

Mysuru Zoo

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Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru

Newsletter

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1. From the Desk

Dear Readers,

Greetings from Mysuru Zoo!

This quarter (July – September 2022) been quite engaging and gave an opportunity carry the message of conservation to maximum number of stakeholders with auspicious presence and blessings of legendary, Vriksha Maate, Smt Salumarada Timmakka. Smt Timmakka graced the inaugural function of Youth Club 2022 in the Month of July in the august presence of Sri Vijay Kumar Gogi IFS, PCCF (Wildlife), Karnataka and Sri Ravi B P, IFS, APCCF & MS ZAK and members of Governing Body of ZAK.

World Snake Day, Global Tiger Day, World Lion Day, World Elephant Day, World Orangutan Day, International Vulture Awareness Day, International Snake Bite Awareness Day, World Rhino Day, World Gorilla Day were celebrated with full energy and active participation of zoo team, volunteers and zoo visitors. Several zoo out-reach programs where in zoo Education team visited Schools and Colleges in and around Mysore to create awareness about issue related to wildlife conservation. Special of this was, out-reach program for especially abled children on Global Tiger Day. All kids were very curious to know more about tigers and means of its conservation.

This period also witnessed the appointment of Shri Shivakumar. M by Govt of Karnataka as new Chairman of Zoo Authority of Karnataka. ZAK extended warm welcome to new Chairman.

Enrichment of animal facilities and maintenance of visitor and animal facilities continued during this period as well.

Independence Day Celebrated with active participation of all the member of Zoo.

During this period, Red-Necked Wallaby's which have arrived from Czech Republic were dedicated to public viewing by the Hon'ble Minister for Cooperation, Govt of Karnataka and District In-charge Minister Shri S T Somashekar.

This period also witnessed the birth of some rare and endangered species including Giraffe, Lion.

This period also witnessed the significant improvement in visitor foot-fall and continued support of donors.

We expect same trend to continue during the next quarter as well wherein we need to ensure improved visit experience to zoo visitors during Christmas, New Year and associated holidays.

I sincerely thank all the visitors of zoo, well-wishers of zoo and also my colleagues at zoo for their continued contribution towards wildlife conservation.

Ajit Kulkarni, IFS

Deputy Conservator of Forests &
Executive Director

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens,
Mysuru-570010

Cover page photo
Bar-headed Goose
(*Anser indicus*)
© Mysuru Zoo



2. Inauguration of Youth Club 2022 – 24th July

Mysore Zoo is organizing the Youth Club every year for the last 29 years regularly. Classes will be conducted every Sunday between 10.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. by enrolling students in the age group of 12 to 18 years. Only 60 students will be selected on “First-come-First Serve Basis”. Members selected will be tuned to impart knowledge about the variety and value of our wildlife and captive management of wild animals.

Youth Club-2022 was Inaugurated on 24th July 2022 by Padmashri Smt. Vrukshamate Nadoja Dr. Salumarada Thimakka in the presence of Shri. Vijaykumar Gogi, PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Bangalore. Shri. Jagathram, APCCF, Field Director, Project Tiger, Shri Ravi B.P, APCCF and Member Secretary ZAK, Sri. Gokul Govardhan & Smt. Jyothi Rechanna, Council Members ZAK, Smt. Kamala Karikalan, DCF, Mysore Division, Shri. Karikalan, DCF, Wildlife Division and Shri. Ajit Kulkarni, Executive Director Mysuru Zoo were also present during the occasion.



3. World Snake Day – 16th July

World Snake Day is an opportunity to celebrate snakes and to raise awareness about their importance and conservation of these creatures. For many, a mere sight of a snake can send shivers down their spine and evoke feelings of fear and panic. But these serpents aren't as bad as we think. Snakes are instrumental in maintaining a balance in the ecosystem. While some ferocious one's act as predators, others fall prey to the birds and mammals, and sometimes other snakes as well.

