

# 66<sup>th</sup> WILDLIFE WEEK OCTOBER, 2020

## A DEBRIEFING REPORT



**CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY  
NEW DELHI**



THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE  
*Creating Innovative Solutions for a Sustainable Future*



**MINISTRY OF  
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE**



**Wildlife Week 2020**  
**Roar**  
**Respect and Revive**  
**Exploring Human – Animal Relationships**

## **Foreword**

Let us protect our wildlife. This planet houses countless species of fauna and flora. Their complex interactions and linkages make our planet what it is today. Nature is a great provider with a myriad of natural resources. However, a growing utilitarian way of life and pressures of anthropocentric development has placed an undeniable pressure on natural systems. It is of vital importance to be aware of the responsibility of every human being for the preservation of nature, and for the maintenance and restoration of natural relations between man and the living world. Baba Dioum has rightly said, “In the end we will conserve what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.” Hence zoos, as an ex-situ conservation measure offer an excellent learning avenue for children because they are able to see and learn about animals from a close quarter.

I am happy that during Wildlife Week 2020 celebrations we conducted a successful campaign - RoaR (Respect and Revive) - Exploring Human-Animal Relationships, through which we could promote a feeling of empathy towards wildlife amongst our young friends. Zoo is a learning landscape where a child can see not only animals but also understand the dynamics that are functional behind its existence and welfare. This programme was extremely relevant especially when due to restrictions posed by COVID pandemic, there is minimal movement outdoors and zoos have been shut over several past months. Children have enthusiastically participated in the campaign expressing their ideas through creative mode of paintings and poetry. What we have here is a snapshot of how we observed Wildlife Week 2020, and how in turn we learnt about zoos and wildlife from a child’s lens. Let us take this opportunity to collectively pledge to strengthen positive acts of kindness towards animals and make this planet a better place to live in. It is inspiring to learn from our young citizenry, and we look forward to many more of such events.

**Dr. SP Yadav**  
**Member Secretary**  
**Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi**  
**Government of India**

## Background

Zoological gardens (zoos) provide an opportunity to open up a world of curiosity and interest, and sensitize visitors about a need for conservation of wildlife. In India, there are more than 151 recognized zoos with an annual visitation of over 80 million. Zoos are living institutions, and can serve as a platform for educating people about our eco-theological heritage, the protection of habitat, ecosystems and forests, and maintaining life-supporting processes of nature. Experiential learning watching wild animals up-close is an experience that cannot be replaced by any other pedagogy, especially for our youth.


*“Zoo animals are ambassadors for their cousins in the wild”* Jack Hanna, Director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

The Government of India introduced observance of a ‘Wildlife Week’ in the year 1952 with an aim to protect animal species from extinction. Today, while the world is gearing up to live the *new normal*, new avenues are explored to undertake activities to mark the observance of important environment themes.

A unique virtual campaign, called **RoaR (Respect and Revive) - Exploring Human-Animal Relationships** was launched to mark the celebrations of Wildlife Week (WLW) 2020.

### Objectives of Campaign RoaR

- ✓ Generate awareness about zoos of today and their role in ex-situ conservation
- ✓ Generate awareness about the diverse flora and fauna found around one’s homes and linkages to citizen science.



The poster features a colorful tiger face on the left. Logos for the Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and TERI are at the top. The text reads: **Wildlife Week 2020 RoaR Respect and Revive Exploring Human – Animal Relationships**. Below the poster, a text box states: "The Central Zoo Authority in collaboration with The Energy and Resources Institute, launches Campaign **RoaR (Respect and Revive)** to mark the celebration of Wildlife Week 2020."

