

2006 Education Reports with ZOO / SAN-IZE

Wildlife Week Report 2006, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Thrissur, Kerala. We celebrated the Wildlife Week by attending study cum demonstration class in the State Museum and Zoo Thrissur, Kerala. There was demonstration of both living and stuffed animals, birds and reptiles by Dr. Muralidharan and Dr. Giridas (Veterinary Surgeons). It was really enjoyable and highly informative. The programme schedule was as follows.

Prayer by students; Welcome Address Latha N. (Teacher Coordinator); Presidential Address Dr. G. Mukundan (Director of Chinmaya Education-Vidyalaya, Thrissur); Inauguration and distribution of ZOO Kits Smt. Shobhana Devadas, Principal, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kolazhy, Thrissur ; Vote of thanks Dr. Muralidharan K.K (Retired Joint Director, Animal Husbandry).
Submitted by: Latha. N, Teacher Coordinator, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Kolazhy, Thrissur

Zoo Education Programme on "Primate Primer & Bear conservation" at Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai. The students and staffs of the Hosanna Mandir School visited the Maitri Baag Zoo on 17th October 2006. The Zoo education Unit of Maitri Baag Zoo conducted a special programme on "Primate Primer" and "Bear Conservation". Ninety students of different age groups participated in the programme. Zoo staff conducted a zoo visit with the students. They gave detailed information about different species in front of the different enclosure of the animals. The students were divided into two groups according to their age group. One group was given information about "Primate Primer" and other group "Bear Conservation". Both groups were given educational materials containing booklet monkey tales, mask, stickers, rakhi, etc. The students wore the mask and went around the zoo to motivate themselves and visitors. The other group learned about Himalayan Bear. In this programme the Zoo Education Unit encouraged students to refrain from patronising bear shows and to discourage such activities, ultimately to save bears in the wild. All the participants of the schools took oath by tying *rakhi* each other to help by saving wildlife in their life times.

Bhilai Steel Plant Management waived the entry fees to participants to encourage students on Zoo Education to create awareness about wildlife and environment. The programme was conducted by Dr. G.K.Dubey, Dr. N.K.Jain, Dr.T.Kalaichelvan, C.Balkottaiya, Kumar Sahu and Gopichand and materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. **Submitted by: Dr. G.K. Dubey, Chief Veterinary Officer and Dr. T. Kalaichelvan, Zoo Supervisor Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai Chhattisgarh.**

Wildlife Week Celebrations in Sivaganga and Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu
Awareness creation among student community is the major attraction during all Wildlife Week celebrations. This year, a special programme for the Self Help Group Women, was organized by the Community

College, Sivaganga during the Wildlife Week in October 2006. Female members from various villages gathered in the College on 3rd October and a special awareness programme on tree planting and wildlife was conducted. The Managing Trustee Mr. George organized the programme with the co-operation of the forest department. In his welcome address he emphasized the role of rural women in wildlife conservation. Dr. S. Paulraj, I.F.S., District Forest Officer, Ramnad cum Sivaganga Forest Division, highlighted the importance of wildlife in the local areas and the need for conserving them. Various competitions held for the students, winners were selected among the participants of the wildlife competitions. The students who won many prizes were selected for ZOO Outreach conservation prize. Wildlife posters and booklets supplied by the ZOO were distributed to the prize winning schools by the Chief Guests of the wildlife week celebration functions. Prizes and certificates were distributed during the prize distribution function held at Srivilliputhur in Virudhunagar District on 26.10.06 and at Thiruppathur in Sivaganga District on 31.10.06. Honorable District Judge, Srivilliputhur Shri. Ramalingam, participated as the Chief Guest and distributed the prizes in Virudhunagar District and Shri N. Rameshwaran, Secretary; ABCA Educational Institutions Trust distributed the prize in Sivaganga district. **Submitted by: Dr. S. Paulraj, I.F.S., District Forest Officer, Ramnad cum Sivaganga Forest Division, Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu**

