

Mysuru Zoo

# NEWS LETTER

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## Newsletter

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### 1. From the Desk

Dear Readers,

#### Greetings!

This quarter witnessed many historic events and we could carry the message of conservation to many. Mysore Zoo organized two days All India Zoo Directors Conference, on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2023, in collaboration with the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi. Zoo Directors from most of the major zoos of our country actively participated in it. This event provided an opportunity to interact with subject matter specialists and also to share the experiences and best practices in zoo sector.

Republic Day was celebrated with active participation of zoo staff and members of Governing Council of Zoo Authority of Karnataka and Chairman of the Authority.

Youth Clubs Valedictory function was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January wherein young participants shared their experience about the issues they learnt and activities they have done over last 6 months. They also got certificates from the Chief Guest.

World Wildlife Day was celebrated on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and it witnessed active participation of zoo visitors and our zoo education team enthusiastically interacted with them.

The construction of Gorilla Facility, Sloth Bear Facility and Ring-Tailed Lemur facilities made significant progress. All these works are sponsored by donor agencies under their CSR activities.

I thank all my colleagues, zoo visitors, donors and well wishers for their continued support to Mysore Zoo.

**Thank you All!**

Cover page photo  
Tiger  
(*Panthera tigris*)

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**Ajit Kulkarni, IFS**

Deputy Conservator of Forests &  
Executive Director  
Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens,  
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## 2. National Zoo Directors Conference – 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Mysuru Zoo in coordination with Central Zoo Authority organised Two Day National Conference for Zoo Directors of India on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The conference mainly focused on **“Master Planning and Building the National Capacity for species Management & Conservation Breeding.”**

In this conference 59 Participants from 25 states and an union territory participated. Topics of discussion included Zoo Designing, Zoo Health, Policy Guidelines for Zoos, Zoo planning and Conservation Education. 14 Resource persons and 5 Zoo Directors shared their knowledge and experience with the participants.

Inaugural session was graced by Mayor of Mysore City Corporation Shri.Shivakumar, Chairman Zoo Authority of Karnataka Shri. Shivakumar M, Shri Jawaid Akhtar IAS, ACS, Forest, Environment & Ecology, Govt of Karnataka, Shri. Sanjay Kumar Shukla Member Secretary, CZA, Shri. Ravi B.P Member Secretary, ZAK, Shri. Gokul Govardhan, Smt.Jyoti Rechanna Members Governing Council ZAK.

Conference included brainstorming sessions and regular interaction of zoo directors. Central Zoo Authority sponsoring such conferences provides an opportunity for zoo Directors to share their experiences, ideas, technologies, techniques, problems and also find solutions for the problems so as to enhance the effectiveness of management and also the contribution of zoos towards conservation.





### 3. Youth Club Valedictory Function

Youth Club is an exclusive conservation programme run by Mysuru Zoo for the last 29 years. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> Youth Club consecutively held by Mysuru Zoo involving the young children aged between 12–18 years for 25 Sundays. This year youth club classes were held from 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023. 60 students representing different institutions consisting of 30 boys and 30 girls participated. Students got exposure to basics of Captive Wild Animals Management, Biodiversity & Wildlife Conservation, Importance of Zoo's, Animal Behaviour, Man-Animal conflicts, Wildlife crimes & laws, Forest fire and its management, Importance of Conservation of lakes, marine biology and road ecology. Zoo Veterinary Officers and other Subject Matter Specialists and scientists interacted with the participants. Apart from this, the students were taken for Zoo rounds and for visit to Kurghalli Rescue Centre and Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. The Valedictory Session and Prize distribution for various competition winners was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Shri B.P. Ravi, IFS, APCCF & Member Secretary Zoo Authority of Karnataka, Shri Ajit Kulkarni, IFS, DCF & Executive Director Mysuru Zoo, Dr. Prashanth and Dr. Adarsh, Veterinary Officers Mysuru Zoo were present at this occasion. The aim of youth club is to develop leadership qualities in young minds to spread the message of wildlife protection and environmental conservation.





#### 4. World Wildlife Day – 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Every year on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, world celebrate **“World Wildlife Day”** to honour the beautiful and unique species of flora and fauna. Both plants and animals have inherent values in our ecosystem. The occasion of World Wildlife Day allows us to recognize these magnificent wildlife species and aims to raise public

awareness about the need to safeguard these species. This day serves as a timely reminder that more needs to be done to combat wildlife crime and human-caused biodiversity loss, which has growing cultural, social, and economic repercussions.

This year's theme **“Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation,”** provides an opportunity to join hands in conserving wildlife. Mysuru Zoo celebrated Wildlife Day by displaying theme posters on this topic on the display board at the zoo premises. Zoo visitors and students were engaged and briefed regarding this topic to create awareness.



