NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK, NEW DELHI

Press Release

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WILDLIFE WEEK 2026 – DAY 7 AT NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Wildlife Week 2026 Concludes at National Zoological Park with Bird Walk, Prize Distribution and Tiger Enrichment Programme

New Delhi, 7 October 2026: The seventh and concluding day of Wildlife Week 2026 at the National Zoological Park (NZP), New Delhi, brought together students, teachers, parents, experts, volunteers and wildlife enthusiasts through a series of engaging activities centred on nature education, wildlife appreciation and conservation awareness.

The day began with a Bird Walk focusing on the water birds of the National Zoological Park, in which 62 participants, including 37 students, 16 teachers and 9 parents, enthusiastically participated. Renowned birding expert Sh. T. K. Roy led the walk, enabling participants to observe the rich avian diversity of the Zoo and understand the ecological significance of birds and their habitats.

The Bird Walk was followed by the Prize Distribution Function, attended by 48 student prize winners, 14 teachers and 17 parents. The programme was graced by Sh. B. S. Bonal, former ADG (Wildlife), former Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority and former Director, National Zoological Park, presently a member of the Advisory Committee of NZP, as the Chief Guest. Sh. Himanshu Malhotra, another member of the Advisory Committee of NZP, also attended and encouraged the participants. Dr. Samir Kumar Sinha, Chief Ecologist, Wildlife Trust of India, and Sh. Amit Kumar Gupta, Reptile Expert, were also present.

Chief Guest calls for a deeper connection with nature:

Addressing the gathering, Sh. B. S. Bonal appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students, teachers, parents and other stakeholders throughout Wildlife Week. He emphasised that meaningful conservation begins with developing a genuine connection with nature and urged everyone to adopt environment-friendly habits in their daily lives.

He gave a simple yet powerful message for the younger generation and society at large:

«“**Observe, Understand and Respect Nature and Wildlife**.”»

He emphasised that observing nature with curiosity helps us understand the intricate relationships within ecosystems, while understanding wildlife creates empathy and responsibility towards its protection. Respect for nature and wildlife must ultimately translate into responsible actions in our everyday lives.

The Chief Guest also encouraged students to carry forward the spirit of Wildlife Week beyond the Zoo and become ambassadors for wildlife conservation in their schools, homes and communities.

Strong participation throughout Wildlife Week:

Reflecting on the success of the week-long celebrations, the National Zoological Park organised six nature walks and 10 offline competitions across 15 categories, witnessing participation from more than 900 students.

The Wildlife Poster Making Competition and Photography Competition received an overwhelming response, with more than 1,400 entries from different parts of the country. Participants and winning entries represented several states, including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Among participating schools, Little Star Public Secondary School recorded the maximum number of winners.

To promote wider participation and strengthen wildlife awareness among young learners, entry to the Zoo was kept free for students and teachers from educational institutions during Wildlife Week. This initiative helped bring approximately 5,000 students and teachers from schools across Delhi-NCR to the National Zoological Park.

Wildlife learning beyond the classroom:

As part of the celebrations, NZP also undertook enhanced enclosure-enrichment activities for seven species. Keeper's Talks were conducted every day, providing visitors, students and volunteers an opportunity to learn directly from animal-keeping staff about animal behaviour, care, enrichment and conservation.

Continuing the initiative of highlighting a different species each day, Tiger was the "Species in Focus" on Day 7. A dedicated enrichment programme was undertaken at the Bengal Tiger Enclosure, followed by a Keeper's Talk, giving participants an opportunity to understand the behavioural needs, care and conservation significance of this iconic species.

Conservation begins with awareness:

The Director, National Zoological Park, Dr Sanjeet Kumar, IFS encouraged students to develop a deeper and lasting connection with nature and to take an active interest in wildlife conservation. He also highlighted the constructive use of modern technology and digital tools for learning, interpretation and creating wider conservation awareness.

The concluding day reinforced an important message: Wildlife conservation is not limited to protecting animals inside protected areas or zoos—it is a shared responsibility that begins with awareness, appreciation and responsible behaviour in everyday life.

Appreciation certificates and trophies were distributed to the winners of various Wildlife Week competitions in recognition of their creativity, knowledge and active participation in wildlife and nature conservation initiatives.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, marking the successful conclusion of Wildlife Week 2026 at the National Zoological Park.

The week-long celebrations successfully brought together students, teachers, parents, experts, volunteers, staff and wildlife enthusiasts, creating a strong platform for nature education and public engagement.

The message from Wildlife Week 2026 will continue beyond the celebrations:

Observe. Understand. Respect. Conserve.

National Zoological Park calls upon every citizen—especially the younger generation—to observe nature closely, understand wildlife and ecosystems, respect every form of life, and translate that respect into meaningful conservation action.

Director
National Zoological Park, New Delhi