

## Education Reports from Indian Educators

### World Wetland Day

National Green Corps Students celebrated World Wetlands Day featuring the Amphibian Crisis with slogans

*Let us not pollute the wet lands.*

*Do not convert wetlands into Apartments.*

*Amphibians are important to earth, ecology, environment, people, animal and plants*

*You are important to amphibians*

*Appreciate All the Amphibians*

*Frogs connect the food chain.*

In India out of 240 species 63 are in trouble. Major known threats are habitat loss, climate change, pollution and pesticides, over-collection for food & pets, disease outbreaks.



Students took the pledge to Conserve and protect the Amphibians, their habitat the "wetlands". I will not kill or harm the frogs. Zoo Outreach Organisation sent educational materials for students to create awareness of the need to conserve wildlife, and spread the message to family, friends, fellow students, '2008 YEAR OF THE FROG'. The fabulous frogs are predators of irritating pests, prey for fabulous animals, useful in research & education, nature's indicators of threats

to human, irreplaceable innocent ambassadors of the wild. The Head master of Schaffter Higher Secondary School, W. Joel Revingston, introduced the importance of wetlands. The



NGC Co-ordinator Rani Kirubai Raj gave the programme on Amphibian drama.

World Wide Fund for Nature, India, Tamil Nadu State Office, Chennai conducted a drawing/painting competition to bring mass awareness on the birds, and its conservation through



expression of art. Students received the Certificate of appreciation from the State Director Dr. V. Dakshinamurthy on Salim Ali Bird's day celebration.

World Wetlands Day is observed to mark the importance and value of wetlands. On this day in 1971 the convention on wetlands – RAMSAR Convention was signed in the Iranian City of Ramsar. Wetlands are home for avifauna. They are excellent places, for bird watching. Diverse organisms and plants originate and multiply here only. Ground water springs get fresh water. Replaces the water lost by absorption and transpiration. Reduces mineral deficiency in soil and reduces pollution. Regulates the flood water and strengthens the seashore. Seasonal adversities are kept in check. They form a beautiful picnic spot. **Submitted by Mr. Joel Revingston, Head Master & Ms. Rani Kirubairaj, NGC Co-ordinator, Schaffter Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.**

### World Environment Day programmes by CEE Madhya Pradesh

The Government of Madhya Pradesh celebrated World Environment Day (WED) through a week-long programme with aligning agencies working in the field of environment in the capital city Bhopal. CEE MP State Office was involved in a number of events of WED 2009 at different locations with different



participants. The details of the programme; On 4 June 09 CEE MP State Office participated and conducted KBPA programme

with teachers, principal and representative from NGOs coming for orientation programme of National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) Bhopal chapter. There were 220 participants in the

program who were given the message of climate change and their role in combating it in their day to day life. During the program, the CO<sub>2</sub> Pick Right kit was distributed to all participants and voting for KBPA was conducted.

On 5 June CEE celebrated WED with State NGC Nodal Agency EPCO (Environment Planning and Coordination Organization), Bhopal. The program started early morning with the group of students who were invited by Minister Mr. Jayanth Malaya (Housing and Environment), Govt. of M.P. for inauguration of sticker made for WED-2009 on different environmental theme for stakeholders of the city. CEE facilitated the program and took students to different parks for distribution of stickers. CO<sub>2</sub> Pick Right kit was also distributed to all participants who came for WED.



From CEE, Mr. Dilip Chakravarty and Mr. Joseph Kujur participated at RCBP Narona Administrative Academy in state level seminar on climate change addressed by renowned environmentalist Shri Ashish Kothari, Director, Kalpavriksh from Pune. The topic was discussed by the expert group for drafting State policy on Climate Change in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The exhibition on climate change was organized in the campus.

On 6 June the WED was celebrated in collaboration with Capital Project Administration, (CPA), Bhopal at Ekant Park. The celebration was conducted in two sessions. The first session was for the regular park visitors and walkers in the park. The program started at 6.30 A.M. with registration and distribution of KBPA CO<sub>2</sub> Pick Right Kit to participants and explaining them on climate change. An activity of message writing on climate change was also taken by visitors. More than 150 visitors participated in the WED programme.