Wildlife Week Celebration 2006 at Lucknow Zoo, Uttar Pradesh. Wildlife Week, 2006 was celebrated on a grand scale in the historical Baradari premises of Lucknow Zoo. The entry of school children was free throughout the week. Various competitions, namely photography, quiz, poster drawing/slogan writing, debate, puppet show, treasure hunt, snake show, relay race (related to wildlife), "Touch and Feel" programme for the mentally challenged children, etc. were organised. For the first time, a one-day sensitization workshop on Sarus Crane conservation was also held, which was attended in large numbers by forest officials, representatives of various Non-Governmental Organizations, press and media. The Wildlife Week was very special this year, especially for the school children who were gifted with various attractive educational items such as posters of Sloth Bears, Hoolock Gibbon, Building future for a wildlife, packet on Daily Life Wildlife and Primate colouring book provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. These gifts were suitably highlighted by the local press too. The resource persons were Chief Wildlife Warden, U.P., Director, Deputy Director of Zoo, representatives from Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Bhartiya Vidyapeeth University, Pune etc. **Submitted by: Ms. Eva Sharma IFS Director, Lucknow Zoo, Uttar Pradesh.**

Celebration of 52nd Wildlife Week 2 to 8th October 2006 by Divisional Forest Office, Baripada, Orissa. The 52nd wildlife week was celebrated in this division on 7th October 2006 in M.K.C. High School, Baripada. Dr. Debabrata Swain, I.F.S.,

Conservator of Forests & Field Director Similipal Tiger Reserve, Baripada presided over the meeting and Sri Sudam Marndi, Hon'ble M.P., Mayurbhanj graced the occasion as Chief Guest and the dignitaries present in the dias as guests of honours were Sri Manoj V. Nayar, I.F.S., Dy. Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve, Baripada, Sri R.K. Swain, O.F.S. (II), Asst. Conservator of Forests, Baripada and Sri H.S. Das, Headmaster M.K.C. High School, Baripada.

Apart from invited students, all the eminent persons of the locality and the wildlife lovers, active N.G.O.s involved in protection and conservation of wildlife, V.S.S. members, and print & electronic media personnels were invited on this occasion. In course of discussion the very purpose of protection and conservation of wildlife awareness was made. The experience of some of the eminent persons was shared and the future strategy to be adopted for conservation of wildlife and environment was discussed with the active participation involving everybody.

Prior to the function on 27.09.2006 an essay competition was conducted for the senior and junior group of the students of M.K.C. High School. In senior group 47 students and in junior group 37 students participated. All students were given certificate of participation and best three of each group was awarded prizes. Besides the books, "World Zoo & Aquarium Conservation Strategy" were distributed to the dignitaries on the dias and 50 South Asian Primate Posters (large 25 & medium 25) supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation were distributed among the students. **Submitted by: Mr. Saloram Marndi, Divisional Forest Officer, Baripada Division, Orissa**

Wildlife Week Celebrations - 2006 at Dadra Nagar Haveli U.T. The Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Wildlife Division, conducted the Wildlife Week Celebration 2006 by involving the school children of the Union Territory on a massive scale. School level competitions were held in 3 competition groups as per the level of the school children participating. Competitions were conducted in all of the government and private schools of the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Nearly 1000 schoolchildren participated in the Drawing and Essay competitions held at the school level, where 185 toppers have been awarded certificates, posters, caps and prizes. At the Union Territory level a "Wildlife and Environment" Quiz and Elocution competition was organized at the Town Hall, Silvassa.

The Wildlife Week Celebrations 2006 culminated with a "Wildlife Awareness Walk" on 06th October, organized for all the participants of the Union Territory level competitions and the Overall Union Territory Toppers of the school level competitions. Sixty seven students and 7 teachers visited the Nature Education Center, Vasona, the Lion Safari Vasona, the Satmalia Reintroduction Zone of the Dadra & Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary and the Forest Rest House Khanvel. During the walk the staff of the Wildlife Division, the ACF(WL), the RFO(WL), the Foresters, and the Forest Guards briefed the participants about the importance of the Dadra & Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary and its Wildlife.

