



Central Zoo Authority
केन्द्रीय पशुविज्ञान संस्थान

NEWSLETTER

An E-Newsletter of National Zoological Park



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Photograph of the month

A mating pair of Green Marsh Hawk Dragonfly in
the campus of National Zoological Park





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Editor

Ramesh Pandey IFS

Editorial Team

Riaz Ahmad Khan
Vibhav Srivastava

Photographs

Vibhav Srivastava

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Cover photo

A mating pair of Green Marsh
Hawk Dragonfly in the campus
of National Zoological Park

from **DIRECTOR'S DESK**



Delhi Zoo has a long history of more than six decades of wildlife conservation in the heart of the capital. Zoo witnessed an unusual long closure due to Covid-19 and bird flu. However it could open on 1st of April, 2021 with a facelift and new rules and regulation related to social distancing and Covid appropriate behaviours. The newly revamped website of National Zoological Park offered facility of online bookings which was very well appreciated by the visitors.

New entrants specially tigress Barkha, Sloth Bear, Ostrich, Striped Hyena, Wild Pig, Combed Duck and Ring-necked Pheasant drew the attention of visitors and added variety to the animal collection of the zoo. The zoo authorities were pleased to welcome the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on the 1st day of opening of zoo. We are committed to welcome and give best services to the visitors specially kids in National Zoological Park.

About the Cover Photo



Odonates are one of the most common and wonderful group of insects. Collectively it consists of Dragonflies and Damselflies. They are the first creatures that have conquered the aerial domain. Dragonflies mastered the art of flying and continue to be the master aerobats. The ancestors of extant Odonates date back to 250 million years ago in Carboniferous era. They are primarily aquatic insects and their life history is closely associated with specific aquatic ecosystems. This specificity in aquatic habitat makes them a good indicator of the health of wetland ecosystem.

National Zoological Park is having a large network of ponds and wet moats which provide a breeding ground for these beautiful creatures.

Green Marsh Hawk (*Orthetrum sabina*) is a common dragonfly of gardens and fields, they prey on flying insects such as flies, small butterflies and dragonflies. They are distributed in Ethiopian, Oriental and Australian region and found throughout Indian Subcontinent upto an altitude of 2000m ASL.



Delhi Zoo in a new avatar
A new selfie point has been the attraction for visitors.

Photo*feature*



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



Animal lovers rejoice: Delhi Zoo to reopen in artsy avatar

Naina Arora

naina.arora@hdfdigital.in



Online tickets, shorter visits, selfie spots, a masked monkey walk at the entrance and much more is in place to encourage visitors to return to National Zoological Park. With set safety norms and mandatory sanitisation being done, Delhi Zoo, which had been closed for almost a year, is preparing to reopen from April 1. And Delhi, it is overjoyed! "I can't wait to enjoy the lush greenery, chirping birds, beautiful animals there," says Hansha Dhan, a Delhi University graduate.

"For the last one year, we've been focusing on animal welfare, health and hygiene issues... We decided that since we have come out of bird flu phase, it's time to open the zoo in slots, allowing in limited people for a limited period of four hours. Online booking will open soon," says Harnesh Pandey, director, National Zoological Park, Delhi.

The authorities recently joined hands with Delhi Street Art (DSA), where over 70 volunteers painted colourful art on dustbins and walls. Yogesh Saini, founder, DSA, shares, "The masked monkey mural is a humorous take on a serious topic... The artworks will remind visitors to continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing." Excited dentists are looking forward to visiting the zoo even if it means wearing layers of masks and gloves. "Santier will be in my pocket at all times. I'll be at a distance from others, and make sure my mask is on properly," says Dan. Arta Bhardwaj, a homemaker, who participated in painting artworks for the reopening of the zoo, says, "People will love the art, especially kids. There will be activities for kids, too. I'm already excited to go back here!"

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National Zoological Park in Print Media



The Morning Standard
NEW DELHI
WEDNESDAY, 04.04.2021



DELHI ZOO: A WORLD OF ITS OWN

The recently reopened city zoo is being well-loved for its additions such as new entrant species, wall art, selfie point... reveals zoo director

When we got an egg of our own," informs Zoo Director Harnesh Pandey. Additional changes in the operations and visiting hours being divided into two shifts — 9:30am-2:30pm and 3:30pm-5:00pm, and ticket costs increased from ₹40 to ₹60 (for adults) and ₹20 each for senior citizens and children below 10. "While the first entry slot is closed at 11:00am, and the second entry slot closes by 4:00pm, and people can view flowers are in full bloom, and people can view a big pond on the right, and clean roads lead you further into the zoo. One can opt for the bus service or walk on foot; both options are there for your choice. The pictures in the zoo are by 8:00am and leave by 10:00am, but most people reach in the second half which is the visiting time for Pandey shares that the zoo had organised a programme to



Citymycity
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TIGRESS FROM KANPUR, SLOTH BEAR FROM BILASPUR READY TO WELCOME VISITORS!

