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From the Desk...



Dear Readers,

I wish to inform that I joined Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens on 04th July 2018 as the Executive Director. It is my first posting with Zoo and my educational background in Forestry and Wildlife Management and guidance of Shri Ravi B. P IFS, Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka, is helping a lot in better understanding of requirements of Zoo Animals, Zoo Visitors and associated managerial issues. So far the experience of working at Zoo has been most rewarding as every day is new and new things to learn. The uniqueness of Mysuru Zoo is having Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, at Kurgalli, Karanji Lake Nature Park and development of Lalitadripura Lake in addition to Zoo. These additional facilities enrich the work experience.

One of the major activities of Mysuru Zoo, which is giving true meaning for the very purpose of Zoos, is its Educational Programs. It has educational activities such as Youth Club, Conservation Speeches, Quiz, Essay and Painting Competitions. It also facilitates study visits of students of various schools, colleges and other training institutes wherein participants are made aware of conservation issues, waste and water management etc. Celebration of World Tiger Day, Snake Day, Elephant Day, Conservation Speech, and Inauguration of Youth Club 2018 are some of the educational programmes which were conducted during this quarter. Kannada film industry's famous star Shri. Darshan has inaugurated celebration of World Tiger Day and Youth Club 2018. Shri P. S. Somashekar IFS (Rtd) gave a speech on the conservation of Tigers. This program benefitted many people who attended the program.

Many people are coming forward for adopting animals by donating the amount for their annual maintenance. Inspiring words By Shri Darshan Toogudeepa in this regard is motivating many people for animal adoption. I would like to thank all the donors for their wholehearted support to Mysuru Zoo. Another most important thing, which supports Mysuru Zoo, is the care and concern of Mysureans. I would like to thank all of them.

It is my pleasure to inform that we have successfully implemented execution of some of the exchange programs approved by Central Zoo Authority. Mysuru Zoo has added four Zebra and two white tigers to its collection during this period.

I thank all the staff members of Mysuru Zoo who are working relentlessly for upkeep and improvement of Mysuru Zoo.

Ajit M Kulkarni, IFS Deputy Conservator of Forests & Executive Director



Less than a century ago, 1,00,000 tigers roamed the forests of Asia, but today only about 3,000 tigers survive in the wild. Issues like illicit poaching for trade, wildlife habitat destruction, man-animal conflict and diminishing prey base are threatening the future of iconic big cats. There is an urgent need to take all possible measures to save this charismatic animal.

Having regard to the need of conservation efforts, at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit, from 21 – 24 November 2010, the Heads of governments of tiger range countries viz., Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Vietnam, Thailand and Nepal declared the actions they are going to

take in order to double the number of wild tigers. One such action that was declared was tiger conservation awareness by celebrating Global Tiger Day annually on 29th July. This summit led to the establishment of the Global Tiger Recovery Programme. From worldwide fund-raisers to workshops and campaigns, Global Tiger Day has gained tremendous recognition over the last eight years, making it an important event for wildlife conservation and awareness.

As a part of its contribution towards tiger conservation, Mysuru zoo has celebrated World Tiger Day on 29th July. This celebration was inaugurated by popular Sandalwood actor Shri Darshan Toogudeepa. He requested his fans and people to be sensitive towards forests and wildlife, and contribute towards conservation wildlife. On this day he adopted a tiger for one year by paying Rs. 1,00,000. Inspired by his request, one of his fans too has adopted a tiger for a year. This function was also attended by Shri P. S. Somashekar IFS, (Rtd.), Shri B.P. Ravi IFS, APCCF and Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka and Shri Pradeep, Scientific Officer, Planet Aquarium, Mysuru apart from students from various schools, colleges, trainees from training institutes and other wildlife enthusiasts. On this occasion, Shri P. S. Somashekar IFS (Rtd) presented about issues concerning Tigers and their Conservation.

19th Conservation Speak- Why Otters Matter

The Smooth-coated Otter has been classified as "Vulnerable" by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and is protected under schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Across its home range- South Asia and South-east Asia- its numbers are declining due to poaching for its pelt, conflict with fishermen (as it eats fish), destructive fish harvesting practices and pollution of rivers. In order to bring these issues in the notice of people and to make them aware and to motivate them for otters conservation Mr.Gopakumar Menon, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Nityata River Otter Conservancy was invited to enlighten the audience on this issue as a part of Conservation Speak on 31st July. Mysuru zoo Executive Director, Ajit Kulkarni IFS, Zoo Officers and staff, zoo volunteers, NGO's and wildlife enthusiast attended the program.