These slithering reptiles help keep a check on the population of prey like rodents whose numbers can increase exponentially in the absence of snakes. They have a unique ability to fast for long periods and have a non-competitive nature, making them more efficient in controlling prey populations than other mammal predators or birds. Snakes also work as natural pest control in the environment. A lot of myths and misconceptions associated with snakes contribute to its shrinking population. There are more than 3,000 species of snakes on the planet with just around 600 of them actually being venomous.

As part of "World Snake Day", an outreach program was conducted by Mysuru Zoo for students of Government High School Vontikoppal and Government High School Vinayakanagara, Mysore. This Session included details on Venomous and Non venomous Snakes, Types of Venom, Difference between Venom and Poison, First Aid for Snake bite, common Myths regarding snakes and Importance of Snake in the ecosystem. The session was followed by a fun filled activity for students.





4. Global Tiger Day – 29th July

Global Tiger Day is observed globally on 29th July every year. The day is celebrated to raise awareness among individuals, about the importance of the conservation of tigers. This day aims to encourage all to take appropriate action to save these magnificent big cats.

On this occasion In-reach and Outreach Program were conducted by Mysuru Zoo. In-reach Program was conducted by Engaging Zoo Visitors and Outreach program was conducted in All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysore for Special Kids and their Parents, for Undergraduate & Postgraduate students of AIISH and for students of Bhavani Swamy School, Vishveshwara Nagar, Mysore. They were educated about the Tiger's Behavior & Ecology, Importance of Tigers, Why Tigers Matter, Threats faced by Tigers, The Need for their Conservation, Tiger Management in Mysuru Zoo and What role we can play to Protect Tigers.

In-reach Activity:



Outreach Activity:





5. World Lion Day –10th August

This day is to celebrate the animal kingdom's most beautiful and fearsome creature. August 10th is a day for people to come together from across the world to pay tribute to the mighty lion and join hands for their conservation. Number of Lions have dramatically declined to the point where the species are now included in the endangered list of IUCN. Dereck and Beverly Joubert, in partnership with "National Geographic" started the Big Cat Initiative in 2009 to save Lions. The Big Cat Initiative announced the first World Lion Day in 2013 in order to join the world in conservation of lions.

Mysuru Zoo celebrated World Lion Day on August 10th 2022, to spread awareness among visitors about the jungle king by displaying informative posters and fact sheets in front of the Lion enclosure.



6. World Elephant Day - 12th August

World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12th to raise awareness about conservation and protection of elephants. Poaching is the No. 1 threat faced by these 'Majestic Giants'. Loss of habitat, fragmentation of forests, human-elephant conflict, are some of other issues affecting these jumbos.

In this regard on August 12th 2022 in order to honour the Elephants and to spread awareness about the critical threats they are facing and to share knowledge regarding positive management of captive and wild elephants, Mysuru Zoo celebrated these Gentle Giants by displaying Attractive information and facts about Elephants in front of Elephant enclosure and visitors were educated about Elephants and their importance. Visitors even observed elephant feeding.



7. International Orangutan Day - 19th August

International Orangutan Day is celebrated to recognize one of the endangered greater apes of world and need to conserve them. Efforts were made to educate zoo visitors about threats to Orangutans and means of conserving them. Information sheets and fact sheets were displayed on the board in front of Orangutan House for the benefit of zoo visitors.



8. International Vulture Awareness Day Celebration - September 3rd

International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) is annually observed across the globe on the first Saturday of September to recognise the unsung Heroes of our environment. Efforts were made to educate zoo visitors about the importance of vultures, Threats to Vultures around the world and means to Protect and Conserve them.



9. Cheetah Reintroduction in India - 17th September

The cheetah is the only large carnivore that has been eliminated, and declared as extinct mainly by over-hunting in India in historical times. Reintroductions of large carnivores have progressively been recognised as a strategy to conserve threatened species and restore ecosystem functions. The Cheetah Reintroduction Project, aims to restore the wild population of Cheetahs in the country. Thus the conservation of the cheetah will revive grasslands, their biomes and habitat.