Gear up to revisit the times you spent at the Delhi Zoo, which opens its doors today after a year

By Naina Arora
B... (The text continues with details about the zoo's reopening, mentioning the arrival of a tigress from Kanpur and a sloth bear from Bilaspur, and the zoo's safety protocols.)



As Delhi zoo is all set to reopen on April 1 nearly after a year, 75 painters of Delhi Street Art, along with 5 volunteers from the zoo, painted 41 garbage bins inside the campus to give it a new look. A water tank outside the alternative entry to the zoo was also given a makeover



चिड़ियाघर में मनाया वाइल्डलाइफ डे, 15 के बाद खुलने के आसार

चिड़ियाघर में 15 अप्रैल को वाइल्डलाइफ डे मनाया जाएगा। चिड़ियाघर में 15 अप्रैल को वाइल्डलाइफ डे मनाया जाएगा। चिड़ियाघर में 15 अप्रैल को वाइल्डलाइफ डे मनाया जाएगा।



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Women at the forefront as caregivers of zoo animals

New Delhi: Sunita, a zoologist at the Delhi zoo, was the forefront while dealing with the bird flu outbreak, spraying disinfectants every day to ensure the virus didn't spread in the premises. She was also among those who were deployed during the lockdown period. She said her gender didn't stop her from feeding and taking care of animals.

On Monday, the zoo celebrated International Women's Day by highlighting the challenges its women staff face each day. An online session was also held to speak about their work and achievements.

Delhi zoo director Ramesh Pandey said Monday was a special occasion to celebrate the work put in each day by women employees, a number of whom were essential workers during the lockdown. "Every staff member is important, particularly the women employees. We worked as a team even during the pandemic to enrich the lives of our animals," he added.

The online session — challenges and opportunities for women officers in zoo management — highlighted the work put in by every female staff member. The session included IPS officers working at other zoos.

Anusmika Narwal, Delhi zoo joint director, said every day poses a new challenge for them, with different animals and species requiring specific attention. "From a change in diet, to certain animals requiring medical assistance, we have to



on our toes daily. We have been simultaneously dealing with the bird flu outbreak and the entire premises are sanitised every day. Enclosures are given special attention," she added.

"The status of each animal is reviewed every day to ensure their well-being. When the zoo reopens, people will see a lot of difference in terms of enhancements made for animals," said Narwal, who heads the animal section.



Animal in Focus: **Lion Tailed Macaque**

Scientific Name: Macaca silenus

Lion-tailed Macaque is endemic to the tropical rain forests of Western Ghats in India. They are considered as the ancestor of all Asian Macaques, since they are the direct descendents of the first macaques to reach Asia. Practically unknown to the world until 1960s, they occurs from slightly north of the Sharavati river in Karnataka to the Southernmost tip of the Western Ghats. Their average group size is 18 animals. Mostly group has one adult male, 6-7 adult female and one sub-adult male, the remaining being immature. They are highly endangered

species and as per the current estimates only 4000 individuals left in the wild.

Considering the dwindling number of their population in the wild, conservation breeding of the species has been started by Central Zoo Authority in some selected zoos in India. National Zoological Park has contributed significantly for their ex-situ conservation by contributed in successful breeding of the species in captivity.

Research and Researcher

My weekend trips to National Zoological Park has always been my connect with wildlife. So, when I got the opportunity to pursue my Master's dissertation on "Effect of enrichment on Space Utilization of captive primates" at Delhi Zoo, it felt like playing on my home ground.

Of course, this was a memorable time period for me, but what I enjoyed the most was working with Lion Tailed Macaques (*Macaca silenus*). With a group composition of 1 female and 4 males, not something you might find in wild, but they are still holding up the group pretty well.

During the enrichment phase of the study when morning feed was being provided to them in bamboo feeders, the three younger males were most curious and active. They were first ones to notice and then inspect the enrichment devices installed, thus the first to receive food. Among the three young males, the youngest one, or as I named him 'terror' is like that pampered child of the family who can get away with any of his shenanigans. He was the most active individual, always on the go, foraging, climbing up the installed jungle gyms, picking up fight with other males, manipulating rocks and sticks, and exploring his surroundings with curiosity. When enraged he would often jump or summersaults to make anger known to others.