Exhibition was installed at the park entrance by CEE and CPA for the entire visitors. The exhibition focused on climate change and environmental concern. Images reflect the message to take measures by an individual to combat climate change at their own level. The message written on posters was explained by Mr. Joseph to the students.

The second session was for the school children, teachers, NGOs and the staff from CPA. The programme started with the plantation in the Ekant Park. More than 50 saplings were planted by the participants. The importance of plantation was addressed by Dr. Atul Shrivastava, Conservator of Forests, CPA, Bhopal to all the participants after which fruiting species were planted at Ekant Park with the help of CPA officials.



After plantation, participants were divided into three different groups and taken to nature trail. The participants were exposed to vivid biodiversity of park and they came across many species of plants, birds and butterflies. Taxonomist was all along with the group during nature trail.

Quiz and painting competition on climate change were organized with the students and a cap of CEE was given as a token of appreciation. Nature trail was also organized to understand the biodiversity of Ekant Park. CEE exhibited the poster and banners on the occasion of WED at Ekant Park. At the end the certificates were given to all participants. More than 75 participants took part in the programme.

On 8 June CEE in collaboration with Regional Science Center, Bhopal and EPCO celebrated WED by taking session of KBPA and climate change with 75 students and distributed the CO<sub>2</sub> Kit.

On 9 June 2009 in collaboration with EPCO under NEAC program at Indore (M.P.), Dr. Abha Sinha organized KBPA programme with teachers, principal and representative of NGO coming for orientation programme of National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) Indore chapter on behalf of CEE. There were 150 participants in the program. A



Maitri Group, Bhopal and Bhopal based NGO-Training and Research Society for Nature Conservation, Bhopal also celebrated WED-09 programmes with support of CEE Madhya

Pradesh State Office, Bhopal. **Submitted by: Dilip Chakravarty, CEE Madhya Pradesh State office, Bhopal. Email: dilip.chakravarty@ceeindia.org**

### Report on Bat Kit program during summer camp

During the summer vacations, two day camps were held for 25 children between the ages of 10 and 14 at the Madras Crocodile Bank. During the camp the children were given a guided tour of the Croc bank and got an opportunity to take pictures with our young reptiles. Besides the tour and some fun filled and informative animal activities they went on a night safari in Croc bank and took a trip to Nemelli, a village situated close to the Croc Bank, which has a large banyan tree and is a known roosting place for fruit bats. The next morning, they went for a snake trek in the nearby village. They also spent some time with the puppet theatre where they made their own script.

The trip to the bat colony was aimed at getting children familiar with the denizens of the night! They saw a large number of roosting Fruit bats.



The kids saw many seeds dispersed by the bats near this roosting tree and thus learned first-hand about the importance of these bats in seed dispersal and pollination. Most of them had never seen such a large colony of bats. The Education Officer gave them all the information about these 'flying foxes'.

The kids tried hanging from the banyan tree to get a feel of what it would be like to hang from a tree like the bats.

All the children were given the Bat education kits and they quickly wore the mask. They tied the *rakhi* to each other and promised to protect the bats. They were given information about different types of bats, the threats to bats and their importance. They were also given the Fruit Bats of South Asia (pocket cards).

There was a question and answer round to clarify all the myths they had about bats. All in all it was some time spent going batty about bats!!!

**Submitted by Akanksha Mukherjee, Education Officer, Centre for Herpetology / Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Mamallapuram, TN, Email: education.mcbt@gmail.com**

### HEC during WED in Sri Lanka

Elephant Orphanage Pinnawala organized an environmental education and awareness program to celebrate World Environmental Day on 5 June for school students from different schools of Pinnawala. About 95 advance level students, 30 environmental cadet students and 8 teachers participated in it. Staff of the elephant orphanage, including Assistant Director, Veterinary Surgeon and three Education and Research Assistants were the resource persons for the program. The Director and the Dy Director of National Zoological Gardens gave their fullest cooperation for the success of the program. The aim of the program was mainly to understand the causes and concerns of human elephant conflict in Sri Lanka as well as in other parts of the world. Finding out solutions, suggestions to get rid of the human elephant conflict also was an objective.

