

## Education Reports

### Wildlife Week Celebrations 2016 at Tata Steel Zoological Park

Wildlife week was celebrated at the zoo from 3-7 October on the theme "Go Wild for Life". It was inaugurated by the chief guest S.N. Keolyar, I.F.S., Regional Chief Conservator of Forests and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Singhbhum, in the presence of Rishad M Chinoy, Secretary, Tata Steel Zoological Society. The chief guest presented the best eco club teacher award 2015-16 to the winner Sangita Sarkar from NML K.P.S, Jamshedpur and the runners to Sheela Subhakaran / Anu Gill from K.S.M.S. Sakchi and special recommendation award to Rajalakshmi Sahu from Belpahar English High School, Jharsugoda. On the first day, the secretary flagged off Prabhat Pheri on biodiversity conservation in which 120 students from NTTF RD Tata Technical Education Centre, KPS Burmamines and zoo staff participated.



Rally during the WLW 2016

K.P.S. Kadma were the winners of junior and senior categories respectively. Lions Club of Jamshedpur Steel City sponsored the event. Rajnish Kumar, First Vice District Governor, Lions Club International was the chief guest.

On the last day, an on-the-spot painting competition was organized in association with Jamshedpur School of Art. A total of 250 students from 29 schools participated in the competition, which was followed by the closing ceremony during which Chief Guest presented awards to the winners. The winners were Arita Pati DAV Public School, Bistupur (Primary Category), Devjeet Karmakar, KPS Kadma (Junior Category), Shubham Narbheram Hansraj English School (Middle Category) and Neha of NTTF (Senior Category). This year, a total of 660 students across 37 institutions participated in all the events which was coordinated by Seema Rani, Biologist Cum Education Officer along with her education team



Participants at art in nature competition

The results for the inter-school essay competition in Hindi and English were also declared and the winners awarded. The topic of the essay was "The Blooming illegal trade in wildlife products is eroding Earth's precious biodiversity". A total number of 64 students participated from 18 different schools. The next day a debate competition was organized on the topic "Should The Wildlife Trade Be Banned". Anuradha from KPS, Kadma emerged as the winner in the Hindi category and Swayan Banerjee from Loyola school was the winner in the English category. Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur, ZEST, sponsored the event and Chief Guest Mrs. Ketty Gabba- District Chairman, Inner Wheel Club, Mrs. Nita Agarwal - President, Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur ZEST and Bipul Chakrabarty- Director, Tata Steel Zoological Park, presented the prizes.

Painting competition (art in Nature) was organized on the third day for differently-abled children of "School of Hope". The theme was "Make the world beautiful by using eco-friendly items". A total of 30 students participated. Abhiranjan Kumar was the winner. Fancy dress competition for children was organized on the fourth day. Bhavya Sahu and Nandita from



Winners of Fancy dress parade

members, zoo staff Pratap Singh Gill, Shefali Das and zoo volunteers Vidhan Sharma, Iram Khan, Kiran Munda, Priya Kumari, and Vinay Kumar Pandey.

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### Wildlife Week 2016 at Baran, Rajasthan

Society for Conservation of Historical and Ecological Resources (SCHER) celebrated wildlife week in Baran district, Rajasthan in collaboration with forest department for the first time ever for continuous 7

days. The objective of the programme was to make students to understand "wildlife is the most important fraction of our ecosystem as this is the integral part of forests. Due to advancement in life style, humans are disregarding the importance of wildlife. Several wildlife species are facing threat and becoming threatened species. So there is an immediate need to conserve the nature and wildlife". Hari Mohan Meena, was the Programme Co-ordinator.

On 1 October, the inauguration was held at Hindi Pracharni Sabha Bhavan, Baran. The chief guest was Jodhraj Singh Hada (ACF Baran); Special Guest Arjun Singh Rajawat (Social Worker) and Kiran Choudhary (President, SCHER). The main focus of Hada's inaugural speech was the importance of wildlife for human life and emphasis on their successful plantation to save mother nature. Choudhary spoke about wildlife conservation and also suggests that wildlife is a unique part of our ecosystem.

As part of the programme a drawing competition was held based on different wildlife based themes. In which 393 students of several institutes and various standards were participated in the competition. A



**Drawing competition**

special lecture was delivered by K.M. Meena (Botanist) and R.K. Meena (Zoologist) also. Whole programme was hosted by Dr. K.S. Nama (Sr. Biologist, SCHER), he also spoke about biodiversity of Rajasthan. The next day, wildlife documentaries "Broken Tail" (last tiger of Mukundara), National Chambal Sanctuary, Rajasthan and Vulture of Shahabad was shown to the 60 student participants. Then presentations on facts and principles of wildlife by Pankaj Khandelwal and identification of fauna and flora and wetlands of the Baran district by Hari Mohan Meena were given. On the third day essay writing competition was conducted and 123 students were participated. Slogan competition was held on 4 October and 323 students were participated. An elocution competition was held on the fifth day for 17 students.

