



Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens

NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk . . .



Dear Readers,

Greetings!

We are delighted to share the exciting news of our growing number of visitors, which underscores the unwavering support of the Mysuru Zoo community. During the second quarter of the 2023–24 fiscal year, we had the pleasure of hosting 6.24 lakh visitors, a significant increase from the 5.11 lakh visitors we welcomed during the same period in 2022–2023. This remarkable growth in attendance is a testament to the enduring appeal of the Mysuru Zoo and the role it plays in connecting people with nature and wildlife.

In this edition, we wish to underscore our commitment to conservation, education, and community engagement. Our 31st iteration of the Youth Club has commenced, and we are thrilled to witness the enthusiasm and active participation of our young members. These dedicated young individuals are the future custodians of our environment, and their engagement in our programs is a source of great hope and inspiration. Furthermore, our educational initiatives have continued to thrive, with numerous outreach and in-reach events conducted in conjunction with significant days and observances.

The Zoo management extends its sincere gratitude to the MD and officials of BNPMIL, Mysuru, for their gracious presence in inaugurating Orangutan housing facility-Phase 2, which is now open for public viewing. BNPMI has served as a model institute supporting the cause of conservation. We hope that donors and other stakeholders will soon join hands with us to support the Zoo Animals.

It is also worth mentioning that there has been significant progress in the works related to animal housing, operation, and maintenance. Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my team and all the stakeholders for their unwavering support and involvement.

D. Mahesh Kumar, IFS
Executive Director
Sri Chamarajendra Zoological
Gardens, Mysuru

2. World Chimpanzee Day - July 14th



World Chimpanzee Day honours the remarkable chimpanzee species, the closest living relative of humans in the animal realm. The purpose of this day is to enhance understanding and appreciation for these unique creatures by educating global audience about their innate value, the threats they face in the wild, and their crucial role in ecosystem. It also advocates for their welfare in captivity.

In this respect, Mysuru Zoo organised outreach programmes at Government High Schools of Vinayakanagara and Vontikoppal, Mysuru, respectively to join in the global celebrations. Approximately 170 students took part and learnt about the behaviour and ecology of chimpanzees, threats to the species, and the chimpanzees housed at the Mysuru Zoo. In order to further educate visitors, in-reach programme was also carried out by putting relevant posters and flyers in front of the chimpanzee enclosures.





3. World Snake Day - July 16th



The purpose of World Snake Day is to increase public awareness of the important role of snakes to our biodiversity. It assists in dispelling misconceptions and anxieties around these amazing creatures and serves as a reminder of their ecological value.

The zoo conducted an in-reach event to recognise this day. Informative fact sheets and posters were displayed in front of the snake enclosure, that gave visitors valuable information about different snake species, their behaviour, venom types, difference between venom and poison, first aid for snake bite and their role in maintaining a balanced ecosystem. This initiative aimed to educate and engage visitors, fostering a deeper appreciation for snakes and their conservation.



4. 31st Youth club inauguration – July 24th

For the past thirty years, the youth club has been regularly organised by Mysuru Zoo. Every Sunday for 24 Sundays, the youth club offers sessions from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. Students between the ages of 12 and 18 are eligible to apply. There are only 60 pupils selected for enrolment, and it is "First-come, First-served" in nature. The club seeks to inculcate its participants about the need for conservation as well as the diversity and value of the natural environment. 31st edition of youth club was inaugurated on 24th of July by Sri. Ramesh Bhanoth, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Mysuru City in the presence of Executive Director of Mysuru Zoo Sri. D. Mahesh Kumar, IFS.



5. Global Tiger Day - July 29th



Tigers are not only majestic and iconic creatures; they are essential to preserving the harmony of our ecosystems. As apex predators, tigers aid in controlling the numbers of prey species. By managing the number of herbivores, they avoid overgrazing, which can be harmful to the plants and general health of the environment. Additionally, tigers are signs of a thriving ecology. Given that they need wide ranges with a variety of prey populations, their presence is an indicator of the health of the forest in which they live. By preserving tiger habitats, we also guarantee the conservation of other species' habitats.