**COMPETITION**  
**Painting | Poetry Writing**  
All students from classes 3 – 8 can register for the campaign and participate in the competitions.  
**Theme**  
My favourite zoo animal  
(मेरा प्रिय वन्यजीव)  
We roar for all wild animals as our friends  
(जंगल शहर में गुंज है, वन्यजीव हमारे दोस्त है)  
All entries should be original work of the participant on drawing paper using any type of colours.  
Size – 29 x 21 cms / A4  
Last date for submission:  
September 28, 2020

**WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATION 2020**  
**Highlights**

- Inaugural Ceremony
- CZA Prati Mitra Awards
- Talk on Conservation Linkages
- Nature Drawing and Illustrations
- Talk on Vultures in our culture
- Prize distribution ceremony

A chance for a virtual interaction with Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Shri Babul Supriyo, Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Awards & Incentives**  
Attractive prizes for winners  
E-Certificates for all participants

For submitting your entry to the competition, use the following link:  
<https://forms.gle/RjDbnCjd5JJI82g6>



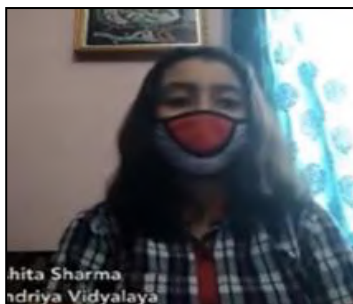


As a prelude to WLW 2020, a nationwide announcement was made inviting students to participate in poetry writing and painting competitions. These were held in two age groups: Class 3-5 (8-10 years), and Class 6-8 (11-13 years). Students were allowed to submit their entries in any language and medium of art. Competition themes were 'My Favorite Animal (मेरा प्रिय वन्यजीव)', and 'All Wild Animals are My Friends (जंगल शहर में गूंज है, वन्यजीव हमारे दोस्त हैं)'.

### Youth Voice

Students from various parts of India submitted recorded questions to be answered by Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri. Prakash Javadekar. A few of these are mentioned as under:

- Heavy loss to wildlife is caused by massive floods in Assam. How can children become ambassadors to promote empathy and concern for wildlife conservation in these trying times?
- What role can children play in spreading message of love for wildlife (particularly snakes) through festivals like *Nag Panchami*?
- Due to Corona we limit our outdoor activities. How can we still continue to enjoy nature around us and motivate our friends too?



## Launch of Wildlife Week 2020

An official e-launch held on 5 October 2020 was presided over by Shri. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change. He released the CZA newsletter *Ex-situ Update*, and a TERI report on "Economic valuation of ecosystem services of National Zoological Park, New Delhi". Dignitaries present at the launch were Dr Ajay Mathur, DG-TERI, Dr Sanjay Kumar, DGF&SS, MoEF&CC, Sh. S. Dasgupta, ADG-Wildlife, MoEF&CC and Dr Amit Mallick, IG (WL), MoEF&CC Dr S P Yadav, MS- CZA, and Dr Sonali Ghosh DIG-CZA. Shri. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, MoEF&CC responded to the questions posed by students (Youth Voice) and encouraged them to stay positive, enjoy nature while motivating their friends in these challenging Corona times. He further spoke about how they can be ambassadors for spreading message of wildlife conservation.

## Talks during Wildlife Week

Online talks and interactions were conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October for students. Highlights of the sessions were as follows:

- ✓ Talks on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 focused on ex-situ and in-situ linkages where Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), a critically endangered species was used as a case study. Projects in India and Nepal were showcased.

**Session Summary:** As part of the Ex-situ and In-situ Conservation Linkages, the session focused on Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), a critically endangered species inhabiting few locations across India and Nepal. It is a truly aquatic crocodilian and a specialist in its ecological paradigm. Zoos across India have recognized the conservation need for this species and have put in tremendous efforts to breed this specialist reptile. Several zoos have successfully released Gharial bred in their captive collections back into the wild. The session showcased initiatives in the Indian



