NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK, NEW DELHI
Press Release
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Wildlife Week 2026 Begins at National Zoological Park with Inclusive Competitions and Awareness Activities:

New Delhi, 2 October 2026: The National Zoological Park (NZP), New Delhi, commenced the celebration of Wildlife Week 2026, being observed from 2 to 8 October 2026, with a series of educational, creative and awareness-oriented activities aimed at fostering appreciation for wildlife, promoting habitat conservation and encouraging responsible environmental stewardship.

The inaugural day began with a solemn tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his birth anniversary. The Director, National Zoological Park, paid floral homage to Mahatma Gandhi, marking the commencement of the week-long celebrations. The tribute reaffirmed the Zoo's commitment to promoting compassion towards animals, wildlife conservation and environmental responsibility.

Inclusive Clay Modelling Competition: As part of the day's programme, an inclusive Clay Modelling Competition was organised on the theme "Wildlife Habitats – A Home for Every Species". The competition provided Divyangjan participants with a platform to express their creativity and demonstrate their understanding of wildlife and its habitats through artistic expression. A total of 78 Divyangjan participants from six schools participated in the competition across the following three categories:

- **Group A:** Blind Divyangjan (VH)
- **Group B:** Low Vision (LW)
- **Group C:** Children with Special Needs (CWSN)

The competition highlighted the importance of inclusive educational initiatives in fostering environmental awareness and ensuring meaningful participation in wildlife conservation activities.

Wildlife Poster Making Competition: A Wildlife Poster Making Competition was also organised on the theme "Save Habitats, Save Wildlife", witnessing the participation of 91 students from 24 schools across Delhi-NCR. The competition encouraged students to creatively communicate the significance of protecting natural habitats, conserving biodiversity and safeguarding wildlife for future generations.

The enthusiastic participation of students and Divyangjan participants reflected the importance of engaging young people in conservation-oriented learning and promoting awareness about the interconnectedness of wildlife, habitats and ecological balance.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director, National Zoological Park, emphasised the significance of engaging children and young people in wildlife conservation through meaningful educational and creative activities. The Director highlighted that such initiatives help nurture empathy towards wildlife and enable the younger generation to appreciate the vital relationship between healthy habitats and the survival of wildlife species.

Reptiles in Focus: Enclosure Enrichment for Animal Welfare: As part of the Wildlife Week celebrations, reptiles were designated as the “Species in Focus” for the day at the National Zoological Park. An enclosure enrichment activity was organised in the reptile section to promote behavioural stimulation, enhance environmental complexity and support the overall welfare of the reptiles housed at the Zoo. The activity witnessed active participation from Zoo Biologist, Zoo Volunteers, interns and reptile-keeping staff, who collaboratively introduced appropriate enrichment elements to improve the animals' enclosure environment in accordance with their species-specific requirements. The initiative underscored the importance of environmental enrichment as an integral component of modern zoo management and animal welfare practices. It also provided valuable practical learning opportunities for staff, interns and volunteers to deepen their understanding of reptile behaviour, enclosure management and species-specific welfare needs.

Upcoming Activities on 3 October 2026: The Wildlife Week celebrations will continue on 3rd October 2026 with a series of educational and participatory activities designed to engage students, Zoo Volunteers and visitors in learning about biodiversity, habitat connectivity and wildlife conservation. The day's programme will commence with a Tree Walk on “Flora of NZP” from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, offering participants an opportunity to explore the diverse plant life of the National Zoological Park and understand the ecological significance of its flora.

A Debate Competition for students of Classes IX to XII will be organised from 10:00 AM on the topic “Are Wildlife Corridors Essential for the Survival of Wild Animals?” and an Essay Writing Competition for students of Classes VI to VIII will also be conducted from 10:00 AM on the theme “Wildlife without Boundaries – Connecting Habitats, Sustainable Life”.

The day's activities will conclude with a Keeper's Talk and Enclosure Enrichment Activity from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, with primates as the “Species in Focus”. The programme will be conducted at the Primate Enclosure, with the participation of Zoo Volunteers, students, visitors and primate-keeping staff. Educational literature on primates will also be distributed to enhance public understanding of their behaviour, ecological significance and conservation needs.

The National Zoological Park, New Delhi, invites citizens, students, educational institutions and visitors to participate enthusiastically in the ongoing Wildlife Week 2026 celebrations. Through inclusive competitions, interactive learning opportunities and animal welfare initiatives, the Zoo seeks to strengthen public awareness and encourage collective action towards wildlife conservation, habitat protection and environmental stewardship.

Director
National Zoological Park, New Delhi