

## Dare to Care for Bears, tigers and bats -- RMNH and ZOO Animal Welfare Education and Nature Study

S. Sethuramalingam\*

### Vivekananda Tribal Centre for Learning at Hosahalli.

The museum outreach education programme on wildlife conservation and wildlife fortnight - 2004 was conducted at Vivekananda Tribal Centre for Learning at Hosahalli, H.D. Kote Tq., Karnataka during 31 January 2004 and 1 February 2004.

As it was decided earlier to conduct environmental/zoo/wildlife education this year too, in co-ordination with Zoo Outreach Organization (Coimbatore) and Mysore Amateur Naturalists (Mysore) at various places in Karnataka, focus on the grass root level, i.e., for school children - family groups at rural - semi urban and forest, fringe population.

A programme was conducted at Vivekananda Tribal Centre for Learning, Hosahalli. H.D. Kote Tq., Karnataka, where the N.G.O. organisation Swamy Vivekananda Youth Movement is conducting a variety of programmes for the welfare of the tribes Kadu Kuruba - Jenu Kuruba - Yerava and Mullu Kuruba, who live in forest areas of the H.D. Kote Tq.

Animal welfare fortnight 2004 was conducted at the S.V.Y.M., Hosahalli school premises. Where the organization is managing a co-education residential school for the Triban children numbering 350 children studying from primary to high school level. The lower age group was between 9-12 years and the higher age group is between 12-19 years.

On 31.1.04 DARE TO CARE FOR BEARS programme was conducted. Along with the education materials provided by Z.O.O., RMNH supplied the participants the Kannada version of the text material. About 60 children as participants, besides observers from nearby tribal settlements including senior students, teaching faculty participated in this programme. Games mentioned in the guide books were followed, many skits and games formulated instantly also to enthuse the gathering.

1) An interaction between the trainers and the children was arranged on the theme bears. Since the school is located on the banks of River Kapila, amidst dry deciduous jungles of Western Ghats, it is easy to find out many relevant observations by children on Bears, which are frequenting the school campus.

2) Children participated in all activities such as, how the sloth bear climbs over tree trunk, and how they may dig out hills or turn over small rocks, boulders, etc.

3) They enacted the skit of a bear keeper making the bear to play. In the first part, they kept the bear keeper in place of bear and bear as the master. They sang songs in their dialect Jenunudi (a primitive version of Kannada) narrating the plight of the animal when it was under the control of man. They also demonstrated the reverse roles!

The above programme attracted the attention of huge groups of people from the area around the school campus and was well appreciated.

### Day II

The second day's subject was TIGER. The materials supplied by Z.O.O (Tiger tool kit) was used. The age group selected was 12 and 19 years. Totally 70 children participated in this programme.

The children were explained about different tiger species distributed on earth. The text provided in tiger tool kit prepared by Z.O.O, Coimbatore and RMNH museum literature in Kannada was used to brief the children.

Incidentally, the school campus located the project tiger area and the Kapila corridor is being frequented by tigers and elephants. Most of the participants faced chance encounter of tigers in this area in one or the other occasion. This was a plus point to make them, understand the important role of tiger in nature conservation.

In the II phase, the children were taken to the forest area adjacent where they have reported to have seen tiger. They were able to locate the nail marks on the barks of the trees and collect days old tiger scat.

In the third phase, they were explained about the 1972 Wildlife (Protection) act. The Do's & Don'ts were informed to the children in Kannada. The animal trafficking etc., was explained to them. They were requested to lend their co-operation to end such acts.

The children enacted territory-marking behaviours of a tiger, like sharpening/tree marking, pouncing on prey and growling of cubs. They have also narrated several stories related to tigers in their area. Mr. Mahesh, Shri. S.J. Srinivasa, Shri. Mohan, trained by Teachers for Tigers workshop held at Mysore, were the resource persons for this programme.

The animal Welfare Fortnightly programme earlier began at RMNH premises on 6.1.04. A special programme on conservation of tigers, Bears and bats were arranged for the participants of another programme 'Zonal level computer fair' for high school students of Mysore at RMNH premises. The participants of computer fair programme arranged by the Department of Information Technology, Government of Karnataka too enjoyed to be the part of wildlife fortnight programme of this year.