“



*National Zoological Park makes an excellent place for studying wild animals in captivity, many students of different streams comes for their internship, dissertation and research projects in NZP. This Column is reserved to share the experience of researchers in NZP. Meet **Ms. Mansi Kumar**, A student of **M.Sc. Wildlife Science** from Amity University, she has done her dissertation on primates of NZP under the guidance of Dr. Murali Krishna Chatakonda, Asstt. Professor of Wildlife Science in Amity University and Director National Zoological Park.*

The female is a wise and patient individual, while enrichment she always used to wait for others to finish inspecting the feeders and eating, before going herself. She would sit at the platform over the moat, connecting the night cell and enclosure area, the males would visit her for sessions of social grooming, approaching her and laying down in front of her asking her to groom them.

They were my source of entertainment during the sampling time, but their entertainment was the Hamadryas Baboon (*Papio hamadryas*) enclosure, whenever they heard vocalization or spot the Baboons up on the hill, they would collect at the platform and look curiously or playfully into the neighboring enclosure, sometimes followed by vocalizations.

This dissertation was a great learning opportunity for me as, now whenever I will be out in the field, I'll not only notice the behavior of a species as a group, but also try to look into the behavior of each individual, and how it affects the group dynamics.

I would like to thank the director and other staff of the National Zoological Park, Delhi for giving me this opportunity and helping and guiding me throughout the study.



The Flora: Chamrod/Datranga

Scientific Name: *Ehretia laevis*



Star shaped flowers of Chamrod (*Ehretia laevis*)

A middle sized tree of tropics, *Ehretia laevis* is an important part of native Delhi flora and can be recognized by its gnarled, knobby trunk. During Feb–March it can be recognized by its distinctive star shaped, small, white flowers. It is widely distributed in India and in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, South China and part of North Australia.

Because the bark of this tree chewed like Paan and stains the teeth red therefore it is also called Datranga in its native range. Its powdered bark is mixed with flour to make dough during famine. The fruit is edible and leaves are a valuable fodder resource in the areas where grass is scarce.



Ripen Fruits of *Ehretia laevis* in National Zoological Park

Birdwatcher's Corner

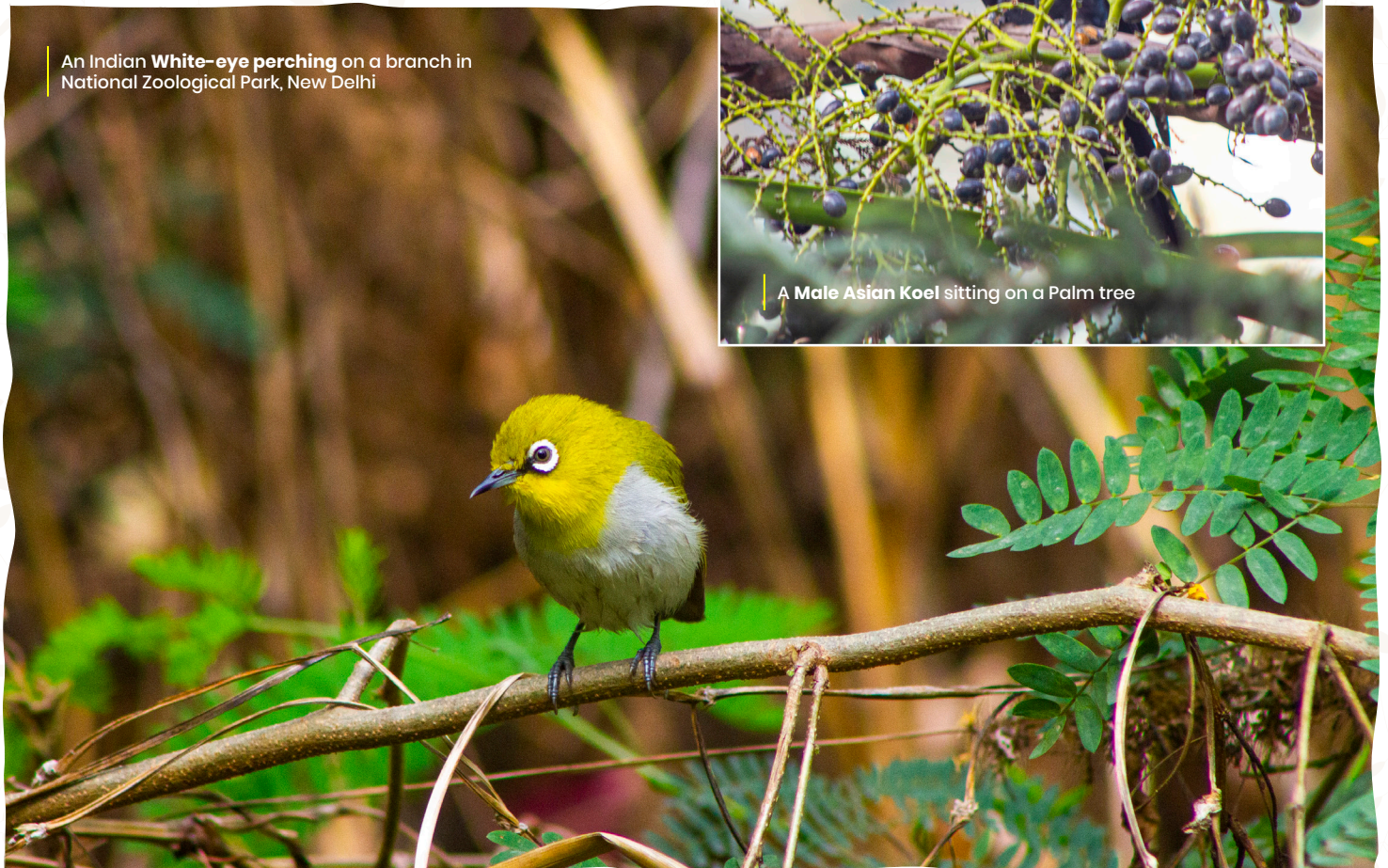
Summer months have arrived and water sources in the city are slowly drying up. This is the time when most of the birds seen and photographed quite easily near the remaining sources of water. Birdwatchers in National Zoological are greeted by the birds of summer by their distinctive call or appearance near small water bodies. There are many summer visitors in the zoo campus like Golden Oriole and Jacobin Cuckoo. Summer is also the time for many birds to look for their mate. Common Hawk Cuckoo, Indian cuckoo and Asian Koel are species of Cuckoos who becomes active during hot summer