**Wildlife Week 2020**  
**Roar**  
**Respect and Revive**  
Exploring Human – Animal Relationships

Time	Topic	Speaker
03:00 PM - 03:05 PM	Opening remarks and introduction to speaker and the topic	
03:05 PM - 03:30 PM	"The pitcher bearer- what's in a name!" A talk focused on the critically endangered Gharial and ex-situ and in-situ conservation linkages in India	Soham Mukherjee Representative of Wildlife Bengal
03:30 PM - 04:00 PM	"Who stole the fish from the cookie jar!" A talk focused on the critically endangered Gharial and ex-situ and in-situ conservation linkages in Nepal	Phoebe Griffiths, MSc PhD Candidate at University of Oxford and IIS, Shanghai (China)
04:00 PM - 04:15 PM	Question and Answer	
04:15 PM - 04:30 PM	Summary and Thanks	

October 06, 2020  
03:00 – 04:30 p.m.  
(+05:30 GMT)

Watch Live on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/2TvkzG4XqWI>

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subcontinent on Gharial conservation and monitoring, and established the close connection zoos have with species conservation in the wild in India and in Nepal.

- ✓ Hands on activity, drawing inspiration from nature in art work

The talks on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 aimed to touch upon slightly off-beat subjects. Starting with a talk by an accomplished forest official about use of innovative art forms and story-telling for inspiring youth to face the social and environmental issues at large today. This was followed by a talk on scintillating Cicadas, a well-kept secret in the world of Hemiptera.

**Session Summary:** Conservation must be interesting and passion driven by interest. Creative and visual arts be it poetry, music, art and illustrations; all draw inspiration from nature and the flora and fauna around us, as they say, Nature is the best teacher! Through this highly interactive and entertaining session the speakers shared their experience of drawing inspiration from nature in their art work.



The poster for Wildlife Week 2020 features a vibrant, multi-colored tiger head on the left. The title 'Wildlife Week 2020' is at the top right, followed by 'Roar' in large letters, 'Respect and Revive' below it, and the tagline 'Exploring Human - Animal Relationships' at the bottom right. A central timeline lists the following events:

- 03:00 PM - 03:05 PM: Opening remarks and introduction to speaker and the topic
- 03:05 PM - 03:30 PM: "Piya Bole- मेळघाट अनी मी (My Melghat!)" Talk on Human-Animal relationships in a Protected Area in Maharashtra
- 03:30 PM - 04:00 PM: "Scintillating Cicadas" Talk on the mysterious and fascinating life of Cicadas
- 04:00 PM - 04:15 PM: Question and Answer
- 04:15 PM - 04:20 PM: Summary and Thanks

Speakers are shown in small photos: Piyusha P Jagtap (CFO, Melghat Tiger Reserve) and Vivek Sanjar (Wildlife Biologist). The date and time are 'October 07, 2020 03:00 - 04:30 p.m. (+05:30 GMT)'. A YouTube link is provided: <https://youtu.be/CW16V277TK8>. Logos for the Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and the CZA Roar Campaign are at the bottom.

## ZOO OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Celebration in Zoos: Celebrating wildlife week is a tradition in zoos in India, one that is taken very seriously. The reason being, this is the opportunity for the zoo personnel to use various innovative methods to spread the message of conservation amongst people. The noticeable pause that the pandemic put on people's lives was not a hinderance from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and zoos and the community at large celebrated Wildlife Week with much fervor, albeit from the security of their homes or with social distancing norms. Zoos across the country adopted the CZA- Roar Campaign and forwarded the message of Respect (Nature) and Revive (our deep connect with the animals). There were demonstrations and talk by subject matter specialists on various online platforms and social media handles, cycling rallies, bird watching outings for small groups, mobile photography contests, mehendi, face



painting, palm painting contests to name a few. All this along with the trusted essay competitions and story writing that made creative juices flow. Zoos also used this opportunity to do clean up sessions and organize health camps for the staff. Wildlife Week not only celebrates wildlife, it brings people together to speak the message of conservation loud and clear, until next year!