Students with Masks

\* Scientist-in-charge, RMNH, Siddarth Nagar, Mysore 570 011, Karnataka

# Arkavati River Valley, Magadi Taluk, Bangalore District Report on nature study

Dr. S. Sethuramalingam\*

The RMNH outreach environmental education programmes in collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore- Mysore Amateur Naturalists, Mysore and Vani Group of School, Bangalore was conducted to create an awareness among teachers about wild animals, since Kokkarebellur as well Melukote programmes could not be materialized as proposed.

The above said, nature study programmes was conducted from 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> of April 04 at Arkavati River Valley, Magadi Taluk, Bangalore District. 35 teachers (middle school and high school) working at Vani group of Schools participated. These programmes were based on urban wildlife search, nature walk in the Arakavati River Valley.

Theme

1. Dare to Care Bear
2. Tiger tool Kit
3. Bats

## Geographical location

The Arkavati valley was covered with dense, grasslands and shrub jungle. Now due to the impact of urbanization, there was a slow degradation of wild environment. The river Arkavathi is the main drinking water source for west part of Bangalore.

On the first day, the group moved in to the valley, which is now a dried river site. On either side of the river coconut plantations are coming up. Here irrigation source is tube wells. Sand mining along this bed is another major activity. The group surveyed and came to know major threats, such as cleaning of natural vegetation for animal husbandry, fuel wood, sand-mining, stone quarry activities, which can play a major role in degradation of local environment and ecology in relation to the distribution of bats, bears and tigers. The similar anthropocentric pressures on the habitats of tigers, bears and bats were discussed

Second day – the team was taken to the nearby undisturbed shrub jungle grassland area where informations about Bear were shared. Savana Durga Forest range in Magadi is a natural habitat for the bears and leopards. In the natural habitat itself, this time the participants took part in many activities as directed by the Z.O.O. manual.

To study the bats on the third day afternoon and evening, the participants trekked along the Magadi-Bangalore highway under the avenue trees, like *Ficus bengalensis*, *F. glomarata*, *F. mysorensis*, *Madhuka indica*, *Mangifera indica*, neem, etc. Many of these trees are more than a century old. The participants made a search for the hanging bats on the trees, tree holes, etc. Soon after the sunset, they could watch the fruit bats leaving colonies in search of food while the smaller bats moved in search of insects/ flowers, etc., in the nearby Banana, coconut plantation. The activities carried exactly matched with that of the manual supplied by Z.O.O.

On the fourth day, participants were taken to the nearby water points, where they watched the deep footprints of cattle came for drinking water. On that day, they learnt about the predatory behaviour of Tigers. With the Tiger tool kit education materials and a copy of teachers for tiger manual, suggested activities, such as territory marking, hunting, tree marking, tiger trade and talking a pugmark in P.O.P. were conducted.

On the fifth day and concluding day, all experience was summarized and an open discussion was held with the senior principal and staff of Vani group of schools, Bangalore regarding the last three day programmes. The role of Z.O.O. Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) in the conservation education was highlighted.

\* Scientist- in-charge, Regional Museum of Natural History Siddarth Nagar, Mysore –570 011, Karnatka.



Web of Life



Teachers wearing mask



Students with Banner



Teachers reading bear booklet



Dancing bears



Teachers wearing tiger mask

## A Report on Wildlife Week'2003 celebration by Society for Northeast Heritage Simanta Kalita\*

Society for Northeast Heritage (Sneh) celebrated the Wildlife Week 2003 in two phases in three locations in Western Assam. The first phase or Pre Wildlife Week was celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2003 at Hatigaon High School, Guwahati. The program included a Slide Show, Environmental Games ('Monkey say monkey do' and 'Who am I?') and an Open Environmental Quiz. Over 300 students, teachers and common peoples attended the program. The program was supported by Zoo Outreach Organisation and Aranyak

The second phase or the main phase of the program was organized in two locations i.e. Assam State Zoo, Guwahati from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2003 and New Goalpara High School, Goalpara on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2003. The main phase programs were organized in collaboration with CEE-Northeast and Assam State Zoo and support from Zoo Outreach Organization.

