

ZOO SCOPE

Quarterly Highlights

July-September 2024



**Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada
International Zoological Park**

A Project By : FDCM Gorewada Zoo Limited





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FOREWORD

With great pride and enthusiasm, I present this edition of our Quarterly Report, showcasing the continued growth and progress of Gorewada Zoo. While our dedicated field staff consistently perform exceptional work, their efforts have often gone undocumented. This report marks a collective initiative to capture and recognize the invaluable contributions of our team—who are the true backbone of the zoo. As the first of its kind, it aims to acknowledge and document the hard work and dedication of our staff. I believe

this will not only uplift the morale of our field staff but also support the zoo's ongoing development. A heartfelt congratulations to the entire team for their unwavering commitment!

I invite you to explore this report and join us in embracing the progress we've made and the exciting journey that awaits us.

Chandrasekaran Bala N, I.F.S

Chief Executive Officer,
FDCM Gorewada Zoo Limited

PREFACE

This report is a compilation of the efforts undertaken by Gorewada Zoo over the past quarter. We have made significant progress in areas such as habitat development, animal exchange programs, animal care, and the rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals, alongside our commitment to environmental sustainability. Notable initiatives include the successful transplantation of heritage trees, the removal of invasive weeds, and the implementation of innovative enrichment programs designed to enhance the well-being

of our animals. Each of these efforts underscores our dedication to preserving biodiversity and maintaining a harmonious balance between nature and development. Additionally, this quarter saw visits from officer trainees and interns from various academies, who came to deepen their understanding of ex-situ conservation practices.

Shatanik Bhagwat,

Zoo Director,
FDCM Gorewada Zoo Limited

1 Fur, Feathers and Scales: Animal Update

The Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park has continued to enhance its wildlife collection and conservation efforts during this quarter through several key acquisitions and rescues. The zoo received Striped Hyenas and Indian Wolves from Jaipur, contributing to the diversity of its carnivore collection. To strengthen the genetic diversity of its herbivores, Spotted Deer and Black Buck were

introduced from Jamshedpur, while Porcupines, Hanuman Langurs, Indian Rock Pythons, and Hog Deer arrived from Ahmedabad. In a unique rescue operation, a Raccoon, found trapped in a shipping container at Mumbai's dockyard, was rescued by RAWW Mumbai and handed over to Gorewada Zoo for lifetime care, after receiving medical treatment.



A. Nahargarh Biological Park, Jaipur



Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*)



Indian Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

B. Tata Steel Zoological Garden, Jamshedpur

Spotted deer (*Axis axis*)



Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*)



Animals from Jamshedpur Zoo were introduced to enhance the genetic diversity of the zoo's bloodline.

C. Kamla Nehru Zoological Park, Ahmedabad

Indian Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*)



Hanuman Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*)





Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*)



Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*)



Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) rescued from Mumbai Dock Yard is housed in Gorewada Zoo.

SPECIES CONSERVATION,
REHABILITATION, &
PUBLIC EDUCATION.

2 Rehabilitation of Rescued Animals

Rewilding rescued animals at Gorewada Zoo is a critical conservation initiative aimed at restoring wildlife to their natural habitats. This process involves rehabilitating animals that have been rescued from human-wildlife conflicts, injuries, or illegal trade. At Gorewada Zoo, specialized care is provided to ensure the physical and behavioural health of these animals, preparing them for eventual release into the wild.



Rewilding of rescued Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) in Gorewada Reserve Forest



An injured Tiger (T-53) from Pench Tiger Reserve was Rescued, treated successfully and released back into the wild.

3 Habitat Management & Eco-restoration

A. Tree Plantation Drive – 8th July 2024

As part of the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign launched by the Prime Minister of India on World Environment Day, 5th June 2024, to encourage people to plant a tree as a mark of love, respect, and honour for their mothers and pledge to protect trees and earth. Gorewada Zoo initiated

the event with plantation of 500 trees along with 130 trainee officers from the Forester Training Institute (FTI), Chikhaldara

Ek
Ped
Maa Ke
Naam



'Ek ped maa ke Naam' – the plantation drive at zoo

EK Ped Maa ke Naam (17th September 2024)

The event was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Director of the Tourism Directorate, along with special guests from Japan. A group of 40 veterinary interns from MAFSU also participated in the occasion.



Delegates from Japan and Veterinary students at 'Ek-ped maa ke naam' the plantation drive at zoo

Tree Plantation under CSR (9th Septemer 2024)

As part of Corporate Social Responsibility, M/s. CIE Automotives India Pvt Ltd, Nagpur donated 1000 saplings of native tree species to Gorewada Zoo. All the department heads and

Mr. Dilip R. Joshi, HR Manager & CSR head of the company graced the presence for this event. Shri. Bhagwat felicitated the CIE team for their contribution to the green future.



