



Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens



NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk . . .



Dear Readers,

Greetings!

We are happy to share the news about highest single day visitation i.e., 40,761 on 24/12/2023 surpassing all the previous records. This is a tremendous achievement and a significant milestone for our zoo.

In the 3rd quarter of this financial year (2023-24), we had the pleasure of receiving 12.57 lakh visitors with an increase from 12 lakh during the same period in 2022-23. We would like to thank all the visitors for their continuous support and patronage through animal adoption.

We are known for many firsts in the state of Karnataka and also at the country level. Recently, the roads next to the Zoo & Karanji Lake Nature Park are declared as “Silence Zones” which is a significant development for wildlife safety and conservation. The campus is also declared as “Single Use Plastic (SUP)” free zone which is our continued effort towards environmental conservation.

As part of International Year of millets campaign, we have introduced millets to wildlife especially for enrichment of enclosure as well which is probably first in the country.

Wildlife health & management is a key area which needs high priority when you speak about ex-situ conservation. Our team has worked hard towards capacity building of in-house personnel & Vets working in Govt/Pvt Sector to instill confidence & impart skill sets for wildlife management.

We are ending the year 2023 with significant and record breaking achievements. All this was possible due to the tireless efforts of my team. We are entering the year 2024 with a larger goal of precision, wildlife health management and strive harder to be a role model in zoo management in the state and country respectively.

D. Mahesh Kumar, IFS

Executive Director

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological
Gardens, Mysuru



2. Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign - Oct 1st

The goal of the October 1st Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) campaign was to encourage community involvement by highlighting the value of cleanliness and sanitation through shramdaan activities.

Swachhata campaign was undertaken in Mysuru Zoo, Karanji Lake, Kurghalli Rescue centre and Lalitadripura lake premises. Zoo staff, youth club participants, zoo volunteers and common public participated in the shramdaan activities.





2. 63rd Wildlife Week celebration - Oct 2nd to 8th



Wildlife week was around the corner. Numerous initiatives were undertaken with the aim of enlightening the public and raising awareness about the importance of wildlife and its conservation. Mysuru Zoo has always been involved in conservation education and conducts various activities on wildlife themes every year. As a part of 69th Wildlife Week Celebrations, Mysuru Zoo organized following events from 2nd October 2023 to 8th October 2023.

i Walk for Wildlife - 2nd October, 2023:

“Walk for Wildlife” was organized from the Balarama gate of Mysuru Palace to Zoo. About 300 individuals were part of the walk including students, officers from Forest Department, zoo staff, zoo volunteers & public. The programme was flagged off by Dr. K.V. Rajendra I.A.S Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru.



ii. Photography and Painting exhibition inauguration - 2nd October, 2023:

Paintings from the competition held as part of the "Unite for Big Cats" campaign and photos from the photography competition held as part of the celebration of Wildlife Week were displayed in an exhibition.

Altogether 52 Photographers participated in the competition with a total 128 photographs from both In-situ category (82 Photos) and Ex-situ Category (46 Photos). Dr. K.V. Rajendra I.A.S. Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru inaugurated the above programme on 2nd October, 2023 after the conclusion of “Walk for Wildlife”.



iii. International Zoo Keepers Day - 4th October 2023:

On account of International Zoo Keepers Day, team building exercises were conducted with the support of The Naturalist School and visit to Ranganattitu Bird Sanctuary was organized for Animal Keepers. Around 70 animal keepers participated in the event.



iv. Nature Walk - 5th & 6th October 2023:

Nature walk was conducted on 5th & 6th of October at Karanji Lake Nature Park with the aim of providing a unique opportunity for participants to connect with the natural environment by fostering a sense of awareness about local biodiversity and the importance of conservation efforts. The walk was led by Shri. Karthikeyan S, Chief of Naturalist Jungle Lodges & Resort. Around 40 individual's participated and gained knowledge about flora and fauna.



v. Essay & Elocution Competition - 6th October 2023:

