

Bears, bears, bears, bears -- Dare to Care for Bears



20 Indian Institutions celebrate Wildlife Week communicating Care for Bears with help from International Bear Foundation and Zoo Outreach Organisation

India is unique as a country in having four species of bears. Bears are increasingly threatened in the wild by a variety of human caused threats – habitat destruction, development, and even killing or capture for selfish human pleasures. Bears are hunted for sport, for food, for medicine, and even for performance. Who hasn't seen mendicants on the road with their dancing bears, being pulled along with a painful ring in their nose and made to walk on hot pavement on tender feet? Performing bears often are taken when they are cubs which means killing the mother. There are many bad things happening to bears.

Zoo Outreach Organisation asked ourselves "What can we do?" The answer was clear: with the help of the International Bear Foundation IBF we could make people appreciate bears by conducting awareness campaigns – in zoos, or in nature centers, forest related centers, schools, etc. We could also try to improve our bear enclosures by providing zoos with information for enriching the environment and explaining to the public how this relates to the bear's behaviour and needs. We could highlight bears during India's most popular wildlife event, Wildlife Week by designing materials and activities for busy zoos, NGOs, Natural History museums and others to use in an organised programme for up to 200 people each.

The "Dare to Care for Bears" programme worked like a normal Zoo Outreach Organisation Education programme. We shortlisted zoos and other institutions and individuals and asked them to send us a short proposal for a programme or even more than one, involving a group of people (numbering from 25 – 100) involving kids from the age of about 8-12 years. It could be a school class, or an orphanage, or group of boy scouts, etc., or a combination of parents and their very young children perhaps. This was left up to the organiser.

We provided the following items:

- "bear bags" for handing out to the kids.
- 10 adult size bear t-shirts for prizes educators, keepers, volunteers etc.)
- a set of guidelines for conducting a programme.
- a book of articles on improving captive bear's life by enriching its environment
- One XXL t-shirt for playing a very fun and funny game

The materials were practically free to groups organising a programme. They had to pay postage. They also had to complete a task for us. They had to send us a Report and photos of their programme, including any press reports. If they had a very special idea and needed more bear bags, they were asked to try and convince us, and some succeeded.

We gave these suggestions for programmes and activities for Wildlife Week featuring bears to help with proposal writing. Zoos and NGO's were shortlisted because they had bears in the zoo or facility or because they lived in a city with a bear-bearing zoo or center. We suggested then that any activity might be more effective if planned nearby the bear enclosure(s), (unless this would cause disturbance to the bears, of course).

Suggestions:

Give a lecture on bears generally, using the guidelines and materials that we will send you.

Give a teacher (or other person with a group of kids under their teaching authority) some bear bags and guidelines and let him or her give a lecture before bringing the kids to the zoo.

Give bear bags to a school group (or more than one group) when they visit the zoo. Accompany it with a talk about bears.

Organise a teacher training session about bears and give the bags to them to use as best they can in their class.

Plan a longer programme with a school class in which organized games and activities are part of the programme. This should be a small group which you can interact with and control. (The Guidelines we sent had examples of games using the masks and other materials in the bear bags.)

Invite a local conservation NGO or civic group to bring a school class, an orphanage or other organized group to the zoo and use the bear bags as give-aways and a method of organizing fun-learning activities for the participants.

Improve your bear enclosure with one or more of the helpful hints described in the book we sent in a few days and put up a sign explaining why and how it was done. The improvement plus a copy of the article will definitely get attention from the press.

Reports

We could devote a whole double issue of ZOOS' PRINT to the results of this programme. Reports and photos were excellent and press coverage was also very good. The following is just a smattering of the creative and charming activities carried out and a couple of examples of testimony from students.

In case other zoos are interested, our next programme will be for Animal Welfare Fortnightly and the theme will be "Trade and Wild Animal Welfare" and the slogan "Zoos working for Wild Animal Welfare ... Zoos working against the Wild Animal Trade". Invitations to participate will go out late November.

