Felis viverrina*
Leopard cat *Felis bengalensis*
Chinkara *Gazella bennetti*
Chausingha *Tetracerus quadricornis*
Brow antlered deer *Cervus eldi eldi*
Swamp deer *Cervus duvauceli*
Indian elephant *Elephas maximus*
Hoolock gibbon *Hylobates hoolock*
Leopard *Panthera pardus*
Indian lion *Panthera leo persica*
Lion tailed macaque *Macaca silenus*
Great indian rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*
Bengal tiger *Panthera tigris tigris*
Indian wolf *Canis lupus*
Himalayan black bear *Selenarctos thibetanus*
Sloth bear *Melursus ursinus*
Small indian civet *Viverricula indica*
Common palm civet *Paradoxurus hermaphrodus*
Common fox *Vulpus bengalensis*
Jackal *Canis aureus*
Common langur *Presbytis entellus*
Assamese macaque *Macaca assamensis*
Bonnet macaque *Macaca radiata*
Rhesus macaque *Macaca mulatta*
Smooth indian otter *Lutra perspicillata*
Bengal Porcupine *Atherurus macrourus*.

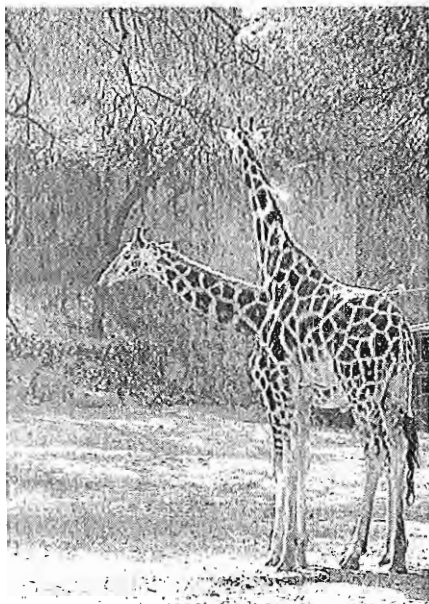
Reptiles

Gharial *Gavialis gangeticus*
Marsh crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*
Indian rock python *Python molurus*
Reticulated python *Python reticulata*
Cobra *Naja naja*
King cobra *Ophiophagus hannah*
Monitor lizard *Varanus bengalensis*

Tiger enclosure is rectangular with enough length for animal's long walks, fast runs and jumps. The moat is 26' wide just enough to stop it from scaling the wall. Additional obstruction is the 7' depth of the water near the outer wall. The enclosures also provide level viewing in a background of bamboo and wild shrubs. There is a den too, for animals to hide themselves partially from public viewing.

Rhinoceros

Display of Rhinoceros is done in a large enclosure with a wet moat of 15' width or 3.5' depth where the Rhinos, who love water, can indulge themselves. The enclosure has been provided with many trees.



If you don't look too closely, this pair of giraffes looks like a two headed animal !

Elephants

Elephants also love water and their enclosure has been provided with a water pool. The moat is dry with ragged edge on the inner side to discourage the animal from entering the moat. Since elephants have the habit of knocking down trees, the latter have been provided outside the enclosure.

Himalayan Bear

Himalayan bears are exhibited in open dry moated enclosures. Their level is higher than that of the road and the hedge conceals the gap. It appears as if the bears are let loose on the road and although it may cause a moment of alarm for visitors, they appreciate the exciting diorama and give many compliments to the designers.

Primates

National Zoo has two-monkey houses and two monkey islands. The houses are for Rhesus monkey, Hoolock gibbon, Hamadryas baboon, Lion-tailed macaque, Bonnet macaque and the two islands are for Lion-tailed macaque and Hamadryas baboon respectively. The islands have trees, shelter and play material to satisfy these primates' natural urge for play, exercise and give them protection from the hot sun.

Reptiles

National Zoo maintains crocodiles, gharials, snakes and lizards. Crocodiles and gharials are housed in large water ponds with some land

area where the animals can wallow in sand.