Contribution to the green future!



Officials of CIE India Automotives Pvt Ltd & Gorewada staff at the plantation program

Fodder Plot in the Zoo

The in-house fodder plot at Gorewada Zoo plays a vital role in ensuring a sustainable and cost-effective supply of high-quality fodder for the herbivorous animals under its care. Spanning a 2Ha dedicated area within the zoo premises, the fodder plot is cultivated with nutrient-rich grasses and other forage crops tailored to meet the dietary needs of various species. Regular maintenance, including irrigation, weeding, and soil enhancement, ensures consistent yield and

quality. This initiative not only reduces dependency on external suppliers but also promotes eco-friendly practices by minimizing the carbon footprint associated with fodder transportation. The in-house fodder plot has significantly contributed to the zoo's self-reliance and operational efficiency, aligning with its long-term goals of sustainability and animal welfare.



A sustainable and cost-effective supply of high-quality fodder



Transplantation

Under the Habitat Development Program, Gorewada Zoo has undertaken the transplantation of old-growth Ficus trees disrupted by development activities to preserve the ecological balance and enhance the zoo's natural environment. This initiative not only salvages mature trees that would otherwise be lost but also ensures the continuity of habitats vital for local wildlife. By carefully uprooting and relocating these trees using advanced arboriculture techniques, the zoo aims to create a more authentic and sustainable habitat for its animal inhabitants while contributing to conservation efforts.





Weed Removal

As part of its commitment to maintaining healthy ecosystems, Gorewada Zoo has initiated a comprehensive program to remove invasive weeds from its animal safaris. These invasive species, which often compete native vegetation, pose a threat to the natural habitats of the zoo's resident wildlife. By clearing these weeds, the zoo not only restores the balance of

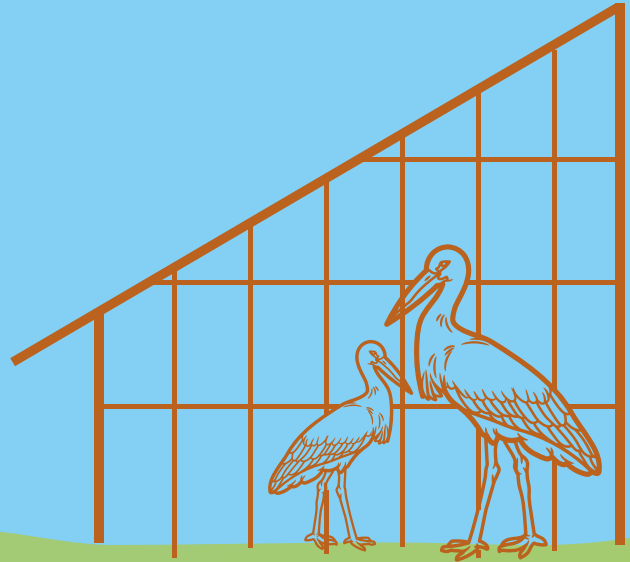
the local flora but also ensures the availability of diverse and nutritious food sources for herbivorous animals. This initiative plays a crucial role in enhancing the ecological integrity of the safari zones, creating a more authentic and thriving environment for the animals and a better experience for visitors.



Weeds like Hiptis, Lantana & Cassia being uprooted under habitat improvement



4 Enrichment Activities



New enclosure set-up for Asian Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)



Mealworms and insect-based items were added in diets of Birds and Small Mammals for nutrition and enhanced activity.



Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*) dietary enrichment with honey and insect-based food



Stone arts with animal painting being displayed at the zoo

'Phumdi' – the Floating Island

Loktak lake in Manipur is a World Nature Heritage site due to its unique floating island habitats locally known as '*Phumdi*'. These islands consist of vegetation, soil, and organic matter in various stages of decay. These islands provide unique refuge to a diverse range of flora and fauna, including the critically endangered Manipur Brow-antlered Deer aka Sangai deer. Keibul-lamjao National Park in Manipur serves to protect this critical habitat for the conservation of this rarest deer of the world.

Recognizing its ecological significance, Gorewada Zoo endeavoured to create a small replica through an artificial phumdi structure as part of an awareness and enrichment activity. Recreating these islands in herbivore safari aligns with zoo's strategy of creating habitat-based exhibits and educating visitors about the importance of wetland ecosystems.

The artificial *Phumdi* @Gorewada



This vegetation on island is well accepted by the animals and have survived grazing. Its natural appearance and good education value have added to the strong conservation message.

With the lessons learned from the initial experiment, the zoo strives to expand similar activities in future to bring such conservation messages.