Reports submitted till date

Nandankanan Zoo by Vinod Kumar, IFS, Director

We had a successful participation of school children on the programme at Nandankanan during the 47th Wildlife week, 2-8 Oct 2001. Rural school children and their teachers have very enthusiastically participated for interactive learning about bears at bear house. The Animal keeper and attendants were highly elated to share their experience in animal handling with the children. The information sheets and games provided with the 'bear bags' have been highly motivating. This has given a direction to initiate further interactive programmes of students with a particular animal. Participation was from 6 schools on a day with 15-20 students of 8-12 years age. Total students attended and benefitted from the programme are 100. The teacher representative from each school participated in a training session earlier. They subsequently guided the participating students at Nandankanan, besides taking up games at the school. The print media in Oriya and English locally have also extensively covered this 'novel programme' for children. *The Indian Express* in its Bhubaneswar edition of 8th October, 2001 has also brought out the same as a detailed news item. Encouraged by this, many enquiries from schools have started coming up.

Institute of Mass Communication by Jaishri Jethwaney, Professor

In order to sensitize the students of Indian Institute of Mass Communication about the plight of animals under human encroachments on their lives, a unique competition was organised by us on 28th of September, 2001. Under this competition, students were asked to compete for prizes in the two categories, namely - 'Poster Designing' and 'Press Advertisement'. The theme of the contest was "The Bear". In all 81 students participated in the two categories. Students exhibited a great sense of sensitivity towards the plight of 'Bear' in human captivities and the danger they face because of modern

development. Four groups of students were awarded first and second prize each in the two categories; prizes were t-shirts sent in the Zoo Outreach Organisation bear ed kit. Both these groups belong to the class of Advertisement & Public Relations at IIMC. In the second category, that is of Press Advertisement, once again students of Advertisement & Public Relations Course at IIMC stood the 1st while the 1nd prize was won by team belonging to Hindi Journalism Course at the Institute. The students were quite excited about the whole activity and the level of competition was very high.

Arun Pendharkar, Educator/Teacher, Mumbai

A programme for over 300 children from Junior school (Std 3&4) and about 300 more from Middle School (Std 5 & 6) of The Cathedral and John Connon School, Fort, Mumbai was conducted on 18 October. Besides conducting a slide show for each of these groups, we also had a discussion session, which the teacher's have promised shall be followed up by poster making and outings to the local Zoo, after Diwali. As the number of bear bags available were not sufficient for distributing to each kid, they were given to the Principal of each School and which would be passed to the class teachers to give away to kids after a class-based quiz or to be given away to winners of an interclass quiz, poster and painting competition.

A special session was conducted for 17 kids of Learning Resource Centre (LRC), Cathedral and John Connon School, which deals with children with learning disabilities. After attending the slide show on bears, they discussed their doubts about bears and how they associated with them and what they thought were problems that were threatening bears of the World - a trip to the Zoo and the bear game (with that XXL t-shirt) are in the offing, as soon as classes resume. Two other programmes are scheduled for November.

Enriching your Enclosures for Better Bear Care -- sent to zoos with bears

-- Ortnor, D., (1995). Behavioral Enrichment for Bears, In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 4(1):11.

-- Twamley, K. (1993). Foraging Encouragement for Bears, In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 2(2):9.

-- Cowan, K. (1998). Jelly Sticks and Activity Balls for Bears (and Others!), In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 7(2): 8-9.

-- Hare, V. (1996). Quick and Easy Mammal Enrichment at Sun Bear Forest, In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 5(3): 3-6.

-- Winhall, W.R. (1998). Polar Bear Enrichment at Wild Arctic, In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 7(2): 5-6.

-- Dobberstine, J. and Shepherdson, D. (1994). Food-Scattering Enrichment for Zoo Bears: Does it Really Work? In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 3(1): 9-10.

-- Ervin, J., (1994). The Bear Essentials, In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 3(4): 1-2.

-- Ford, J. (1994). A Bear/Gorilla Toy Built with No Experience and No Money, In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 3(4): 6.

-- Sevenich, M. and Bidwell, D. (1996). Kids, Keepers, and Critters: Fusing Education and Enrichment, In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 5(4): 6.

-- Hammond, J.P. (1998) Give 'Em a Life, In: *The Shape of Enrichment*, 7(3): 4-6.

-- Young, R. (1993) Environmental Enrichment: An Introduction, 1993 *Guidelines for Environmental Enrichment: Association of British Wild Animal Keepers*, Pp. 15-28.

-- Ames A. (1993) Environmental Enrichment for Bears, 1993 *Guidelines for Environmental Enrichment: Association of British Wild Animal Keepers*, Pp. 93-108.

-- Sumner, A. and Green S. (1997) Spectacled Bear Enrichment at the Phoenix Zoo, 1997 *AZA Regional Conference Proceedings*, Pp. 402-405.

