

Mysuru Zoo

NEWS LETTER

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Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru

Newsletter

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1. From the Desk

Dear Readers,

This quarter has been a memorable time in the history of Mysore Zoo. During this period, the construction of Gorilla facility sponsored by the Infosys Foundation was completed and a pair of Gorilla arrived from the Munster Zoo in Germany and another pair of Bornean Orangutans arrived from the Singapore Zoological Gardens.

Respected Madam Smt Sudha Murthy herself could visit the zoo to see the progress of Gorilla House construction! This visit was followed by financial assistance of Rs 10000/- each to all the daily wage staff members of Mysore Zoo from the Infosys Foundation. Apart from this, Madam kindly agreed to sponsor construction of housing for family group of Gorilla also. This work involves the investment of about Rs 3.6 Crore.

During this period, Hon'ble Forest Minister, Govt of Karnataka Sri Umesh Katti also visited the zoo, interacted with the zoo staff and encouraged them to do good work.

During this period, many events of international importance were organised to spread the awareness about wildlife conservation. Dr Romulus Whitaker, Dr Saket Badola, IFS, Head Traffic India, Dr Sanjay Gubbi and Dr Gerard Martin, the Liana Trust shared their knowledge and experience with the participants.

There is some revival in the number of visitors visiting the zoo but still long way to go. We really thank all the well wishers and donors for their continued support!

Now, the Orangutans are available for public viewing. You can plan your visit to Mysore Zoo to see this majestic greater ape. Please follow the COVID appropriate behaviour during your visit to zoo for the safety of yourself, others and your beloved zoo animals!

Ajit Kulkarni IFS,

Deputy Conservator of Forests &
Executive Director,

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens,
Mysuru 570 010, Karnataka

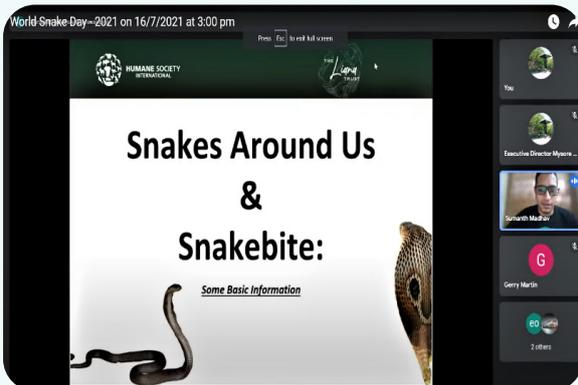
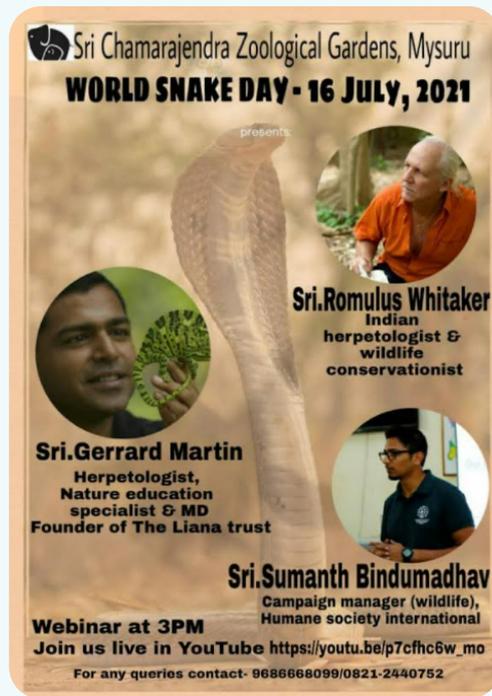
Cover page photo
Mandarin Duck
(*Aix galericulata*)
© Mysuru Zoo



2. World Snake Day - 16th July 2021

Snakes are incredible creatures. There are about 3000 different species of snakes around the world. They are an important part of the food chain and play a vital role in ecosystem. Due to various anthropogenic activities, Snake's population is decreasing drastically. There is a need to understand snakes. Best ways to approach issues is through open and transparent discussion with researchers and conservators.

