

## World Environment Day Celebration 2013 Reports

### World Environment Day 2013 at Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam

The World Environment Day celebration was organized by Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam. As part of this event, more than 100 school students took out a rally in the zoo holding placards with messages like "Green is Life", "Save Earth", "Reduce Reuse and Recycle" and "Shun Plastic".

This year the theme chosen by UNEP to observe WED is "Think-Eat-Save – Reduce Your Food print". Throughout the week, various competitions like drawing, quiz, elocution and essay writing were conducted on this theme to all categories of students from various schools in the city. For event publicity, promotional materials such as posters, caps, brochures and handouts were distributed to the participants.

On the eve of World Environment Day, a film show on environment and energy saving was screened at the zoo education centre. This was followed by interesting stage shows by students representing their respective schools on issues related to environment degradation and pollution. Friends of zoo members, media persons, and wildlife enthusiasts attended the ceremony. The Chief Guest Sri G. Ramalingam, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Curator of Indira Gandhi Zoological Park spoke on this occasion and opined that students should actively take part in environment protection by judiciously choosing healthy food habits and avoid unnecessary wastage of food to save the environment. He also distributed prizes to the winners in all categories of competitions conducted throughout the week. The students also had an interactive session with the zoo biologist on issues related to environment and global warming.

The programme aimed at creating awareness about our environment amongst the target group. It has been successful as most of the participants not only enjoyed the entire session but also agreed to do their bit in protecting the environment from further deterioration. We are thankful to Zoo Outreach Organisation for providing us valuable inputs into designing the activities for the event. **Submitted by:**



Competitions on eve of WED 2013



WED Banner

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### World Environment Day at Monfort Matric. HS School, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai, TN

On 5 June, the World Environment Day celebration was conducted in our school on the theme *Think-Eat-Save*. The event was conducted by Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran for the teachers of Monfort School. Bro. Thomas, the Principal, welcomed the teachers. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran while addressing the group asked to think globally and act locally. She said we should think of the poor and the needy, the food that we

waste, and the food resource we have with us in this world and the need for nutritious food. She presented some photos of garden plants taken by her and a few seeds were presented to the Principal. The teachers were encouraged to have their own kitchen garden at home to maintain a perfect healthy atmosphere around them. She also distributed saplings of hibiscus, ferns, etc. She also motivated our Principal and Correspondent Bro. K.K. Thomas to sow some vegetable seeds in our school eco-garden which was inaugurated today. A musical programme conducted by the *Augmented Symphonies* and it touched the hearts of the teachers. The lyrics



**Dr. Alfred's family singing the theme song "Think - Eat - Save"**



**Teachers provided with saplings to plant in their home gardens**



**Bro. K.K. Thomas sowing seeds at the school eco garden**

written by Jessie Jeyakaran in English and translated into Tamil was on the theme 'Think- Eat- Save' and the music was composed by Dr. Alfred, the music director. The songs were sung by the family members of Alfred. One of the Tamil teachers Mrs. Usharani said "yethai kondu vanthai, yethai ezhapatharku.... Ithu Geetha ubathesam... Sutro suzhalin pasumai paada vanthai, ennai ezhapatharku.." which means we didn't bring anything in this world for us to lose, this is Geethai's advice but you have come to sing an eco-song, to loose myself in it... The teachers involved in it with great interest. We all left with a vow to have our own kitchen garden and be healthy wealthy and act wise. The programe was sponsored by Jeyakaran's family. **Submitted by Ms. Susan and Mrs. Malarkodi, Teacher Coordinators. Email: montfort.chennai@yahoo.com**

**Assam University, Silchar celebrates World Environment Day, 2013**

In observance of the World Environment Day, 2013, Dept. of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar organized a Panel Discussion on the theme, 'THINK-EAT-SAVE' whereby the speakers stressed on the urgency of a proper food policy in the developing nations.

The speakers during the session expressed deep concern regarding the chronic food crisis observed in the underdeveloped countries. According to the intellectuals of the day, implementation of a proper national food policy in those nations is the need of the hour. The discussion session, headed by the host department's Head and Dean-in-charge Dr. Parthankar Choudhury, witnessed valuable lectures from various eminent intellectuals of the academic fraternity. Following the introductory words from Dr. Panna Deb, a faculty of the Centre of Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management of the university, as many as twenty academicians including Dr. Ajit Kumar Das, Dr. Shovan Dattagupta and Mr. Sagnik Choudhury and twenty odd research scholars offered their views regarding food crisis and the need to protect the environment.

Some members stressed that there is an urgent need to think in the direction of 'Think-Eat-Save' policy as adopted



**Panel discussion on the theme "Think-Eat-Save"**



**Sundarvan's WED 2013 programmes at Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

Sundarvan – a mini zoo and the Nature Discovery Centre of Centre for Environment Education, conducted activities during this World Environment Day (WED) for different walk of people.

by United Nations as the focal theme for this year 2013.

Speakers stressed that in one out of every seven human-being the world go to bed hungry and more than twenty thousand children under the age of 5 die daily out of hunger; under this backdrop, members emphatically said that steps should be initiated to reduce our footprint. Some of them also added that efforts should be laid on minimizing cost of food production and reduce energy utilization behind food production. Efforts should also be made to reduce food wastage and eradication of hunger. In their deliberations, some speakers gave more emphasis on generation of information on the nutritive value of wild fruits, the resources which are hitherto unexplored to a large extent. Others stressed that there should be judicious use of food. Some opined that maintaining good food habit is a must. One should not eat as and when it is available before him, but should take only when he/she is hungry. The discussion ended with summing up of the deliberations, followed by a power point presentation by Dr. Choudhury on the related theme. **Submitted by: Dr. Parthankar Choudhury, Assoc.Prof. Email: parthankar@rediffmail.com.**

A bird watching session was conducted in the premises between 7 to 8:30 am, were people of 12 to 30 years old where participated. There were 23 bird species recorded during the session and participants learnt things such as importance of bird watching, steps to identify birds and data keeping.

A philately exhibition was arranged. The display had stamps of Indian wildlife. The exhibition was kept open from 5-9 June for the visitors. The

Army Postal Services opened a counter at Sundarvan for "My stamp". In my stamp, our picture gets printed along with a set of the Indian postal stamps in a sheet. Sheets of stamps with four different flowers, Dahlia, Lily, Pansy and Cineraria were used in this activity. Posters containing basic information on WED, this year theme and related information with relevant photographs were also kept for display.

A talk on house sparrow conservation was arranged in the evening. Mr. Jagat Kinkhabwala, a management consultant and nature enthusiasts, thrown light on the status, reason of decline and what can we do to save sparrows through sharing his experience in this regard. A snake awareness programme was also conducted for the visitors.

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**A talk on house sparrow conservation**