-- Yoganand, K. (2001) Sloth Bear in India: Behaviour, Ecology and Conservation, *International Bear News*, August 2001; 10(3): 16.

Participant Institutions

Kanpur Zoological Park, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
VOC Park Zoo, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
Dr. Anand Pendharkar, Mumbai, Maharashtra
Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore, Karnataka
Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal
Peshwe Park Zoological Garden, Pune, Maharashtra
Green Mercy and Visak Zoo, Vishakapatnam, Kerala
Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi
National Zoological Park, New Delhi
Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Tata Steel Zoological Society, Jamshedpur, Bihar
Museums and Zoos, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, Maharashtra
Wildlife S.O.S, Agra Bear Rescue Facility, New Delhi
Sakkarbaug zoo, Junagadh, Gujarat
Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
Friends of Calcutta Zoo, Kolkata, West Bengal
Prince of Wales Zoological Garden, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Udaipur Zoo, Rajasthan

Thiruvananthapuram Zoo - Wildlife Week for Bears

C.S. Yalacki & K. Gangadharan

The first week of October is celebrated as Wildlife Week every year in India. This year's focus of celebrations was Bears.

Besides, the competitions in Wildlife painting and Wildlife quiz for the school and college students, an interesting and attractive skit on Dare to care for Bears was played in the Zoo during the Celebrations. School students, who came from Jawahar Balabhavan of Thiruvananthapuram, rehearsed a week before wearing costumes of black clothes with masks provided by the Zoo Outreach Organisation. They successfully enacted a carefully designed skit in an artificially made enclosure at the Zoo entrance to win the hearts of thousands of Zoo visitors. The play gave an opportunity for the Bears to fearlessly express their feelings against reckless attitude of Zoo visitors towards them in captivity. The visitors on listening to their appeal disapproved of throwing cigarettes and offering public feed and joined hands taking a pledge that they will never indulge in any activities which are harmful and detrimental not only to the Bears but every animal in the Zoo. The Bears then took a procession throughout the Zoo, bearing placards carrying their grievances.

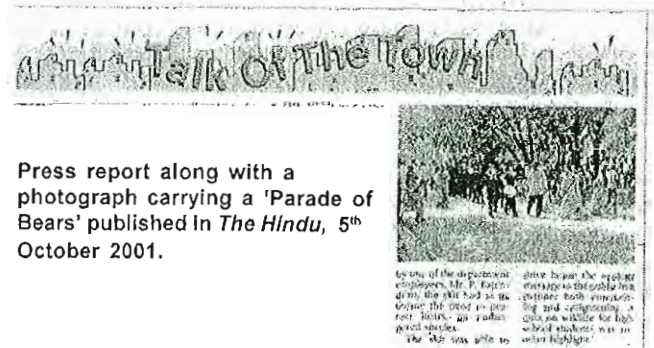
All paintings produced by the students in competitions were displayed at the Museum Auditorium for two days for public viewing. Entry to the Zoo was allowed free for the children and students, and others at half the usual fee during the week. 1,639 students and 10,384 public visited the Zoo during the celebrations.



'Bears' in action within the enclosure.

THE HINDU, 10th October 2001

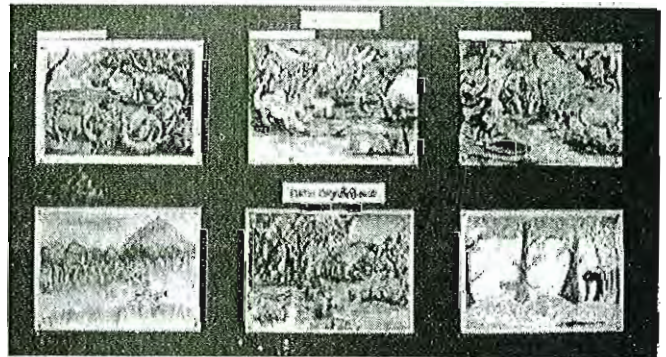
THIRUVANANTH



Press report along with a photograph carrying a 'Parade of Bears' published in *The Hindu*, 5th October 2001.



'Bears' in a parade with placards.



Tata Zoo Bear Activities

by M. S. Jain, Director

This year our thrust specially was on "Bears". We organised an essay competition on Bears as well as organised games amongst school children using the material sent by ZOO.