These winners and runners up of the competitions were involved in activities like bird watching, butterfly watching and plant and animal species identification. Basic inputs about soil and water conservation and soil and moisture conservation works, habitat restoration and basic forest habitat management were given. A tour of the Asiatic Lion Safari gave inputs on animal enclosure, safari habitat management etc. The programme also included a learning component and the educational aids which are being requested from the Zoo Outreach Organization were used. The education materials like posters, which were suitable as prizes were given to the Union Territory level winners of the competitions. Overall Union Territory level winners of each of the competitions were given books as prizes in addition of posters, stickers and caps to motivate them in the cause of Nature and Wildlife Conservation. The prize distribution ceremony was organized at the division level on 06th October 2006 at the Town Hall, Silvassa. **Submitted by Tejaswini A. Patil IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests(WL), U.T.of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Silvassa-396 230**

Wildlife Week Celebration at Corporation Middle School, Krishnarayapuram, Coimbatore. A week before the Wildlife Week celebration, we made a plan for the celebration. From Monday-Thursday we allotted one or two periods for the students of 6-8th standard and explained the nature of wild animals especially bear and their characteristics. Why the wild animals are decreasing in number and How can we save the endangered species especially the bears. How these animals are related to the environment and and what is the need to save these animals?

Based on the above views everyday it was taught to the students to stimulate their curiosity. For this the materials and posters received from Zoo Outreach Organisation was used. After this, based on whatever was taught to the students so far especially on bears we conducted Elocution, Essay writing, Drawing and Song composing competitions to stimulate thinking power of the students. Students really showed great interest in these competitions. Especially in song composing & recital competition they wrote a song on wild animals and they sang with musical instruments. At the last day all the students and teachers were invited for the valedictory. At the valedictory the students who participated in the programmes explained to others whatever they learned from the programme and also they recited their song. The students were given prizes. All the teachers at the school were of great support to this programme. **Submitted by: S. Dhanraj, Teacher, Corporation Middle School, Krishnarayapuram, Avarampalayam, Coimbatore-641 006, Tamil Nadu**

Zoo Education Programmes at Maitri Baag Zoo on Children's Day 14th November 2006 The Zoo Education Unit, Maitri Baag Zoo conducted a special programme for the students and staff of Sharda Vidyalaya, Risali and Gayatri Bal Shramik Shala, Sector-6 on Children's day. About 40 students of Gayatri Bal Shramik Shala were explained about "Bear Conservation" by Dr. N.K. Jain. The importance

of Bears in the eco-system were informed in detail. He also gave information about the 4 kinds of bears are found in India namely Himalayan Black Bear, Sloth Bear, Brown Bear and Sun Bear. The bears are smaller in number due to impact of human activities, entertainment as a dancing bear by street performers. He also expressed that we should not encourage the "Dancing Bear".

About 70 students of Sharda Vidyalaya participated on "Bats and Rats" programme. Dr. T. Kalaichelvan gave a lecture on "Bats Conservation" highlighting the importance of bats and its role in the ecosystem. The fruit eating bats have selected natural habitat and roosted in the Maitri Baag Zoo. The students visited the natural site of the bats. Dr. G.K. Dubey explained the importance of rat species maintain the eco-system. The students of both these schools went around the zoo along with the Zoo Education Unit. They were explained about the zoo animals and their habits and enjoyed seeing animals and learning about the wildlife.

The students wore masks of bat, rat and bear according to the programmes. They were also given stickers, educational materials, rakhi, mask etc. provided by Zoo Outreach Organization. The students took oath by tying rakhi to each other to help by saving wildlife in their life times. **Submitted by Dr. G.K. Dubey & T. Kalaichelvan, Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai, Chhatisgarh**

Wildlife week celebration at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala The posters, study and interpretative materials supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation were distributed to the school children who participated the Wildlife week celebration from 2-8 October 2006 at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary. The materials were highly appreciated by the children. The sloth bear posters were also highly liked by the participants. Thanks to Zoo Outreach Organisation for supplementing our efforts of awareness and conservation campaign. **Submitted by Sanjayan Kumar, IFS, Wildlife Warden, Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala**

Wildlife Week Celebration at Corporation Middle School, P.N. Palayam, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Wildlife Week was celebrated in our school on the 28th of November '06. Fifty students from class 6-8 participated in the programme. The duration of the programme was one and half hours. A workshop was conducted and it was chaired by the Head Master Mr. A. Jeyapaul. We interact with various living creatures in our daily life. Respect towards them will never be possible without proper understanding. The objective of the programme was to make the students aware on the role of these creatures in our eco-system.