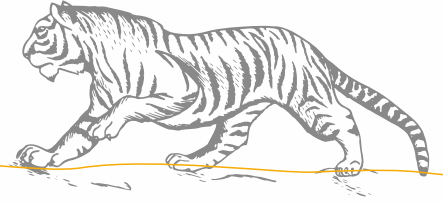
5 Events & Celebrations:

World Zoonoses Day – Zoonotic diseases, also known as zoonoses, are infectious diseases that can spread between animals and humans. To create awareness and their prevention, the World Zoonoses Day is celebrated on 6th July every year. The Gorewada zoo used this opportunity to sensitize animal keepers for their safety.

World Zoonoses Day
is observed on **6th July every year**
to create awareness amongst the people
about zoonotic diseases



Shri. Darshan Dudhane, Biologist conducting training on prevention of zoonotic diseases to keepers of Gorewada Zoo



Nagpanchami – (9th August 2024) To embrace critical role of snakes in ecological balance and their contribution in agriculture the Nag Panchami is traditional festival to worship of snakes mainly Cobras (Naga). Every year Gorewada Zoo conducts awareness and

educational program in nearby rural schools imparting the importance of snakes, prevention and first aid of snake bite. This year the program was conducted at Savitribai Phule High School, Fetri.



Shri. Darshan Dudhane, Biologist delivering lecture on Snake Awareness program for school children

Global Tiger Day: The Global Tiger Day 2024 was organized by Gorewada Zoo at Institute of Sciences, Nagpur in collaboration with their Green Club. On this occasion General Curator of Gorewada Zoo Mr. Dipak Sawant interacted with the students on 'Tiger Conservation in India'.



Shri. Dipak Sawant, General Curator conducting awareness session on Global Tiger Day

Independence Day - Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, Nagpur celebrated India's 78th Independence Day with various events and activities. The flag was hoisted by Mr. Chandrasekaran Bala, Chief Executive Officer, FDCM Gorewada Zoo Ltd.

A Blood Donation camp was organised on the occasion in association with Tirpude Blood Bank Trust. Similarly, drawing competition and a quiz competition was organised for kids. More than

50 students participated in this competition. Winners and participants were felicitated by Shri. Shatanik Bhagwat, Zoo Director, BTGIZP, Nagpur. Company Secretary Shri. Abhijit Pashine, Biologist, Shri. Darshan Dudhane, Shri. Abhijit Sonone, Shri. Amit Zurmure, Shri. Mangesh Walke, Smt. Sneha Dadhe, Smt. Mayuri Khandare, Smt. Priyanka Nimbarte and others contributed for program's success.



Staff members at Independence Day



Flag Hoisting Ceremony



**“Donate blood, save lives.
Be a hero in someone's
story today”**



Representatives of Tirpude Blood Bank Trust, Nagpur at Blood Donation Camp



Participants of Drawing Competition

Eco-friendly Ganesh Idols: 1st Week of September 2024 As part of commitment to environmental sustainability and eco-friendly lifestyle, Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoo promoted eco-friendly idols for Ganesh Festivals. A social media campaign steered the promotion of the moto. Ganesh Idols made from Cow dung and painted with natural

colours were made available for sale at Zoo. They were also made available for online purchase through zoo website. These idols were sourced from local tribal artisans to ensure community involvement in the process. Shri. Dipak Sawant, General Curator coordinated this activity.



commitment to
environmental
SUSTAINABILITY
AND
ECO-FRIENDLY
LIFESTYLE



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• Visit our online store for booking and home delivery
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Promoting Eco-friendly Ganesh Idols through Social Media

Swacchata hi Seva – Swabhav Swacchata, Sanskar Swacchata : (17th September – 2nd October 2024) MoEFCC's 'Swachhata hi Seva Campaign 2024' was convened in the zoo with the theme of *Swabhav Swacchata, Sanskar Swacchata* with activities spanned over a fortnight.

Gorewada Zoo celebrated *Swacchata Pakhwada* 2024 with a series of programs from 17th September to 2nd October 2024. Various events were planned under the event including, plantation drive, cleaning of premises, plastic eradication, recycling of waste, cleanliness oath, etc.



Cleanliness Drive: Gorewada Zoo premises is a plastic free premise. Under the *Swacchata Pakhwada*- plastic collection drive was conducted along the highway passing through Gorewada Jungle.



Plastic collection drive along highway passing through Gorewada Reserve Forest



Shri. Vikram Zanjurne, Supervisor conducting session on Safety & Hygiene during the Cleaning work

World Ozone Day – an interactive lecture was organised at Jawaharlal Nehru College, Wadi, under its Chemical Society on the occasion. Dr. Pratik Michael, Vice Principal, Hislop College, Nagpur, and Shri. Darshan Dudhane, Biologist

from Gorewada Zoo conducted event with insightful talks, thought-provoking discussions. Students were sensitised on Ozone depletion and relevant environmental issues.