The activities of the program held at Assam State Zoo including Painting competitions, Quiz competitions, Elephant Rally, and Wildlife Film Show. Over 300 students, common people, forest department workers and environmental workers from the region participated in the programs.

The activities of the program held at Goalpara included Painting competition, Quiz competition, Public meeting, Oath taking for environment protection and Environment Games ('How many monkeys in a tree?' and 'Monkey say-monkey do'). More than 100 students, teachers, Guardians, media persons and common people attended the programs. The summary of the program is given below.



Painting Competition



Displaying the painting

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Date	Venue	Activities	Subjects experts	Participants	Collaborating Agencies	Supporting Agencies
25.09.2003	Hatigaon High School, Guwahati	Slide Show Environmental Game Quiz	Simanta Kalita Kakoli Das Simanta Kaliata	Students -300 Teachers- 20 Common People -10	-	Zoo Outreach Organisation & Aranyak
01.10.2003	Assam State Zoo, Guwahati	Painting Competition Quiz Competition	Inaugurated by Pradyut Bordoloi, Hon. Min. for Env. & Forests, Assam. Quiz master - Dilip Sarma	Painting-Students from class I-X and disabled childs- 285. Quiz- 14 teams	CEE-North-East & Assam Zoo	Zoo Outreach Organization
02.10.2003	Do	Elephant Rally	Flagged off by PCCE, Assam	Students-60 Forest personels -20 NGO- members -25	Do	Do
07.10.2003	Do	Open Meeting	CCF-WL, Assam	Students-300 Forest personels -50 Nature lover- 50 NGO- members -25	Do	Do
05.10.2003	New Goalpara High School, Goalpara	Painting Competition Quiz Competition Oath taking Environmental Games Open Meeting	Mr. Chakravarty Quiz master- Dinesh Roy Simanta Kalita Simanta Kalita Mantus Das	Students-110 Common People -20 Teachers -20 NGO- members -12 Media persons -3	Do+ Surujmukhi Maina Paarihjat	Do



Painting on two birds and a reptile



Children painting



Film Show



Inaugural speech

## Wildlife Week Celebrated by Tarakeswar Science Club, District - Hooghly, West Bengal

Santanu Mitra\* & Kaustav Ghosh\*\*

Wild life week - 2003 was Celebrated by our organization on 22.12.03 at Bikash Bharati Blooms Day School, Tarakeswar. Though wildlife week celebrated on the virtue of conservation of our wild flora & fauna, on 2-8th October each year. Our programme arranged in late because of some administrative problems. Everyone gathered at the venue, the B.B.B Day School at 1 PM. and the programme started by registration and distribution of education packets, which were provided by Zoo Outreach Organization. A total 50 students of class - VI to IX participated in this programme. Students were divided into three groups, younger students of class VI & VII got - 'Tiger tool kit', students of class VIII & IX are got - 'Go bat for Bats" and "Primates in peril". The first author being a coordinator of the programme explained about the significance and meaning of wildlife and why we must conserve them. Dr. Swapan Sur, ex -veterinary Surgeon of Alipore Zoo, Kolkata explain how every child can participate in worldwide conservation programme for wildlife. He spoke that 'we should make a love bond between our wild friends and us as first, only then the all conservation process may succeeded properly." A video demonstration programme on wildlife conservation is being commenced just after the introductory lectures. This videocassettes was donated by David Shepherd foundation, U. K.

Dr. S. Sur presented a fabulous slide show on Indian Wild life and shared his excellent experience on wildlife at Alipore Zoo (Kolkata) with youngsters. He also answered many queries of young participants.

On the activity session students participated in games and activity. Both the author with two other club members, Mr. Dev Kumar Pal & Rupam Goswamy monitored the groups.

Drawings & games were highly enjoyable for the participants. The resource persons were very serious in that matter that - the activity programme should conduct proper utilization of educational packet materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organization. A wildlife quiz was performed as a feedback tests from participants. We surprised that most of the participants gave correct answers to our questions!

Students really enjoyed the musk rally which are leaded by Dr. Swapan Kr, Sur and senior club members. The rally was focused the aim of the programme into the villagers of school area.

