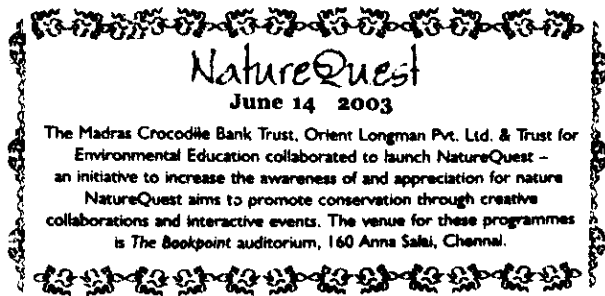
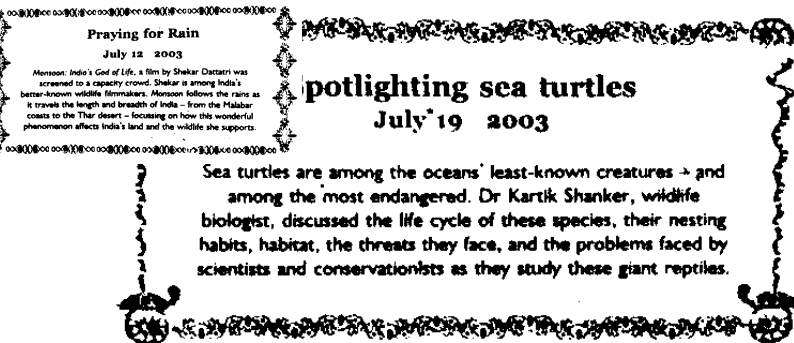
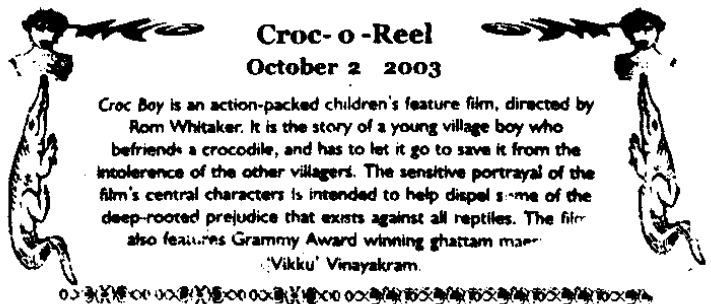


## Madras Crocodile Bank on Wheels



Ridley Turtles that come to the shores of Chennai to nest. Every Sunday afternoon the van reaches at least three villages, entering with loud music to get the full attention of the kids and adults. After a short announcement through loudspeakers, people soon surround the van and volunteers come out with brochures, posters and pictures of sea turtles affected by human behavior. Using posters on the outside of the van, volunteers talk to the group gathered around them about how many sea turtles die by the nets of fisherman, how to prevent it, about how many eggs are taken by people for food and the consequences of all these on the population of sea turtles. They hand out brochures written in Tamil to children and adults and explain about the importance of conservation of sea turtles.

The main goal of the Mobile Exhibition is to protect the Olive



Besides creating awareness and spreading information, the Mobile Exhibition is also set up to get information. By visiting all these villages, the Croc Bank gathers a lot of information on the sea turtles that visit the shores of Chennai. The people of the villages tell them about the nesting times, the amount of sea turtles that are found dead on the shores and also the amount of sea turtles that get caught in the nets and die. They also inform the Croc Bank on why some people take the eggs out of the nests or why fishermen do or do not release the sea turtles that get caught in their nests. The Croc Bank uses this information to come up with alternatives for the villages and solutions to protect the sea turtles.

The Mobile Exhibition is part of the ongoing education programme for the Crocodile Bank for village kids along the East Coast Road. In addition to visiting villages, the Croc Bank also sends out letters to all organisations, beach resorts, entertainment parks and houses located near the beach to inform them on how human behavior is endangering the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. The letter explains how artificial lights near the beach attract many baby turtles into a slow and painful death and how female adult turtles go back into the sea without nesting due to these lights. With all these activities the Crocodile Bank tries to involve as many people as possible in the conservation of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles and create awareness on the actual harm that humans cause to the nature that has been given to us for free use.

**For more information on the Crocodile Bank Mobile Exhibition, please contact us:**

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