

## Education reports

### **"Van Mahotsava" at TATA Steel Zoological Park, Jamshedpur**

Van Mahotsava is celebrated throughout the country during the first week of July. In 1950, K. M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food started this event to create enthusiasm among public for forest conservation by planting trees. Celebrating this event is one of the best ways towards reducing global warming.

Tata Steel Zoological Park celebrated "Van Mahotsava" as a part of its ongoing educational activities in July-August, 2012 and made aware the visitors the benefits of such program. As usual we focused on different age groups and this year women and children. The programme was kick started by Mrs. Surekha Nerurka, the First lady of Tata Steel. She was instrumental in planting of 15 saplings of medicinal plants inside the Zoo campus of which 5 are new species.

During this celebration, a total of 57 saplings were planted inside the zoo campus with the collaboration of Lions Club Steel City, Marwari Mahila Samaj and Little Wonder School. Zoo also celebrated Friendship Day with the theme befriending trees and 142 children took oath to protect the trees.  
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### **World Environment Day 2012 – Green Economy**

UN started World Environment Day in 1974 with the theme "Only One Earth". Since then every year on 5 June with the new theme UN sensitizes people around the world to protect environment. GREEN ECONOMY, DOES IT INCLUDE YOU? is the theme of this year. A programme was organised on 9 June 2012 at Sri. Arbindho Marg Matric. H.S.S, Madurai.

Participants were welcomed with special talks on WED and getting packets named Living with Climate Change. The Beaufort wind scale was explained with the student's action in order to know the difference of speeds & its effects. The correct answers to weather protection were of great use, which inspired the entire group. The GHG – Green House Gas Guardian/Ghost were very useful to understand



**Children participated in the tree planting programme at TATA zoo**



**Students using ZOO's bat education kits during the awareness programme**

the concept. Another awareness program was conducted at Murray Rabindra school 28 July 2012. Forty four participants heard UN concern to save the species in this decade. In addition UN International Year of Forest 2011 was explained in context with bats need for habitat. ZOO's bat education packet was distributed. The students were asked to tie rakhi each other's hand and wear mask. The older students read the Bat Bookmark and the materials we printed in Tamil about the fruit eating & insect eating bats. With the BAT – FRIENDLY placards they went for marching. Role-

play on fruit bats and insectivorous bats were conducted and students learned a lot about the South Asian Fruit Bat. Drawing competitions were conducted and eco-labels distributed. Year of the Bats 2012 program has sensitised kids to share their knowledge to their parents & friends. The sponsors Zoo Outreach Organization, CCINSA, Chester Zoo & CBSG were explained with their logo printed at the back of the educational packets. **Submitted by: Jessie Jeyakaran, Chennai. Email: jesseyjey@rediffmail.com**