The celebration for the week were launched by Shri. Shallesh Kumar Singh, Deputy commissioner, East Singbhum on 2nd October 2001, who distributed prizes to winner of essay competition on the topic "The Bear" that was organised on the same day in forenoon. In this competition 35 students from seven different schools of the town participated.



Indira Gandhi Zoological Park -- Care for Bears Awareness Campaign, by Mr. K.V. Ramana Murthy, Executive Director, Green Mercy

An education programme on Asian Bears has been conducted at the Bears' enclosures in the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam by Green Mercy Society (Visak) in collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organisation (Coimbatore) and International Bear Foundation (Netherlands). It was conducted on October 5, 2001 as part of Wildlife Week Celebrations (1-7 October, 2001).



Rally round for bears at Visak Zoo I

This unique event -- nick-named as "DARE TO CARE FOR BEARS" -- proved totally impressive and informative, which won the appreciation of both the Zoo Authorities and visitors as well. The centre of attraction of this programme was a "Care for Bears Rally" with over 300 school children and other young people led by Green Mercy activists. They were wearing masks of the four species of bears and carried banners and placards which made for an eye-catching rally near the Bears' Enclosures in the Zoo Park.



Where better to teach about bears than the bear enclosure!

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Zoo Curator, flagged off the rally and appealed to the Children and Young people to protect Wildlife, which in turn protect the environment. He whole-heartedly appreciated the "Care for Bears" Programme and said he is inspired to conduct such activities from time to time at the Zoo as he felt they were so effective means of communication.

The Program Director Smt. Laxmi, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Mr. Korada Appa Rao, Sarpanch of Sagar Nagar Panchayat, Smt. Bhuvanewari Devi and others participated in the function as Special Invitees.

Earlier, various activities were being organised to the School Children, which includes... Smart Bears in single T-Shirt, Spot Quiz, Drawing, Zoo Patrolling, Animal observation, Eco-friendly Attitudes, Bear Walk & Bear March etc. The participants learned many facts regarding Asian Bears, while watching the Live Bears in Close-circles in the Zoo Park. Mr. K.V. Ramana Murthy, Mr. K.L.N. Murthy and Mr. Nehru acted as resource persons. A total number of 200 selected students from Sun-flower School, Prakash Tutorials, Royal Convent and V.H. Convent in the city participated.

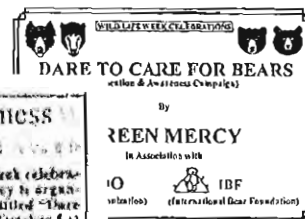
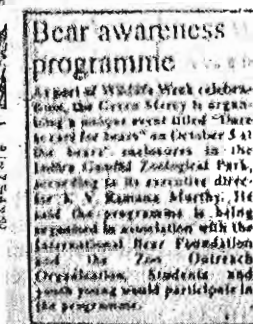


Zoo Patrol at Visak Zoo I

Bear-bags:

The participants were given Bear-bags, i.e., free educational kits, consisting of a Bear-mask, a Bear Rakhi, Stickers, a Booklet on Asian Bears, a written pledge and play materials. A Certificate of Merit signed by the Programme Director was given to the Participants. The children displayed placards during the Bear March contained various messages, such as "I LOVE TEDDY BEAR", "SAVE BEARS, SAVE NATURE", "DON'T TEASE ANIMALS" etc. An eye-catching *Rakhi Bandhan* and emotional Oath-taking Ceremony was performed by the Participants at the end, which became an added attraction to the function.

The Press was invited to cover the Wildlife Week Programmes which they did with very positive reports including Curtainraisers both in English and local Newspapers. The Citi Cable T.V. Network gave a good 60 seconds report along with Video-clipping of 'CARE FOR BEARS RALLY' on the Television. The *Andhra Bhoomi* Telugu Daily took keen interest and published a maximum number of Five reports on the "CARE FOR BEARS" Awareness Campaign with Colour Photographs. The Media men asked us to call them every time we had such an activity as it make a worthy coverage.



Wildlife Week earmarked as Bear Day at National Zoo, New Delhi

by B.S. Bonal, IFS, Director

On the basis of material received from Z.O.O., one day during the Wildlife Week was earmarked as "Bear Day". Special programmes were chalked out with the help of the Z.O.O. guidelines. A group was invited from Apeejay School, Pitampura, New Delhi, along with whom this day was celebrated.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the programme and wrote back to the zoo. A couple of letters show that our efforts have not gone for a waste and the children have sincerely thought about Bears and showed a change in the attitude towards Bears.