Mr. Kaustav Ghosh, executive members of our organization, help students to learn about the ABC of bird watching.

At last, students were awarded with certificates, and left the school with Joy and also told us to visit again with more programme before leaving the campus they took some decision and out to protect our wild animals and plants - students confessed not to tease monkeys and decided not to throw stones on innocent animals. Students agreed to share their experience of that days with their classmates, friends and home. The myths about bats were cleared and they discovered bats as a new friends of them.

Mr. B. Baneerjee one senior member of our club documented the programme in CD.

The second authors acknowledged these organizations and persons - Ms. Sally Walker, Founder Director, Zoo Outreach Organization for providing educational packets; He also mentioned the names of funding organizations by which Zoo made all those packets,- These are the - MARGOT MARSH - Biodiversity Foundation; Apenheul; Fauna & Flora International; Primate Conservation Inc.; Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens; PSGB; CCINSA, IZE - Asia, Zoological Gardens CHESTER; Wildlife Information Liaison Development; Bat Conservation Internationals (BCI) and Wildlife Conservation Society WWF-India (Kolkata) & David Shepherd foundation are also acknowledged by him for providing some posters and Informative data on CD of wildlife conservations.

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## Wildlife Week Celebrations -- 2003 -- Primates in Peril and Dare to Care for Bears Programmes

Bhargavi Srinivasulu & C. Srinivasulu\*

To mark the Wildlife Week 2003 celebrations in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, we conducted awareness and education programmes for students belonging to St. Peter's High School, New Bowenpally, Secunderabad and students belonging to various schools in Secunderabad residing in our locality in Tirumalgi, Secunderabad.

At St. Peter's High School, New Bowenpally, 45 students of class 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> (who are also members of the School's Nature Club - whose activities we overlook) were educated about primates of South Asia with special reference to common species and primate-man conflicts. Interactive sessions on primate species, their ecological needs and their conservation importance were followed by two game sessions. In the first session, the students were classified into different primate kinds basing on their relative size and bulk, and then they were made to stand in respective positions of their distribution in India on an imaginary India map laid on the ground. This game session aimed at making them understand the distribution pattern of the primate kinds and restricted nature of range of

some of the endemic and endangered primates. The second game session aimed at creating awareness among the students about the habitat fragmentation and habitat loss on primate populations and the reasons why primates are encroaching human habitations.

In the second programme, 40 students from different schools residing in our colony were targeted and were apprised about bears and their conservation needs. Interactive sessions on bear species found in India, their conservation needs and a game session on the effect of habitat loss on bears in wild were conducted.

For both the programmes, the education material packets on Primates in peril and Dare to care for Bears provided to us by ZOO were distributed among the participants and a quiz was conducted basing on the proceedings.

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## Bat Enthusiasts Visit a National Park to . . . GO BATS FOR BATS !

C. Srinivasulu & Bhargavi Srinivasulu\*

As a component of the on-going bat conservation education programme of the CCINSA and ZOO conducted by us in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh, we conducted a 'one day *in-situ* bat conservation education programme' for 20 postgraduate students of Masters course in Zoology and Forensic Biology of Osmania University, Hyderabad. Majority of the participants were bat enthusiasts while a few were in the programme to learn about other wild fauna. The programme was conducted on 21 September 2003 at Mrugvani National Park, Ranga Reddy district, Andhra Pradesh.

The programme began with participant assembling at Department of Zoology, Osmania University at 1100 hrs followed by an hour session on bat diversity and their ecological importance. After lunch we started to Mrugvani National Park by 1400 hrs and reached the venue where the field programme started at 1500 hrs. Students were divided into two batches and were taken around the National Park on foot to enable them to appreciate nature. At 1730 hrs a briefing about the various procedures followed by field biologist to study bats and other nocturnal animals was given. Setting of 25 Sherman traps to capture rodents kick starting our small mammals survey in the National Park followed this session. After this, at around 1815 hrs, the participants were taught about the procedure of erecting mist nets to capture bats and by 1830 hrs two mist nets were laid in different parts of the National Park. Bats netted during the programme were removed from the nets, identified and later released. Mist nets were removed at around 2200 hrs and the team headed back to the University.