Elocution competition for 8th to 10th Standard students on topic “Climate change and its impact on wildlife” & Essay competition for 10th to PU students on the topic “Implications of plastic on wildlife” was conducted. Around 32 participants representing 9 different institutions participated.





vi. Valedictory Programme - 8th October, 2023:

Valedictory program of the 63rd Wildlife Week celebration was held on 8th October, 2023. The winners of the various competitions conducted as part of 69th Wildlife Week & Unite for Big Cats Campaign were given prizes on this occasion. Shri. B P Ravi, IFS Principal Secretary (Environment & Ecology), Govt of Karnataka was the chief guest for the programme.



4. Wildlife Week valedictory at Karnataka Police Academy (KPA) - October 7th

Karnataka Forest Department had organised state level valedictory function of 69th Wildlife Week at KPA on 7th of October. Mysuru Zoo had setup an exhibition stall on behalf of Zoo Authority of Karnataka. Posters showcasing information on Ex-situ conservation, Zoos of Karnataka, Rescue & Rehabilitation were displayed along with advanced medical and snake handling equipments. Shri. Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka inaugurated the exhibition. Shri Eshwar Khandre, Hon'ble Minister, FEE and Chairman, ZAK, Government of Karnataka, and other dignitaries were present during the occasion.



5. World Sloth Bear Day - October 12th



The World Sloth Bear Day celebration captivated guests as they explored the intriguing world of these unique creatures. The event served as an educational platform, offering a deep dive into the distinctive features of sloth bears and emphasizing their significance in the broader ecosystem.

The interactive session included coloring bear masks, bear-themed crossword puzzles, allowing participants to unleash their creativity while also fostering a deeper connection and appreciation to these remarkable animals, extending the celebration beyond the designated day.



6. International Cheetah Day - Dec 4th



On International Cheetah Day, we passionately joined in support of cheetah conservation, transforming the atmosphere into a roaring celebration against extinction. The Zoo's African Hunting Cheetah enclosure became a focal point adorned with posters and informative fact sheets, educating and enlightening visitors about the critical plight of these majestic creatures.





7. Recent Developmental Works

I Maintenance and repair works at Japan pond enclosure



ii Providing painting to Jaguar enclosure exhibit area



iii Providing interlock pavers near Giraffe enclosure & Gaur enclosure



iv Construction of exhibit area & day kraal at Sloth bear enclosure



v Repair works at Lion Enclosure



8. News in Brief

i. Successful Hand Rearing of Lion-Tailed Macaque and Baboon Infants *Lion-Tailed Macaque*

Mysuru Zoo currently houses four Lion-Tailed Macaques (LTM) in the ratio 2:2. One of the females, named Aishwarya, gave birth to an offspring on 02-07-2023. Aishwarya had a history of insufficient lactation leading to the death of her previous infants. Despite the mother's and troop members' care, the possibility of insufficient lactation was kept in mind, which made it inevitable for the zoo hospital to be prepared for the potential hand rearing of the infant. Postpartum, increased attention was given to the feeding behavior of both the mother and the infant. Supplements were provided to enhance milk synthesis in the mother. The female received close observation, particularly regarding the infant's feeding activities.

Colostrum- the first milk produced upon delivery of the newborn is an important source of essential nutrients to the offspring which contains lymphocytes and monocytes to protect against exposure to infection. It contains high amounts of protein, especially immunoglobulins. Neonates have a limited time (24 – 36 h) in which the immunoglobulins (γ - globulins) can be absorbed through the gut. Thus, feeding of colostrums within this period is important to ensure the presence of antibodies in the newborn. Therefore the infant was left with the mother to nurse whatever amount of colostrum might be present in the female for optimal immune power.

Despite the apparent activity of the infant on day 2, on day 3 (05-07-2023), the female was kept inside the holding room for close observations. A sign of exhaustion and reduced suckling was observed in the infant. Confirmation from Vets regarding insufficient mammary gland development (Mammogenesis) and Galactopoiesis (synthesis of milk) in the mother, it was decided to hand-rear the infant. Upon separating the infant, blood plasma was collected from the female to aid in hand rearing process.