In this regard interactive program with zoo visitors was organised by Mysore Zoo on 17th September 2022 with the aim of educating visitors about Cheetah's and cheetah reintroduction project in India.



10. International Snakebite Awareness Day - 19th September

International Snakebite Awareness Day aims to raise awareness about the huge, yet mostly unrecognised, global impact of snakebite. Every Year an estimated 5.4 million people are bitten by snake and up to 2.7 million by envenoming. Around 81,000 to 1,38,000 people die each year because of snake bites, and around three times as many get amputations and other permanent disabilities are due to snakebites annually.

Communities are lacking education with respect to preventing snakebites and the proper first aid practice in the event of a bite. All of these are challenges and the barriers to access effective treatment for a snake bite or prevention measures to avoid snakebite deaths.

Mysuru Zoo celebrated International Snakebite Awareness Day to create awareness among the public regarding Snakebites. Informative boards and facts sheets related to snakebite dos and don'ts,

precautionary measures, first aid, details of venomous and non-venomous snakes and common myths regarding snakes were displayed. Zoo Education Officer along with Zoo Volunteers interacted with the visitors.



11. World Rhino Day - 22nd September

World Rhino Day is observed on 22nd September every year to spread awareness and educate people about the various species of rhinoceros and the danger they are facing. Rhinoceros have become critically endangered due to continuous growth in poaching, habitat loss and hence they have now become endangered and are under a threat of extinction.

This year the theme for World Rhino Day was **“Five Rhino Species Forever”**. This theme highlighted the importance of the five rhino species which are left in our world today.

In this regard Mysuru Zoo along with Indian Oil celebrated World Rhino Day to create awareness among the public regarding Rhino’s and their conservation. Informative Posters and facts sheets were displayed in front of Southern White Rhinoceros and One Horned Rhinoceros Facilities to educate zoo visitors.





12. World Gorilla Day - 24th September

World Gorilla Day is an annual event celebrating gorillas and empowering global communities to take action for gorilla conservation. Gorilla is a globally endangered greater ape. Its conservation and creating awareness about its conservation is very much needed to ensure the existence of this very species on the earth.

In this regards Mysuru Zoo celebrated World Gorilla Day to create awareness among the public regarding Gorillas and their ecological importance. Informative boards and fact sheets were displayed in front of the Gorilla Enclosure. Zoo Education Officer, Zoo Volunteers and Gorilla Animal Keeper interacted with the visitors.





13. Recent Maintenance Works

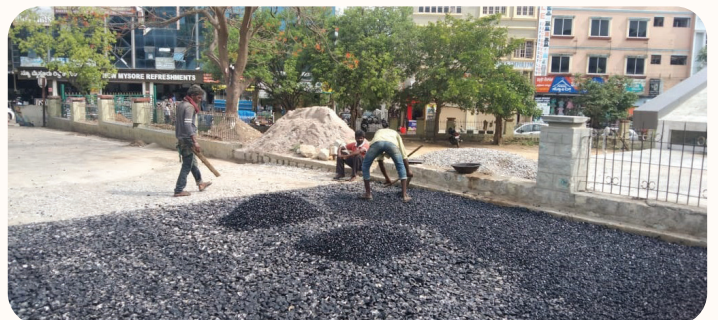
i. Maintenance of Birds Aviary – Pelican Pond inside zoo



ii. Providing M S Grill Work above compound near underpass



iii. Providing Asphalt Road above underpass roof and sides of roof in front of zoo





iv. Conversion of old premises into new finance section



v. Providing tiles and stainless-steel railings to auditorium steps



vi. Providing enrichment works and painting to Baboon enclosure



14. Enrichment work done during this quarter - Nocturnal Animal House



Small Indian Civet Enclosure



Common Palm Civet Enclosure



Jungle Cat Enclosure



Leopard Cat Enclosure



Indian Crested Porcupine Enclosure

15. News in Brief

A. Major Events and Happenings

i.) Appointment of New Chairman to Zoo Authority of Karnataka

Sri M Shivakumar, newly appointed Chairman, Zoo Authority of Karnataka took charge on 26.07.2022. He was heartily welcomed by Mysuru Zoo and ZAK staffs.



