



Central Zoo Authority
केन्द्रीय विज्ञान संस्थान

NEWSLETTER

An E-Newsletter of National Zoological Park



NEW DELHI

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Photograph of the month



'Bubbly'

The Leopardess enjoying sunshine on a winter morning in NZP



Issue 1, Feb 2021

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Cover photo

'Bubbly' The Leopardess
enjoying sunshine on a winter
morning in NZP

from
**DIRECTOR'S
DESK**



Zoos play extremely significant role in conservation education and recreation. Besides this, they have been actively involved in conservation breeding of endangered species and research related to wild animals. Moreover, Zoological Parks in urban setting are green lungs and offer variety of ecosystem services. A recent study done by The Energy and Resources Institute in collaboration with Central Zoo Authority has revealed that National Zoological Park extends ecosystem services worth around 422.79 crores annually. In the time of growing urbanization, Zoos are the most approachable places to get the young generation exposed to floral and faunal wealth of the country and also of the world. I am sure that our small step in the field of conservation education would succeed in creating space in the hearts of young minds in particular. Your suggestions and feedback would help us to make this endeavour more meaningful.

Photofeature

Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay

THEIR MOMENT IN THE SUN WHILE CITY SHIVERS



► With the mercury dipping, National Zoological Park has intensified its winter drill by creating more space in the arena for animals to soak in the sun. Authorities are also providing paddy straws for their comfort, with the diet being revised considering the weather

► Special huts have also been created in the arena to save the animals from the chilling cold, with heaters, hessian cloth curtains and agronet covers being provided for them. Special food, including soups, jaggery and groundnuts, have been added to their meals

A photo feature covered by
Times of India, Delhi edition on National Zoological Park

Animal in focus: **Brow antlered deer/Sangai Deer/Thamin/Manipur Deer**

Scientific Name: *Rucervus eldi eldi*

Brow antlered deer have unique antlers that justify their name from the tip of the brow to the point of the beam the antler sweep in one continuous graceful curve. Popularly known as Sangai, Brow-antlered Deer is also known as Thamin or Manipuri Deer. There are three subspecies found in the wild in which Indian sub-species is the rarest with only a localised population of 260 individuals. The Indian subspecies was considered extinct until a small population of 14 individuals were rediscovered in early 1950s. Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur is the only place where they survive in the wild. It has a type of specialised habitat called Phumdi, a type of floating vegetation. Phumdis provide food, shelter and breeding sites for these endangered deer species.

The National Zoological Park is a participatory zoo in conservation breeding of this species and has been very successful in it. It is to the credit of the NZP and other participating zoos that today there are more brow antlered deer in the zoo's than in wild.



Sangai Deer have beautiful pair of antlers, which they shed once a year and re-grows fully before the onset of breeding season.



National Zoological Park has successful breeding record of these highly endangered species of deer, which further helps in their Ex-Situ Conservation.

The Flora: Kamandal tree/Winged Calabash, Jicaro, Mexican Calabash, Gourd tree

Scientific Name: *Crescentia alata*

Crescentia alata is native to the tropics of Central America, and a low growing tree with a rounded crown. There are only three specimens of this tree found in Delhi; one among them is in NZP. In NZP this tree can be seen in front of the Emu enclosure, distinguished from other trees by their large gourd like fruits which is in their native place used as utensils. The pulp of the fruit is poisonous to bird and animals. The seeds are edible and high in protein. The interesting feature of this tree is both flower and fruits grow on old stem like jackfruit. To see their flowers visit the zoo from May to July and to see the fruits visit from October to December.



Fruits of Calabash trees are used to make utensils in their native place



Calabash is a medium sized dry deciduous tree

The leaves are unique in shape and have large and winged rachis and petiole



BIRDWATCHER'S CORNER

Winter months are always a delight for the birdwatchers, as many species of migratory birds arrive in these months and same happened with the NZP. The birds are started arriving in the zoo in search of wintering ground and for breeding in November. The arrival of large numbers of Painted Stork for nesting in NZP is documented over the years, and this year is no exception. National Zoological Park is teeming with hundreds of Painted Storks and their young ones, seeing them feeding their chicks and collecting material for their nest is a delight for a seasoned as well as amateur birdwatcher.



Breeding Colony of Painted Storks
in National Zoological Park



Painted Storks
with their chicks in NZP

In month of November to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Salim Ali, NZP has participated in Salim Ali Bird count and conducted the exercise in its campus for a week. A total of 57 species of resident and migratory bird has been recorded in the campus. In total National Zoological Park has listed more than 115 species of free ranging birds in its campus which is recorded by ace birdwatchers and it is updated regularly.