Feeding and weight log of Lion Tailed Macaque			
Day	Average feed consumption per time (ml)	No of Feeding per day	Weight (g)
Week 1	8.9	8	430
Week 2	16.2	8	440
Week 3	17.85	8	540
Week 4	23	8	630g



Hamadrayas Baboon

On 07-07-2023, A Baboon gave birth which showed no interest in her offspring. As the animal was primiparous (giving birth for the first time), the infant baboon was taken for hand rearing.

Neonatal Care Room:

Infants have difficulty in maintaining a constant body temperature, often clinging to their mothers for support. To mimic this, a soft toy resembling a monkey was provided to the infants at all times, and an artificial heat source was employed to create a suitable warm environment.

Feeding Routine

Milk Composition:

The fat, protein, and sugar percentages in whole milk vary across species, influencing the formulation of artificial milk. In case of LTM and Baboon feeding, Lactogen-2 was utilized.

Milk preparation:

Drinking water was boiled and cooled and to this Lactogen-2 powder was added. It was stirred well to remove any lumps and poured to bottle. Milk, slightly higher than room temperature was fed to both the species.

Lion-Tailed Macaque

The following shows 1 month detailed log of the feeding activities of Lion-Tailed Macaque and Baboon, specifically mentioning the date, quantity consumed and weight of the individual.

Feeding and weight log of Hamadrayas Baboon			
Day	Average feed consumption per time (ml)	No of Feeding per day	Weight (g)
Week 1	16.2	8	770
Week 2	20.42	8	870
Week 3	26.7	8	920
Week 4	32.85	8	1,500
Week 5	42.14	8	1,750
Week 6	51.42	8	1,900
Week 7	65	8	2,110

After 2 months, feeding of soft food such as bananas, papaya, egg and apples were started. Gradually green leaves such as coriander, amaranthus, dill leaves, curry leaves were introduced.

Hygiene and Sanitation:

- Caretaker hygiene is paramount during hand rearing of infants with strict adherence to hand-washing, use of glove, apron, and face mask.
- Feeding equipment including feeding bottles and nipples, spoon, syringe were sterilised every day before and after each feeding. Attention was given to Nipple size and opening for proper milk flow.
- As two primate species were reared together, care was taken to keep separate equipments for both the species.
- Bedding materials were washed and sun dried as and when urinated by the animals and regular cleaning of fecal matter was implemented to maintain cleanliness in the neonatal care room.
- Mosquito net was utilized to prevent potential insect infestations in the care room.
- The infants were cared for and handled only by a single caretaker and his movement was restricted to only the neonatal room. Restricted access to the outsiders was maintained.

After 10 days the young ones were allowed for early morning sun exposure for 15 min in a day. As the animals approached 2 weeks old, they were provided with a closed enclosure with branches and platforms fostering for climbing, jumping and brachiation. Regular de-worming has been carried out with regular fecal examinations to detect endoparasites.

Presently the animals are five months, consuming varieties of fruits, vegetables, and green leaves. The young animals are undergoing a gradual introduction to their parents to facilitate familiarization and conspecific behavioral imprinting.

It was a unique challenge of this unprecedented collaboration.

Distinctive occurrence of hand rearing of two different primate species together has taken place for the first time in Mysuru Zoo.

Mysuru Zoo's successful hand-rearing endeavor demonstrates the dedication of caretakers and the zoo's commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of its animal residents. The collaborative effort in rearing both LTM and Baboon infants serves as a testament to the zoo's expertise in wildlife conservation and care.