ii.) Independence Day

Mysuru Zoo celebrated 75th Independence Day. National Flag was hoisted by Sri M Shivakumar, Chairman Zoo Authority of Karnataka. Sri Gokul Govardhan and Smt. Jyoti, Council Members ZAK were also present along with all employees of zoo.



iii.) Release of Red -necked Wallaby to enclosure – 22nd August

The world-renowned Mysore Zoo, which ranks among the best zoos in the country and in the Asian continent, has been consistently engaged in the collection of exotic/indigenous animals and birds under animal exchange Program and has succeeded in acquiring Red-necked Wallabies (1:2) into its collection from Zoo Park, Czech Republic.

Mysuru Zoo is happy to announce that the Red-necked wallabies were dedicated for public viewing on 22/8/2022 by Hon'ble Minister of Cooperation and District In-charge Minister Sri S.T. Somashekhar in the presence of Sri M. Shivakumar, Chairman ZAK, Smt. Jyothi Rechanna, Sri.Gokul Govardhan, council members ZAK, Sri.Ajit Kulkarni, IFS Executive Director Mysuru Zoo.



B. Natality Report

Sl. No.	Date	Species	Total	Remarks
1.	8/3/2022	Striped Hyaena	1	Born in enclosure
2.	31/5/2022	Military Macaw	2	Hatched in enclosure
3.	1/7/2022	Nilgiri Langur	1	Born in enclosure
4.	3/7/2022	Slender Tailed Meerkat	2	Born in enclosure
5.	4/7/2022	Giraffe	1	Born in enclosure to Babbi and Bharath
6.	4/7/2022	Sambar	2	Born in enclosure
7.	6/7/2022	Nilgai	2	Born in enclosure
8.	6/7/2022	Spotted Deer	2	Born in enclosure
9.	10/7/2022	Hog Deer	1	Born in enclosure
10.	11/7/2022	Blackbuck	2	Born in enclosure

Sl. No.	Date	Species	Total	Remarks
11.	12/7/2022	Spotted Deer	1	Born in enclosure
12.	20/7/2022	Hog Deer	1	Born in enclosure
13.	22/7/2022	Blackbuck	1	Born in enclosure
14.	28/7/2022	Sambar	2	Born in enclosure
15.	30/7/2022	Hog Deer	2	Born in enclosure
16.	10/8/2022	Asiatic Lion	3	Born in enclosure to Nirbhaya & Raju
		Total	26	

i. Birth of Military Macaws

Two Military Macaws have bred for the first time in Mysuru Zoo. Successfully incubating and raising two healthy chicks. This breeding pair of Military Macaws were received on 13/1/2009 from Zoo Zlin, Czech Republic.

ii. The Roar of Tiger cubs

Mysore Zoo houses a total of 8 adult tigers in which 2 are female white tigers. A White tigress named Tara was brought from Chennai Zoo to Mysore Zoo through animal exchange Programme 6 years back. The oestrous behavior observation of Tigress Tara had shown restlessness, rolling, chuffing and marking the enclosures objects (Trees, logs, chain linked mesh) by spraying urine. After observation of these behaviours, the female was let in close proximity with the male named Rocky aged 4 years at the adjacent enclosure. As mutual compatibility was established between both the animals, showing behaviors such as approaching each other, cheek rubbing, flank rubbing, and prusten, both the animals were paired for mating. The mating took place for 4 days and both the animals were separated after that. Gradually physical changes were observed in Tara with development of mammary glands, increased abdominal girth, increased appetite and inactiveness. As the oestrous signs were not seen in the expected period again, pregnancy of the animal was confirmed. The tigress was then given a separate enclosure resembling a den for safe and secure whelping.