Inauguration of Youth Club-2018

Catching young minds, and motivating them towards nature conservation, forms an important aspect of conservation efforts. Having regard to this very important aspect, Mysuru Zoo has started a nature education program in the form of Youth Club twenty-five years ago itself. In this program, 60 interested students between the age of 12 to 18 years are selected for Youth Club on first come first serve basis. Such selected students are made aware of components of nature, forests, their importance and need of their conservation. Activities of Youth Club span over six months from July to December.

This year also, 60 students are selected for Youth Club and its formal inauguration was done on 29th July. In this function, 60 participant students, their parents and other people participated. Sandalwoods renowned actor Shri Darshan Toogudeepa inaugurated the Youth Club in the presence of Shri P. S. Somashekar IFS, (Rtd.), Shri B.P. Ravi IFS, APCCF



and Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka, and Shri Pradeep, Scientific Officer, Planet Aquarium. He told that he himself was a member of Zoos' Youth Club during his childhood and motivated students and other people by requesting them to conserve nature and forests.







World Snake Day, 16th July

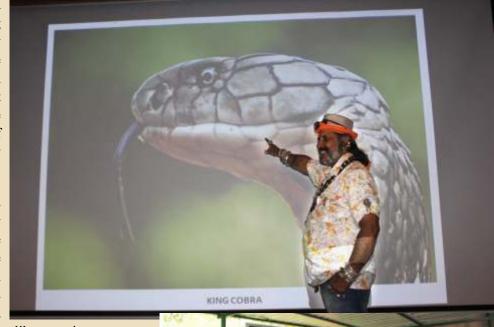
Snakes are incredible creatures, and our world is groaning with at least 3000 different species of snakes. They live on

every continent except Antarctica and vary in size from 32 feet long pythons to tiny vine snakes. Only about one-fourth of all snakes are venomous, and all of them would much rather avoid human contact if they could. In India, there are 270 species of snakes and out of which only 60 are highly venomous.

Maximum snakebite incidents occur when humans inadvertently step on or otherwise disturb the peaceful creatures. These creatures play important role in ecosystem balance and are friends of the human race. They play a

very vital role in controlling pests like rats, insects etc. Having regard to this role, many religions worship them. However, they are highly threatened by habitat destruction, misconception and superstition. There is a need to create awareness about the importance of their conservation. Keeping in this view, 16th July is celebrated as World Snake Day all over the world.

Mysuru Zoo had invited Mr.Balasubramanyam (Snake Shyam) renowned snake rescuer of Mysuru, as a part of World Snake Day, on 16th July 2018 to deliver a lecture on Snakes and their importance. This function was attended by students, wildlife enthusiasts and Shri Ravi B P IFS, Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka. Boards containing information on snakes were displayed near Snake Houses at Zoo for the benefit of visitors.









World Elephant Day August 12

Elephants are the large herbivores which survive on the earth today. In world, there are approximately 450,000 - 700,000 African elephants and between 35,000 - 40,000 wild Asian elephants. And in India there are around 27,312. There are 3 species of Elephants viz., the African bush elephant (Loxodonta africana), the African forest elephant (Loxodonta africana), and the Asian elephant (Elephas maximus). Their numbers are decreasing very fast, and are highly threatened due to habitat fragmentation, destruction, poaching for ivory and human-elephant conflict. There is an urgent need to conserve these mega herbivores.

In order to create awareness about Elephants and their conservation, World Elephant Day was co-founded on August 12, 2012, by Canadian Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand, an initiative of HM Queen Sirikit of Thailand. Since that time, Patricia Sims has continued to lead World Elephant Day. Since its inception of global awareness building, it has partnerships with 100 elephant conservation organizations worldwide and reaches countless individuals across the globe. Millions of participants worldwide have shown their concern about the plight of elephants through acknowledgment of World Elephant Day, proving that people love elephants and want to do whatever they can to help.