The Head Master spoke a few words about the purpose of such a workshop. He encouraged students to make the maximum use of it. Twenty five students were given Daily Life Wildlife packets. Students took part in rakhi tying and mask making activities. They were guided in making the Invertebrate Album. They were told how these small insects clean-up our environment. Another group of 25 students were given the South Asian Monkey Colouring book. I

mentioned about the significant role played by monkeys and also their influence in Indian culture through Hindu mythology. An elaborate description was given on the various species of primates. Then the students took on oath to respect and protect Daily Life Wildlife. At 3.30pm the celebration came to an end with the National Anthem. "Live and Let Live". The sponsors of these materials Chester Zoo, UFAW (U.K), Margot Marsh Bio Diversity Fund, Primate Action Fund, Conservation International, USA and Appenheul Primate Park and the Zoo Outreach Organi-sation were given due mention. **Submitted by: S. Joseph Prem Kumar, Corporation Middle School, P.N.Palayam, Coimbatore-641 037, Tamil Nadu**

Comprehensive Report on Wildlife Week 2006 in respect of Wildlife Circle (North), Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

Wildlife Week 2006 was celebrated in the 1st week of October, 2006 by three wildlife divisions of this circle and also at divisional level. Various wildlife and nature awareness programmes were organized mainly in the wildlife sanctuaries and educational institutions were part of the celebrations. Following activities such as trekking in wildlife sanctuaries, declamation activities, slogan writing competition, quiz competition and painting competition were organized at divisional level. In the quiz the questions from the topics of forests, wildlife environment and sanctuaries were asked. The theme of Slogan competition was "Specific relation of wildlife conservation". The topic of declamation contest was "Man-Animal conflict" understanding of problems etc. Besides the prizes of the department the awareness materials from ZOO were also given to participants.

Chamba, Hamirpur and Kullu Wildlife Divisions Wildlife Week 2006 was celebrated by Chamba Wildlife Division in Khajjiar Kalatop and Gamgul Siyabehi Wildlife Sanctuaries on 3-6th October. In Hamirpur Wildlife Division it was celebrated in Naina Devi and Nagrota Surian Wildlife Sanctuaries in the 1st week of October. And in Kullu Wildlife Division it was celebrated in Bandal, Shikari Devi, Manali, Kanawar, Kais, Khokhan and Nargu Wildlife Sanctuaries in the 1st week of October, 2006.

In all these divisions, the students and teachers of rural area schools were taken for trekking in the sanctuaries. The participants were served with tea and snacks, lunch, tea and dinner. The participants were made aware about environment, wildlife security and education etc. Awareness was also given on illicit felling, illegal poaching, encroachment, abduction of wild animals and birds smuggling thereof and reporting the same to Govt. agency. While coming back from trekking they were told the importance of medicinal plants, beautiful birds and wild animals, water lakes, ponds, caves etc. On completion of trekking they were given prizes for participation in various competitions.

Gopalpur Zoo

Wildlife week was also celebrated in Gopalpur zoo of this circle. Special awareness programmes were conducted for group of students from local schools. The entry to school children was made free during the

week. The awareness materials obtained from ZOO were distributed to children. **Submitted by: V.K. Singh, Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Circle North, Dharamshala. H.P.**

Report on the observance of the 52nd National Wildlife Week, 2006 at Aizawl, Mizoram. Special Message of the Week from Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forest Department, Mizoram were broadcasted on Doordarshan Kendra and All India Radio, Aizawl Station and Local Cable Networks. The Chief Minister's Message was also dispatched to all Territorial Divisional Forest Officers for further promulgation in their respective Divisions. A special visit to Aizawl Zoological Park was organized for twenty selected schools of Aizawl. Two students each were selected from these schools and free transportation was provided for the trip. This was conducted in order to inculcate the spirit of the importance of wildlife conservation among school children. Feedback forms were given to the students at the Zoo which had a satisfying response. On the spot Slogan - Coining Competition on Wildlife Conservation was also conducted at the Zoo among the students. Certificates and cash prize of Rs. 1000, Rs.700 and Rs.500 were awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners respectively. Consolation Prize of Rs.250 each along with certificates were given to 5 students. A formal closing function of the Week was held at Synod Conference Centre on 6.10.2006 in which Pu C. Ramhluna, PCCF & Secretary, Environment & Forest Department, Mizoram was the Chief Guest. Before the start of the programme the Prime Minister's Message of the Week was read out at the function. **Submitted by: L.R. Thanga, Chief Wildlife Warden, Aizawl, Mizoram**

