

Education Report

Celebrating National Wildlife Week at Sundarvan

Human progress should go hand in hand with planned wildlife management. Therefore, to arouse a general awakening in the common man in favour of protection of wildlife, Indian Board of Wild Life (IBWL) observe Wildlife Week from October 2-8 every year encouraging different activities related to wildlife conservation and awareness. The day after National Wildlife Week on 9th October is celebrated as World Post Day to create awareness of the role and contribution of postal sector in our everyday lives and socio-economic development of countries.

This year too Sundarvan supported IBWL's initiative and spread awareness about the varied roles of India Post, through unique events appreciating stamps and letters with a wildlife twist. In September, a local 'Write a letter to a zoo animal' campaign was started where in letters were accepted to zoo animals telling them what we have always loved about them.

Sundarvan collaborated with India Post as a part of which 'My Stamp' activity was held from 2-4 Oct 2015 at Sundarvan. This created an opportunity for people to personalise official postage stamps with their own photographs and learn about various themes such as flowers, butterflies etc.

'My Stamp' activity was followed by Saturday's quiz programme on the Wildlife of India in which two quiz programmes were organised; one for school students of Class 8th and 9th and another evening quiz which was open to all. The park grounds were graced with student teams from 15 schools while the 21 evening quiz-teams ranged from parents and children quizzing together, all the way to college and school teams ready for some competition. More than 100 questions based on flora and fauna of India were put forth; in different rounds designed for intense quizzing by Mr. Kushan Patel, Quiz Master of the day and founder of Ahmedabad Quiz Club (AQC). Indian Wildlife Quiz was organised to increase awareness about the fascinating wildlife of India and their conservation.

A field trip to Hingolghadh was planned on Sunday with a small group of 40 participants who trekked their way into Gujarat's scrub forest. Located in Jasdan Taluka of Rajkot District, Hingolghadh Sanctuary is a green oasis in the dry plateau of Saurashtra, Gujarat. A snake awareness programme amidst chirping of birds, trek to Hingolghadh Fort and sunset in the grassland of Anandpur was planned throughout the day for participants to appreciate Gujarat's sun-stroked, harsh but beautiful backyard.

On the last three days of National Wildlife Week, a Philately Exhibition showcasing only wildlife stamps from all over the world was held within the park. Patient philatelist members of Philately Club of Ahmedabad generously lent their priceless collection for this purpose. Philately, truly the King of all



Evening open quiz in the amphitheatre area



A curious group of teachers marvel at letters to zoo animals and wildlife stamps

Hobbies astounded the visitors who not only saw wildlife on postage stamps but also read about habitat and information on each of them. Along with these stamps, letters to zoo animals selected from more than 500 letters, from the September campaign, were also displayed. Events of the entire week were made possible by tremendous enthusiasm of participants and Sundarvan's extraordinary team of volunteers, Pavan Patel, Dhrumil Shah, Umang Patel, Kankshit Modi, Kunj Parmar, Kejil Patel and Parash Hathi.

Each activity of National Wildlife Week at Sundarvan was well thought-out and letters; to tiger, elephant, rhino, cheetah, falcons, eagles, snakes, some including stories, even from students who were in 2nd Grade, were so overwhelming and humbling, that now we know the simple rewards of writing a letter or doing a little something for the wildlife that surrounds us, are not lost on everyone yet; that there is still hope. **Submitted by: S. Sivakumar, Park Manager, Sundarvan, Jignasa Patel, Education Officer, Sundarvan & Meena Nareshwar, Senior Programme Co-ordinator, CEE. Email: sundarvan@ceeindia.org**