My Experience about the National Zoological Park

One ma'am told that today is Bear's Day we were having very much fun. They told many facts about the bear and showed two types of Bears too. Then we played the memory game of all the facts we remember about bears. Then they gave us a brown packet which contained a bear mask, a rakhi, game, Puzzle and lots and of Information about bears. Then we wore our mask and rakhi. We were looking so funny. Then we played games like newspaper dancing, bears and governors, the circle and some plays. Then they gave us a green cap and a packet of crunchy and then we went off to school. This was my very exciting experience. *Ritika Aggarwal, VI-C, Roll No. 27*

To the director of NZP

I was very glad to know that I was being selected from my school to celebrate 'Bear day'. I was thinking by now that there was no care for animals but after visiting Zoological Park my thoughts of ill-treating animals flew away. I got so much information about bears that I have not got it even in books. Now bears have become my favourite animal. I never saw a bear dance but after reading about it I take a pledge to never see it. Now I dislike people who kill the baby bear's mother and take the young one to make it dance. I hope bear killing will be abolished. *Ipshita Rana, Apeejay School, VI std.*



Children tying bear rakhis to one another

REPORT ON BEAR DAY

5th October 2001 was celebrated as the Bear Day in the National Zoological Park. A group of 26 students from the Apeejay School, Pitam Pura, New Delhi, participated in the programme. The students were of 10-12 years of age. Material, in the form of Bear Packets, posters and T-shirts was obtained from the Zoo Outreach Organisation. All the children were given a green P- cap and a pack of wafers as a gift from the zoo. Two Bear enclosures were selected- one having the Himalayan Black Bear and the other having the Sloth Bear. The children were made to sit in the lawn opposite

these Bears' enclosures. The posters were displayed there. The staff involved in the programme wore Bear Day special T-shirts. In each Enclosure, a basket full of fruits was hung from a tree.



Children looking at the bear enjoying his basket of fruits

The student group was first welcomed and told about zoo ethics. The students were then asked to volunteer for reading the poster and explaining its meaning to the whole group. The students narrated what they understood and took a pledge that from now on they would refrain themselves from watching animal shows on the streets and will not pay anything to such *madaris*, in order to discourage them out of this profession. The students were then divided into two groups and each group was then taken to one of the two enclosures selected for the programme by two members of the faculty. The Bears were released when students reached the enclosure. The students noticed how the Bears react when they come out of their den in the morning. They actually noticed how sharp is the smelling power of these Bears as they came near the fruit basket to have their breakfast within no time.

The students were then given coconuts, which they gave to the Bears. The idea behind was that the Bears would use these coconuts as balls to play with and will eat the coconut when broken. The children helped the keeper in giving food to these animals. This was a novel experience and children were thrilled by it. The bears were also given honey and jelly, as this was their special day. Then the faculty members told the groups some general information about Bears as a group and specific information about the two species housed by NZP. The children were also given handouts about Bears.

The Students played several games, e.g., the memory game, bear partners using masks, rakhi tying, newspaper bear dancing, race to save bears, survival of the fittest, fit in a t-shirt, and a play. The children then enacted a play about wildlife and development. The story started with the set up of a jungle. Some children became trees, and some became bears playing happily in the jungle. A group of town developers comes to the jungle to select a site for construction of a five star hotel. In order to make the site available they call the woodcutters and get many trees cut. After cutting of the trees, the natural shelter of the Bears is lost and they become homeless wanderers. With the increased public activity more and more Bears and their friends become either homeless or die in chance confrontations. All this has a bad effect on the overall ecosystem of the jungle. The children were then made to think the end of the story. Should we stop development by stopping all such constructions or use of land for such activities or should we let the Bears and other wildlife vanish for our benefits? The students were of the opinion that Bears or wildlife should be saved at any cost.

“Save bears” campaign at the Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore by S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-in-charge

To launch the “Save bear” campaign as desired by Z.O.O, Coimbatore, a team comprised of members of staff from RMNH, Mysore, volunteers from Mysore Amateur Naturalist Society, the reputed N.G.O. based at Mysore, resource persons locally drawn from Audio Visual Research Centre, University of Mysore and media persons selected the school “Poornaprajna” located at Alanahalli near Mysore city on 5th Oct. 2001 for the first programme.