Regrettably, poaching, illegal wildlife trading, habitat loss, and other issues pose a serious threat to tigers. This has impacted their population growth over the years in some problematic areas. On this occasion, Mysuru zoo joined the global movement to celebrate the existence of this charismatic species. In this context, in-reach program was conducted by engaging zoo visitors and youth club participants. More than 300 visitors were briefed on tiger behaviour & ecology, importance of tigers, threats faced by tigers, the need for their conservation and how one can join hands in protecting tigers and their habitats. They were also involved in activities like spot quiz and matching the tiger stripes.





6. World Lion Day – August 10th



Lions hold significant importance in both the animal kingdom and human culture. Lions are known as the "king of the jungle" and are apex predators in their habitats. As top predators, they help regulate the populations of herbivores, preventing overgrazing and promoting biodiversity. Beyond their ecological importance, lions have a deep cultural significance. They have been revered in various cultures and symbolize strength, courage, and leadership. Their majestic appearance and powerful roar have captured human imagination for centuries.

However, lions are facing numerous threats, including habitat loss in their natural range, accidental killings, poaching etc. Their populations have faced serious challenges in terms of home range expansion in recent decades, restricting their dispersal. The day aims to shed light on the challenges faced by lions and encourages efforts to protect their habitats, promote co-existence with local communities, and combat illegal wildlife trade. It serves as a reminder of the urgent need to protect and conserve these iconic species for future generations.

Keeping this in mind, we organised an outreach programme at Government High School in Mysuru's Medar Block as part of the global celebrations. About 90 students took part, and they were informed about the lions in the Mysuru Zoo as well as their behaviour, ecology, and threats to the species. Additionally, an in-reach programme was carried out to educate zoo visitors.



7. World Elephant Day – August 12th



Elephants are known for their intelligence, social behaviour and iconic appearance. They hold immense ecological and cultural significance.

They play a vital role in shaping their habitats. Their feeding habits and movement patterns help disperse seeds, creating opportunities for plant regeneration and maintaining forest diversity by contributing to forest regeneration. As keystone species, elephants influence the structure and composition of their ecosystems. Their foraging behaviour can shape the vegetation, impacting other species that depend on these habitats.

To celebrate these magnificent giants World Elephant Day is observed on August 12th each year, with an aim to raise awareness about the challenges faced by elephants and need for their conservation, elephants of Mysuru zoo and their diet. Handpainting and spot quiz were also organised.





8. International Orangutan Day – August 19th



Orangutans, the great apes of Southeast Asia, are iconic and critically important to the ecosystems they inhabit. Orangutans are key contributors to forest ecosystems. As they move through the treetops, they disperse seeds, helping to regenerate and maintain the biodiversity of their habitat. Orangutans are known as "gardeners of the forest" due to their role in shaping their environment. They create nests, break branches, and open up gaps in the canopy, which stimulates the growth of new trees and restores the forest. The presence and well-being of orangutans often reflect the overall health of their habitats. Protecting orangutans ensures the conservation of other species, as well as the sustainable use of forests.

This day aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by orangutans, promote their conservation, and inspire action to protect their habitats. In this regard our initiative involved educating zoo visitors about the various threats faced by orangutans and the ways in which we can protect them.



9. International Vulture Awareness Day – September 2nd

International Vulture Awareness Day is observed annually on the first Saturday of September to highlight the crucial role of vultures in the environment and drastic decline in their populations. To promote awareness, initiatives were undertaken at zoo, wherein visitors were educated about these underappreciated environmental heroes and their vital role in maintaining the ecological balance. Among the activities organized, children were encouraged to engage in colouring, to play word search, and scavenger hunt games.