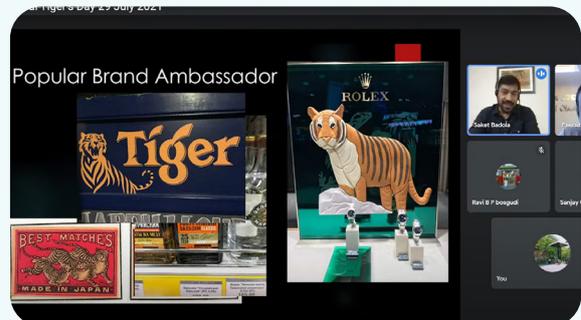
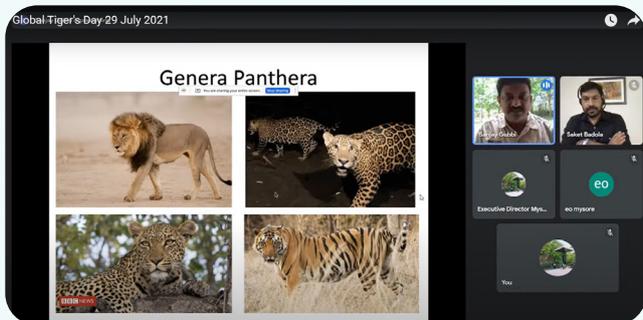
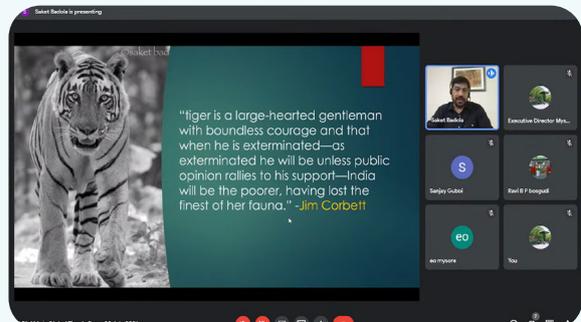
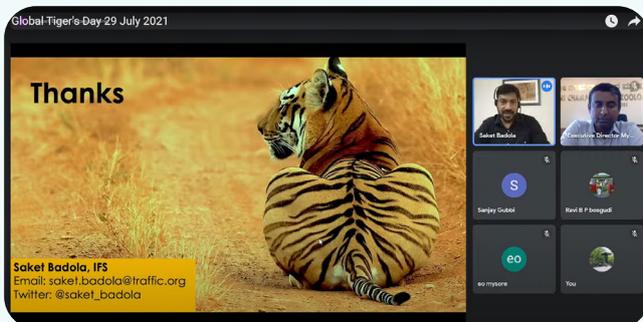
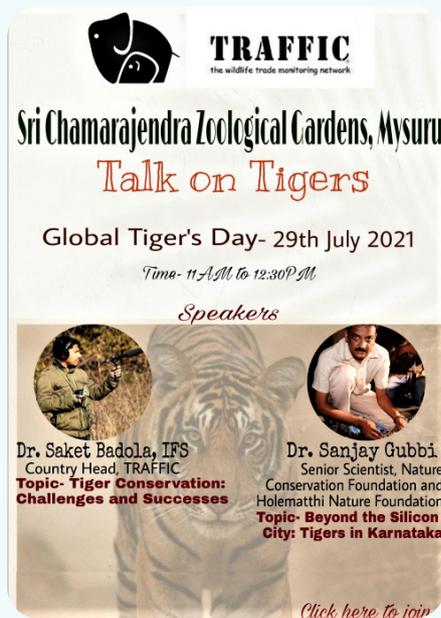
In this context, Mysuru Zoo celebrated the snake kingdom by creating awareness about these limbless creatures, by trying to shed some light on the most unscientific myths and their significance in the ecosystem through webinar. Talk was addressed by Romulus Whitaker, Indian Herpetologist & Wildlife Conservationist, Gerard Martin Herpetologist, Nature Education Specialist and Managing Director -The Liana Trust, India and Sumanth Bindumadhav Campaign Manager(Wildlife), Humane Society International.



3. Global Tiger Day - 29th July 2021

Tigers are incredible creatures renowned for their power and strength. They play a significant role in the ecosystem. Due to various anthropogenic activities, their population is decreasing drastically. It is essential to understand the need for their conservation. In respect to the need for conservation efforts to save this charismatic species, at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010, the Head of governments of 12 tiger range countries viz., Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Vietnam, Thailand and Nepal came together and declared to take necessary actions to double the number of wild tigers around the world. One such action was tiger conservation awareness by celebrating Global Tiger Day annually on 29th July. This summit led to the establishment of Global Tiger Recovery Programme. From worldwide fund-raisers to workshops and campaigns, Global Tiger's Day has gained tremendous recognition over the past years, making it an important event for wildlife conservation and awareness.