## 5. Recent Developmental Works

### i. Construction of Ring Tailed Lemur Enclosure



### ii. Construction of Chimpanzee Daykral



### iii. Construction of Gorilla Family Group Enclosure



#### iv. Renovation of Sloth Bear Enclosure



#### v. Construction of Orangutan Enclosure



## 6. News in Brief

### A. Major Events and Happenings

#### i. Republic Day

Mysuru zoo celebrated 75<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Sri Shivakumar. M chairman Zoo Authority of Karnataka, Smt. Jyothi Rechanna and Gokul Govardhan council members ZAK, Sri Ajit Kulkarni Executive Director Mysuru Zoo graced the occasion.



#### ii. Dedication of Lion cubs for Public viewing

On 5.8.2022 Cubs were born to Lioness Nirbhaya and Lion Raja. they were dedicated for public viewing on 26.01.2023 by Hon'ble Minister of Cooperation and District In-charge Minister Sri. S.T. Somashekhar in the presence of Sri.Shivakumar, Mayor Mysore City Corporation, Sri M. Shivakumar, Chairman ZAK, Smt. Jyothi Rechanna, Sri.Gokul Govardhan Members, ZAK, Sri Ravi B P IFS, Member Secretary ZAK, Local Public Representatives and Visitors.



### iii. Zoo Day Celebration

The staff members of Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens celebrated the zoo day in a distinctive way. Zoo day is celebrated in honour of birth anniversary of **Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur the founder of Mysuru Zoo**, which is on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. As part of Zoo Day celebrations various sports





competition were held on 14/3/2022 & 21/3/2022. Zoo staff actively participated in a jovial and sportive way. On 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 Chamundeshwari pooja was arranged followed by lunch and valedictory function. All the employees celebrated this day as festival. During the valedictory function, the winners of the competition were given prizes besides honouring the employees by way of encouraging them to render good service.

#### iv. Nesting Season of Aquatic birds at Mysuru Zoo's walk-through aviary

The breeding season the busiest time for birds and most rewarding times of year in Zoo. The Walk-Through Aviary of Mysuru Zoo houses Spot Billed Pelican, Great White Pelican, Painted Stork, Pond heron, Black Crowned Night Heron, Purple Heron, Eurasian Spoonbill, Black-Headed Ibis and Egrets.

As November month approached most of the birds were occupied in clattering their bills and searching nesting material and nesting spots. As soon as nest building behavior was observed, the birds were facilitated by providing paddy straw, hay grass and twigs of different size to ensure that all birds get sufficient nesting material. Each individual pair of birds, even though they belong to the same species had different nesting strategy and they utilized different nesting material. Hence understanding their needs and providing nesting material constantly was the task. Only when these requirements are fulfilled, reproductive success can be achieved in captivity. This includes providing proper nesting material, nesting spots, cover, food as well as positive attitude of keepers towards husbandry. The primary diet of these birds in captivity is fish and dry prawn.

The painted storks are monogamous birds and they are platform nesters. They occupied tall rectangular mesh platforms in the aviary. Black headed ibis preferred the enclosed platforms constructed in between the primary branching's of the Rain tree. In both, Painted stork and Black headed ibis, parental investment from both male and female was seen starting from nest building to rearing of their altricial chicks. The Spoon Bill Pairs occupied a secure bushy covering for nesting. Black Crowned Night Herons are prolific breeders which have occupied every corner of the aviary. An unusual bonding between Painted stork and a Spot-Billed Pelican, trying to nest together was also observed.



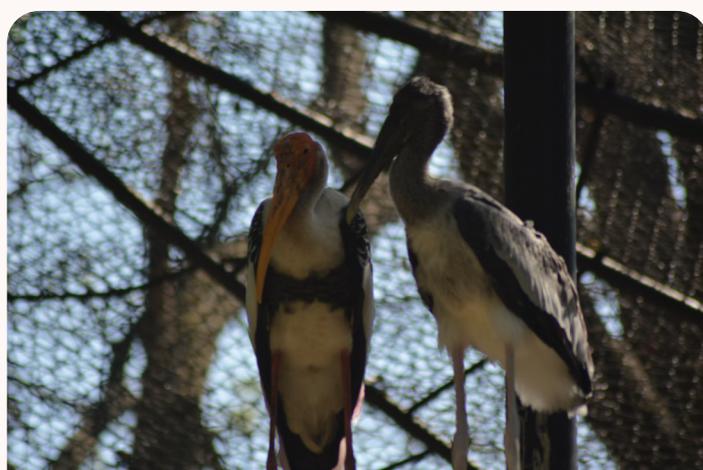
**Painted Stork Involved in Collecting Nesting Material and Nest Building**