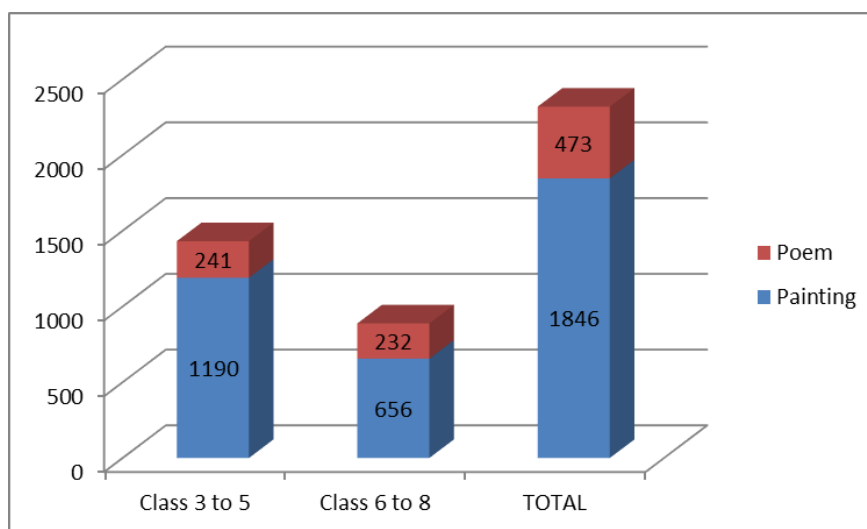


## Outreach and Impact

Close to 2300 online entries (1846 paintings and 473 poems) were received from children under the following categories:

- ✓ Class 3 to 5: Painting – 1190 and Poetry – 241 entries
- ✓ Class 6 to 8: Painting – 656 and Poetry – 232 entries

The graph below depicts the distribution of entries for the two categories for the two competitions-painting and poetry:

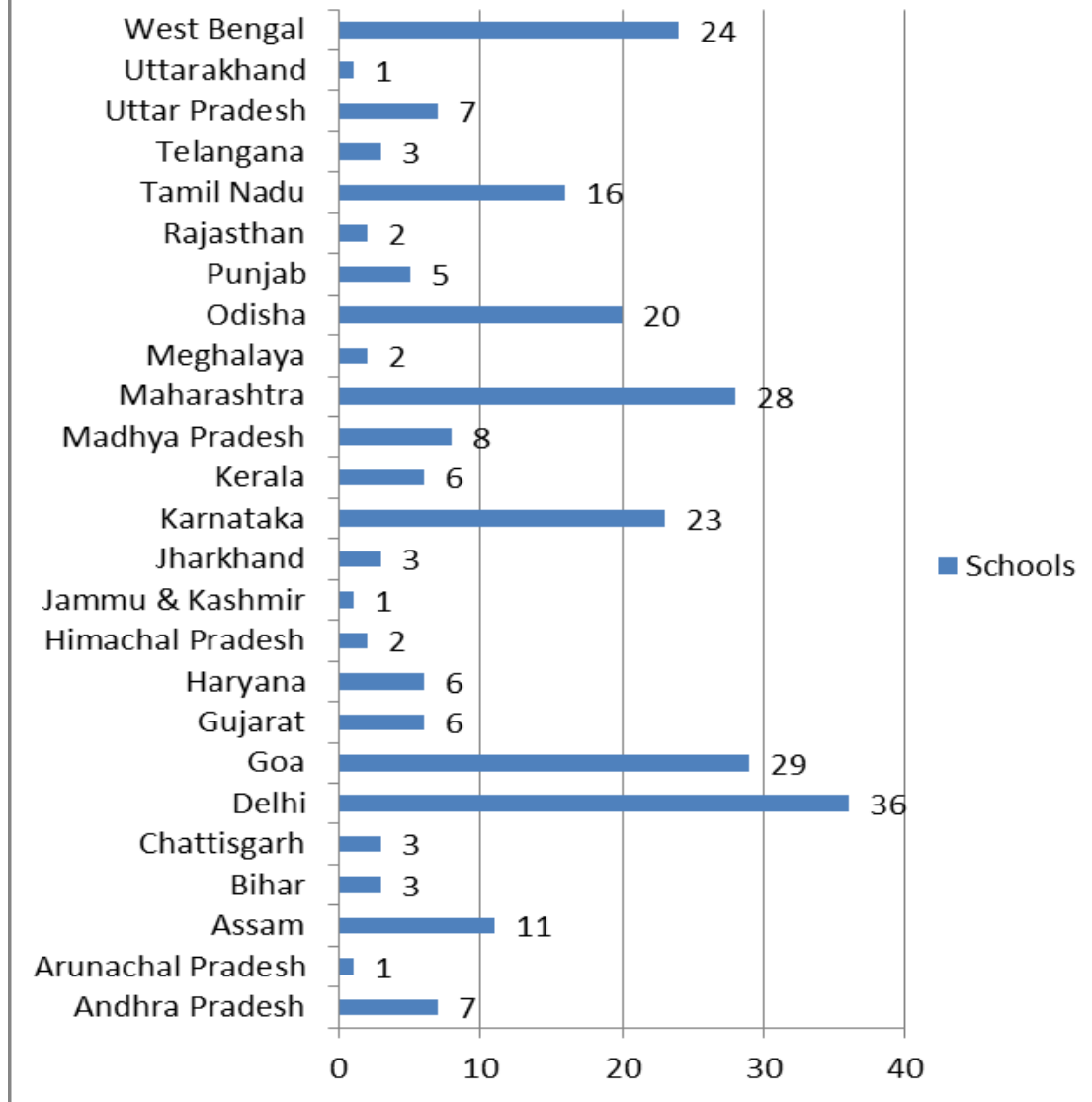


Further, 253 schools from 25 states/UT participated in the competitions. The graph below presents the state/UT wise participation of schools