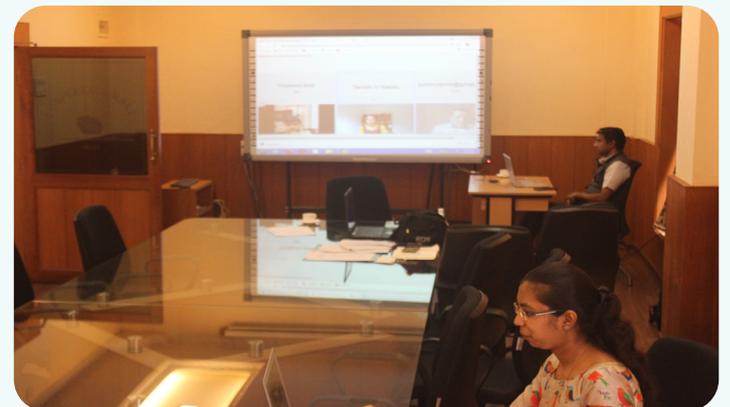
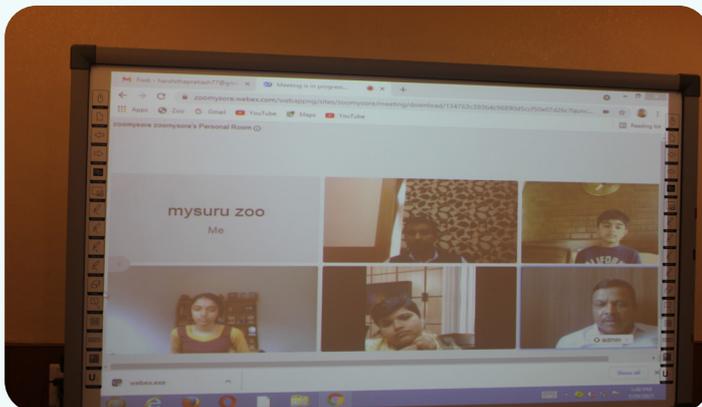
As part of this contribution towards tiger conservation, Mysuru Zoo celebrated Global Tiger's Day on 29th July 2021 by conducting Live sessions on YouTube. Resource Persons Dr. Saket Badola, IFS Country Head, TRAFFIC and Dr. Sanjay Gubbi Senior Scientist, Nature Conservation Foundation and Holematthi Nature Foundation joined us and shared their experience and further measures need to be taken in protecting this magnificent endangered cat.



4. Inauguration of Youth Club 2021

Motivating young minds towards nature conservation, forms an important aspect of conservation efforts. Having regards to this very important aspect, Mysuru Zoo started unique education program in the form of Youth Club twenty-eight years ago. In this program, 60 interested students are enrolled in the age group of 12 to 18 years, and classes will be conducted on Sundays, for 25 weeks between 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. The knowledge we impart to the members of this club is vital to their understanding of the components of biodiversity and their interaction. The Club is used to evolve strategies to educate children and teenagers to maintain a healthy relationship with nature, as well as to make healthy lifestyle choices. Students will interact with resource persons, subject matter specialist's and scientists. The topics include Wildlife Conservation, Captive Animal Management, Birds, Reptiles, Spiders, Ants, Demonstration of Tranquilization Equipment's, Wildlife Crime and Laws, Fishes, Road Ecology, etc.

In order to cope with covid situations like last year this year too Mysuru zoo initiated e-youth club program and continued its enduring program by conducting online classes. This year formal inauguration was done on August 1st 2021 by Sri. B.P. Ravi IFS, Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka. Sri. Ajit Kulkarni IFS, Executive Director, Mysuru Zoo was also present at the occasion.



5. World Lion Day – 10th August

World Lion Day is observed every year on August 10th to create awareness about the conservation of Lions. In 2013, co-founders Dereck and Beverly Joubert began the initiative in 2013, bringing together both National Geographic and the Big Cat Initiative under a single banner to protect the remaining big cats living in the wild.