10. Unite for Big Cats campaign

Highlights the initiatives of the Government of India for the conservation of nation's big cats viz. Royal Bengal Tiger, Asiatic Lion and Cheetah. In light of the next major conservation milestone, India considers the significance of the cheetah's historic reintroduction a symbol of grace, speed, and biodiversity. This event's approaching one-year anniversary is evidence of India's commitment to protecting its natural heritage. India is also home to around 75% of the world's wild tiger population, 70% of world's lion population which is evidence of the country's steadfast dedication to conservation, supported by a strong scientific foundation.



In keeping with this, zoo awareness campaign with the slogan "Unite for Big Cats" was planned in commemoration with one-year anniversary of the cheetah's reintroduction in India i.e., on September 17th 2023 with the goal of public involvement and active community engagement to promote coexistence between these signature species and their surroundings.

Following programs were conducted in Mysuru Zoo:

i. 24th Conservation Speak

During the 24th Conservation Speak and Unite for Big Cat Campaign, we were honoured to have Deep J Contractor, IFS Field Director BRT Tiger reserve. She led an insightful conversation about India's national animal with the participants.



ii. Painting competition





iii. Public Awareness Program



iv. Keepers Talk



v. Hand painting



vi. Big cat conservation pledge



vii. Other fun activities included quiz, crossword puzzle solving, colouring and mask making





11. Recent Developmental Works

i. Maintenance and repair work of Himalayan Goral enclosure



ii. Construction of Orangutan enclosure-phase II



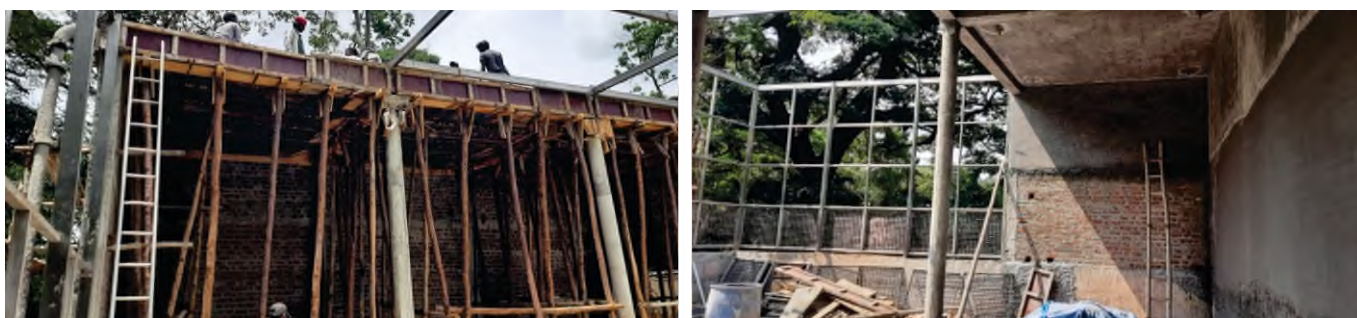
iii. Construction of Sloth Bear enclosure