Blood collection for serum extraction from LTM



3 days old LTM



Milk Preparation



Caretaker feeding milk for LTM & Baboon

Baboon infant



Caretaker with LTM and Baboon infants

Reintroduction Attempt

ii. **Workshop on Wildlife Rescue and Management**

A workshop on “Wildlife Rescue & Management” was organized by Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru from 18th to 20th December 2023 involving Veterinarians and Frontline staff of Forest Department as an effort to increase the capacity and skill sets to veterinarians, and particularly staff assigned to the Leopard Task Force and Elephant Task Force, who work in high-conflict areas of the seven districts of Karnataka viz., Kodagu, Chikamagalur, Hassan, Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagara, and Ramanagara.

A total of 36 participants took part in the workshop comprising 18 Veterinary Officers working in Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, 4 Private Veterinarians and 14 staff members working in the Elephant & Leopard Task Force respectively from above districts.

The Resource Persons involved in the workshop addressed the increasing number of conflict cases and the level of preparedness to approach the conflict mitigation process.

Few topics which were covered Safety protocols, occupational hazard of Wildlife Conflict mitigation team, tranquilizing / immobilizing drugs, advanced animal restraining equipment, field observation techniques, use of digital and IT solutions in IEC (Information, Education and Communication). Hands on sessions were conducted on Fire arm simulation, use of advanced equipment in wildlife rescue operations etc.

Senior Officers of Karnataka Forest Department: Shri Kumar Pushkar IFS, APCCF (Wildlife), Smt. Saswati Mishra IFS, APCCF (Project Elephant / Project Tiger),

Shri A.K. Singh IFS, APCCF & Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka,

Dr. Malathi Priya IFS, Conservator of Forests, Mysuru Circle, Dr. Basavaraj IFS, DCF, Mysuru Division, Shri Saurabh Kumar IFS, Wildlife Division, Mysuru, Smt. Seema IFS, DCF, Hunsur, officers and staff of Mysuru Zoo staff were also the part of the workshop.



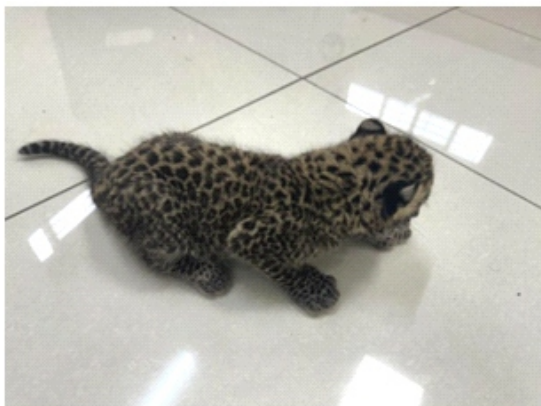


iii. Reuniting Leopard Cubs with Mother – A success story in association with Karnataka Forest Department

On 6/12/2023 three leopard cubs, comprising two males and one female, were rescued from a sugarcane field in Ayarahalli village, Mysuru Taluk, Karnataka. Notably, one of the cubs exhibited a Melanistic trait.

In a strategic attempt to reunite the cubs with their mother, an adult female leopard was successfully captured in a trap cage on 7/12/23. To ensure the integrity of the familial connection, rigorous veterinary care and blood sample collection procedures were meticulously executed at Chamundi Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Kurghalli. Blood samples were collected and sent to AIWC (Advance Institute for Wildlife Conservation, Chennai) and NCBS (National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru) for establishing parental and sibling linkage respectively. This challenging and delicate operation spanned over a period of nine days, showcasing the dedication and expertise of the Leopard Task Force, Chamundi Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, and Territorial Forest Division of Mysuru. Two holding rooms were established reuniting of cubs with mother and CCTV monitoring with least human intervention was ensured.

The successful reunion of the leopard cubs with their mother stands as a testament to the effective collaboration and commitment of all the people involved. The operation not only safeguarded the well-being of the leopard family but also upheld the importance of wildlife conservation efforts.



