

Indian Zoo NEWS

ZOO GUIDES at the National Zoological Park

The National Zoological Park conducted a one-week training for Zoo Guides during the month of February 1999. NZP receives about 16 lakhs visitors per year. The Zoo conducts organised tours for groups from different schools and colleges but it is virtually impossible for the Zoo to provide a guide to each and every visitor who wants one. To fill this need, the National Zoological Park decided to start a Zoo Guide service from 1st April, 1999.

The Zoo Guides were selected after inviting applications through the newspaper and interviewing them thereafter. Nine persons came forward for this job and their training began at the time of Welfare Fortnightly, 15-22 February, 1999. This was inaugurated by the AIG (Additional Inspector General for Forests (Wildlife)).

Trainees were taught about the evolution of Zoo Management, and their role as zoo guides etc. During the training they were taken around the park to show the animals for on the spot study and observation. The zoo is offering this service for the public at nominal charges from the public and it is working very well. Submitted by Dr. B.R. Sharma I.F.S, Director, National Zoological Park, New Delhi.

News of Mumbai Zoo

This news is taken from the Brihanmumbai Mahanagar Palika Veermata Jijabai Bhosle Udyan - Zoo News letter Foreign exchange: A pair of Indian Gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*) was sent to the Nogeiyama Zoo in Japan on 11th March 1998 and on 19th September 1998 two pairs of Kangaroos and one pair of Red Crowned Cranes were received by Mumbai Zoo in exchange. As per reports received from Nogeiyama Zoo, the Gharials have adapted to their new home and are thriving well.

Visitors' Survey: The Veermata Jijabai Bhosle Udyan Zoo, recently carried out a visitors' survey. The main objective of the survey was to gauge their observations in regard to the developments as also to know their expectations from the Zoo. In all, 120 visitors were interviewed as per the format. The format questions included such as the purpose of the visit to the zoo, its condition, changes, etc. The data has since then been analysed and the findings will be worked upon in the near future.

Announcement from Snake Park & Aviary, Pimpri

The Snake Park and Aviary of the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation has a female Sloth Bear (*Ursus labiatus*) which is not required for their collection. Incidentally, Anil Khaire, Director can be contacted now by email at the following address of the municipal corporation <<pcmc@giaspn01.vsnl.net.in>>. For those who do not yet have email, they can be contacted via Telephone - 777777 or Fax - 779999

Zoos that have email :

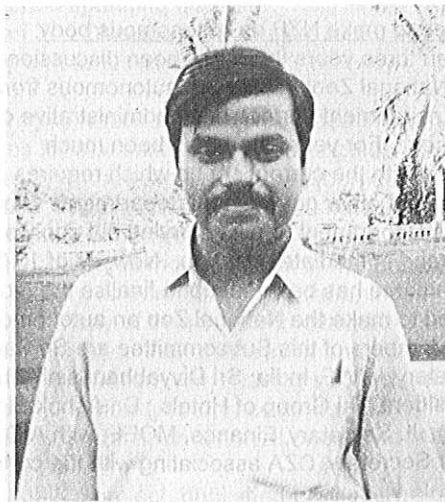
Nandankanan Zoo -- <<director_n@hotmail.com>>
Chennai Zoo <<aazp@hotmail.com>>
Tamil Nadu Forest Dept. <<tforest@md3.vsnl.net.in>>
Darjeeling Zoo <<pnhzp@cal.vsnl.net.in>>
Coimbatore Zoological Park <<czparks@md3.vsnl.net.in>>
Gwalior Zoo <<zoogwl@gwr1.dot.net.in>>

Educating For Conservation

The Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Tamil Nadu Forest Department has created a special service for promoting conservation education. The service extends to teachers, students and zoo visitors. The zoo offers specific lessons for pre primary students, primary students, college students and teachers. The zoo has also opened its library on Mondays and Fridays for the use of individuals who want to refer their collection of valuable books. The zoo has brought out an attractive colour brochure to promote the service. The next issue of ZOOS' PRINT will carry a more detailed article about this project.

As an extension of their education programme the AA Zoo has also started a Zoo Club for Students in Arignar Anna Zoological Park. The Club is a student activity centre for students who enter college and senior school students interested in serving the zoo. They are enrolled as member for a period of two years. The zoo club member gets a separate recognition and identify in the zoo premises as well as exposure to animal welfare activities, bird watching, nature study and wildlife. This will also be covered more extensively in the next issue.

The zoo has confirmed the biologists which were working so many years without this security and Baskar has been appointed as full time Zoo Education Officer.



P.R. Sinha IFS, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority. This photo was taken on the occasion of the 3rd All India Zoo Directors' meeting held in Trivandrum in 1988. At that time Sri Sinha was Director of Patna Zoo. Photo by S. Walker