**Painted Stork with 5 Days Old Chicks**



**Painted Stork with 30 Days Old Chicks**



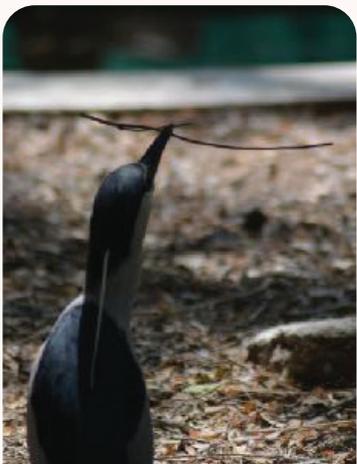
**Three Months Old Chick Ready to Fledge**



Bonding Seen Between Painted Stork and Spot Billed Pelican Trying to Build Nest



Nesting Activity Seen in Eurasian Spoonbill



Black Crowned Night Heron Nesting



**Egg and Chicks of Black Crowned Night Heron**

**v. Major Adoptions from Jan–March 2023**

| Sl. No | Name of the Adopter   | Name of the Birds / Animals           | Term   | Period of Adoption           | Amount |
|--------|---|---------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|
| 1.     | C. Puttaiah   | Peacock, Indian Cobra, Rhesus Macaque | 2 Year | 8/1/2023<br>To<br>7/1/2025   | 36,000 |
| 2.     | Ms Maya Mahajan – Barthur   | Gaur                                  | 1 Year | 12/1/2023<br>To<br>11/1/2024 | 50,000 |
| 3.     | M/s Alumni Association<br>Golden Jubilee Celebration<br>J.S.S College of Pharmacy<br>SS Nagar | Gaur                                  | 1 Year | 1/2/2023<br>To<br>31/1/2024  | 50,000 |
| 4.     | Karthik Rajeshwaran   | Hamadryas Baboon                      | 1 Year | 27/1/2023<br>To<br>26/1/2024 | 30,000 |
| 5.     | Viswanathan   | Crocodile                             | 1 Year | 29/1/2023<br>To<br>28/1/2024 | 15,000 |
| 6.     | Koustubha Nagesh  | Small Indian Civet                    | 1 Year | 2/2/2023<br>To<br>1/2/2024   | 10,000 |
| 7.     | N Raghavendra Prabhu  | Jaguar                                | 1 Year | 5/2/2023<br>To<br>4/2/2024   | 50,000 |
| 8.     | Kodira A Kushalapa<br>(IFS Rtd)   | Great Indian Hornbill                 | 1 Year | 1/1/2023<br>To<br>31/12/2023 | 10,000 |

| Sl. No | Name of the Adopter  | Name of the Birds / Animals                                     | Term        | Period of Adoption           | Amount   |
|--------|--|---|-------------|------------------------------|----------|
| 9.     | Yamuna Prabhakar   | Peacock White<br>King Cobra<br>Indian Cobra<br>Common Rat Snake | 1 Year      | 11/2/2023<br>To<br>10/2/2024 | 14,000   |
| 10.    | Kayner Technology<br>India Ltd   | CSR Fund BOV  | 1 Year      |                              | 5,00,000 |
| 11.    | Lalitha Rama Chandra   | White Peacock, Indian<br>Cobra and King Cobra                   | 1 Year      | 12/2/2023<br>To<br>11/2/2024 | 13,000   |
| 12.    | Kluber Lubrication<br>India Pvt Ltd  | Donation for animal Under<br>CSR fund                           | 1 Year      |                              | 5,00,000 |
| 13.    | Master Avyukt C R  | Indian Leopard  | 1 Year      | 5/3/2023<br>To<br>4/3/2024   | 50,000   |
| 14.    | Ms B L Nagamani  | Tiger   | 1 Year      | 20/2/2023<br>To<br>19/2/2024 | 1,00,000 |
| 15.    | Ms B L Vathsala  | Tiger   | 1 Year      | 20/2/2023<br>To<br>19/2/2024 | 1,00,000 |
| 16.    | Canara Bank<br>Zoo Branch,<br>Ittigegudu,<br>Mysuru-10                                   | Tiger   | 1 Year      | 1/3/2023<br>To<br>29/2/2024  | 1,50,000 |
| 17.    | AB Kusuma Kumari<br>Anvase Exim Pvt LTD  | Leopard Cat   | 1 Year      | 15/3/2023<br>To<br>14/3/2024 | 10,000   |
| 18.    | Hitaishi S Kiran<br>Anvase Exim Pvt LTD  | Indian Muntjac  | 1 Year      | 12/3/2023<br>To<br>11/3/2024 | 10,000   |
| 19.    | M/s Techno Canada INC  | Asiatic Elephant<br>Indian Rhinoceros                           | 1 Year      | 2/3/2023<br>To<br>1/3/2024   | 4,50,000 |
| 20.    | Lions Club of Mysore<br>Palace City & GEONET &<br>CONSULTANT,<br>NR Mohalla,<br>Mysuru-7 | Lion  | 6<br>Months | 16/2/2023<br>To<br>15/8/2023 | 1,00,000 |

\*\* (Major Adopters name > Rs.10,000/-)