Bats sighted and netted during the education programme include *Pteropus giganteus*, *Cynopterus sphinx*, *Rousettus leschenaulti*, *Pipistrellus ceylonicus*, *Pipistrellus tenuis* and *Hipposideros* sp. This programme was carried out with the Cooperation of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and Freshwater Biology Station of Zoological Survey of India. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. A. Shankaran, Curator, National Parks, of Forest Department and his staff; and Dr. C. A. Nageshwar Rao, Officer-in-charge, Freshwater Biology Station, Zoological Survey of India and his staff for permission and their help in the field.

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**Role playing by MC Girl**



**Explaining the proceedings of the education programme**



**Role playing by Mentally Challenged kids**



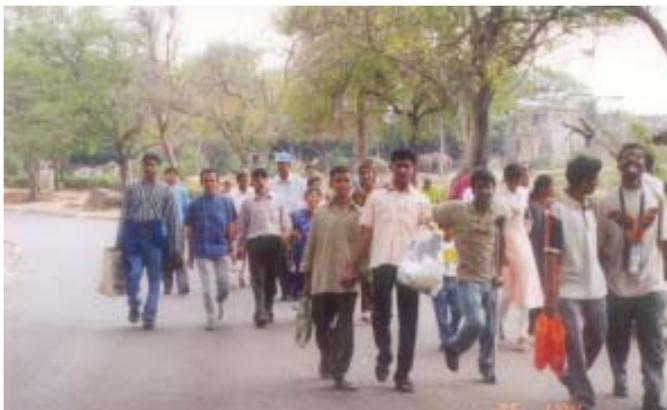
**Tying the Rakhi**



**Tying of 'Rakhi' by MC Kids**



**Group Photo**



**Participants visiting Zoo**

# SEVA -- Social Empowerment through Voluntary Association

## Report of the Wild Life Week Programme, 2003

Namrata\*

### Introduction

Social Empowerment through Voluntary Association (SEVA) is Jaipur based non government organization. It is secular, social, apolitical voluntary body. We are, an upcoming organization, working for creating awareness for conservation of wildlife and environment.

### Wildlife Week Programme

This year we have planned to conduct awareness activities in the schools for which the educational material for the programmes was provided by the Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore

We started the wildlife week programme with the educational lesson on the importance of the wildlife and need for the conservation in the Rainbow Kids School and kids Kingdom School on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, 2003 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, 2003 respectively.

We recited stories on them for the conservation of primates. Students participated in the Rakhi tying ceremony followed by the small lectures on each species with on the spot quiz session based on the lectures and educational material. Students read the literature provided to them and enthusiastically participated in the activity. Students were highly delighted to be a part of the conservation programme. In the every one took oath to work for the conservation of the species and report to the authority if they came across any incident of threat to the life of animals. Teachers also actively participated in the programme. They welcome the programme and praise educational material provided by the Zoo Outreach Organization.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2003 we have organized zoo visit for the students. With collaboration of Jaipur zoo we conducted educational lectures on conservation of bears. We distributed the kids to the students.

Students wore the different species followed by informative lecture on each species and a quiz programme was organized. Students were awarded gifts from the organization.

We also organized a tug of war among the animal conservator and ignorant people. After that students and teachers took part in the interactive session on "what should be role of society in conservation of wildlife". Deputy Chief Wildlife Warden, Shri Y.K. Sahoo awarded gift to the best three suggestions from teachers and students groups respectively. In the end student tie Rakhi and took pledge to conserve the wildlife. We distributed zoo patrol kits to the students. We assured them that we would write to the Zoo Outreach Organization to provide material on other wild animals also.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2003 the Wildlife Week programme came to an end we organized painting competition for the student's. students depicted the reality of life with the need of conservation of wildlife. The prizes motivated young kids. In the end of programme we gave vote of thanks to teachers and students to be part of weeklong activities. Teachers suggested to conduct more activities around the year. We also receive appreciation from parents for educating the students in a friendly environment

and for providing such informative from Zoo Outreach Organization.

Conclusion: the Wildlife Week programmes were made successful with the enthusiastic participation of students and teachers of the school. We are highly thankful to the principal of Rainbow Kids and Kids Kingdom School for encouraging us and helping us through out the programme. We are highly thankful to Sally Walker, Zoo Outreach Organization for providing highly informative material and guidelines for the Wildlife week programme.