Scan
QR Code for the video

iv. Environmental Conservation Initiatives at Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru

- Declaration of Silence Zone:**

The City Police Commissioner, Mysuru City wide order number COP/CRM (2)/99/2023 dated 21/12/2023 declared the roads surrounding Mysuru Zoo and Karanji Lake as 'Silence Zones' as per Karnataka Motor Vehicles rule 1989, section 115,116, 218 and 5 A of The Noise Pollution(Regulation and Control)rules,2000 (As amended till 10/8/2017). This prohibits the use of vehicle horns, loudspeakers, and bursting of crackers in the vicinity etc. The objective is to create a tranquil environment for the diverse wildlife inhabiting the region.



- Single Use Plastics (SUP) “Free Zone”:**

The Government of India, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has officially announced the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and their subsequent amendments. These regulations play a crucial role in the effective management of plastic waste across the country. Following the guidelines and under the direction of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru has taken a commendable step by declaring itself a Single Use Plastics (SUP) free zone. This initiative reflects a commitment to reducing the environmental impact of plastic waste, aligning with global efforts to reduce pollution and promote sustainable practices.

The zoo aims to eliminate all SUPs from its premises and is implementing practical measures to achieve this goal. Visitors to the zoo are encouraged to participate in the initiative by using reusable materials. Additionally, visitors are urged to bring their own water bottles, promoting a sustainable and eco-friendly approach.

This commitment to environmental sustainability not only benefits the local ecosystem but also contributes to a broader movement toward reducing plastic pollution.





v. **Introduction of millets to animal enclosures and fodder plots**

Mysuru Zoo has now implemented a progressive initiative to enhance the well-being of the animals under its care. Proso Millet Seeds, Little Millet Seeds, Barnyard Millet Seeds, Foxtail Millet Seeds, Kodo Millet Seeds, and Rajamudi Rice had been sourced from Kanakapura Organic Producer Company Limited and introduced into selected animal enclosures and a dedicated fodder plot in Kurghalli.



This strategic introduction of diverse organic crops serves a dual purpose. Firstly, it aims to cultivate a sustainable source of organic food for the animals, ensuring a wholesome and nutritious diet. These millet seeds and rice varieties offer a rich and varied nutritional profile, promoting the health and vitality of the zoo animals. Incorporating these crops into the animal's diet also serves as a form of enrichment.

Enrichment activities are essential for the physical and mental stimulation of captive animals, mimicking natural behaviors and promoting overall well-being. The provision of diverse and organic food sources not only contributes to the animal's health but also engages them in natural foraging behaviors, creating a more stimulating environment within their enclosures.

By prioritizing the introduction of these millet seeds and rice varieties, zoo demonstrates a commitment to provide animals with a balanced and wholesome diet, thereby ensuring their physical health and psychological well-being.



vi. **Record-Breaking Visitor Turnout at Mysuru Zoo on Christmas Eve 2023**

We achieved a remarkable milestone on the eve of Christmas 2023, experiencing an unprecedented surge in visitor attendance that surpassed all previous records. The zoo recorded an astounding 40,761 visitors on December 24, 2023 exceeding the previous single-day attendance record of 40,675 people set on October 24, 2018.

This accomplishment highlights the enduring popularity of the zoo and the increasing public enthusiasm for wildlife conservation. The management extends gratitude to visitors, officials, and staff for their wholehearted cooperation in making this achievement possible. The record-breaking event is a significant milestone for the zoo, reflecting its pivotal role in fostering a deep appreciation for wildlife and environmental conservation.



9. Transfer / Retirement

i **Shri. B.P. Ravi IFS**, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, served as the Member Secretary of Zoo Authority of Karnataka, from July 2017 to August 2023 with unwavering commitment through his relentless efforts. He played a pivotal role in the growth and development of zoos of Karnataka, notably establishing and uplifting various zoos and contributing to the success of Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK).





He has promoted to the prestigious position as Principal Secretary,(Environment) Dept of Forest Ecology & Environment, Govt of Karnataka. His legacy of dedication and excellence will undoubtedly leave an enduring impact on the ZAK zoos.