iv. Construction of Gorilla family enclosure



v. Construction of Chimpanzee day kraal



vi. Restoration of interpretation Centre building



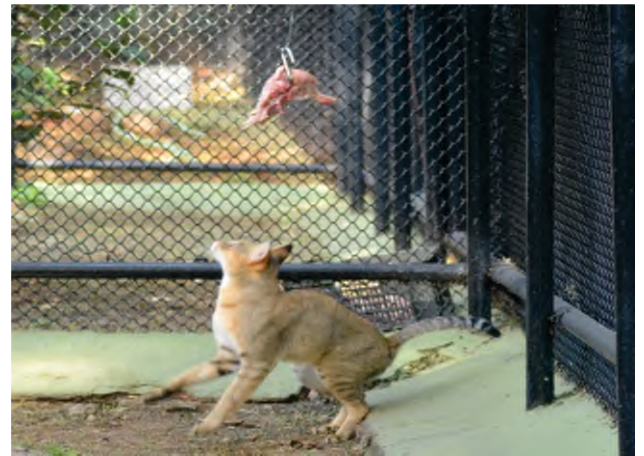
12. Enrichment works



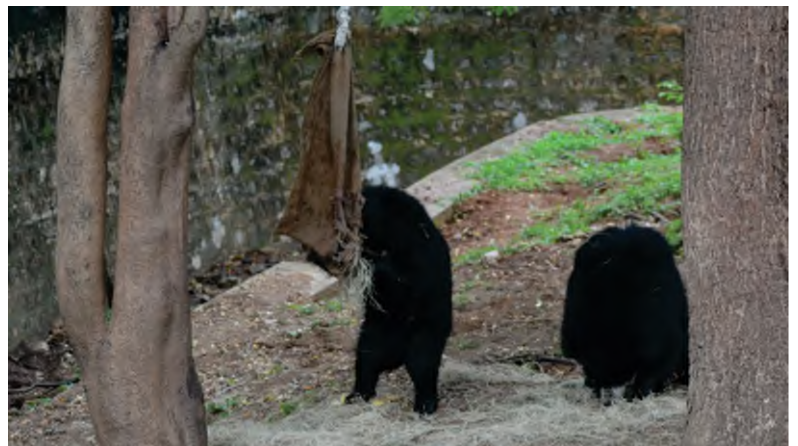
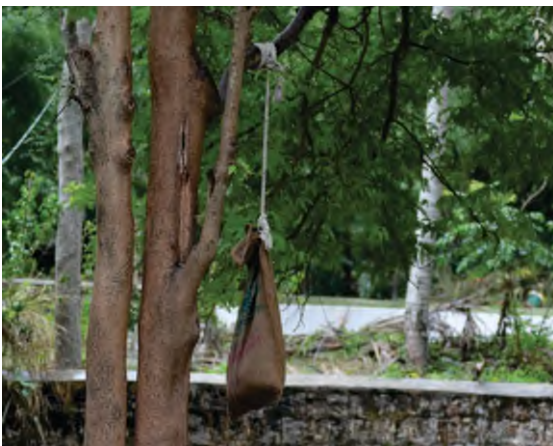
Chimpanzee Kimoni trying to get the honey and fruit juice from the bamboo stick tool made by him



The tufted capuchin team, drilling out all the hidden treats from the log



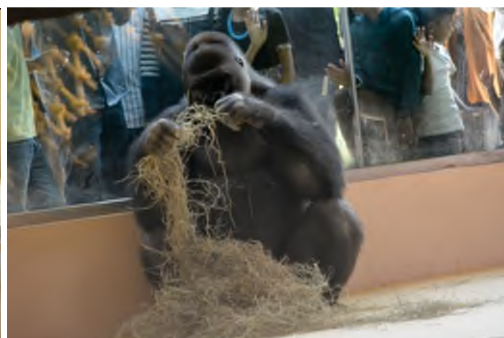
Jungle cat pouncing and jumping to get meat from the hook



Sloth bears investigating their hidden snacks in the hay filled gunny bag

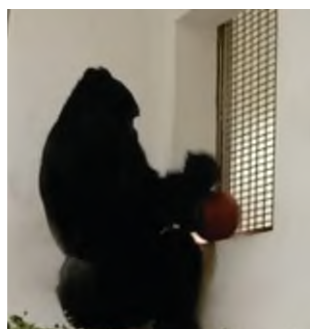


Rhesus macaque and Hamadryas Baboon playing with their new toy

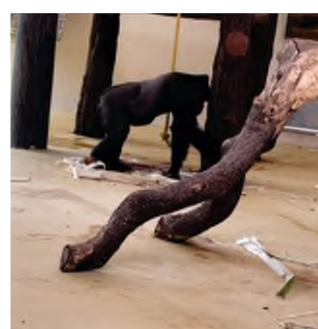


Treat filled carton box surprise

Enrichment for our new resident - Gorilla Quembo



Quembo bouncing his cotton ball and basketball



Quembo enjoying his favourite banana stump and nesting in the inedible fibres



13. News in Brief

i Naming ceremony of Lion cubs - July 16th

On 16/7/2023 Sri Eshwar B. Khandre, Hon'ble Forest, Environment and Ecology Minister and Chairman, ZAK, Government of Karnataka named 3 Lion cubs which were born in Mysuru Zoo on 5/8/2022 to Lioness Nirbhaya & Lion Raju.