This year Wildlife week, we felt the need to reach out to more students and motivate them for the cause. We would like if Zoo Outreach Organization could provide us with more educational material, for schools awareness so that one day every student of Rajasthan and India is associated with conservation of wildlife. We hope to have support from everyone for the welfare of wildlife. At the end student's enthusiasm gave a ray of hope that together we can change the world.

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listening to the lecture-Jan04



Painting Competition-Jan04

## Wildlife Week at Jaipur zoo

Y.K. Sahu\*

The Wildlife Week was celebrated at Jaipur zoo from 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> October 2003.

Students from all leading schools in the city took part in a variety of programmes.

Apart from the celebration in the city, functions were organised in village schools too.

To associate the general masses with wildlife conservation, village women and men were invited in the closing ceremony of the wildlife week. Chief Guest on this occasion was the Hon'ble Ministry for Forests and Environment, Govt. of Rajasthan. The Minister handed over a 'Snakalp Kalash' to the villagers who took an oath project wildlife.

We gratefully acknowledge the support we received from Zoo Outreach Organisation in the form of educational kits. The materials for kids was very educative. The students appreciated them and it made the whole exercise very interactive and fruitful. The enclosed pictures would show that the children took great interest in the sessions in which these kits were used.

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## 49<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Week celebration at Udaipur Zoo, Rajasthan

Rahul Bhatnagar\*

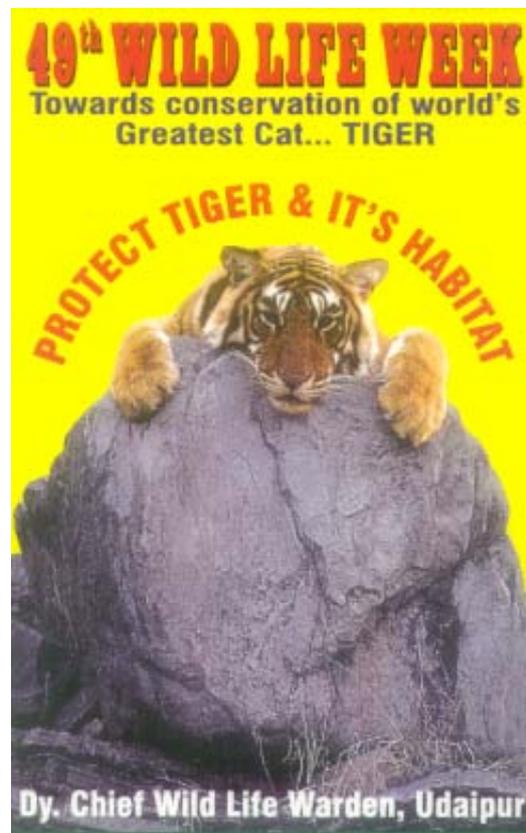
49<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Week as celebrated at Zoo campus, Gulab Bagh, Udaipur with great zeal and enthusiasm. During the week long celebration from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2003 different events were carried out to educate and generate awareness among people especially the young kids. Around 1015 students of 21 schools Lake city Udaipur have participated in 8 competitive events divided in 14<sup>th</sup> groups.

Till the year 2002, the venue for the celebration of wildlife week were kept at Gulab Bagh Zoo campus, but this year to ensure greater participation of school children and disseminate the knowledge about Zoo's & Wilde Animals, the events were organized in different school campuses itself. This year's the wild life week was devoted to conservation, of the world's largest cat "Tiger". Knowledge about the need for its conservation & rehabilitation was been provided to the participating Schools children during the week. Besides this, using the material provided by "Zoo Outreach Organization", different games including "Survival of Fittest" were organized every day, during the course of events. Participating students have filled the "Peedge card" for protection & conservation of the big cat every at the end of scheduled activities for particular day. Information about turtles and tortoise was been provided to the students during the week, especially about their habitat & how they survive during the recurring famine in the state. On the closing day of week to generate awareness among the inhabitants of city a 6kms long skating rally was organized, which passed through the important places and localities of the city. The rally was flagged off by the Superintendent of Police, Udaipur. In the rally the participating students pretended to wear the dresses and masks to give them appearance that of a wild animal. They were having banners and hoardings in there hands bearing messages to conserve, protect and rehabilitate the wildlife for the sake of coming generation. Closing ceremony of the week was presided over by Inspector General of Police, Udaipur region. The guest of honor for the ceremony was Conservator of Forest, Aravalli Afforestation project & Wild Life, Udaipur. Both of them has emphasized on conservation & rehabilitation issues related to Tiger and its habitat. A sticker on "Tiger Conservation" was issued by the chief guest of on this occasion.