GREEN TIPS

National Zoological Park is committed for the conservation of nature and wildlife, and believes in the sustainable use of resources. To conserve our nature and natural resources we will share some tips in our newsletter for our readers, which can be implemented in our daily life easily.



Avoid Plastic Straw: According to a published study as many as 8.3 billion plastic straws pollute the world's beaches. They are one of the culprits of unnecessary plastic pollution. Most plastic straw simply break into smaller particles releasing chemical into the soil, air and water that are harmful to all living creatures. Even plastic straws directly affect the marine wildlife; there are cases when straw pierced into the body of marine animals.

Alternative: Replacing cheap and disposable plastic straws with reusable or biodegradable paper alternatives is an easy way to cut down on plastic pollution. Many food outlets already started to give paper straws but if not then you can ask for the same.

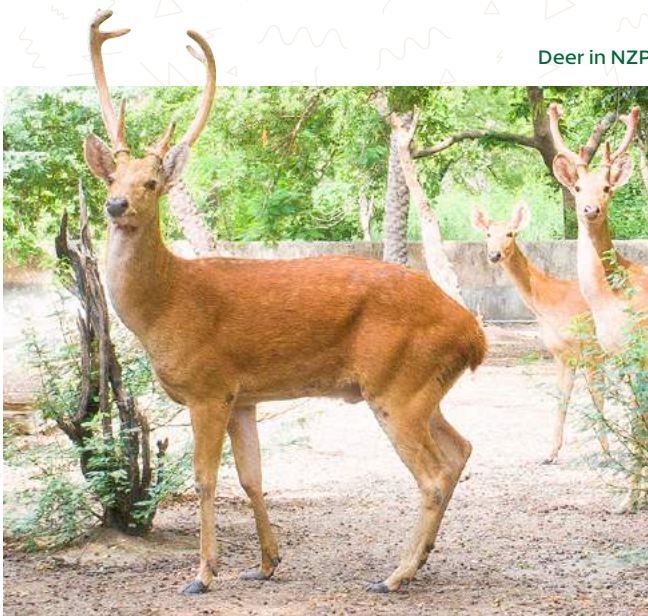
KID'S CORNER

Hi Kid's

You all must have seen many species of deer, gazelle and bucks, may be in wild or in zoo or on your television. What you think about them, aren't they cute? Yes they are but this cuteness stands nothing for their predators. They are an important part of the ecosystem and also part of the food chain, so that means their survival ensures the survival of top predators like big cats which ultimately ensures the survival of our forests, survival of the rivers originates in these forests, survival of the gene bank of our cultivated crops and ensures that we will get clean air, clean water and nutritious food. So next time when you visit the zoo you should visit all the enclosure of Deer and antelopes, learn about them, search about them and ask about them

Did you know?

The difference between deer and antelopes: Though they look similar but they are different group of ungulates (Animal with hooves). The basic difference in between them is the deer have antlers and antelopes have horns, antlers are branched, solid and deciduous (they shed their antlers once a year) while horns are un-branched, hollow and permanent.



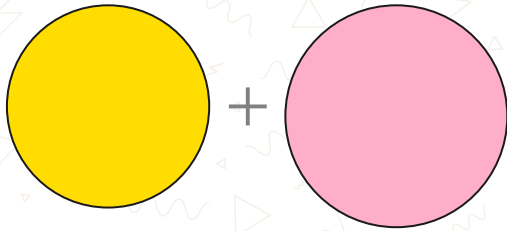
Deer in NZP



Antelope in NZP

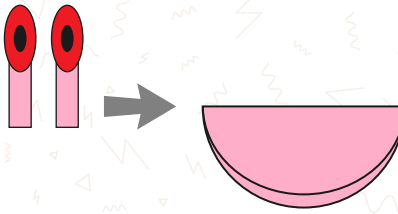
Make your snail

Step 1



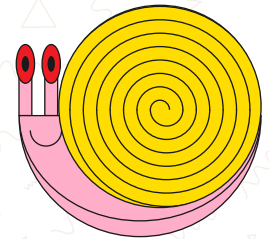
Cut two circles, one is slightly larger than the other, also cut paper to make the eye of snail

Step 2



fold the bigger circle in two equal part

Step 3



paste the small circle on the folded outer part of the bigger circle in the above manner, also paste eyes and make mouth of snail

EVENTS ORGANISED

1. Babul Supriyo, the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on 27th December 2020 released a Tigress named Barkha in its enclosure at the National Zoological Park after its quarantine period was completed. This tigress was brought from Kanpur zoo under the conservation breeding program of Bengal Tiger in National Zoological Park. National Zoological Park is a participating zoo for the conservation breeding of Bengal Tigers in captivity.