Participants were divided into three groups and motivated. To start with the basics of elephant features such as internal features and external morphology were taught. Followed by it the present condition of Sri Lankan elephants, e.g. number and causes of deaths, population in Sri Lanka, habitats, and conservation activities were discussed. Later, we tried to explain how human-elephant conflict increased in Sri Lanka in past two centuries during the colonial period. Past and current methods used to avoid human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka and other Asian countries were described. Issues at international level were also discussed. Afterward a quiz program was conducted with ten students randomly selected from each group. At the end of quiz program students presented activities about environmental problem or issue with songs, short dramas and dialogs. Every student was awarded a participatory certificate and winners of the quiz program were gifted at the end of the program.

**Submitted by Lanka Kumari Dharmadasa, Education & Research Assistant, Elephant Orphanage, Pinnawala, Sri Lanka. E-mail: lankadharmadasa@yahoo.com**

### Report of day-long Program on "Getting Along with Elephants HECx" in Nepal

The program was organized on 23rd May, 2009 at the Orphan Center of Bachhauli, Chitwan - Nepal. The Orphan Center is located adjacent to Government Elephant Stable of Chitwan National Park - Sauraha. The program was basically facilitated by Mrs. Ram Maya Lama, one of the women participants of the training. In the program, she was mainly taught and shared the knowledge and ideas that whatever she has learnt



in the training program. In this regard, she has played the games/dramas to the kids and shared / passed the knowledge and information whatever she has gained in the training. The target groups of the program

were the orphan children and other village children as well. In total, 17 participants were participated in the program that includes 6 girls and 11 boys.

**Organized by: Mrs. Ram Maya Lama, Chairman, Children and Women Group Committee, Bachhauli, Chitwan, and the report submitted by Yogendra Lama, NTNC, Chitwan, Nepal. Email: lamayogendra@yahoo.com**

### **Rakshabandhan Festival Education programmes at Pune Zoo**

The Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park and Wildlife Research Centre, Katraj, Pune celebrated *Rakhipoornima* by conducting *Rakshabandhan* programme. Ninety one students of 8th standard were invited from Bharati Vidyapeeth Kanya Prashala, Dhankawadi on 4 August 2009. A plantation programme was organized to disseminate information on the importance of trees and forests, need to save them, to teach about simple techniques of nursery development and its



maintenance. The zoo Education Officer, Ms. Ashwini Shitole imparted information regarding ecological importance of forests, afforestation activities and need for forest conservation. Later

they were asked to fill bags with soil, manure and sowed seeds as well as planted cuttings of various plants. As the occasion of *Rakshabandhan* was to fall on the next day (5 August) an activity of making '*Rakhi*' using seeds were conducted. Students were highly enthusiastic and used their creativity and came up with colourful and attractive *rakhis* to tie on their brothers' hands.

They were instructed to sow the seeds used in the *rakhi* to their own garden later. RGZP also celebrated '*Rakshabandhan*' on 6 August 2009 with 100 students of 9th standard of SPM English Medium School, Sadashiv Peth, Pune. The students were welcomed by the Zoo education department and foremost they were informed about the Do's and Don'ts of the zoo. The programme was initiated by distributing education packets received from Zoo Outreach Organisation. Two themes viz. '*STOP Dancing Bear shows*' and '*Conservation-Careless or Conservation-Conscious Zoos*' were the highlight of this programme.

The tool kits provided by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore contained a mask, poster, booklet, sticker, etc. The Zoo Education Officer, Ms. Ashwini Shitole spoke to them on Sloth Bears, their importance in nature and threats to their lives and how students could help stop Dancing Bear shows. She also focused on various aspects of zoo management and what an individual can do to become '*Conservation-Conscious*' visitor of the zoo. The word *Rakshabandhan* is made up of



two different words viz. '*Raksha*' means '*Protection*' and '*Bandhan*' means '*Duty*'. So all the girl students tied *Rakhis* on boys' hands and together they pledged their support for the protection of wild animals. Girl students performed a skit on the theme of '*STOP Dancing Bear shows*' and while the boys enacted a street play on the '*Do's and Don'ts in the zoo*'. The message was clearly conveyed to the audience and students hopefully they would take the message home and spread it around. The programme ended with a rally around the zoo during which all students had worn their masks and carried posters on which conservation message was written. The zoo education officer was ably assisted by Ms. Shradha Sangewar (zoo keeper) and Mr Neel Kulkarni (zoo volunteer) during the programme. **Submitted by Ms. Ashwini Shitole, Zoo Education Officer, Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Pune, Maharashtra. Email: rajivgandhizoo@punecorporation.org**