Workshop on World Ozone Day at Jawaharlal Nehru College, Wadi, Nagpur.

6 Important Visits in the Zoo



13th September 2024:
Shri. Sanjay Shukla,
Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi



25th September 2024:
Shri. Vivek Khandekar,
Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State



Shri. Anurag Mishra,
Special Secretary, Environment
& Climate Change, Tamilnadu



Delegates from **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**

Trainee Officers and Interns



28th August 2024- Trainees of IGNFA with Gorewada officials



12th September 2024: Trainee officers from Assam State Forest Academy



13th September 2024: Trainees of IGNFA with Gorewada officials

SCHOOL TRIPS

Educational trips to the zoo provide a unique opportunity for students to connect with wildlife and learn about biodiversity, conservation, and animal behaviour. These trips are designed to be both informative and engaging, featuring guided tours and interactive sessions that highlight the importance of protecting our natural world. Educational trips not only enrich knowledge but also inspire a sense of responsibility toward environmental stewardship among future generations.



Sr. No.	No. of participants	Date	School / College
1	61	16 th July 2024	Centre Point International School, Dabha, Nagpur
2	73	19 th Sept. 2024	Brijlal Biyani Science College, Amravati
3	65	27 th Sept. 2024	Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School, Wanadongri, Nagpur
4	72	27 th Sept. 2024	Nagar Parishad Vidya Mandir, Warud, Amravati
5	58	2 nd August 2024	Millennium School, Jafar Nagar, Nagpur
6	50	17 th August 2024	S.P. Pandey, Rachana Vrindavan, Mankapur, Nagpur

Students during their visit at Gorewada





Students during their visit at Gorewada



A group of 130 students from Heritage International School, Nagpur visited the Gorewada Biodiversity Park, where Biologist Mr. Darshan Dudhane introduced them to the diverse avifauna and other biodiversity of the Gorewada Reserve Forest. Providing valuable insights into the ecosystem, 22 species birds were observed during the trail. On this occasion, Round Officer Mr. Prashant Ghugal and Forest Guard Mrs. Lobha Kore were also present.

Heritage
International
School
at Biodiversity Park,
Gorewada

31st August 2024



Meet Avinash Gendalal Shende

At just 28, Avinash Gendalal Shende's journey from a childhood in the Mang Garudi community of snake charmers to a wildlife advocate and zookeeper at Gorewada Zoo is truly inspiring.

Growing up in a nomadic lifestyle with limited schooling, Avinash's early years included hunting with his community. A turning point came when his father joined the forest department, inspiring Avinash to embrace wildlife conservation and abandon his past practices.

In his three years at Gorewada Zoo, Avinash has cared for hyenas, wolves, jackals, monkeys, reptiles, and birds. His meticulous attention to orphaned newborn animals and his role as a wildlife rescuer highlight his compassion. "I understand their emotions and feel connected to them when I work," he says.

Avinash is also dedicated to raising awareness about conservation, believing education is key to protecting animals. Outside work, he finds solace in nature, which fuels his passion further.

Avinash's story reflects the power of empathy and transformation, reminding us of the profound impact of care and education on wildlife and humanity alike.



Meet Dinu Radheshyam Bhavare

At 30, Dinu Radheshyam Bhavare has become a vital part of Gorewada Zoo's team, serving as a dedicated tiger keeper.

His bond with the animals goes far beyond routine care. "I feel a connection with them," he shares. While rewarding, his role has its challenges, like the heartbreaking moment when a tigress killed her own cubs—a stark reminder of the complexities of wildlife care.

Dinu is passionate about dispelling myths surrounding tigers, emphasizing their vulnerability and need for protection. In his downtime, he enjoys cricket, a welcome reprieve from his demanding role.

Dinu's inspiring journey highlights the profound impact of dedication and reminds us of the importance of respecting and protecting wildlife.





TESTIMONIALS

WHAT PEOPLE SAYS ABOUT US

Wonderful place. This place is a surprise for first time visitors. Beyond expectations.

This is well managed safari park. Ticketing and entry is super smooth.

The ac and not ac buses are clean and in good condition. The guides are polite and well learned

They have lots of wonderful things coming up in future.

This is must visit for all especially kids.

- Purvesh Mehta, Visitor



Albino Blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*) exhibiting a complete absence of melanin in its skin.



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CEO

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Zoo Director

Contributors:

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Shri. Darshan Dudhane,
Biologist

Shri. Arjun Tyagi,
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Shri. Abhijit Pashine,
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Shri. Venkatraman Jangilwad,
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Smt. Sarika Khot,
Assistant Manager

Shri. Kuldeep Shinde,
Assistant Manager

And Team Gorewada Zoo



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