The King cobra, Python, Diadem, Sand Boa, Varanus, Rat snakes, and Star tortoise are all housed in reptile house which was opened to the public in 1992.

Birds

National Zop has three bird aviaries and four water bodies for birds. There are beautifully coloured Macaws, Cockatoos, Pheasants and many small birds on display in these aviaries. Two of the aviaries are now being renovated to give birds more space. Cage furniture will also be replaced to remove boredom and induce breeding.

A walk in aviary houses Scarlet ibises, White ibises, Spoonbills and Grey heron. Emu and Cassowaries, that are displayed in big enclosures, represent flightless birds from the Australian region.

List of Surplus Animals at NZP Exchange welcome

Black Buck	10:10
Toddy Cat (Palm Civet)	2:2
Brow Antler Deer (Sangai)	8: 10
Jackal	3:3
Common Langoor	1:1
Rhesus Monkey	10:10
Hog Deer	0:4
Sambhar Deer	5:8
Spotted Deer	20:20
Nilgai	3:20
Peafowl	5:5
Himalayan Black Bear	0:2
Sloth Bear	1:1
Mithun	0:3
Cockatiel	0.0.6
Shoveller Duck	0.0.10
Spot Bill Duck	0.0.10
White Ibis	0.0.10
Rose Ringed Parakeet	0.0.20
Rosy Pelican	0.0.06
Silver Pheasant	0.0.20
Painted Stork	0.0.10
Pintail Duck	0.0.10



Other important birds on display are Great pied hornbill, Flamingo, Shikra, Hill mynah, Grey partridge, Black partridge, Cockateil, Eastern Rosella, Laughing thrush, Red billed blue magpie, Indian roller, Lorikeet, budgerigars, love birds, munia etc.

The Indian and African swamps are spectacular with lagoons which are shallow and wide so that they attract wild migratory birds to land. In winter, these wetlands of the park become a



Himalayan black bears laze around their spacious enclosure. The NZP has attractive signage created by Centre for Environmental Education (CEE) under a special programme.

waterfowl refuge and hundreds of Pintail, Shovellers, Spot bills, Common teals, Coot and Dabchick can be seen. Nesting painted storks add further to the beauty of the scene. Some of the birds like White stork, Black necked stork, Adjutant stork, Sarus crane, White ibis, Spoonbill, Comb duck etc. have now become resident and can be seen all through the year. Rosy pelicans can be seen in abundance. Their flock has adjusted well here so much so that each year they breed and we get 7 to 8 chicks. When monsoon comes, the trees standing in the swamp get occupied by nesting birds - Egrets, both cattle and little, Herons, Cormorants etc. The reeds of the moats and waterways are ideal sites for the nesting of weaverbirds.

Many other birds like Pariah kite, Grey hornbill, Cuckoo, Koel, Golden oriole, Large green barbet, Common barbet, Crow pheasant, Grey partridge, Robins, Babbler, Wagtails, Bayas, Lapwings, Mynahs, Stone curlew, Parakeet, Warblers, Wood peckers etc can be seen all through the year. Some of them even nest in the zoo. A significantly large population of Peafowls is spread all through the length and breadth of the zoo. Besides these birds, reptiles like Cobra, Kraits and mammals like Porcupine, Palm civet, Mongoose and Rhesus monkey are a common sight as non-captive stock inside the zoo. These make the zoo a veritable sanctuary in the middle of the city and draw nature lovers and cameramen from all over.