At present we are housing 5 adult Lions (2 females & 3 males) and 3 Lion cubs. Five years old Lioness Nirbhaya is received from Nandanvan Jungle Safari, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, during December 2021. 6 years old Lion Raju was received from Sakkarbaugh Zoo, Gujarat during the year 2019 under animal exchange programme respectively. Out of 3 cubs, 2 are male and 1 is female. These cubs are currently 1 year old and were named as Surya, Chandra and Kabini respectively.



ii Health committee meeting

The Health Advisory Committee meeting was conducted at Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens on 18/07/2023. Dr. S Yathiraj, Former Dean, Veterinary college, Bangalore, Dr. Ranganath, Director, Institute of Wildlife Veterinary Research, Kodagu, Dr. Ravindra Hegde, Director of Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Bengaluru. Dr. Veerabhadrayya, Joint Director, Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Sciences, Veterinary Hospital Campus, Mysuru, Dr. Madan K., Veterinary Consultant, ZAK, Dr. J L Srinivas, Assistant Director and Dr. Prashanth M K and Dr. Adarsh A M, Veterinary Officers respectively of Mysuru Zoo were present. The committee members assessed the present health care facilities in zoo and provided their valuable suggestions in health care management of Zoo.



iii ZAK Accounts Management

Two day's workshop on account management was conducted for all Zoos under ZAK. The workshop was steered by Shri B.P.Ravi, APCCF & Member Secretary ZAK, in presence of Shri D. Mahesh Kumar Executive Director Mysuru Zoo. Resource persons from Umesh and associates handled the sessions. All the ZAK zoos staff – RFO's and Account section staff and personnel participated in the two day's workshop



iv Independence Day Celebration

77th Independence Day Celebration at Mysuru Zoo





v Orangutan enclosure inauguration -25/8/2023

Newly constructed Orangutan housing facility phase-2 built with financial assistance from Bank Note Paper Mill India, Mysuru was inaugurated by Shri. S Thalikerappa, MD, BNPMIL Mysuru in the presence of Shri. B. P. Ravi, APCCF & Member Secretary ZAK, Shri. D. Mahesh Kumar, Executive Director Mysuru Zoo and Directors & officials of BNPMIL and Mysuru Zoo respectively.



14. Transfers/Retirement

- i. **R K Krishnegowda**, Junior Assistant retired on 31st July 2023. After serving for a period of 37 years. Mysuru Zoo staff in appreciation of his service rendered to the zoo bid him farewell as a token of gratitude.
- ii. **K R Uthappa**, Junior Assistant retired on 31st July 2023. After serving for a period of 35 years. Mysuru Zoo is appreciative of his value addition and contribution to the zoo



iii. **Pandyan**, Junior Attender, retired on 31st July 2023 after serving for a period of 39 years. Mysuru Zoo expresses sincere gratitude for his contribution to the welfare of Mysuru zoo.

iv. **Pattamma**, Junior Attender retired on 31st July 2023 after serving for a period of 39 years. Mysuru Zoo is appreciative for her contribution to the zoo.