Staff members bid farewell in appreciation of his service rendered to the zoos. Mysuru Zoo and Zoo Authority of Karnataka express profound gratitude for his invaluable contributions and unwavering support and extends heartfelt wishes for his new professional endeavors



ii. **T Srinivas** - junior attender got retired on 31st October 2023, after serving for a period of 38 years. The staff of Mysuru Zoo bid him farewell as a sign of gratitude for his contribution to the zoo.



10. Major Adoption from Oct - Dec 2023

Sl. No.	Name	Name of the Bird/ Animal	Term	Period of Adoption	Amount
1.	"Green Guides" JSS Law College	Great White Pelican	1 year	6/10/2023 to 5/10/2024	₹ 25,000/-
2.	N Ranga Rao and Sons Pvt Ltd	Indian Leopard	1 Year	10/10/2023 to 9/10/2024	₹ 50,000/-
3.	JSS A.H.E.R Nature Club Mysuru	Zebra	10 Months	13/10/2023 to 12/10/2024	₹ 62,450/-
4.	Rupesh CN	Indian Leopard	1 Year	18/10/2023 to 17/10/2024	₹ 50,000/-
5.	Rupesh CN	African Hunting Cheetah	1 Year	18/10/2023 to 17/10/2024	₹ 75,000/-
6.	M/s Advait Motors Pvt Ltd,	Elephant and 2-Tiger	1 Year	21/10/2023 to 20/10/2024	₹ 7,00,000/-
7.	Padma Joshi & Anvik Sameesh	Swamp Deer	1 Year	23/10/2023 to 22/10/2024	₹ 15,000/-
8.	MMK & SDM Mahila Maha Vidyalaya	Peacock Golden Pheasant Common Barn owl Black Swan	1 Year	30/10/2023 to 29/10/2024	₹ 30,000/-
9.	H M Gopinatha	Indian Leopard	1 Year	30/10/2023 to 29/10/2024	₹ 50,000/-
10.	Sanjeev Nichani	Lion tailed Macaque Brown Wood Owl	1 Year	10/11/2023 to 9/11/2024	₹ 35,000/-
11.	Vishnu Rao	Brown Wood Owl & Common Barn owl	1 Year	10/11/2023 to 9/11/2024	₹ 10,000/-
12.	Prasad M K	Spotted Deer	1 Year	24/11 /2023 to 23/11/2024	₹ 15,000/-
13.	Shilpa N	Peacock & King Cobra	1 Year	24/11 /2023 to 23/11/2024	₹ 10,000/-
14.	Smt. Gowri Nagaraj	Great Indian Hornbill & King Cobra	1 Year	28/11 /2023 to 27/11/2024	₹ 15,000/-
15.	D Karthik	2- Spotted Deer	1 Year	1/12 /2023 to 30/11/2024	₹ 15,000/-
16.	Gayathri Deshpande	Jungle Cat	1 Year	3/12 /2023 to 2/12/2024	₹ 10,000/-
17.	Rajeev V Chennagiri	Leopard Cat	1 Year	3/12 /2023 to 2/12/2024	₹ 10,000/-
18.	Sheela Dahima	Sun Conure Common Indian Krait Nalay Conure Bronzeback Tree Snake	1 Year	4/12 /2023 to 3/12/2024	₹ 12,000/-
19.	K Varadaraja Kamath	King Cobra & Star Tortoise	1 Year	5/12 /2023 to 4/12/2024	₹ 16,000/-
20.	State Bank of India Saraswathipuram, Mysuru	Tiger	1 Year	14/12 /2023 to 13/12/2024	₹ 2,00,000/-
21.	Hitakrit Srinivas (D Boss Fan)	Jaguar	1 Year	23/12 /2023 to 22/12/2024	₹ 50,000/-
22.	Agastya Iyengar S/o Santhosh Mysore	Black Panther	1 Year	25/12 /2023 to 24/12/2024	₹ 50,000/-

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



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FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON ANIMAL ADOPTION**



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