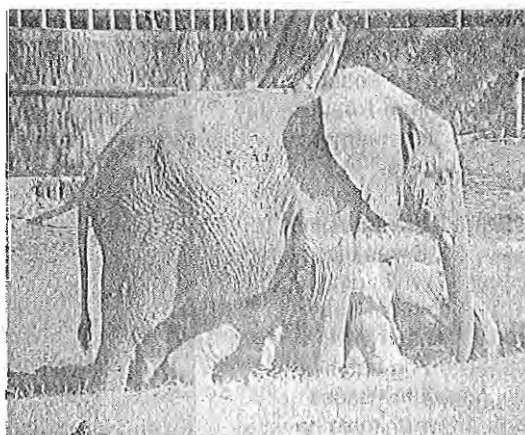
Objectives

Zoos in the world started as a place of recreation where people could come to spend their leisure hours by seeing animals. The same objective was foremost in the minds of people, at the time of inception of the National Zoological Park. After Indian independence, however, rapid industrialization, growing urbanization and intensive cultivation had an adverse effect on India's environment. This environment is unique in the world as it has almost all types of habitats - Alpine, coniferous forests, deciduous forests, evergreen tropical, estuarine, mangrove, coastal area and oceans. These ecosystems are endowed with a mind-boggling variety of biotic communities comprising of 75,000 species of animals and over 45,000 species of plants. This natural

Rosey pelicans and other birds enjoy the water bodies of the National Zoological Park.



A Manipur Brow-antlered deer, one of the most threatened cervid species.



The African elephants were a gift from the President of Zimbabwe to the President of India. They arrived on 1st October 1998. They were about 2 and 4 months old on arrival.

heritage is courting disaster because of deforestation, which results in habitat shrinkage. Two species of mammals and birds viz. - the Indian cheetah and the Lesser Indian Rhinoceros and Pink headed duck and Mountain quail became extinct in the previous century. Today many species of both vertebrates and invertebrates are at risk.

These facts provide the base for the change in objectives of the zoo, which has now shifted from recreation to conservation and related subjects :

Conservation: To save animals from extinction

Education: To sensitise visitors to wildlife

Research: To understand better the needs of wild animals

WHO DOES WHAT AT NATIONAL ZOO

Considering the needs of animals and staff looking after them, Zoo work is divided into Sections: -

Animal Section: - Staff includes zoo rangers, house keepers, keepers, assistant keepers and attendants. They are responsible for looking after the animals by providing food, water etc. and report any problem regarding health of animal or enclosure etc. to concerned sections.

Veterinary Section: - This is the second important section as they are responsible for ensuring food quality & health of animals. Staff includes veterinary doctor, Assistant veterinary doctor, veterinary compounders, lab assistants and attendants.

Education Section: - This section acts as a link between animals and visitors and tries to generate sympathetic attitude in the latter for the former. The section has on its rolls - a curator, Education Asstt. and attendant.

Research: - The section maintains all record of animals present and helps in research activities going on in the park. There is a Biological Asstt. with an attendant in this section.

Sanitary Section: - Sanitary Section is responsible for maintaining cleanliness in the park. Staff includes a Sanitary Inspector & attendants etc.

Commissary:- The section is responsible for procuring, cooking and distribution of food. Has on its rolls- Asstt. Store Keeper, Cooks, and Attendants etc.

Security Section:- The section is responsible for ensuring safety of animals, staff and visitors. Staff includes Security Supervisor, chowkidars etc.

Works department: - Responsible for petty repair work inside the Zoo. Staff includes Works supervisor, Carpenter, blacksmith, Sign Board painter and Attendants.

Horticulture: - Responsible for maintaining gardens in & outside animals enclosures includes Garden Supdt., malis and Zoo guards.

Administration: For the benefit of staff working in these sections there is an admn. section headed by AO.

The role of the zoo is not limited only to the welfare of animals housed at zoo. Many a times the zoo staff has extended a helping hand when wild animals come into human habitations or when a wild or captive elephant becomes uncontrollable due to musth. During Republic day parade the veterinary staff is deputed for any emergency, which might occur to any participating animals.

The construction and running of zoo is full of interesting anecdotes. While laying the lawns of zoo, it was discovered that there was a full-sized room beneath. While digging the courtyard of azimganj serai, silver rupee coins of early Victorian times (1840) were discovered. These are at present with the Archeological Deptt. The Zoo has been designed very nicely but sometimes we fail to assess animal's capabilities fully. As a result a few animals have tried to escape at times.