Lions are the apex predator of their habitat, they check the population of browsers and grazers, as they target weakest members of the herd, indirectly helping in disease control among the prey population and helping in maintaining ecological balance. Their conservation also helps in protection of natural forest areas and habitats and which in turn, helps in biodiversity management. The government of India is initiating schemes and projects for the conservation of lions. India recorded the highest lion population with an increase of 29% from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020. World Lion Day, therefore, is an opportunity for lion lovers all over the planet to push back against the decline in the range and habitat of the king of beasts. It would be a tragic loss for both nature and humanity if the species were to disappear entirely from the natural environment.



6. World Elephant Day - 12th August

Elephants are the largest of all land mammals in the planet. They occupy a wide range of habitats like savannahs, grasslands and forests. Over the last 100 years, African elephant populations have declined from 3-5 million to 470,000-690,000 and Asian elephant populations have declined from 100,000 to between 35,000 and 50,000. Habitat loss and conflict with people are among the biggest threats to their continued survival.

World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12th to honour elephants and to spread awareness about the critical threats they are facing and to share knowledge regarding positive management of captive and wild elephants. In this context on August 12th 2021 Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysuru celebrated World Elephant Day. Attractive information boards and fact boards about Elephants were displayed in front of Elephant enclosure to educate visitors and Online Quiz competition was conducted for students.



9. Snake Bite Awareness Day - 19th September

Snakes are the incredible creatures. They play a vital role in maintaining homeostasis of ecosystem. Snakebite, is a major public health issue but a hugely neglected problem which continues to affect millions of people with death and disability worldwide. In 2018, the first ever International Snakebite Awareness Day was celebrated on September 19th, to emphasize on awareness and actions needed to tackle the burden of snakebite. Each year, approximately 5.4 million people are bitten by a snake, and 2.7 million are injected with venom. Annually, this leads to 400,000 people being permanently disabled or disfigured and between 83,000-138,000 deaths.

To contribute to the worldwide celebrations Mysuru Zoo celebrated International Snakebite Awareness Day on 19th September 2021 to create awareness among the public regarding snakebites. Informative boards and facts sheets related to snakebite, Do's and Don'ts, precautionary measures, first aid, details of venomous and non-venomous snakes and common myths regarding snakes were displayed. Snake Keepers of Zoo, Zoo Education Officer and Zoo Volunteers interacted with the visitors.





8. World Rhino Day - 22nd September

World Rhino Day is celebrated on September 22nd every year. This special day provides the opportunity to celebrate rhinos in unique way. Very few rhinos survive outside national parks and reserves due to persistent poaching and habitat loss over many decades. Around 27,000 rhinos remain in the wild. If any 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. Since then, September 22nd is celebrated as Rhino Day every year.

To contribute to this celebration, Mysuru Zoo took initiative to celebrate World Rhino Day in a befitting manner to create awareness among the public regarding Rhino's and their conservation. Informative Boards and facts sheets were displayed in front of White Rhino and Great Indian One Horned Rhino enclosure. Quiz and puzzle was conducted. Zoo Education Officer, Animal Keepers and Zoo Volunteers interacted with the visitors. Sri L R Mahadevswamy Chairperson Zoo Authority of Karnataka, Smt. Jyothi Rechanna, Members, Governing Council of Zoo Authority of Karnataka were also present.



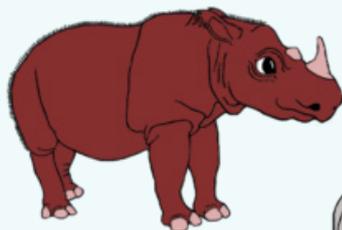


WORLD RHINO DAY

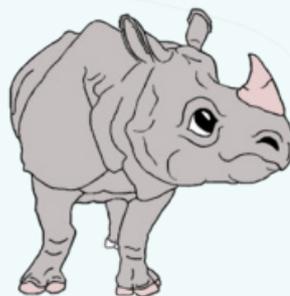
22 September

Celebrating

the FIVE species of rhinoceros



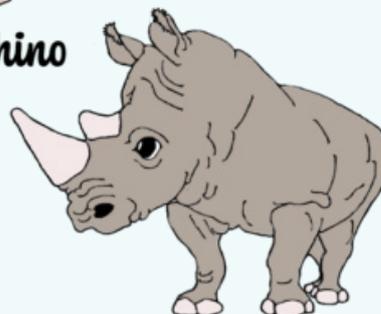
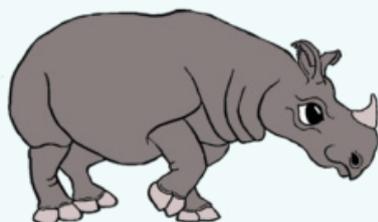
Sumatran rhino