On 26th April 2022, after a gestation period of 106 days, the tigress gave birth to four cubs out of which three cubs survived (two female and one male). The parturition started late evening around 8:30 pm and continued till 10:00 pm. When the cubs were 2 weeks old one of the female cubs was diagnosed to have a congenital hernial defect at xiphoid and one at caudal abdomen. As the cubs were still at suckling stage, the vet team decided not to intervene and operate it only after the cub started meat consumption and became physically fit to withstand surgical pain and discomfort. Until the time, frequent isolation and medical interventions were required to keep a check on the condition and activities of the cub. As the cubs reached four months the female cub with hernial defect was found with decreased appetite and difficulty in passing stools. Surgical approach was made under general inhalation anaesthesia to repair the hernia defect by performing herniorrhaphy. Post operative care was challenging and was managed

by intravenous fluids, antibiotics and bandage care. Since the tiger cub did not consume any meat and was undergoing separation anxiety and started peptic ulcer passing blood in faeces, decision was taken to release the cub with the mother.

When compared to the other tigers, Tara is an exceptional tiger with amazing mothering skills and tolerance. Only because of her tolerance and permissiveness, it was possible for the regular check-up of the cub which required frequent separation of the cub. Post operative the surgical wound was found to be healed and suture was removed on the 10th day.

During the initial 2 months, the mother spent 78% of her time in nursing and grooming the cubs. The cubs took around 17 days to completely open their eyes and started meat consumption as they reached a month old. The cubs have received immunization and deworming at regular intervals. Presently the cubs are five months old, with phenomenal development and spending most of their time in playing, mock fighting, curiously exploring every part of their enclosure and actively interacting with the adjacent in-mate tigers.

The birth of these endangered species at Mysore Zoo is significantly reflecting the conservation efforts for these species.



Tiger Cubs were under continuous observation through Cctv camera



Tiger Tara with her cubs



Tiger cubs

C. Transfer/ Retirement

- 1. Shri K.N.Rangaswamy, ACF** -working as Deputy Director from 1.1.2020 was transferred on 18.7.2022. Zoo Authority of Karnataka and Mysuru Zoo express sincere gratitude for his contribution for the welfare of Mysuru Zoo. Staff Members of Mysuru Zoo bid a farewell in appreciation of his service rendered to the zoo.



- 2. Dr. Madan** - working as Veterinary Officer from 8.1.2016 was transferred on 1.7.2022. Zoo Authority of Karnataka and Mysuru Zoo express their gratefulness for his contribution for the welfare of Zoo animals and the institution. Mysuru Zoo staff members bid farewell to him in appreciation of his service rendered to the zoo.



- 3. Smt. Venkatamma** - attender was retired on 31.8.2022 after serving for a period of 38 years 4 months (20.4.1984 – 31.8.2022). Staff Members of Mysuru Zoo bid a farewell in gratitude for her service rendered towards the upbringing of the zoo.



D. Major Adoption from July-September 2022

Sl. No	Name of the Adopter	Name of the Birds / Animals	No. of Animals / Birds Adopted	Term	Period of Adoption	Amount
1.	M/s Kanti Sweets Private Limited.	Indian Leopard	1	1 Year	15/7/2022 To 14/7/2023	50,000
2.	Shilpa M Basavaraj. P	Great Indian Hornbill	1	1 Year	10/7/2022 To 9/7/2023	10,000
3.	Harish Gowda G.D.	Tiger	1	1 Year	13/7/2022 To 12/7/2023	2,00,000
4.	Sarada Vilas Law College	Four Horned Antelope	1	1 Year	15/7/2022 To 14/7/2023	10,000
5.	Rakshith G Araan Ayush Aradhya	Indian Leopard	1	1 Year	18/7/2022 To 17/7/2023	50,000
6.	Kalpana Dilip Shah	Spotted Deer	1	1 Year	21/7/2022 To 20/7/2023	15,000