# Jessie Jeyakaran's CD 2010 Programmes



## CD 2010 at NESSA Office Chennai

NESSA is an acronym for Nurturing the Essentials for Sustainable Societal Actions, a trust in the Church RU-AH Revival Ministries located in Chennai.



NESSA takes care of the downtrodden, marginalised and under-privileged adult, women and children besides creating awareness about

environment. The senior children of the church in the eco-wing took the Amphibian Ark programme.

Due to climate change, deforestation, water pollution and a fungal disease called "chytrid", the number of frogs are decreasing around the globe. Their part in the food chain is essential so it is important to create awareness and generate action in support of biodiversity and environment. Programs for two years till December 2010 have been planned internationally. Educational packets by Zoo Outreach Organisation funded by international organizations were distributed to students aged from 11 to 15 on 29 March 2009 at NESSA office.

With rakhies, placard, sticker, and information booklets, students also were given depth knowledge about the topic. One student enacted a role play on frog. Amphibian educational games also were conducted along with discussions about the location of water-beds where the frogs are seen. Students came to understand the decrease in numbers. Frogs are destroyed due to water



pollution in the urban area and deforestation in rural and hilly places. Students discussed availability of water and calculated the number of liters gained and lost per day at home and in public places by using a chart for the purpose. With

knowledge gained they narrated how water becomes polluted and they planned an action program to prevent this at home, school and in nearby natural resources. They also committed to distribute saplings on special days to needy areas in Chennai before July 09 as first step of CD 2010.

## Countdown 2010 at SVK International School.

A Biodiversity programme was conducted in SVK International School in Kannanur, Chekanurani, Madurai. The school has an I.C.S.E syllabus and covers about 36 acres in the lap of nature. The days programme on Countdown 2010 began with Principal Mrs. Hannah Cecil's welcome. The Resource Person gave the key-note address. Free



education packets designed and produced by Zoo Outreach Organisation were distributed by the co-ordinator of the programme along with a



calendar for two years to record monthly activities. The Resource Person highlighted Amphibian Crisis citing reasons for amphibian loss: habitat loss, climate change, pollution and pesticides, over-collection for food and pets, and chytrid fungus. Rakhis, masks and stickers distributed to the students in educational packets. There were also games and quizzes for children along with drawing a frog using a computer with an Amphibian Ark Cap offered as a prize. Construction workers working on the school construction site were also involved in the day's programme receiving car stickers featuring AArk. The students were also involved in observing flora and fauna in a selected area during the biodiversity activity session. A role play on conservation of frogs was carried out with the help of masks. Students were also involved in a tree planting. **Submitted by Jessie Jayakaran, Retd. Teacher & Volunteer, Conservation Educationist, Chennai. E-mail: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**



### CD2010 - Adayar Poonga, Chennai

In the third recent workshop, eighteen students along with three teachers from two different schools in Chennai were invited to carry out a two years project. Even though the school reopens on 8th June, the headmistress and the principal of Sri RKM Saradha Model GHSS and Satya Matric GHSS, Chennai sent the students to a day-long program at Adayar Poonga, Chennai. The days program began with an introductory explanation about Adayar poonga at the exhibition centre. Mr. Cyril Rufus, The Education Officer at Adayar poonga welcomed the gathering and gave a brief note on climate change and the importance of saving the biodiversity. Jessie Jeyakaran gave a detailed note on UN from conference at Stockholm, Rio de Janeiro, and Johannesburg along with the decade of education for sustainable development besides Countdown 2010.

