

Wildlife Week at Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai

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The Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai celebrated Wildlife Week during the 1st Week of October 2003. This week is observed mainly for conservation of wildlife and creating awareness among the students and public.

On the occasion of 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanthi, an exclusive programme had been organized by the Zoo's Education Unit, for Scout students of B.S.P. Higher Secondary School, Risali, Bhilai. One of the oaths taken by scouts is that "A Scout is a friend of animals" for betterment of wildlife, their habitat and the environment. During this programme, the students were also taught to:

- Create awareness among the public
- Protect our valuable wildlife
- keep or help to keep the zoo clean
- Be a friend of animals and help save them
- Teach visitors about wildlife conservation
- Learn about and follow the Wildlife Protection Act.

The "Don't's" that were taught were:
Don't make noise inside the zoo
Don't tease the animals
Don't feed the zoo animals
Don't hurt or injury to any animals
Don't buy any wild animals Products
Don't pollute the zoo
Don't violate the Wildlife Protection Act ("When the buying stops, the killing can too".)
Don't touch the zoo animals

In addition to the above, the students were taught the importance of animals and the Zoo, wildlife and their conservation, their breeding, feeding habits, behaviour etc. The students took an oath to obey these rules to conserve wildlife and their heritage.

The students were provided a Zoo Patrol Kit containing stickers, a handout on the Wildlife Protection Act, an identify card, rakhi on wildlife, and other hand outs provided by the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. They also vowed never to buy any wild animal product and to protect wildlife during their lifetime by tying the rakhi to one another.



The students were taken around the Zoo to interact with visitors. The students went around telling visitors not to feed or tease animals, not to make noise and help keep the Zoo clean. They went around the Zoo with a handout on the Wildlife Protection Act in their hands and a card saying "Zoo Patrol" on their shirts and interacted with visitors.

Painting competition
Earlier, a painting competition was organized on 05 July 2003 to create awareness about wildlife and encourage involvement of students in protecting and conserving wildlife. Selected students from various B.S.P. schools participated in this

programme. The paintings were exhibited to the public, both by printed and electronic media. People from various professions appreciated the paintings and the interest shown by students on wildlife and environment. The best paintings were given prizes on the concluding day.

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