The team was received by the school chief and her team members. The entire pack of the non-formal students numbering 26 from the 6 to 17 years age group from both genders participated actively. The salient points were the conservation of bears and how not to disturb captive animals in the places like Zoos.

Students were told first about the nomadic tribes commonly found moving around Mysore during Dasara season along with muzzled sloth bears. Followingly, he arranged the “carrying capacity” game as detailed below.

The ‘T’ shirt received from Z.O.O., Coimbatore along with the giant ‘T’ shirt readied by RMNH were used for the game to demonstrate the carrying capacity of the forests. Six children tried to squeeze themselves in a ‘T’ shirt. Many teams attempted the game. Many trials went on. While enjoying the fun, they learned the basic concept of carrying capacity - the space related concept of distribution. The same experience was shared by different set of students.

Next to this event, tree climbing was the another set of games taught to children: They acted exactly how the sloth bears in their original habitat would forage for food. They learned that the much preferred food items of sloth bears were vegetables and tubers. Children were thrilled to know bears are largely vegetarian and not man-eaters! Children were informed the ‘talismen’ sold by the bhaluwalas do not have any curative property. Then, crawling on four legs, searching other forms of life as bears do in nature has also been enacted by students sporting bear masks.

“I am Sun Bear; I have come from” were the dialogues heard from students later when they continued the masked game. The different kinds of bears, their habitats were taught to the participants. The area, the different food items preferred by the bears, the names of their close relatives and how these bears travelled from place to place in search of food were the few other topics enacted by the participants while guided by the RMNH staff and other volunteers.

Most of the non-formal school children responded well since already they had a dialogue with the traditional nomadic tribes who moved around Mysore recently with chained bears. They clarified various myths about the bears. It was a surprise to know the children love not only the animal but also the trainer very well! The Bhaluwalas could generate such a kind of intimacy with children to earn their livelihood. Some children were found appreciating ‘Karadiwalas’ for allowing them to go much closer to the animal when they were brought on begging spree. Thus, children shared their previous experiences. By this programme, sufficient inputs were made about the conservation of Asian bear population and facts about the cages bears. Children were thrilled to collect the complimentary packages from Z.O.O., Colmbatore.

Besides the students, the labourers working near by agricultural field also actively participated as a passive learners. S.I.C has received calls from other schools also to arrange such programmes in their premises.

Though the programme for non-formal school and targetted for selected N.G.O. group is over, the said programme will be continued during the NEAC - 2001 programme scheduled from Nov. 19th to 24th 2001, when the museum would launch National Environmental Awareness Campaign, 2001.



Students of the school “Poornaprajna” wear their masks and display their bear bags while daring to care for bears.



Six student “bears” managed to fit in an XXL tee-shirt; a gigantic bear mask completes the picture.



Tree climbing was the another set of games taught to children. They acted exactly how the sloth bears in their original habitat would forage for food.



Then, crawling on four legs, as bears do in nature has also been enacted by students sporting bear masks.

The 47th Wildlife week Programme - Gulabbag Zoo - Udaipur

Mr. Rahul Bhatnagar, Deputy Wildlife Warden

The Gulabbag Zoo celebrated the 47th Wildlife Week Programme. This year the focus was on Bears as it not only is an important animal found in the Southern Aravali range but also is listed in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Dr. Girija Vyas (Member of Parliament) released a sticker on Sloth Bear on the 6th of October 2001. Various schools of Udaipur participated in the weeklong programme organised by us. Following are the list of competitions which were conducted:

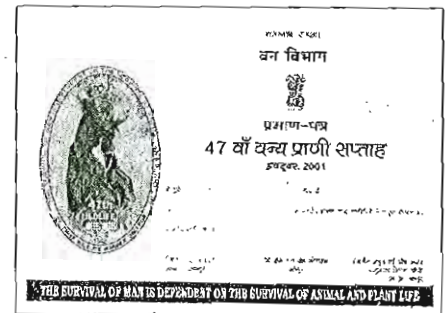
Competition	# Schools	# Students
1. Spot Painting	44	684
2. Drawing	27	390
3. Essay Writing	26	338
4. Pictionary	18	379
5. Poem Writing	23	166
6. Slogan Writing	23	138
7. Skit	16	150
TOTAL		2245

Mr Satish Sharma, the District Forrest Officer, gave a slide show on various wild animals and a snake show was also shown.