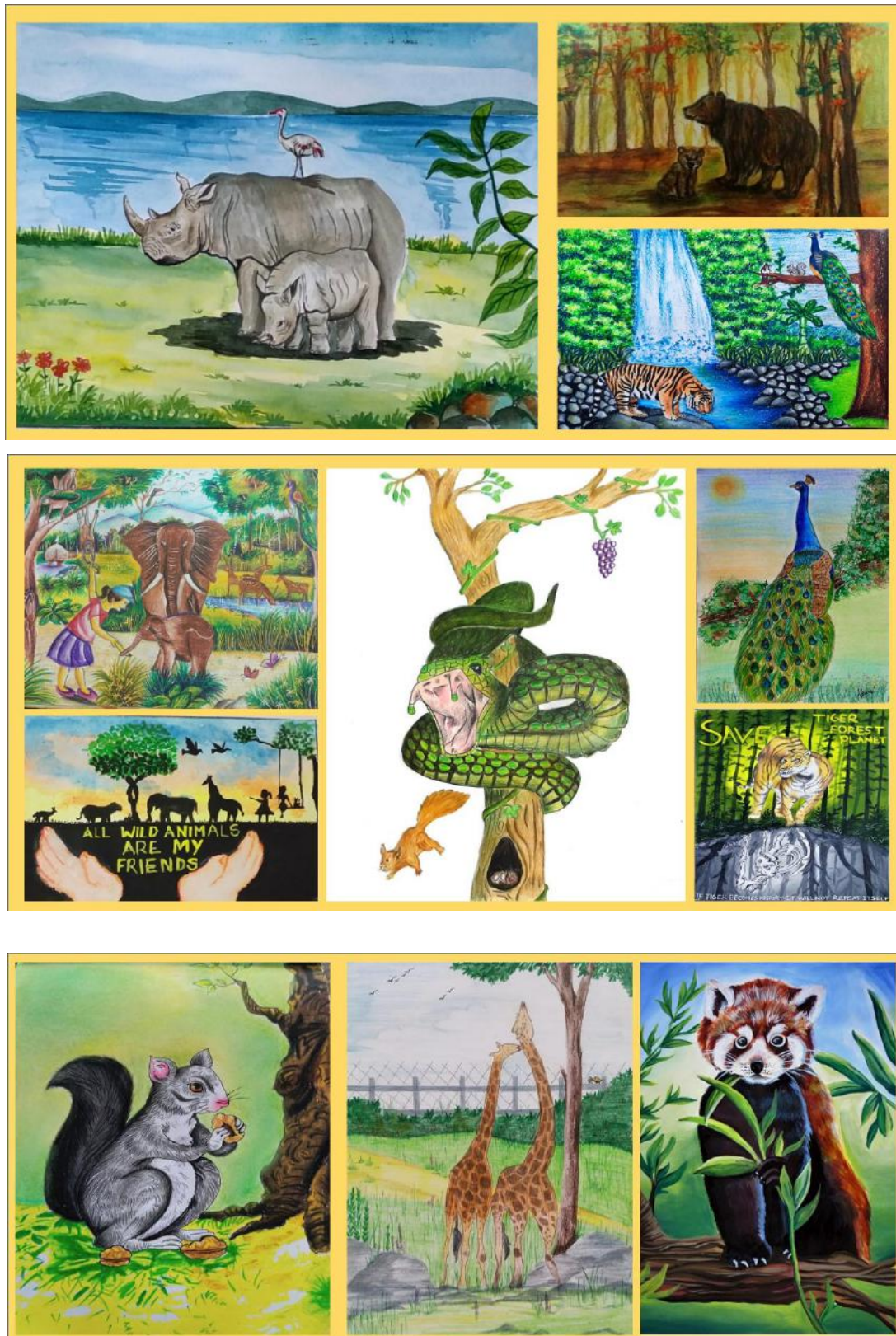


### State wise distribution of schools

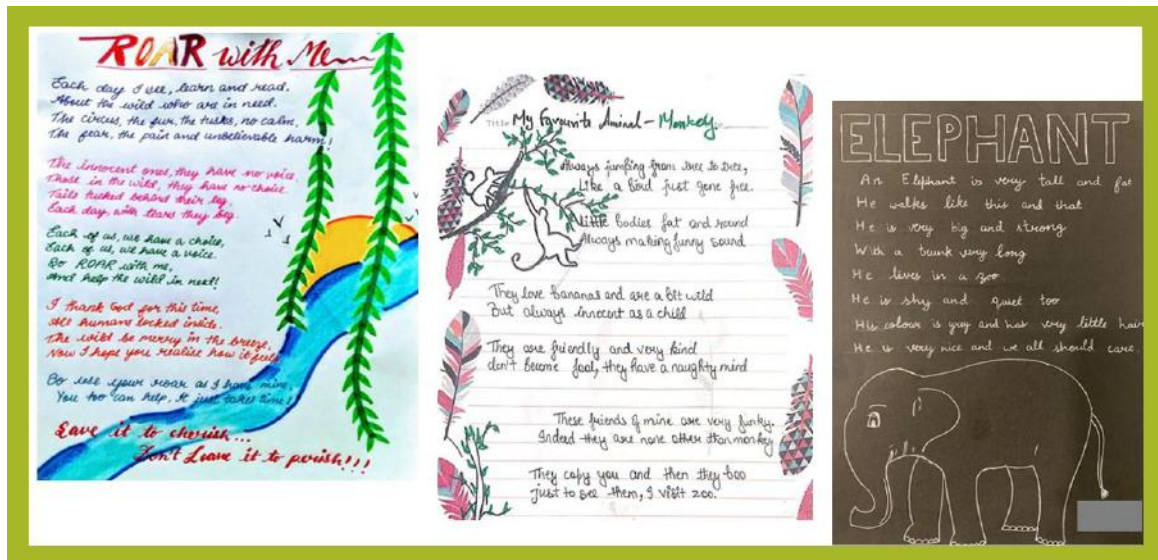


## Winning Entries

A few collages are presented here based on the competition entries:







## About the Jury

The competition entries were adjudicated by an illustrious jury panel






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Under Campaign RoAR, poetry and painting competitions were conducted for students during Wildlife Week 2020. Meet our eminent jury, comprising of illustrious professionals who scrutinised the competition entries.