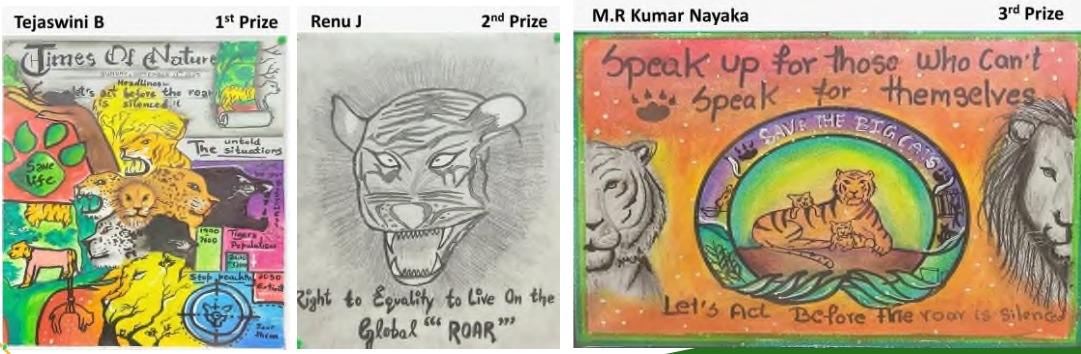
5th – 6th standard students – Topic: Save big cats of India



7th – 9th standard students – Topic: Conserving big cats and their habitat



10th – 12th standard students – Topic: Let's act before the roar is silenced!





15. Major Adoption from July – September, 2023

Sl. No.	Name	Name of the Bird/ Animal	Term	Period of Adoption	Amount
1.	K V Pownitha Amith Gowda	Elephant	1 Year	14/7/2023 to 13/7/2024	Rs. 3,00,000
2.	Sri Sukheessh Dwarakish	White Tiger	1 Year	11/8/2023 to 10/8/2024	Rs. 2,00,000
3.	Lions club of Mysore palace city & Geonet consultant	Tiger	1 Year	16/8/2023 to 15/8/2024	Rs. 2,00,000
4.	M/S. Zeus Biotech Pvt Ltd	African Hunting Cheetah	1 Year	14/8/2023 to 13/8/2024	Rs. 75,000
5.	Nagendra Subbanna	Indian Leopard, Spotted Deer, Star Tortoise and Eclectus Parrot	1 Year	1/8/2023 to 31/7/2024	Rs. 71,000
6.	B Meena Appachu	Indian Leopard, King Cobra and Love Bird-2	1 Year	24/6/2023 to 23/6/2024	Rs. 57,000
7.	Lions club of Mysore palace city	Hoolock Gibbon,	1 Year	24/6/2023 to 23/6/2024	Rs. 50,000
8.	Anvase Exim Pvt Ltd Bangalore	Indian Leopard	1 Year	16/8/2023 to 15/8/2024	Rs. 50,000
9.	B Chandrasekhar Bangalore	Black Panther	1 Year	10/8/2023 to 9/8/2024	Rs. 50,000
10.	Karthik Nagendra	Indian Leopard Cassowary, King Cobra, Yellow Golden Pheasant & Peacock	1 Year	22/8/2023 to 21/8/2024	Rs. 50,000
11.	Nikhil DK	Brahminy Kite	1 Year	22/7/2023 to 21/7/2024	Rs. 25,000
12.	M/s Mac Precitec India	Common Ostrich & Peacock	1 Year	10/7/2023 to 9/7/2024	Rs. 20,000
13.	Anitha M	Emu	1 Year	16/7/2023 to 15/7/2024	Rs. 20,000
14.	Master Swapneel Sarker	Star Tortoise-2 No's & Salmon Crested Cockatoo	1 Year	1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024	Rs.16,000
15.	Ms. Kalpana Dilip Shah	Spotted Deer	1 Year	1/8/2023 to 31/7/2024	Rs.15,000
16.	R Veerappa	Great Indian Hornbill	1 Year	7/6/2023 to 6/6/2024	Rs.10,000
17.	Basavaraj. P	Leopard Cat	1 Year	10/7/2023 to 9/7/2024	Rs.10,000

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



SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON ANIMAL ADOPTION



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