Greater one-horned rhino



Black rhino



9. Recent Developments

i. Chainlink mesh Protection Work to Orangutan Enclosure



ii. Chainlink mesh provided for Bird enclosure at Kurghalli rescue centre



iii. Rainshelther for Gorilla Den



iv. Providing Wall tiles to Store



10. News in Brief

a. Visit to Mysuru Zoo by Smt. Sudha Murthy

Respected Smt. Sudha Murthy Madam visited Mysore Zoo on 14.09.21 and inspected upcoming Greater Ape House sponsored by the Infosys Foundation. She motivated Zoo staff to continue to do good work and assured of continued support. Mysuru Zoo and ZAK thank Madam for kindness!



b. Visit of Forest Minister

On 30th September 2021, Hon'ble Forest Minister Sri Umesh Katti visited Mysore Zoo and interacted with Zoo Officials and staff members. On this occasion ZAK Chairman Sri L R Mahadevswamy, Members Mrs. Jyoti and Mr. Gokul Govardhan were also present.





c. Animal exchange program

1. Acquisition of one pair of orangutans

A pair of adult orangutans aged 17 years and 14 years were received from Singapore zoo on 28/08/2021 as part of animal exchange programme. The animals travelled through air and were received at Bangalore International Airport. Soon after arrival the animals were kept under quarantine for a period of 30 days. During quarantine the animals were screened for important pathogens and were dewormed. Now both the orangutans are healthy and are doing well. Orangutans are now open for public viewing.



2. Acquisition of one female Chimpanzee

A female Chimpanzee aged 5 years was received from Zoo Taiping and night safari, Malaysia on 04/06/2021. The animal was quarantined for 30 days at the Kurghalli rescue centre. During this period the animal was screened for specific pathogens and dewormed. A bit shy in nature, the animal is doing well and is now open for public viewing.

3. Arrival of Gorilla from Germany

Mysuru Zoo received two male Western Lowland Gorillas from Allwetter Zoo, Munster, Germany named Thabo (13 years old) and Demba (8 years old) by air as a part of animal exchange program on 19/8/21. Both the animals were observed to be healthy when received at Bangalore International Airport. Soon after arrival the animals were quarantined for 30 days.

The new enclosure was built according to the guidelines of EAZA. The new enclosure consisted of two holding rooms, a larger day kraal and the exhibit area with all the enrichment to keep them busy throughout the day.

Ms Lea and Mr Peter, Gorilla keepers from Munster Zoo had accompanied the Gorillas from Germany. They stayed with us for 10 days and ensured smooth acclimatization of Gorillas and also shared their knowledge and skill in Gorilla husbandry with our zoo staff.

Strict quarantine and biosecurity measures are being followed. Keepers of Mysuru Zoo were screened for Covid-19 and other zoonotic diseases before assigning them to Gorilla facility. During the quarantine period the animals were screened for specific pathogens and dewormed. Now the animals are healthy and enjoy playing together in the enclosure.



d. Birth of Young Ones in Mysuru Zoo

Birth of Giraffe Calf in Mysuru Zoo- a male Giraffe calf was born to Lakshmi on 12/07/2021 sired by Bharath, early in the morning. The calf appeared healthy but took some time to stand on all its four. Though the calf appeared healthy he took almost 10 hours for his first feeding. The Dam is taking good care of the calf. Now the calf is consuming feed and fodder and is happily roaming around the enclosure following his mom.



e. Major Adoptions/ Donations

Name and Address	Name of the Birds / Animals Adopted	Amount	Period of Adoption	Term
Kaushal K Hebbar	Indian Grey Wolf, Finch, Ring tailed lemur, flamingo, Love bird and Great Indian Hornbill	52,000	3/7/2021 to 2/7/2022	1 Year
Karanji Rakshanandan (Karanji Venkatesh Gargi)	Hippopotamus	75,000	5/7/2021 to 4/7/2022	1 Year
Apoorva Shivanna	Jaguar	35,000	7/7/2021 to 6/7/2022	1 Year
Akhila Karnataka Dr.Shivarajkumar Abhimanigala Sangha and Akhila Karnataka Rajaratna Puneethrajukumar Abhimanigala Sangha, Mysuru District	Black Panther	35,000	12/7/2021 to 11/7/2022	1 Year