"It was joyful but daunting to judge these little children's thoughts through well composed poetry on zoo wildlife and need for conservation." - Sharad Gaur, Independent Consultant-Environment Education



"It was amazing to see how instinctively intuitive and sensitive children are to wildlife. I had great pleasure in judging these paintings as it opened me up to a child's perception of animals and the environment." - Himanshu Malhotra, Environment & Wildlife Documentary Filmmaker



"Brilliant! What wonderful creativity - a joy to view! Found it difficult to select a favourite. Amazing, interesting and joyful." - Unva Sharma, Wildlife Biologist & Artist



"I had a wonderful but tough time judging the paintings made by young students. It was overwhelming to see their creativity and environmental knowledge". - Nilanjan Chatterjee, Wildlife Researcher



"I am amazed by the quality of artistic composition, creativity & originality of all the artworks." - Anshu A Sharma, Artpreneur



"It was an amazing experience to see young artists portray their love and passion for nature through art." - Namrata R Halankar, Graphic Designer & Curator




## Meet Our Winners

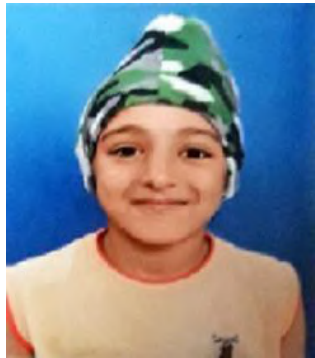
### Poetry Competition

#### Junior Category (Class 3 to 5)

<b>Name</b>	Nitya Srivalli G
<b>Class</b>	V
<b>School</b>	Little Angel School
<b>State</b>	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
<i>"I like all forms of art and am learning classical music, Kuchipudi dance, drawing and playing violin."</i>	



<b>Name</b>	Gurtejveer Singh Virdi
<b>Class</b>	IV
<b>School</b>	Sheth Karamshi Kanji English School
<b>State</b>	Mumbai Sub Urban, Maharashtra
<i>"I love sports am always fascinated by creative activities and hope to learn and achieve a lot in future."</i>	







<b>Name</b>	Madhureema
<b>Class</b>	
<b>School</b>	Delhi Public School, Vasant Kunj
<b>State</b>	New Delhi
<i>"I am a fun-loving girl who has a blue belt in taekwondo. I love to read and have great interest in poetry."</i>	





### **Painting Competition**

#### **Junior Category (Class 3 to 5)**

<b>Name</b>	Dibyanshi Guru		
<b>Class</b>	V		
<b>School</b>	St Joseph Convent Higher Secondary School		
<b>State</b>	Sambalpur, Odisha.		

<b>Name</b>	Farhan Karim		
<b>Class</b>	V		
<b>School</b>	Maria's Public School, Kamrup district		
<b>State</b>	Assam		


<b>Name</b>	Shreyashree Choudhury		
<b>Class</b>	V		
<b>School</b>	Maria's Public School, Kamrup district		
<b>State</b>	Assam		

## **Poetry Competition**

### **Senior Category (Class 6 to 8)**


<b>Name</b>	Ashita M
<b>Class</b>	VII
<b>School</b>	National Public School Yelahanka
<b>State</b>	Bengaluru, Karnataka

*"I am an animal - lover and I also look forward to protect them. I have a YouTube channel (Ashita M) which promotes environment issues. I want to become an IAS officer."*





<b>Name</b>	Sanjitha Shibu
<b>Class</b>	VII
<b>School</b>	National Public School, Yelahanka
<b>State</b>	Bengaluru, Karnataka

*"I am a wildlife enthusiast and love reading, writing and painting. My favorite book is the Percy Jackson series and I love watching Harry Potter movies. I would love to pursue medicine/surgery as my career and be a proud owner of a Siberian Husky as my pet in the future."*