World Elephant Day is the path by which organizations and individuals can rally together to give voice to the issues threatening elephants. Its vision of the "neutral" approach allows and facilitates all organizations and citizens to conduct campaigns under the auspices of World Elephant Day, permitting everyone to work together to support this critical global issue which demands cooperation across borders and political lines. This powerful, collective global voice provides citizens, policy-makers, politicians, and governments a way to create and support conservation solutions that will make the world a safe place for elephants, wildlife, and habitat for future generations to cherish.





In this Regard, Mysuru zoo took the initiative to create awareness about this majestic animal by celebrating World Elephants Day. In this event, Youth Club members were taken to the Elephant enclosure, where the Veterinary Officer, Dr B. Manjunath explained about the elephant's habitat, morphology, biology etc. Following this, the children had an interactive session with the elephant keepers and got first-hand experience about elephants and also watched feeding of elephants.

"World Elephant Day is a rallying call for people to support organizations that are working to stop the illegal poaching and trade of elephant ivory and other wildlife products, protect wild elephant habitat, and provide sanctuaries and alternative habitats for domestic elephants to live freely."

-Patricia Sims, World Elephant Day Co-Founder



<u>ಐಶ್ವ ಫೇಂದಾಮೃಗ ಐನ</u>

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden

22nd September 2018 World Rhino day

ನೈಜ ಸಂಗತಿಗಳು

ಫೇಂಡಾಮೃಗಾಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾಣಬಹುದು. 1.ಕಪ್ಪ ಫೇಂಡಾಮ್ಮಗಗಳು 2.ಬಿಳಿಫೇಂಡಾಮೃಗಗಳು 3.ಸುಮಾತ್ರ ಫೇಂಡಾಮೃಗಗಳು 4.ಜಾವಾ ಘೇಂಡಾಮೃಗಗಳು 5.ಭಾರತದ ಘೇಂಡಾಮ್ಯಗಗಳು



ಕೊಂಬು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಘೇಂಡಾಮೃಗಗಳು ಪ್ರಪಂಚದಲ್ಲೇ ಬೃಹತ್ಗಾತ್ರದ ಪ್ರಾಣಿಗಳಾಗಿರುತದೆ. ಜಾವಾ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾರತದ ರೈನೋಗಳು ಒಂದು ಕೊಂಬನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದರೆ, ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಮಾತ್ರ ರೈನೋಗಳು ಎರಡು ಕೊಂಬನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ.



ಐದು ಪ್ರಭೇದಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿದೊಡ್ಡಗಾತ್ರದ ಬಿಳಿ ರೈನೋಗಳು ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಬಹುದು. ಇವುಗಳು 1.8ಮೀ. ಉದ್ದ ಮತ್ತು 2500ಕೆ.ಜಿ. ತೂಕ ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ.



ಫೇಂಡಾಗಳು ಸಸ್ತಹಾರಿಗಳು, ಸದಾಕಾಲ ಆಹಾರ ಭಕ್ಷಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡೆಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ.

ಫೇಂಡಾಮೃಗಗಳು ಒಂಟಿ ಜೀವಿಗಳು, ಕೆಲವೊಮ್ಮೆ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಫೇಂಡಾಮೃಗಗಳು ಭೀರವಾಮ್ಯ(೧೯೪೮ ವರದ ನೀಡುಗಳು ಕೆಲವುಮ್ನು ಹೇಳ್ಳಿ ಹೇಳುವಾಮ್ಯ)೧೯೪೮ ಮರಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇರುವುದನ್ನುಕಾಣಬಹುದು. ಗಂಡು ಘೇಂಡಾವು,೧೯೯೮ ಮೆಣ್ಣು ಒಂಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತವೆ. ಸಂತಾರ್ಮೇತ್ವತ್ತಿ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಘೇಂಡಾಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಮ್ಮ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಘೇಂಡಾಗಳು ವಿಸರ್ಜಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಮಲದ ವಾಸನೆ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.



ಬಿಸಿಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಳಾಡುವುದೆಂದರೆ ಇವಕ್ಕೆ ಬಹು ಪ್ರೀತಿ.

Few Facts



Our planet is home to five species of rhinoceros – the black rhino and the white rhino, which live in Africa, and the Sumatran, Javan and Indian (or greater one-horned) rhino, which inhabit the tropical



Despite their huge size and strength, these bulky beasts don't prey on other animals for food. They're herbivores, and instead like to munch on lots of grass and plants at night, dawn and dusk.