Wildlife Week Celebration at Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore. As part of wildlife week celebration, M.Sc students of zoology department, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore celebrated it with school students of Vivekam Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore on 04th October 2006. A total of 40 students participated in the programme. The aim of the programme was to highlight the importance of Indian wildlife and to create awareness about conservation of bats and its habitats. First the students were given a general introduction about the programme and why we assembled here today. Then the students were asked to write down the information what all they know about bats. After 10 minutes the paper was collected and we explained them what are bats, its kinds and the ecological role played by them in nature. A small interactive session was arranged where students came with lots of questions which was followed by Rakhi-tying ceremony. The students tied the Rakhi to each other by saying slogans. Then quiz programme was also conducted among the students. After lunch, the students were shown a documentary film on Indian wildlife and we also explained about it in-between. A presentation was made on evolution, importance, conservation and identification of bats. Then comes the session completely filled with joy and fun, the games related to bats. Bat and bat rescue games were conducted and came to know about bats in play way. The celebration concluded with the prize

distribution ceremony and the certificates was distributed by the Principal to the students. Thanks to Zoo Outreach Organisation, Chester Zoo and Bat Conservation International for providing us the educational material which made the celebration live and informative. **Submitted by: Joseph Reginald, Student S/o. J. Louis, 16, 4th Street, K.R.G. Nagar, Ganapathy (P.O.) Coimbatore 641 006, Tamil Nadu Email: ljosephreginald@yahoo.com**

A report on observation of Wild life Week 2006. Wild Animals are decreasing alarmingly due to selfish attitude of human being. Now a large number of useful wild animals have been extinct and others are vulnerable in our ecosystem. To create awareness, love affection towards the wild animals in rural base animal protection unit has conducted several programmes during Wildlife Week. In our programmes we have evolved different Govt, departments, non-Government organizational, self help groups, school students, youth clubs and general public. The following activities were done from 1-7 October, 2006.

The inaugural function was held on 01.10.2006 in Siddha Sindurai Temple at 11.30 am. APU president chaired the function. The speakers laid emphasis on protection and conservation of wild animals of our state. In the 2nd session youth members of the society and different NGO workers participated in a symposium "Wildlife Treasure of Orissa". On 02nd October, volunteers observed the day as Ahimsa divas as it was the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. At 11 am floral attribute given to father of the Indian and members of APU discussed about "Principle of non violence" of Gandhiji. In the "Vija Rath" we have given masks of Zoo Outreach organization for "Banara Dena" with hanuman by which they know different species of monkeys.

In the following days until 07th of October, an essay competition was organized in Kalan primary school. Thirty four participants took part in the competition from different primary schools (class-III to class V). In 2nd session Head Master of Kalan primary school and block education officer of Rasalpul Block spoke to the participants and school students about importance of wildlife to our nature. At last students danced wearing the masks donated by Zoo Outreach organization. A debate competition was organized in Brahmanabad High School. Eighteen students from different schools took part in this competition. In the second session Head Master and other teachers of the school spoke about the Jajpur district. The topic for the debate was "Should we protect Elephants"? Educational materials were given to the students of class IX and X given by Zoo outreach organization. We organized a street play using the masks given by Zoo Outreach organization on protection of wild animals. Free animal health camp and also public meeting on Vegetarianism were also held during this celebration. Prizes were given to the winners. APU secretary thanked all Govt. Departments, Non Govt. Organizations, Self help groups and youth clubs for their help to make this week memorable. **Submitted by: Saroj Kumar Satapathy, Secretary, Animal protection unit (APU) At-Sulia, Po-Kalan, Dis-Jajpur, Orissa.**