Anoksha M Shetty (ED Sir kade)	Jaguar, Nile Crocodile, Indian Crested Porcupine, King Cobra and Finch	50,500	11/07/2021 to 10/7/2022	1 Year
Monisha Rao (Rct Tejas SP)	Indian Leopard	35,000	14/7/2021 to 13/7/2022	1 Year
Harish Gowda G.D.	Tiger	1,00,000	13/7/2021 to 12/7/2022	1 Year
Sri Prajwal Revanna	Black Panther	35,000	15/7/2021 to 14/7/2022	1 Year
Sri Charith Mahendra (Rect in R Mahadev, Contractor)	Jaguar	35,000	16/7/2021 to 15/7/2022	1 Year
Ranvith Shetty s/o Rishab Shetty, Film Actor. (Rect in this)	Indian Leopard	35,000	19/7/2021 to 18/7/2022	1 Year
B. Chandrasekhar	Cheetah	50,000	19/7/2021 to 18/7/2022	1 Year
R Keshava	Asiatic Lion	1,00,000	20/7/2021 to 19/7/2022	1 Year
Zoo Garden Sri Rangappa	Indian Leopard & Love Bird	36,000	26/7/2021 to 25/7/2022	1 Year
Lions Club of Mysore Palace City & GEONET & CONSULTANT	Lion	1,00,000	1/8/2021 to 31/7/2022	1 Year
Prisha Shashank	Zebra	50,000	13/11/2021 to 12/11/2022	1 Year
R. Jayakumar,	Jaguar	35,000	29/7/2021 to 28/7/2022	1 Year
Samarth M Vijaykumar Nirani Nirani Sugars Limited	Tiger	1,00,000	29/7/2021 to 28/7/2022	1 Year

ChandraKala C	Common Ostrich, Darwin's Rhea and Cassowary	30,000	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2022	1 Year
Manjunatha Ramasamudra	Cheetah	50,000	24/7/2021 to 23/7/2022	1 Year
Anirudh Basavaraj Paramshetti	Black Panther & Indian Leopard	70,000	28/8/2021 to 27/8/2022	1 Year
Nagendra Subbanna	Cheetah, Spotted Deer, Eclectus Parrot, Star Tortoise, Peacock & Tawny Eagle	80,000	1/8/2021 to 31/7/2022	1 Year
Vinaya Kumar Doddabasappa	Ring Tailed Lemur	50,000	25/8/2021 to 24/8/2022	1 Year
Sri Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji Suttur Math, Mysuru	Donation for One Day (Feeding Cost)	1,00,000		1 Year
Anvaise Exim Pvt Ltd	Indian Leopard	35,000	15/8/2021 to 14/8/2022	1 Year
Prema Swarupa	Star Tortoise	35,000	15/8/2021 to 14/8/2022	1 Year
Jaishnav Abhishek,	Black Panther	35,000	23-10-2021 to 22/10/2022	1 Year
Kumar Organic Product Limited	Tiger	1,00,000	25/8/2021 to 24/8/2022	1 Year
GAT EC DEPT ALUMNI 2005-09	Indian leopard, Malabar giant squirrel, Black swan, Swamp deer and Mottled wood owl	63,500	7/9/2021 to 6/9/2022	1 Year
Dakshwadiraj & Aashutosh	Black Panther	35,000	11/9/2021 to 10/9/2022	1 Year

Dhanveerah Gowda	Black Panther	35,000	8/9/2021 to 7/9/2022	1 Year
Dhruv Compusoft consultancy pvt ltd	Tiger	1,00,000	14/9/2021 to 13/9/2022	1 Year
Krithik Cheluvvaraju	Gorilla	1,75,000	17/9/2021 to 16/9/2022	1 Year
Namana Cheluvvaraju	Gorilla	1,75,000	17/9/2021 to 16/9/2022	1 Year
Indian Oil Corporation Limited Mysore Division Office	Indian Rhinoceros-2	1,50,000	22/9/2021 to 21/9/2022	1 Year
Sudha Murthy, Infosys Foundation	Donation	20,00,000		