Educational packets on amphibians, a CD, 2010 calendar and bumper stickers supplied by Zoo Outreach organization were distributed along with a detailed explanation. Activity sessions -- frog race, frog and snake game, habitat loss- an activity with news paper and role play, were carried out by the resource persons. Competitions featuring composition of songs and drawing helped students realise their potential. Saplings supplied by DFO were distributed. Students will begin with a signature campaign and carry out month-wise activities. The same students will be coming for a review meeting once in three months to Adayar Poonga which will be followed with guidance for future programs. Prizes were distributed to winners. Ms. R. Sujatha and Mr. S. S. Kumar, special reporter and photographer from The Hindu recorded the day's program which was published on the next day itself. **Submitted by Cyril Rufus, Educational Officer, Adayar poonga, Chennai and Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran.**



**Editorial note: Countdown 2010 is a project undertaken in association with partners throughout the world to insure that all governments and members of civil society, at every level, have taken the necessary actions to halt or significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Jessie Jeyakaran has taken up this cause with much enthusiasm and conducted many programmes in the last few months.**

## Kishore Kotecha Reports - WCT educational activities

### **Wildlife Conservation Trust (Rajkot)**

#### **Activity Report for 2008 – 09**

The Rajkot based WCT seriously understands the need of barricading open wells and took this as the most priority activity. As a result of hard work, the Trust completed a mega-task of barricading 2218 wells in more than 40 villages in 5 ranges surrounding Gir East and Gir West. The total in Gir East was 1641, in Gir West 577, total in Gir 2218. This was indeed a herculean task done by WCT.

WCT rescues wild animals including lions when they fall in to open wells using ropes. Such operations are time-consuming and sometimes delay may result in the animals' death or an injury when it is being pulled out. Coordinating with Shri Bharat Pathak (CF-WL), Shri Raja (DCF-WL), Sasan Rescue Team and John & Deb Fox of Large Animal Rescue, USA, WCT designed a crane and few small capturing aids. They also manufactured one sample of each of these equipments and handed it over to Sasan forest department in April 2008. The open well project attracted many individual donors, WWF, India, Steve (Lions of Gir Foundation USA), Rajkot Builders Association, Lions Clubs Int. Dist-323J and other. WCT executed much of the work and total funding by VHF.

Their website [www.asiaticlion.org](http://www.asiaticlion.org) has exhaustive information on Gir and Asiatic Lion had very good number of visitors (144000 total page loads). Also their News Blog <http://asiatic-lion.blogspot.com> instantly posts last minute news about Gir and Asiatic Lions has many new and regular visitors. (36000 total page loads). WCT also has created 24 issues of Fortnightly "Asiatic Lion e-Bulletin" which were regularly sent to lion lovers all around the world.

WCT celebrated Wildlife Week from 2–8 October 2008 in alliance with Gujarat Forest Department, Rajkot Municipal Zoo and Balbhavan. They conducted various vivid programmes and events such as wildlife education fair, essay & drawing competitions and other programmes to create awareness amongst the students and then the society at large. Wildlife Education Fair held at Shyama Mukherjee Art Gallery, Race Course, Rajkot on 4th and 5th Oct 08 was inaugurated by Shri Pradeep Khanna, (PCCF – WL and Chief Wildlife Warden of Gujarat) and other dignitaries.

Highlights included photo exhibits of a well-known wildlife photographer Shri Bhushan Pandya, a stall advertising the Open Well project, a staff by Rajkot Zoo with display of animal products and a staff by Forest department displaying medicinal plants and other items.

They also conducted awareness programmes with slides screened in a multi-screen Cosmoplex and Galaxy Cinema. 1000 posters (A2 size) were distributed in 700 schools and public places. Awareness articles and celebration information was widely promoted in Print Media. BigFM radio station played the promo for the event for about two weeks. Essay and drawing competitions were also held. Full financial support for this celebration was provided by Wildlife Conservation Trust.