With the education materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore we conducted the following competitions:

Competition	# Schools	# Students
1. No of Bears in a T shirt	6	36
2. Just a line	6	6
3. Survival fittest	6	6
4. Bear race (Seniors)	5	20
5. Bear race (Juniors)	11	44
6. Bear Rangoli	8	15
7. Teachers Bear Race-Females	3	15
8. Teachers Bear Race-Males	4	20
9. Bear Memory game (Seniors)	12	23
10. Bear Memory game (Juniors)	15	29
11. Bear Essay Writing	11	21
12. Bear Dance	9	32
13. Bear Debate	9	13
TOTAL		280

In this way 280 students and teachers took part in the Bear Programme. Prizes were given away on the 6th of October. The winners of various competitions were given the certificates and mementos bearing bears as logos. Books related to environmental education were also given.



Lucknow Zoological Gardens Bear Care Activities

by B. Prabhakar, IFS, Director

Eight school principals were invited to nominate 10 children of 4-15 years. A press release was issued and on 5th October the program was organized in the Zoo. Eighty-two children of 4-15 years from 8 schools have participated. At the starting of the program B. Prabhakar and Dr. Ulkarsh Shukla gave the details of the program and explained the children about Sun bear, Sloth bear, Brown bear and Black bears, their status, habitat, habits and conservation importance. Then some activities were organized for the children.

Rakhi Bandan

All the children were asked to wear the masks on their face. Then each student has selected the partner according to the bear rakhi they possess. Their childrens were asked to tie rakhi each other saying, "Care for Bear". This activity has created much excitement among the children and other children watching the program. After this activity members present pledged themselves for the conservation of wildlife and bears particularly. At the same time all the children vowed that "In the future they will not see the street plays of the bears and the they care for them".



Children with their bear packets and masks

How many kids can fit ...

In the second activity five children of the age 4-6 year managed to fit into an XXL bear t-shirt. A "Survival of the Fittest Game" was also organised which received

much media attention., shown in the local cable news. It ended with the resolution that all will protect and conserve wildlife in general and bears in particular.

Coimbatore Zoological Park -- Wildlife week celebrations with Z.O.O. and Bears

S. Rathnasabapathi, Binu Arthur, Sonali Lahiri, B.A. Daniel, Padma Priya

Wildlife Week is celebrated in the first week of October every year in India. Zoo Outreach Organisation and Coimbatore Zoological Park celebrated Wildlife Week with Class VI, VII and VIII students (64 students) of Air Force School, Coimbatore on 19 October, a few days late. The theme for the programme was "Bears of India".

The programme started with an introduction on the importance of Wildlife Week along with the significance of bears in the ecosystem.

Games -- Games are the best way to invoke interest in children. We conducted three games, which related to bears and their habitat and was great fun for the children.

1. **Find your Rakhi partners** -- The children were given education packets and were asked to wear their masks and rakhis, which was in the packet. The student had to find a partner whose rakhi matched his mask. The pairs were then taken to the next game.

2. **Dancing Bears** -- A newspaper was given to each pair. The students were bears and the newspaper was the habitat of bears i.e. the forest. The pairs were then told to stand on the paper and dance to the music played. Once the music was stopped, the students had to fold the paper into two and stand on it and start dancing again. This showed that as the habitat shrunk more and more bears were de-homed. This was continued till only one pair remained on a tiny little piece of newspaper. This game made children understand the implications of habitat destruction on Bears.

3. **How many bears fill a T-shirt?** -- To understand the carrying capacity of a habitat. A very large T-shirt, depicting the habitat was taken and students representing Bears were made to enter it. A maximum of five students were able to fit into the T-shirt given to them. This game was conducted to explain that a small habitat can not hold many bears.

Power Point Presentation

A power point presentation starting with an introduction to wildlife in India focused mainly on Bears. The presentation also included the habit, habitat and threats faced by bears. The need to conserve the species and conservation efforts were also highlighted.

Quiz competition

A quiz competition on Indian bears was also conducted. Twelve students divided into four groups participated in it. Of the four rounds of questions, one was a visual round. This helped us get a feedback on the power point presentation as most of the questions pertained to it. All the groups performed well.