2. National Zoological Park has organised a week long feast for their animals to celebrate New Year week. A specialised winter food was given to all the animals on different days. It was started with Elephants and Rhinos on day first and during the course of seven days all the animals had been covered. The menu has been selected with the consultation of experts in animal nutrition and was provided to the animals accordingly.



3. International Wetland day was celebrated in National Zoological Park, and an online webinar was conducted on 2nd February, the topic of the webinar was "Wetlands: Threats and conservation needs". The guest speaker was Professor J.K. Garg, a well known name in conservation and research on wetlands and the associated fauna.

A promotional poster for a webinar. At the top, it says "WORLD WETLAND DAY" in large, bold letters, with "2nd February 2021" below it. The National Zoological Park logo is in the top right corner. On the left, there is a portrait of Professor J.K. Garg, with his name and title "Guest Speaker Professor J.K. Garg" below it. The central graphic shows a green landscape with a tree, a rhinoceros, and various birds. Below the graphic, the text reads "WEBINAR TOPIC" followed by "Wetlands: Threats and Conservation Needs" in bold. At the bottom, it provides the "Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/nzm-zgbi-anx" and the "Time: 3-4 pm". Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter are at the bottom left.

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED

In the month of November and December a series of capacity building workshops was conducted by education team and veterinary team for the zookeepers and other animal care staff. The topics selected were varied like capture myopathy, deer and antelope management in captivity, big cats management in captivity etc.

S.No.	Date	Name of the Workshop	Objective of workshop
1	07/12/2020	Capture myopathy in ungulates and its management	Capacity building for keepers and other staff of the animal section.
2	14/12/2020	Management of deer and antelopes in captivity	Capacity building for the keepers associated with deer and antelopes enclosure and other staff of animal and education section.
3	21/12/2020	Management of big cats and their conservation breeding	Capacity building for the keepers associated with tigers, lions, jaguars and leopard enclosure and other staff of animal and education section.
4	28/12/2020	Birds and reptiles in captivity and their management	Capacity building for the keepers associated with birds and reptiles enclosure and other staff of animal and education section.
5	05/01/2021	Primates and small mammals and their captive management	Capacity building for the keepers associated with primates and mammals enclosure and other staff of animal and education section.
6	08/01/2021	Wound and their management	Capacity building for keepers and other staff of the animal section.
7	22/01/2021	Management of Ration for Zoo Animals	Capacity building for the keepers and other staff of the animal section.

NEWS SECTION

News from NZP

1. Management Effectiveness Evaluation Process for zoos document has been prepared by Central Zoo Authority and Wildlife Institute of India. It has guidelines, criteria and indicators for evaluation of zoos in the country. The MEE-ZOO, framework has been tested in National Zoological Park and some other zoos as pilot.
2. After the first confirmed case of Bird flu in National Zoological Park, the zoo staff started using the e-bird app to monitor the status of free ranging bird. This app is used by bird-watchers for bird count and checklist preparation, but in zoological park the innovative way of the use to monitor the status of birds during bird flu.

National News

3. Guwahati zoo will get two pair of Zebras after 40 years from Israel. These Zebras will be shipped in by Reliance-owned Greens Zoological Rescue and rehabilitation kingdom at Jamnagar in Gujrat in exchange for two black panthers from here.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/assam-zoo-black-panthers-for-ambanis-jamnagar-zoo/articleshow/80884971.cms>

4. Mysuru zoo has struck an international animal exchange deal with Singapore zoo from where a pair of Orang-utan would come to the zoo. In return Mysuru zoo is giving two male giraffes to the Singapore zoo. After this exchange the Mysuru zoo will become the country's only zoo to house Orang-utan. Last orang-utan was with Nandankanan zoo which died last year.

<https://starofmysore.com/orangutans-to-come-from-singapore-zoo/>

5. The Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad in its animal exchange program will get a female lion-tailed macaque and a pair of swamp deer from Vandalur zoo in Chennai. This will be the first animal exchange program for Hyderabad zoo after the outbreak of Covid-19.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/nehru-zoo-to-get-lion-tailed-macaque-swamp-deer-pair/articleshow/80914278.cms>

OBITUARY:

On November 11th 2020 we have lost our beloved tiger B2. He was with us from March 2014, and was one of the major attractions for visitors of all age. He was collected from the wild when his mother died and then shifted to the Van Vihar from where he was acquired by Delhi zoo. His estimated birth date was June 02, 2005. Due to old age he has developed the complications and died due to kidney failure. The National Zoological Park, its staff and all the visitors send their deep condolences to the beloved tiger of Delhi Zoo.



Word in Focus

Ex-situ conservation: Ex situ conservation is the technique of conservation of all levels of biological diversity outside their natural habitats through different techniques like zoo, captive breeding, aquarium; botanical garden, and gene bank.

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