Rangoli and fancy dress competitions were held on 06 October and 35 students participated in both events. On the final day the winners of the all the



**Winners of WLW 2016 forest visit of SCR, Baran**

competitions were taken to a forest visit of Sorsan Conservation Reserve. The closing ceremony was held at Tourism Hut and Bharat Singh "Kundanpur" (former PWD Minister) was the chief guest. All winners were awarded with trophy and certificate.

Overall 972 students including 30 teachers were involved in the WLW 2016 from 14 Schools and 2 colleges of Baran district Rajasthan; which is a sufficient evidence of the success of the program and to spread a ray of wildlife awareness and conservation among the local people of Baran.

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### **National Bird Watching Day at Pahuj Dam, Jhansi, India**

On the occasion of Dr. Salim Ali's birthday on 12 November, the nature enthusiasts of Jhansi celebrated National Bird Watching Day at Pahuj Dam, Jhansi. All the bird-nature lovers of Jhansi gathered on 13 November 2016 for the occasion. The participants for the event included first line forest officials, students, teachers and volunteers of Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society. Devendra Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests-Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh interacted with the participants. He threw light on the life of Dr. Salim Ali and how he dedicated his life to the study of birds. He encouraged everyone to take care of the nature around them and inform the forest department in case of any bird hunting particularly the migratory water birds. He said that birding, as a sport is non-consumptive and non-destructive to the environment. It results in no harmful consequences on the environment. Bird watching does not harm the birds if the bird watcher



**Briefing about the day and the activities**

follows the ethics. Even if the bird watcher misidentifies the spotted bird, it doesn't result in any loss to anyone.

The experts in the event focused on the actuality that a person could do birding while walking alone. It is a wonderful way to get away from the exasperating daily routine. On the same side, it is also something you can do very well with family, friends or with a group of like-minded people. Birds can lighten the day and overcome the repetitiveness of a tedious routine in today's world. The positive point is that bird watching is something that one can do while doing other things, working in the backyard or gardening, walking or jogging in the park, while at work or from a room window. The team members said that birding enthusiasts can contribute significantly to the scientific study of birds by monitoring migratory birds and observing the adverse changes in the habitat.



**Experts sharing interesting facts about birds**

During the 3-hour event, the bird watchers sighted around 40 bird species around Pahuj dam including the water as well as terrestrial bird species. These included gadwall, cormorants, grebe, common pochard, quail, water hen, common moorhen, plover, common redshank, herons, lapwings, shrikes, mynas, egrets, bulbuls, sandpiper, stilt, swallows and so on. Some unexpected species reported included laggar falcon, Eurasian wryneck, red avadavat and black bittern. The participants were provided with a chart of common water birds so as to identify the birds that they saw. The team members also guided them and shared interesting facts about birds and bird watching. This occasion was the right time to ponder on the wonderful work of Dr. Salim Ali in the field of ornithology and to inspire the younger generation for bird watching. **Submitted by: Sonika Kushwaha, Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society. [ibcsforall@gmail.com](mailto:ibcsforall@gmail.com)**

### **Wildlife Week Celebration at Madras Veterinary College, Chennai**

Wildlife week was celebrated at the college on behalf of Wildlife Club, Department of Wildlife Science from 2-7 October 2016 to create awareness among the students about the conservation of wildlife and environment. To achieve above goal, several activities and programmes were conducted during the



**Veterinary students flipping through wildlife books**

week that includes essay-writing competition in English (Theme: Human-wildlife conflict), Tamil oratorical competition (Theme: Wild animals- my beloved pal) and pencil drawing competition (Theme: Wildlife conservation) for the students of MVC from 3-5 October, 2016.

On 7 October 2016, an exhibition was conducted in co-ordination with WWF-India for the benefit of MVC students and public. It was inaugurated by C. Balachandran, Dean, MVC. The charts depicting wildlife conservation and wildlife books were part and parcel of the exhibition. During the valedictory function K. Senthilkumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Wildlife Science, welcomed the gathering. S. Prathaban, Professor and Head, Department of Wildlife science presented MVC wildlife club report. K. Kumanan, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences addressed the students about importance of wildlife conservation. Col. Sanath Gopinath, Head, WWF-India, Tamil Nadu Office, Chennai distributed prizes and certificates to the winners of the



**Winners of the competition awarded with prize**

competition and presided over the function. N. Paneerselvam, former Zoo veterinarian of Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai & National Zoological Park, New Delhi was the special guest and he vastly shared his experience with the students and faculty. M. Palanivelrajan, Assistant professor, Department of Wildlife Science delivered vote of thanks. **Submitted by: K. Senthilkumar. Email: [drsenthil72@hotmail.com](mailto:drsenthil72@hotmail.com)**