These incredible creatures are some of the biggest animals in the world! The largest of the five species is the white rhino, which can grow to 1.8m tall and weigh a massive 2,500kg — that's the weight of about 30



During the heat of the day, these magnificent mammals can be found sleeping in the shade or wallowing in muddy pools to cool off. They love to get mucky, in fact! Mud protects their skin from the strong sun (like a natural sunblock) and wards off biling hyer her.



These brilliant beasts are known for their awesome, giant horns that grow from their snouts – hence the name "rhinoceros" meaning "nose horn". Javan and Indian rhinos have one horn, whereas the white, black and Sumatran rhinos have two.

For the most part, rhinoceroses

are solitary animals and like to avoid each other. But some species, particularly the white rhino, may live in a group, known

as a 'crash'. These crashes are usually made up of a female and

her calves, although sometimes adult females (called cows) can be seen together, too.



Males (called 'bulls'), on the other hand, like to be left alone, in search of a female to breed with. They're very territorial, too, and mark out their area of land with, believe it or not, poop! In fact, rhinos often use pongy piles to communicate with each other, since each individual's dung smells



Because of their huge bodies, strong horns and thick, armor-like skin, rhinos have no natural predators. Nevertheless, these brilliant beasts get frightened easily! When they feel threatened, their instinct is to charge directly at whatever has spooked them – whether it be another animal or a harmless object!



They may rarely hang out with each other, but they spend a lot of time with their feathered friends! Rhinos are often seen with Oxpeckers (or 'tick birds') perched on their back, which live off the pesky parasitic insects living in the rhino's thick skin. The birds' loud cries also hale lated their birds'. birds' loud cries also help alert their big buddies of potential danger, too!



Sadly, it's estimated that there are only around 29,000 rhinos left in the wild, compared to 500,000 at the beginning of the 20th century. The main threat to these beautiful animals is illegal hunting, largely because their horns are used in traditional folk medicine, particularly in Asia. To find out what's being done to protect the rhino – and how you can help, too! – charge over to worldwildlife.org.







Black Rhino









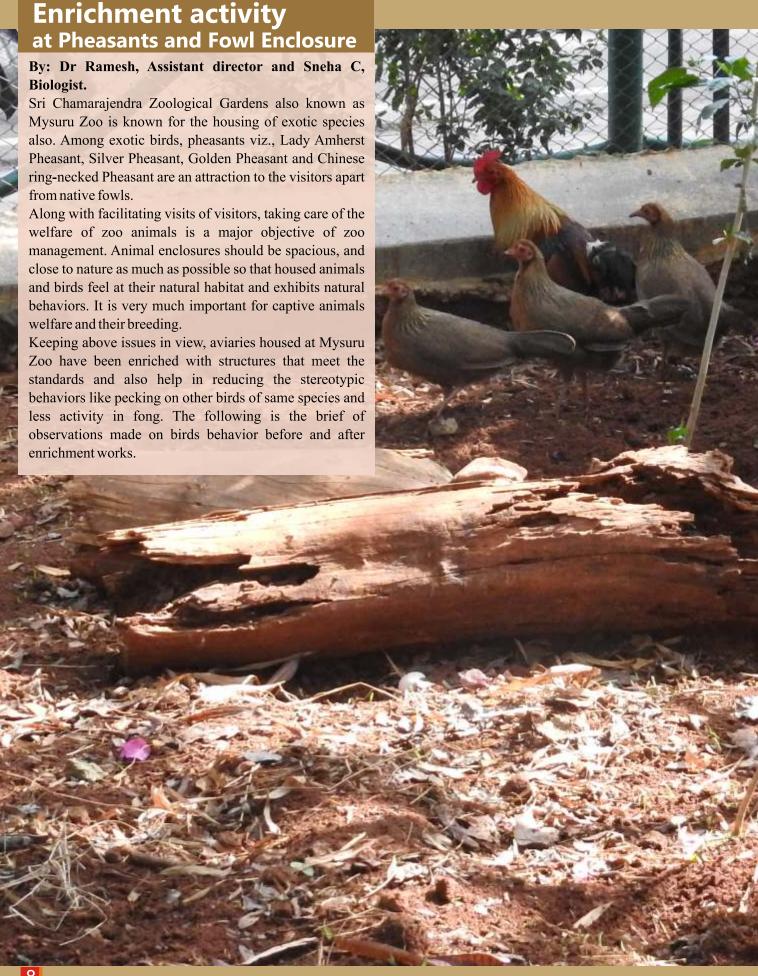
In the world, there are 5 species of Rhinos and the population of all the species put together is only 30,229 to 28,417. They are found in Africa, India, Indonesia and Nepal. In India, there are about 3,500 Rhinos and are found in the North Eastern part.