months. National Zoological Park resonates by the distinctive calls of these species of Cuckoos, the brain-fever...brain-fever...brain-fever of Common Hawk Cuckoo, crossword.....puzzle..... of Indian Cuckoo, and koel...koel..koel... of Asian Koel.



A Male Asian Koel sitting on a Palm tree

An Indian White-eye perching on a branch in National Zoological Park, New Delhi



NEWS SECTION

News from NZP

1. Street art event on World Wildlife Day: On the occasion of World Wildlife Day (3rd March 2021) National Zoological Park New Delhi in collaboration with Delhi Street Art (DSA) had organized a wall arts event. The event was covered by several media houses and was a grand success. During the event various dull looking wall in the zoo was painted by various artists of DSA and converted them into a specimen of art. The painting of walls has given a complete makeover of the zoo and is now an added attraction for the visitors.



2. E-newsletter on World Wildlife Day: National Zoological Park released its first issue of E-newsletter on World Wildlife Day. It's a new and a regular feature of NZP to convey the message of wildlife conservation among the city folks, it will further provide its readers with the insights into National Zoological Park. This newsletter can be subscribed by submitting an email ID on our website <https://nzpnewdelhi.gov.in>. Every issue of the newsletter will also be uploaded on the publication section of our website.



NEWS SECTION

3. Women's Day Workshop: National Zoological Park, New Delhi in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Vizag, organized an online talk on 'Challenges and opportunity for women officers in Zoo management' on International Women's Day, 8th March' 2021 to celebrate International Women Day including Ms. Sameeta Rajora, Ms. Kamolika Mohanta, Ms. Kshitijja, Ms. Sudha Ramen, Ms. Nandini Salaria and Ms. Anamika who have experience in managing zoos shared their varied experience.



4. Series of Webinar on Natural History: National Zoological Park started a series of online talks on various aspects of natural history and wildlife conservation. The first talk in this series was delivered by Dr. Asani Bhaduri, Asstt. Professor in Delhi University on 'Bird-watching for Beginners' on 12th March. The webinar was attended by around 50 attendees. The talk was very interactive with extensive engagement from the audience.

5. 'Bin there, done that': NZP and Delhi Street Art have organized a nature based painting event 'Bin there, done that' on old dustbins on 27th March 2021, and extended the beautification effort of Delhi Zoo to the next level. During the event Covid appropriate behavior was followed as per guidelines. More than 70 volunteers have painted the dull and un-attractive looking dustbins installed in the campus of the Zoological Park. The design and art partner for the event was Delhi Street Art.