Wildlife Week Celebration at Sasan Gir, Gujarat. Sasan Gir, Wildlife Division celebrated wildlife week to promote conservation efforts and strengthening the base of conservation among the student, teachers, tourists and villagers living around the Gir Protected Area. This celebration was held at Sinh Sadan Guest house, Sasan Gir. The target groups were faculty from agricultural, law and science colleges, NGO's, teachers and students from secondary and higher secondary schools. The wildlife week materials (booklet, posters & stickers) provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore was distributed among the students, villagers, teachers, tourists for more awareness and education. These materials helps them to understand the conservation value and gives special joy and information. Assistant Conservator of Forests has coordinated entire programme and Deputy Conservator of Forests has encouraged the activities and gives special address speech for wildlife conservation among village level meeting and during nature education camp and awarded the winner during the wildlife week. Range Forest Officer, Reception Range and Forester has entirely keep up with the programme and distributed the education materials received from ZOO at each school participated during the programme and distributed further materials to the schools which is working under the Gir conservation unit. **Submitted by S. Maniswara Raja, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Division, Sasan Gir, Gujarat.**

Samrakshan Trust Meghalaya – Wildlife Week Celebrations Borsalgre – Baghmara Samrakshan Trust has been undertaking efforts to involve the community in sustainable conservation of the incomparable natural values of the *Akings* (unit of land owned by a clan) of the Rongara Community Development Block in the South Garo Hills district of Meghalaya. Engendering Conservation Consciousness amongst the community that shares the Conservation High Priority Landscape with wildlife constitutes an important segment of these efforts. The Samrakshan team has been screening wildlife films and conducting sketching / colouring events in the akings during the past year. This is done with a view to enhance sensitivity and engender pride amongst the community for wildlife in general and specifically flagship species like elephant. These akings form a part of the Garo Hills Elephant Reserve.

Samrakshan conducted three events in 3 *Akings* during the first week of October 2006 to celebrate the 'Wildlife Week' - a total of approximately 500 participants attended these events. The participants were children, Nokma Panda forest beat office personnel, participatory wildlife monitoring informants, members of Self Help Groups and others. The design, besides commemorating the event with the rest of the country, to protect wildlife, was to take the celebrations to places where the different forms of wildlife co exist with community.

Samrakshan celebrated the wildlife week with activities other than those it conducts in the regular course of its activities. Each of these invigorating activities was planned keeping in mind the diversity of the participants.

The first activity conducted was "Match The Following". The participants were given printed sheets; one group of these sheets had names of certain species and habitats while the other had names of species and diet. These were not in order and the participants were required to link the species with their corresponding habitat and diet using a pencil. The children participated in groups with about 4 of them sharing a sheet and after linking the boxes wanted to take the sheets home. Elders attempted linking the boxes and asked for extra copies for teaching their children.

The second activity "A to Z of wildlife" required the participants to fill up the two blank spaces adjacent to each alphabet on the sheets given to them. These had to be name of wildlife species beginning with that alphabet. Both the children and elders filled the sheets in English, Hindi and Garo (local language) and even a mix of the three. Some of them asked for extra blank sheets while others requested for sheets having "ready made answers". While some found it too taxing others indulged in cheerful banter.

The third and the final activity "Who Am I" required a volunteer who agreed to have a photo of a wildlife species struck on his back without being aware of the species. The volunteer then had to identify the species by asking questions to the participants who could answer only in "yes" or "no". Initially one of the Samrakshan members acted as a volunteer to clarify the doubts after which the activity really picked up to become the most popular activity of the day. It evoked highest participation levels and maximum laughter.

The activities were followed by refreshments arranged by the Self Help Groups fostered by Samrakshan Trust. Nokmas (village headmen), forest department personnel, Informants, people involved with Samrakshan's participatory wildlife monitoring exercise and members of Self Help Groups also took active part in the celebrations. The participants suggested conducting the celebrations on a larger scale during the following year. **Submitted by: Nimesh Ved, Samrakshan Trust, Meghalaya Email: nimesh.ved@gmail.com**