These majestic animals roamed over large portion earth at the beginning of 20th Century. At that period around 5,00,000 rhinos roamed the Wild, by 1970 the worldwide population crashed to 70,000. Today only 29,000 Rhinos survive in the wild. These majestic animals are highly threatened by illicit poaching for its horn and its habitat destruction. If an immediate action for their conservation is not taken then they will go extinct in a short span of time. In order to create awareness about Rhino Conservation, World Rhino Day was first planned by World Wildlife Fund-South Africa in 2010. Then, in 2011, Lisa Jane Campbell of Zimbabwe and Rhishja Larson joined forces to promote World Rhino Day 2011. Since then, September 22nd has been celebrated annually by governments, animal rights organizations and animal enthusiasts as World Rhino Day.

To contribute to this worldwide celebration, Mysuru Zoo took the initiative to celebrate the World Rhino Day in a befitting manner. On this day, we displayed attractive Information Boards and Fun Facts Boards about the Rhinos in front of the Rhino Enclosures and special arrangements were made for Rhino feeding so that visitors could see them feeding. Many wildlife enthusiasts, zoo staff, and media people attended this program.







The condition of Housing and Behavior of Pheasants and Fowls before Enrichment

Pheasants and Fowls were housed in enclosures made of chain-link mesh and mud flooring. The ground soil was compact due to trampling. Wooden logs were placed inside the cage to serve perch for the birds. Arch like concrete structures were provided to birds inside the enclosures to hide and protect themselves during hot summers and monsoons. A tray was placed inside the enclosure to feed birds.

Birds used to avoid their natural way of foraging, as the ground was hard. They used to lay eggs on the hard soil surface, as nesting and bedding material was not available. Birds used to indulge in pecking feathers of other birds of same species.

Changes Implemented or Enrichment

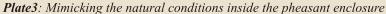
The ground soil was moistened and tilled. Leaf litter was spread over the enclosure and heaped next to wooden logs. Food grains such as Ragi/Finger Millet and Wheat was broadcasted over the litter. Mealworms and Superworms were spread over enclosure thrice a week by broadcasting. To match the natural conditions, enclosures were planted with Napier Grass. It was ensured that the enclosure was not filled with too many logs and plants. Hay was used as bedding material and was placed below the Arch like concrete structures (Plate3). Few houses also had hut-like structures made of bamboo and these structures were covered with hay material.



Plate1. Tilled soil floor



Plate2: Lady Amherst Pheasant showing scavenging behavior when the grains were made to spread all over the field





Behaviour of Birds Post Enrichment

After implementing the above-mentioned changes in aviary enclosure, birds such as Pheasants and Fowls were seen scavenging and indulging themselves in foraging activity. Fowls, especially, were seen scattering the leaf litter that was heaped and then looking for food within it. On the other hand, Pheasants did not scatter the leaf litter. Scattering of the soil and then feeding on small insects or grains was observed more in Fowls compared to Pheasants. Birds were seen to perch on the wooden logs that were laid on the ground. Planting of Napier grass provided an opportunity for the pheasants to hide and forage near the plant. The enrichment of enclosure by spreading of leaf litter, food grains and worms has resulted in a substantial increase of foraging and scavenging activity among the birds.



1. M/s Dairy Classic Ice Creams Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru - adopted Tiger by paying Rs.1,00,000/- for a period of one year from 20/9/2018 to 19/9/2019.

2. Sri. Srujan Lokesh - adopted **White Tiger** by paying **Rs.1,00,000**/- for a period of one year from 18/9/2018 to 17/9/2019.

3. Yogesh K.M, Bengaluru - adopted **Indian Leopard** by paying **Rs.35,000**/- for a period of one year from 15/9/2018 to 14/9/2019.