Once in 1993, as Asiatic lion called Arjun came out of its cage on Sunday evening. There were a lot of visitors in the

park. So the situation was quite tense. Arjun started to roam in front of the lioness enclosures. The current director of the park stood behind his car with a tranquilizer gun and tranquilized the animal, after which it was transferred back to his enclosure.

Once a chimpanzee, confiscated from a circus, also escaped. As he was thought to be harmless to public, efforts were made to catch it without tranquilizing. Chimpanzee gave a nice run to staff and ultimately came to the administration office and settled himself in the conference hall. Our head keeper called him and the chimp hugged him like a baby. He was then taken back to his enclosure on a scooter.

Zoo Food at NZP

Food plays an important role in keeping good health. Zoo has 110 species and so a variety of food is prepared in the Zoo kitchen every day. The daily menu of kitchen is like this: -

Cut Green Fodder to make Kulti	2,214 kg.
Mash (mixed soaked gram)	583.50 kg
Oat, barley, oil cake, choker, turmeric power, salt)	
Khichri (for Elephants, Rhino & Wild Boar)	97.50 kg
Boiled beetroot (for Bear & Monkeys)	12.00 kg
Boiled Potato (for Bear & Monkeys)	17.00 kg
Boiled milk (for Chimp, Tiger & sick animals)	4.00 kg.
Boiled egg	42 nos.
Chopped cabbage	42. 00 kg
Washed cabbage leaves (Rabbit & Monkey	2.00 kg
Boiled meat (for sick animals)	20.00 kg
Chicken	9 nos.
Sorted, weighed and measured fruit	

The Zoo kitchen thus remains bustling with activity, the whole day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. Our veterinary doctor ensures quality control. Seasonal variations & easy availability of food in the local market is kept in mind to give nutritious food to animals and-keep a check on cost.

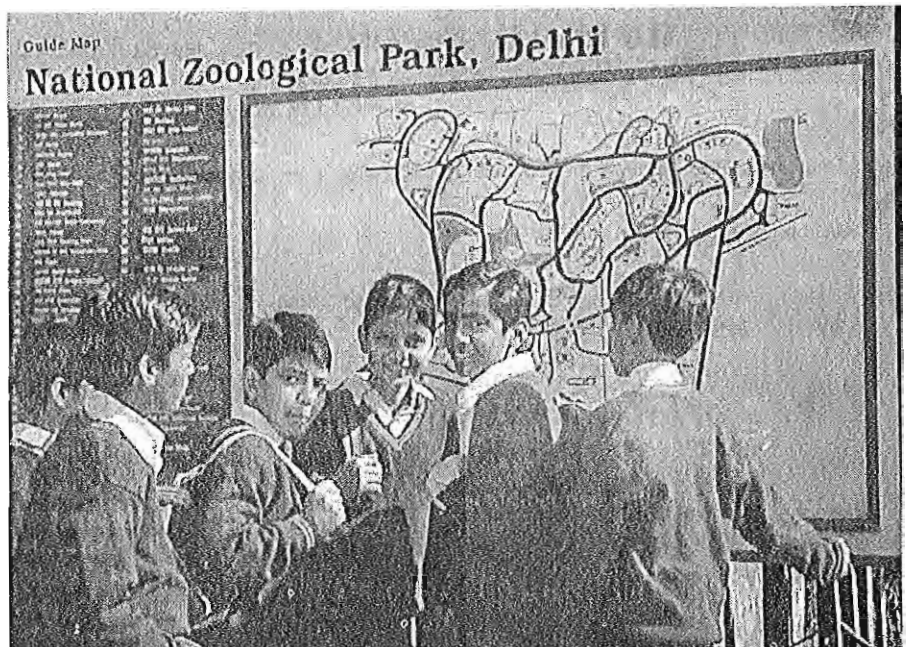


Lion cub being hand-reared by zookeeper. In handrearing wild animals, the milk composition has to be carefully monitored. It is not like raising a kitten or puppy -- real skill is required.