Extensive support was extended by many government, semi-government & private organizations including Wolken India Ltd., R.K. Marbles, Chetak Trust, West Zone Cultural Centre, Arti Marbles, Khaitan Marbles, Zoo Outreach Organization their cooperation in organizing different events during the Week.



49<sup>th</sup> WLW-Chief Guest



Protect Tiger & It's Habitat - Sticker

\* Dy. Chief WL Warden, Post Box No. 161, Udaipur 313 001

## Wildlife Week – 2003 Celebrations

S.D. Singh\*

At the occasion of Wildlife Week – 2003, Society for Conservation of Flora and Fauna, a non-profit making, non governmental organization, organized fitting celebrations in Dehradun, Uttaranchal in association with State Forest Department, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Forest Research Institute and Wildlife Institute of India.

The programme were arranged within the Wildlife Week (2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October) with a formal closing ceremony in the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Various programmes organised during the week were as follows:

Signature drive on wildlife conservation pledge. It was initiated by His Excellency the Governor of Uttaranchal, Shri Sudarshan Agarwal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, followed by different Government office staff and the general public. It was closed on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> October with the signature of Shri Navpraabhat, Honourable minister of State for Forest, Environment and Urban Development.

Essay writing, Poster making and Slogan Writing competitions were held among school children in and around Dehradun on the theme "Environment and Wildlife Conservation". Two categories were constituted in each competition, - a junior (classes 4 to 8) and a senior (classes 8 to 12) category.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, a panorama of events was organized to mark the conclusion of Wildlife Week – 2000. Events of the day included the following:

A wildlife quiz organized at the IGNFA Auditorium comprising of eight rounds including a preliminary eliminating round and two visual rounds. Teams participated in the event constituted of two members each.

A 'Nature and Wildlife Photography Exhibition' was organised at the reception of IGNFA Auditorium, FRI. The participants were: Satpal Singh Gandhi & Bhumesht Bharti, GMVN. Agni Mitra, Student, FRI (Deemed University). Debjyoti Chakrabarty, Student, FI (Deemed University) D.S. Negi, Forest Guard, Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve Nature and Wildlife Club, IGNFA 'SCFF' Photo Collection.

A competitive Cultural Event was organized between the participating schools on the theme "Environment and Wildlife Conservation". The participants were: Hilton's School, presenting 'Tiger Dance' Gautam International School, presenting 'Fight Against Pollution'. Children's Academy, presenting a group dance.

Cultural Performances were also presented on the same theme by the following groups:

SCFF representatives – "Bhupati Kaun?"  
SCFF representatives – "Prakriti: Hamari Sanjhi Virasat"  
FRI (DU) students – 'Mime'.  
IGNFA Probationers – "Plight of the Indian Farmers".

Individual performances of the evening included:  
Shyamal Kumar – Welcome Song.  
Niranjan Kumar – Self-composed poem.  
Manish Dudupuri – Poem.

Shri Sameer Kr. Sinha, Director, Rajaji National Park, presided over the programme and welcomed the audience while Mr. Dhananjay Mohan, Associate Professor, and IGNFA, gave vote of thanks.

The formal closing ceremony of the celebrations took place at the IGNFA Auditorium on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2003 with the Honourable minister of State for Forest, Environment, and Urban development, Shri Navpraabhat, gracing the occasion. Proceedings of the evening included:

A small cultural event on the theme of environment and wildlife conservation. Awarding of the prizes to the winners of various competitions and different cultural groups by the Honourable minister.

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\* Hon. Secretary, Society of Conservation of Flora and Fauna, Dehradun