Rangoli competition

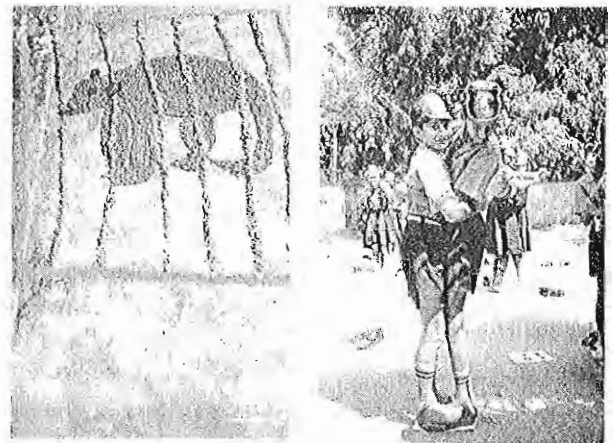
Rangoli is an Indian custom wherein women draw various designs in front of their house in white powder. They also use flowers and coloured powder during festivals. We conducted a Rangoli competition simultaneously to bring out a creative spirit in the students. The rangolis had to be drawn based on the theme. Twelve students participated in it. The rangolis drawn by the students were very colourful.

Finally, we ended the programme with a small valedictory function. Prizes were distributed to the winners of various competitions by Sq. Leader, Natrajan, Officer-in-Charge of the School. The Prizes were sponsored by Mr. Rangasamy of The Pioneer group of companies. All the students received participation certificates.

The education materials such as masks, rakhi, stickers, Bear facts book and bear survival game were issued to all the children. The education materials were sponsored by the International Bear Foundation, Netherlands.



Group song by the organisers

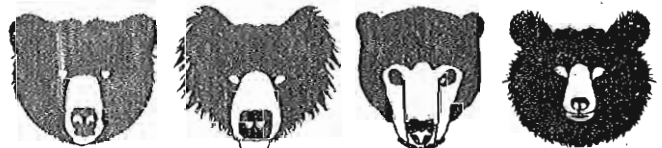


Rangoli

Survival of the fittest



How many bears can fit in?





Who's going to win the great "How Many Bears Can Fit into an XXL T-shirt" Contest ?

The Bear Bags contained :

- A bear mask
- A bear faced rakhi (always popular, particularly when you tie them at the programme)
- A bear booklet (with information about bears that kids would like to know)
- A bear sticker for sticking on books, doors, almirahs, cars, etc.
- A bear survival game which kids can take home and play (like snakes and ladders)
- A bear-tificate certifying the kids participation

ASIAN BEARS



Dare to Care for Bears

Participation Certificate

This is to certify that the "bearer" of this certificate has participated in the "Dare to Care for Bears" programme in India for the year 2001

Name: _____

Director

PLAY BEAR

Found a bear's hand. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's eye. Make a eye.	Put a bear's ear. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's nose. Get me a stick.	Draw in a bear's ear. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's eye. Get me a stick.
Make a bear's hand. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's eye. Make a eye.	Put a bear's ear. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's nose. Get me a stick.	Draw in a bear's ear. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's eye. Get me a stick.
Put a bear's eye. Make a eye.	Put a bear's ear. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's nose. Get me a stick.	Draw in a bear's ear. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's eye. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's eye. Get me a stick.
Put a bear's eye. Make a eye.	Put a bear's ear. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's nose. Get me a stick.	Draw in a bear's ear. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's eye. Get me a stick.	Put a bear's eye. Get me a stick.



ASIAN BEARS

SLOTH SUN

BROWN BLACK

Dare to Care for Bears

Threats to Asian bears : Habitat destruction by humans, development for humans, interference from humans, capture and/or killing for meat, medicine, and entertainment for humans.

Yo! Humans! Dare to Care for Bears - vote green candidates, avoid use of resources, report men/stray bears and the police or Wildlife Department



Zoo Outreach Organisation Care for Bears Design Team (left-right) - Sonali Lahiri, Graphic Artist; Binu Arthur; Research Assistant, B. A. Daniel, Entomologist; Latha Ravikumar, Manager; Padma Priya, Research Associate.

International Bear Foundation

International Bear Foundation (IBF) was established in the beginning of 1993 on the initiative of Ouweland Zoo in Netherlands. The Foundation devotes itself to four tasks:

1. education about bear problems and solutions,
2. scientific research in the field of ethology and veterinary medicine,
3. contributing to nature conservation,
4. providing homes for confiscated bears and improving bear welfare.