#### **Acknowledgment**

Our special thanks to participants Dr. M G Maradia, Balendra Vaghela, Bhushan Pandya, Rama Sachidananda, Bhavesh Trivedi, Kamlesh & Jignesh Shah, Campaign Ad, Rajdeep Jhala, all the student volunteers and Media. **Submitted by Kishore Kotecha, Wildlife Conservation Trust, Rajkot, Gujarat. E-mail: [info@asiaticlion.org](mailto:info@asiaticlion.org)**

## Save Gir



## Save Asiatic Lion

## Reports from D.H. Tanuja of Mysore

### Programme in Ekalavyanagar, Mysore

The N.Ranga Rao Foundation, or NR Foundation, is a non-profit charitable trust of the NR Group, Mysore, which funds seven community - based learning centres. Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, implements the project. The project promotes learning among dropouts and economically weak section of society such as Ekalavyanagar, in Mysore. The occupants of this area, a nomadic settlement, are from different parts of the



country. The 300 odd families belong to various tribes. Shacks, pig stys, sheep and goat pens make up for most of the settlement.

On 15 July, Smt. Kavitha, the learning centre teacher, shifted the centre from one shack to another as it was raining and the thatched roofs were leaking. Students trickled in one by one, and about 11 students finally turned up. The programme started, they had noticed a lot of birds, insects and animals around them. They had also noticed different calls of frogs and they said they were more vocal when it started raining. Students were introduced to the word 'Amphibian' and told how important frogs are to us. They knew frogs control mosquitoes. A few of them had killed frogs for no specific reason, although they killed garden lizards thinking money would come to them if they buried the dead reptiles, although no money had ever come. This was a perfect opportunity to undermine the myth underpinning killing innocent creatures around us.

The Amphibian colouring book was distributed and students happily started colouring. They were told that prey of each amphibian was on the facing page. They were encouraged to notice different calls made by different individuals and make a note of every frog activity they saw around them. By the end of the programme, they were enthusiastic for more such interesting activities. They promised not to kill any frogs or garden lizards.

I thank the NR foundation, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Kavitha, the teacher, the children of the Ekalavyanagar learning Centre and the Zoo Outreach organisation, Coimbatore, for the materials.

### Programme at Government Primary School, Jayalakshmipuram

Government Primary school, Jayalakshmipuram, Mysore, had a follow up programme on 18th July 2009. It is one of the schools which has dedicated teachers and Principal and they in turn try to make learning interesting for the students. Students of 4th and 5th standard were asked to recap what they had learnt in the last session on amphibians. They were given an assignment to collect as much information as possible on frogs, such as songs, stories, proverbs, paper clippings, etc. They were encouraged to continue to pursue the assignment. The students were asked to name the largest living mammal on land, 'elephant' and to list how elephant is used in our culture and tradition. They narrated the story of how Lord Ganesh got his head and related seeing elephants at Mysore Dasara procession. One student had seen it in the Mysore zoo. They were told how difficult it is for elephants to stay in the forest, as their natural home is being



encroached. They were led to answer why elephants left the forest and raided surrounding plantation crops. They were told how much food and water an elephant requires per day. They were given the Ele-kit packet and were led through the activities with rakhi, commitment, wearing masks, etc.



I thank the Principal Pushpa, teachers and the students of the Government Primary school, Jayalakshmipuram, Mysore, and the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore for their interesting materials.

**Monkey Manners Programme in Nanjangud, Karnataka 25 July 2009**

Sri Acharya Gurukula Shishuloka, is in Kadakola, Nanjangud taluk, an upcoming town, at a distance of about 15kms from Mysore. This relatively new formal school truly believes in giving the children maximum exposure to learning outdoors and nature education. The school has nursery and standard 1 and 2. The combined strength is 21 from Primary School section. The students were asked if they had seen monkey, where and what it eats? Yes, they had seen monkeys near their house, temples, forest and in zoo. One even said, a monkey had visited his house. They said they are seen in troops usually. When they were told, "We too are monkeys but without tail", they looked very surprised. They were told about the Bonnet macaque, the most common one, its tell tale feature the bonnet hair on its head. Next opportunity when they saw a bonnet macaque they were asked to observe the cheek pouch, colour, and hair on its body, number of individual in the

troop and draw the same picture on paper and colour it.