4. Kum. Veda Krishna Murthy - adopted **Indian Leopard** (Bhavana) by paying **Rs.35,000**/- for a period of one year from 9/9/2018 to 8/9/2019.

5. M/s Kumar Organic Products Limited, Bengaluru - adopted Tigress (Manya) by paying Rs.1,00,000/- for a period of one year from 25/8/2018 to 24/8/2019.

6. M/s. MAC Group CNC India Tools & Service (P) Ltd, Bengaluru -

adopted **Tiger** by paying **Rs.50,000/-** for a period of six months from 7/9/2018 to 6/3/2019.

7. Sri DhruvPatil S/o M.B.Patil, Bengaluru - adopted Elephant (Chamundi), Leopard (Chintu), Giraffe, Red Billed Toucan and Indian Crested Porcupine

by paying **Rs.3,21,000**/- for a period of one year from 22/8/2018 to 21/8/2019.

8. Dr.Raghavendra Prasad M.D. and Mr.M.G.Devraj, Mysuru -

adopted **White Tiger** by paying **Rs.1,00,000/-** for a period of one year from 10/8/2018 to 9/8/2019.

Major Adoptions

9. Sri Prashanth.S.Iyengar and Smt.Geetha.S. Iyengar, Pune -

adopted **Two Tigers** by paying **Rs.2,00,000/-** for a period of one year from 17/8/2018 to 16/8/2019.

10. Mahendra Singh Kalappa, Bannur - has adopted **Tiger** by paying **Rs.1,00,000**/- for a period of one year from 29/7/2018 to 28/7/2019.

11. EXDION Solution Pvt. Ltd - adopted **Cheetah** by paying **Rs.50,000**/- for a period of one year from 29/7/2018 to 28/7/2019.

12. Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (P) Ltd, Mysuru -

adopted One **Asiatic Lion**, One **Bengal Tiger**, two **Giraffes**, one **Cheetah** and one **Zebra** by paying Rs. 5.00 lakhs for a period of one year from 9/7/2018 to 8/7/2019.

13. Sri Darshan S -

adopted an **Elephant** and **Bengal Tiger** by paying **Rs.2,75,000**/-

for a period of one year from 21/07/2018 to 20/07/2019.

14. Sri Prakruth Datta -

has adopted **Indian Leopard** by paying **Rs.35,000**/- for a period of one year from 14/7/2018 to 13/7/2019.

15. Sri Aditya Sarangarajan - adopted **Indian Leopard** by paying **Rs.35,000**/- for a period of one year from 14/7/2018 to 13/7/2019.

16. Sri Shashank R. Gowda - adopted **Indian Leopard** by paying **Rs.35,000**/- for a period of one year from 14/7/2018 to 13/7/2019.

17. Bharatiya Reserve Bank - adopted Cheetah, Bengal Tiger, Zebra, Asiatic Lion and Giraffe by paying Rs.4,00,000/- for a period of one year from 09/07/2018 to 08/07/2019.

Arrival of animals from different Zoos to Mysuru Zoo under an animal exchange programme

We received,

- 1.1:0 Lion-Tailed Macaque, 1:1 Nilgiri Langur, 1:1 White Tiger and 1:0 Gaur from Arignar Anna Zoo, Chennai.
- 2.1:3 Grant Zebra. Zebras from Tel Aviv Zoo, Israel.
- 3.1:0 Indian Grey Wolf, 1:1 Jackal, 1:1 African Grey Parrot and 1:1 Barn Owl from Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park, Pune
- 4.2:1 Mouse Deer from Nandankanan Biological Park, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Mysuru Zoo management takes this opportunity to convey gratitude to the concerned authorities/persons for their active and timely support and cooperation for the above animal exchange programs.

Zoo In-Reach programme



AdarshaVidyalaya (RMSA) Malavalli, Mandya Dist.



JSS Public School, Mysuru



Specially-abled children from Krishnarajanagara taluku Government Schools



ATI trainee officers from NIRD & PR, Hyderabad

Retirement / Transfer of officials and Officers



Sri Jaga - Junior Attender - retired on 31/08/2018 after serving for a period of 32 years and 9 months.



Sri Ajit M. Kulkarni IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests received the charge of the Executive Director, Mysuru Zoo from Sri.Siddramappa Chalkapure IFS on 04/07/18.

VIPvisit



Visit by Sri R Shankar, Honorable Forest Minister of Karnataka



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