Name	Yash Aggarwal		
Class	VI		
School	Bosco Public School		
State	New Delhi		
<p><i>“I actively participate in extra-curricular activities and have several prizes in Olympiads. I love dance, music, and drawing.”</i></p>			

### **Painting Competition**

#### **Senior Category (Class 6 to 8)**


Name	Aisha Panda		
Class	VIII		
School	Buxi Jagabandhu English medium School		
State	Bhubaneswar, Odisha		
<p><i>“My main hobby is painting. I also love to write essays, debate, quiz, and attending exhibitions etc.,”</i></p>			

Name	Rakesh Kumar Prusty		
Class	VIII		
School	Vikash First Step, Sambalpur		
State	Odisha		

Name	Pratyusha Bera
Class	VIII
School	Vivekananda Mission School
State	Kolkata, West Bengal

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*“I am a nature lover and am a part of the ‘Green Rhinos Programme’. I am also involved in a professional drama group. I want to grow up to be a responsible citizen and protect the marvelous creation of Mother Nature.”*



### Quotable Quotes



"Empathy to me is the greatest gift that nature can provide to all of us human beings. Let us never let the child in us wither away, arouse her curiosity with the wonders of our planet, the living beings around us and the sheer happiness of being one with them all' ~ *Dr. Sonali Ghosh, DIG, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, Government of India.*

"Let us understand that without kindness and compassion for all of Mother Nature's creatures, there can be no true joy. True happiness comes from providing unconditional care and love. We need to protect and preserve all sentient beings as we are all connected to each other and to the Earth."



~ *Dr. Annapurna Vancheswaran, Senior Director, Communication Outreach and Advocacy Unit, TERI, New Delhi*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

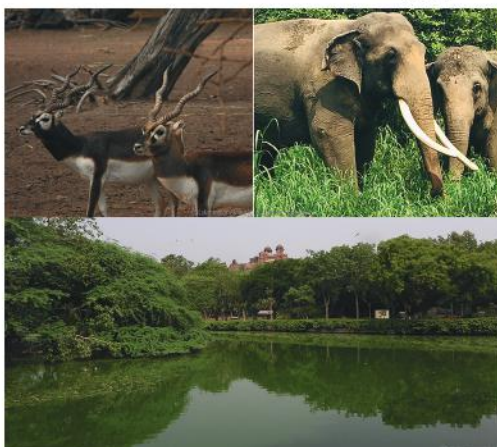
The super team of Dr Livleen K Kahlon, Ms Shabana Kazi at TERI and Dr Gowri Mallapur and Ms Sruthy Boopathy at CZA are thanked for their 24x7 backend support for coordinating and conducting this massive outreach program. Thanks to the zoos who took up the RoaR campaign and the children who actively participated in the event.





## Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services

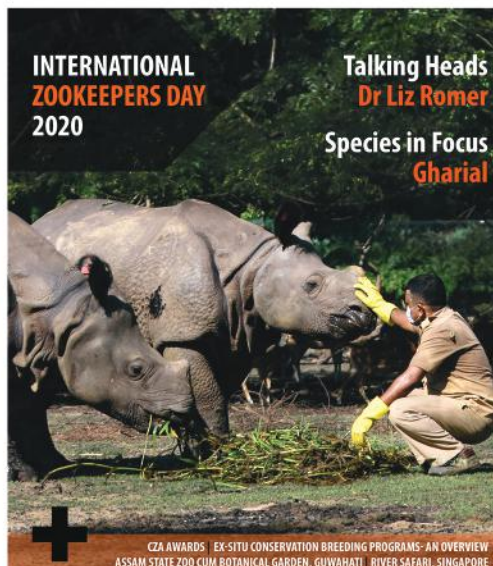
### National Zoological Park, New Delhi



## INTERNATIONAL ZOOKEEPERS DAY 2020

## Talking Heads Dr Liz Romer

### Species in Focus Gharial







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