NEWS SECTION

6. Re-opening of Zoo on 1st April 2021: After a year of closing of zoo for public due to Covid-19 pandemic and later on for Bird Flu, the management under the direction of government has decided to open the zoo for common public after the fourth & last serological surveillance sample sent to NIHSAD Bhopal for the tests of Avian Influenza on 4th March 2021 were found negative. Since two consecutive surveillance test reports have come negative, the Zoological Park has come out of epicentre/surveillance zone as per communication received from Director AHD Delhi NCT. After three consecutive negative reports of Bird Flu from the samples collected from NZP, it is decided to open the zoo for the public from 1st April 2021. 483 tickets were sold on the first day and Rs.118560 earned. 1645 visitors visited the zoo and gave positive feedback.



7. Visit of Lt. Governor of Ladakh: On the first day of the opening of Zoo, Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Ladakh Shri Radha Krishna Mathur visited National Zoological Park. He enjoyed watching animals specially big Cats, Primates and Birds. The Director of National Zoological Park briefed him about achievements of the zoo and presented him a memento of NZP.

8. To give a boost to the cleaning and beautification of the National Zoological Park, a tree plantation event has been organized for the staff of NZP on 16th Feb 2021. Several native broadleaf varieties of trees have been planted on that occasion. The event was organized for better connection of non-field staff of the zoo to the nature.



Green Tips

Avoid Plastic bottled water



Water bottles are nuisance for environment. Around the world, almost 1 million plastic bottles are purchased every minute. This tide of plastic is a growing environmental hazard and its impact on various ecosystems is major political and health issue.

Plastic production has increased manifold in last 50 years, which leads to the widespread use of disposable products that are having a devastating effect on the environment. Images of plastic debris-strewn beaches and dead animals with stomachs full of plastic have sparked outrage.

The development of biodegradable plastics seems a solution for single use ones. However, the biodegradation process does not usually happen spontaneously in nature. On the other hand, biodegradable plastic produced from vegetable products is limited due to the availability of resources.

India generates approximately 26000 tonnes of plastic waste daily which makes it the 15th largest plastic waste generator globally. Finding an alternative for single use plastic is a challenge and various scientific organizations are working in this direction.

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles are commonly used for soft drinks and mineral water, but can also be used in other household or personal care products. Data from Euromonitor International, shows that more than 480 billion of these bottles were sold last year alone.

Alternative:

Carry a non-disposable water bottle and refill it from the available water booths and clean water taps is a handy solution for those who are committed to reduce plastic loads on earth environment.



KID'S CORNER



Hi Kids

Did you know about the monkey business? Yes it's a negative word and used for silly or dishonest behavior, but on the contrary the monkeys don't do silly behavior. They are the members of order primate and are one of the most intelligent order of the animal world. They have the largest brain and a great learner. Our country is rich in the diversity of primates and there are 22 different species of primates found in India. Western Ghats and North East of India, two of India's biodiversity hotspots are hotspots for the primate diversity also.

Did you know:

What is the difference between Apes and Monkeys?

Monkeys and apes both are primates and our close relatives. Even we humans are also a species of primates, but have you ever noticed what is the difference between them and who is more closely related to us. As distinguished relatives we should be able to tell them apart. The best and easiest way to tell the difference between a monkey and an ape is by the presence or absence of a tail. Most of the monkeys have tails but apes do not. Their bodies are different in other ways too: monkeys are generally smaller and narrow-chested, while apes are larger and have broad chests and shoulder joints that allow them to swing through trees (while some monkeys also have this ability, most of them are built for running across branches rather than swinging). Although you can't recognize this difference on sight, apes have an appendix (like us) while monkeys do not. Apes are generally more intelligent than monkeys, and most species of apes exhibit some use of tools.



Chimpanzee



Monkey



Peafowls breed in large numbers in **National Zoological Park**. Many trees, shrubs and water bodies provide perfect habitat for the breeding of Peafowls and other endangered bird species.

Word in Focus “Endemism”

(Source: Britannica)

A **taxon** whose distribution is confined to a given area is said to be endemic to that area. The **taxon** may be of any rank, although it is usually at a **family level** or **below**, and its range of distribution may be wide, spanning an entire continent, or very narrow, covering only a few square meters.

National Zoological Park

Mathura Road, New Delhi-110 003 (India)

Phone: +91-11-24358500, 24359825

E-mail: nzpzo0-cza@nic.in, Website: www.nzpnewdelhi.gov.in

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