Sl. No	Name of the Adopter	Name of the Birds / Animals	No. of Animals / Birds Adopted	Term	Period of Adoption	Amount
7.	Swathi Sridhar	Leopard Cat	1	1 Year	24/7/2022 To 23/7/2025	10,000
8.	S Sachidananda (Film Actor Sri Darshan Thoogudeepa)	Tiger Cubs (2)	2	1 Year	29/7/2022 To 28/7/2023	1,00,000
9.	Samarth M Vijaykumar Nirani Nirani Sugars Limited	Tiger (Manya)	1	1 Year	29/7/2022 to 28/7/2023	2,00,000
10.	Harish Shetty	Common Ostrich	1	1 Year	1/8/2022 To 31/7/2023	20,000
11.	B. Chandrasekhar	Panther	1	1 Year	29/7/2022 To 28/7/2023	50,000
12.	Spoorthi A	Salmon-Crested Cockatoo	1	1 Year	8/8/2022 To 7/8/2023	10,000
13.	Lions Club of Mysore - Mayuri,	1. King Cobra 2. Peacock	2	1 Year	12/8/2022 To 11/8/2023	10,000
14.	M/s Meghana M	Common Ostrich	1	1 Year	12/8/2022 To 11/8/2023	20,000
15.	Lishanth Sanjay	African Hunting Cheetah	1	1 Year	14/8/2022 To 13/8/2023	75,000
16.	Shridhar Kalabhavi	Black Buck	1	1 Year	15/8/2022 To 14/8/2023	15,000
17.	Chandrakala Ramesh and Family	Star Tortoise and Himalayan Goral	2	1 Year	15/8/2022 To 14/8/2023	13,000
18.	Lions Club of Mysore Palace City & GEONET & CONSULTANT, NR Mohalla	Lion	1	6 Months	17/8/2022 To 16/2/2023	1,00,000

Sl. No	Name of the Adopter	Name of the Birds / Animals	No. of Animals / Birds Adopted	Term	Period of Adoption	Amount
19.	Sri Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Desikendra Mahaseamiji Suttur Math, Mysuru	Donation for One Day Feeding Cost	1	1 Year		1,00,000
20.	Govind M Karjol	Jaguar	1	1 Year	29/8/2022 To 28/8/2023	50,000
21.	M/s. Anvase Exim Pvt Ltd.	Indian Leopard	1	1 Year	15/8/2022 To 14/8/2023	50,000
22.	Sanjeev Nichani	Lion tailed Macaque	1	1 Year	10/11/2022 To 9/11/2023	30,000
23.	Nagendra Subbanna	1. Indian Leopard, 2. Spotted Deer, 3. Star Tortoise and 4. Eclectus Parrot	4	1 Year	1/8/2022 To 31/7/2023	71,000
24.	Nijesh Shah	Indian Leopard	1	1 Year	1/10/2022 To 30/9/2023	50,000
25.	P.M Muniraju Gowda (MLC)	Black Buck	1	1 Year	29/9/2022 To 28/9/2023	15,000
26.	Aasare Foundation	Sarus Crane	1	1 Year	28/8/2022 To 27/8/2023	15,000
27.	Manjunatha Ramasamudra	African Hunting Cheetah	1	1 Year	28/9/2022 To 27/9/2023	75,000
28.	JSS Law College (Autonomous)	Smooth Coated Otter	1	1 Year	28/9/2022 To 27/9/2023	10,000
29.	Jagat Narayan Chaudhury	King Cobra	1	2 Year	25/9/2022 To 24/9/2024	10,000
30.	Tulasi Muniraju Gowda P.M	Common Ostrich	1	1 Year	29/9/2022 To 28/9/2023	20,000

** (Major Adopters name > Rs.10,000/-)

