NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK, NEW DELHI
Press Release
01 October 2026

National Zoological Park Celebrates Wildlife Week 2026 with a Strong Call for Habitat Connectivity and Citizen Participation:

New Delhi, 01 October 2026: The National Zoological Park, New Delhi, is all set to celebrate Wildlife Week 2026 from 2nd to 8th October 2026 with a diverse programme of awareness, educational, creative and nature-based activities aimed at deepening public understanding of wildlife, biodiversity and the critical importance of habitat conservation.

The theme of Wildlife Week 2026, "Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife," underlines a fundamental message: wildlife cannot thrive in isolation. Healthy and connected habitats are essential for the movement, survival and long-term conservation of wild species. The theme also highlights the interdependence of wildlife, habitats and people, and the need for collective action to protect our natural heritage.

The week-long programme has been designed to move beyond awareness and create opportunities for learning, participation and meaningful engagement. Visitors, students, teachers, zoo volunteers, interns, nature enthusiasts and citizens will be encouraged to discover the biodiversity of the National Zoological Park and understand their own role in wildlife conservation.

A Celebration that Connects People with Nature:

As a curtain-raiser to the celebrations, the National Zoological Park organised a Doodle Activity on 1st October 2026 at the Zoo entrance gate on the theme "Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife." The activity received an enthusiastic response, with approximately 1,500 visitors participating and expressing their creativity and support for wildlife conservation.

During Wildlife Week, visitors will have the opportunity to participate in Tree Walks, Bird Walks, Butterfly and Dragonfly Walks, Spider and Insect Walks, and Reptile, Amphibian and Mollusc Walks, offering first-hand opportunities to explore and understand the rich biodiversity of the National Zoological Park.

A wide range of competitions will engage children and students through Clay Modelling, Wildlife Poster Making, Debate, Essay Writing, Bird Nest Making, Bird Feeder Making, Leaf Craft, On-the-Spot Painting, Treasure Hunt, Rangoli and Wildlife Quiz competitions.

The programme will also feature Keeper's Talks and Enclosure Enrichment Activities, giving participants an opportunity to understand animal behaviour, care and welfare. Reptiles, primates, birds, lions, bears, herbivores and tigers will be among the species in focus during the celebrations.

Taking Wildlife Conservation Beyond the Zoo:

The National Zoological Park is also encouraging participation beyond its physical premises through online competitions and activities, including a Wildlife Poster Making Competition, a Photography Competition on "Wildlife in our Neighbourhood", and an online "Wildlife of India" Quiz. Detailed information will be made available through the official website of the National Zoological Park and the NZP Sathi mobile application.

These initiatives seek to strengthen public engagement with nature, citizen science, biodiversity documentation and participatory conservation, while encouraging citizens to recognise that conservation is not limited to protected areas but is also connected to the landscapes and habitats in which people live.

Special Programme on 8th October:

The concluding day on 8th October will feature a Bird Walk focusing on the water birds of the National Zoological Park, an expert talk on "Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Connectivity: Pathways for Wildlife Survival," a wildlife quiz for zoo staff, and a special Tiger Keeper's Talk and Enclosure Enrichment Activity.

The celebrations will culminate in a Prize Distribution Function, where winners of the various competitions organised during Wildlife Week 2026 will be felicitated.

Free Participation and Special Facilities:

To encourage maximum public participation, no fee will be charged for any Wildlife Week activity, walk or competition. Participants in Wildlife Week activities and competitions, along with their school teachers, accompanying staff and parents, will be provided free entry to the National Zoological Park from 2nd to 8th October 2026.

As an additional initiative to encourage children to connect with wildlife and nature, children up to 12 years of age will also be provided free entry during the Wildlife Week celebrations. Prizes of ₹3,000/-, ₹2,000/- and ₹1,000/- will be awarded for the first, second and third positions respectively in each competition category, subject to the prescribed conditions. Participation certificates will be provided to all participants.

Director's Message: From Awareness to Action:

The Director, National Zoological Park, has invited students, families, teachers, nature enthusiasts, zoo visitors and citizens to participate enthusiastically in the various activities being organised during Wildlife Week.

Emphasising the larger message of this year's theme, the Director said:

«"*Wildlife conservation is a shared responsibility. Wildlife cannot survive in isolation from healthy and connected habitats. Through Wildlife Week 2026, we want to take the message of conservation beyond awareness and encourage meaningful participation by citizens. Every child, student and visitor who observes, learns and connects with nature can become a voice for wildlife and an ambassador for conservation.*"»

He further emphasised that connecting people with nature is an important step towards building a conservation-conscious society, and called upon young people in particular to participate actively, understand biodiversity and contribute to its protection.

The Wildlife Week celebrations at the National Zoological Park therefore seek to transform awareness into engagement, engagement into responsibility, and responsibility into meaningful action for wildlife and habitats.

The National Zoological Park looks forward to welcoming visitors and participants throughout the week and making Wildlife Week 2026 a vibrant celebration of India's rich wildlife, biodiversity and the shared responsibility to protect it.

Director
National Zoological Park, New Delhi