Education

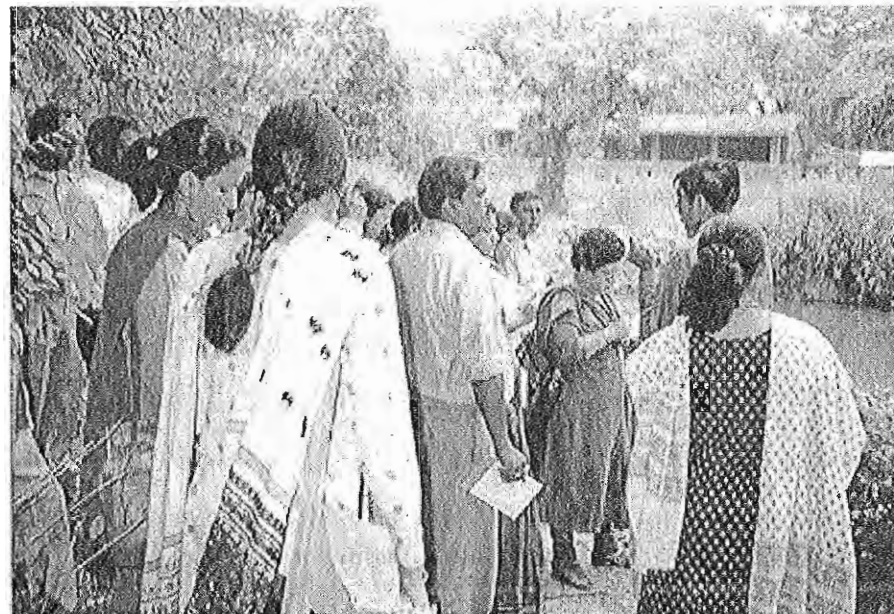
The aim of zoo education is to create awareness among the visiting public of the value of wildlife and biodiversity that they will conserve it. This is a subtle and difficult message and therefore, there are no set methods of achieving this aim. The education section keeps framing new ways of which some succeed and some don't. The essence of our programmes is that they should involve as many people as possible and animals should be an integral part of them.

As the education programmes are all about visitors, it becomes our responsibility to look after our visitors well. Zoo is spread over a large area of 176 acres and it is difficult for everybody to walk such a distance. The zoo provides battery operated trolleys for visitors to hire them and go



Students find their favourite animal on the detailed NZP map

saplings in the zoo.



Teacher orientation in NZP Education Programme

around the zoo in 50 minutes. For those who love walking but don't have much time, an arrow trail has been painted on the road, by following which they can complete their round in two hours. For the benefit of all the visitors reference maps - depicting their location on maps, have been installed on seven prime points. For those, who love listening to stories, trained zoo guides are available on the gate and if somebody could not hire one - no problem we have sign boards telling interesting facts about animals near almost all big enclosures.

Besides providing these facilities to the

visitors, we also invite them to participate in programmes organized by us from time to time. The National Zoo celebrates wildlife week during the first week of October every year. During wildlife week, several programmes are organized for various age groups of people, but the main emphasis is on children. There are competitions like wildlife painting, essay writing and quiz - all related to wildlife.

Van Mahotsava is celebrated every year to highlight importance of trees in our life. Zoo staff and visitors plant

Another way of reaching out to the children is through teachers. We train teachers to on how to make their visit to zoo more fruitful. We advise them as to what they should do before coming to zoo, while in the zoo and after going back from zoo.

Education staff conducts guided tours for organized groups of students interested in wildlife. The staff goes out to schools and other institutions for giving lectures, slide shows etc. School children volunteer in zoo for stopping teasing and feeding animals.