Following, the children were given South Asia Monkey colouring book. They were told that the monkeys in the poster and in the book were found in our neighbouring states and sometimes countries. The plant in the book with the monkey was one of its foods. They were asked to look for the colour code to colour, along with the poster as reference to colour the monkeys. To end the programme the children chattered like monkeys. The children promised to respect the monkeys to leave them alone and not to stone them.

Acknowledgement: I thank Rashmi Harish and Harish, the people running the school, the teachers and the students of Sri Acharya Gurukula Shishuloka, Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore, for their gracious help by providing ready materials. **Submitted by Tanuja D.H., Mysore, Karnataka. Email: tanujadh@gmail.com**



## APOWA empowered by Mahaveer Awards

### APOWA gets Bhagwan Mahaveer in New Delhi

APOWA (Action for Protection of Wild Animals), Orissa awarded with the prestigious 12 Bhagwan Mahaveer Awards from the Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation, Chennai, India for Excellence in Human Endeavour in the sphere of Non-violence and



Vegetarianism. The award was given by the Hon'ble President of India, Her Excellency Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on 19 May 2008. The award consists of cash prize, a Commendatory Scroll and a golden Memento.

With a new identity and commitment, APOWA is now ready for a new journey marked by more achievements and prosperity. The newly recipient Mahaveer Awards will not only give APOWA more strength but will also further fuel the commitment and dedication of APOWA Team with new zeal and vigor so as to enhance the installed capacity to give more service to the society.

### Congratulations to APOWA from Zoo Outreach Organisation



### Celebration of 60th Vana Mahotsava Week 1-7 July 2009

*Vanamahotsava*, a great festival of tree planting is being celebrated all over India in the First week of



Children planting trees on the occasion of 60th Vanamahotsav Week

July every year. APOWA celebrated the 60th - *Vanamahotsava* festival 2009 with a message to love and care for nature as our future sustenance. This year, we celebrated the festival in USAK High School, Arua Kadaliban. It was a special event, celebrated in a different way for a week:

Day 1- Documentary play & drama by children ref awareness of forest resources, deforestation, and necessity of reforestation

Day 2- Self created poems, songs about nature, environment, awareness of types of pollutions.

Day 3- Drawing and essay competitions about nature and human caused pollution.

Day 4- Children planted trees on this occasion



This Art work of Kumari Bandita Swain won 1st Prize in the Art Competition

Day 5- Closing ceremony in which many dignitaries participated.

### Observation of International Mangrove Action Day

A poster and photo exhibition programme was organized at Sivananda Sishu Mandir at Rajanagar, Orissa on 26th July by APOWA. More than five hundred children and people of the nearby schools and villages visited the exhibition. The visitors enjoyed the activity and projects on mangroves were prepared by the children of various schools.

The exhibition was open to general public and children from nearby schools of mangrove area were invited to participate in the programme. Immediately after the inauguration, students up to primary level were gathered for colouring and painting activity. All the students were given papers and asked to draw a picture of the mangrove ecosystem that they find in the surrounding villages and forest. Once the activity was over all the drawings were put up for display on selected spots at the venue. The participants asked for question & answer session and lot of thoughtful questions was raised and answered by

the resource persons. Prizes were distributed at the end of the meeting and participants /audience/ visitors were able to know more about importance of mangroves and get a better understanding about the mangrove ecosystem. Apart from that, on the occasion of International Mangrove Action Day 2009, a panel discussion on 'Mangrove Ecosystem for Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction' was jointly convened by Centre for the Environment and Public Policy (CEPP), Bhubaneswar and Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA) at the state capital Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

Sharing experiences from threatened parts along Orissa's coast, participants deliberated on the urgency to protect and conserve mangroves. Among others NGOs, CBOs, representatives from Fisherman communities of the Orissa coast were deliberated on the existing and emerging challenges associated with mangrove protection and coastal livelihood security for the mangroves. **Submitted by APOWA (Action for Protection of Wild Animals) Hatapatana, Po. Kadaliban, Kendrapara, Orissa. E-mail : mail@apowa.org, web: www.apowa.org.**



A school student perform his art work and project on mangroves at the exhibition



Crowd of visitors