Brochures of important species, a zoo guide map and zoo guidebook are our publications. Zoo has sent its officers for training to other countries. Zoo-keepers who look after animals are taken to other Zoos of India for study.



Handicapped child receiving prize from joint director for painting competition

Practice conservation in all you do in life.

Zoological parks as well as wildlife agencies put in a lot of effort to save animals from extinction but their efforts often fail due to many factors. You can help them help wild animals by:

1. Spurning wildlife products for medicinal or decorative purpose.
2. Discouraging others from using wildlife products for any reason.
3. Helping control the shrinkage of natural habitat using of tree products like paper, woods etc. responsibly.
4. Supplying information you get regarding sale of skin and other wild life products
5. Spurning clothes made of fur or animal skin.
6. Making friends with animals and avoiding harming them in any way.



NZP Staff planting trees during Vana Mahotsava.

Research

National Zoo extends all help to individuals/institutions interested in conducting research on animals, many papers, trees from students of Zoology, veterinary and architecture have been published in the past. Zoo itself maintains record of animals in the form of studbook, history cards etc. which give detailed information about an individual.

Conservation

National Zoo contributes to conservation of wildlife by attempting to breed them for possible use in strengthening wild populations, if required. For conservation breeding good health, unrelated mates, favorable environmental conditions are essential. At National Zoological Park a continuous effort is made to provide the inmates good enclosures which simulate natural conditions and are safe and hygienic.

Hygiene

Disposal of excess water in moats has been a problem issue for over a decade now. Previously, our pumps used to pump out this water into a channel which in turn used to drain its contents into Yamuna. In 1980s, Delhi Vidyut Board started dumping its fly ash into the same place so now there is a plan to find an alternative for the zoo. To maintain

hygiene in Park, dead, diseased animals are burnt in incinerator after death. The incinerator was erected with financial support of CZA at a total cost of Rs.31 Lakhs. Keepers, who look after the animals, are also thoroughly screened every year for detection of communicable diseases, which may pass from keepers to animals or vice-versa.

As the animals are given filtered water to drink an overhead tank with a capacity of 40,000 liters has been installed in Zoo. Water in this tank will be pumped from 5 Lakh liter capacity underground tank at on Zoo entrance.

To avoid boredom in Zoo inmates, a variety of cage furniture is provided in each enclosure, keeping in mind the needs of particular animal.

For maintaining good health of animals in extreme climate of Delhi, our veterinary wing adopts following measures: -

Summer: When the temperature reaches 40°C point, keeping the animals cool and watered becomes our primary concern. To give relief to animals from scorching heat of sun, a 'sirki' top is provided in enclosures which cuts sunlight. Grass is allowed to grow in bird aviaries and animals are allowed to stay out in moat even during night. Fans and coolers are provided in animal houses particularly for big cats.

Winter: In Delhi, the temperature goes down up to 3°C. To keep animals warm, gunny bags and heaters are provided. Birds are given B Complex and multivitamin pills to fight the cold. This has been quite successful, as mortality rate in birds due to cold has considerably lowered.

Despite taking best preventive measures animals do fall ill at times. To look after the sick & convalescing animals there is a veterinary hospital with a doctor in-charge. The hospital is provided with modern equipment like x-ray machine.

Ethics of Visitors : Respect the zoo and yourself

1. Animals can become aggressive if you trespass in their territory. Do not go beyond guardrails or moat.
2. Excess of food can spoil the animal's stomach. We give all the animals a balanced diet, according to need.
3. Many birds and animals are used to the silence of their natural habitat (native place). Transistors and loud noises alarm the animals.
4. Just like the animals, learn to love your surroundings. Help us in keeping the park beautiful by throwing garbage into dustbin and walking on pavements.
5. Your pets can alarm the animals and transmit diseases therefore pets are not permitted.
6. Do not carry arms with you as zoo is a protected area and arms are alien to the whole atmosphere.
7. Do not carry polythene bags; if ingested polythene may block the animal's intestine and result in death.