NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK, NEW DELHI
Press Release
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National Zoological Park Celebrates Green Diwali; Director Urges Protection of Owls and Wildlife:

New Delhi, 08 November 2026: The National Zoological Park (NZP), New Delhi, organised a creative doodle activity on 7 November 2026 under the theme "GO GREEN, GLOW BRIGHT – A DIWALI FOR NATURE AND WILDLIFE". The initiative encouraged visitors to celebrate Diwali in an environmentally responsible and nature-friendly manner, reaffirming the Zoo's commitment to wildlife conservation, biodiversity awareness and environmental education.

The activity witnessed an enthusiastic response, with approximately 1,200 visitors participating in and appreciating the initiative. It provided an interactive and creative platform, particularly for children and families, to express their thoughts and ideas on environmental protection and develop a deeper appreciation of wildlife and nature.

On the occasion, the Director, National Zoological Park, emphasised the importance of celebrating Diwali in an eco-friendly manner and encouraged visitors to adopt sustainable practices, avoid noise and air pollution, and extend the spirit of celebration to the protection of wildlife and the environment.

Special Message from the Director: Let Us Protect Owls and Celebrate Diwali with Compassion

The Director also appealed to the public to dispel myths and superstitions associated with owls. Owls are not symbols of bad luck or evil; they are fascinating and highly beneficial wild birds that play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. As natural predators, they help control rodents and other pests, thereby contributing to healthy ecosystems and supporting biodiversity.

"This Diwali, let us replace fear and superstition with knowledge, respect and compassion. Owls are an important part of our ecosystem and deserve our protection, just like every other wild animal. Let us celebrate with lights, kindness and responsibility—without harming or disturbing wildlife. Protect owls, protect nature, and protect our shared future," said the Director, National Zoological Park.

The Zoo urges citizens not to harm, capture or disturb owls, and to report any injured or distressed wild animal to the appropriate wildlife authorities. A nature-friendly Diwali is a meaningful step towards a safer environment for people and wildlife alike.

20th Sunday Bird Walk @ NZP Promotes Citizen Science and Biodiversity Documentation

As part of its ongoing efforts to encourage public participation in biodiversity monitoring and wildlife conservation, the National Zoological Park organised the 20th edition of "Sunday Bird Walk @ NZP" on 8 November 2026, from 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM. The walk was conducted under the expert guidance of dedicated volunteers.

A total of 8 participants, including bird enthusiasts, nature lovers, students and citizens interested in biodiversity, took part in the programme. During the walk, participants recorded 46 bird species and observed more than 600 individual birds in the designated area. Notably, two new species were added to the bird checklist of the National Zoological Park: Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) and Indian Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica*). This addition marks an important contribution to the ongoing documentation of the Zoo's avian diversity and highlights the significance of systematic bird monitoring and citizen science initiatives.

These observations contributed to field-level biodiversity documentation while providing participants with a valuable hands-on opportunity to engage in citizen science. The Zoo volunteers shared informative insights into bird ecology, behaviour and conservation, highlighting the significant role of birds in maintaining ecological balance, including through natural pest control, and their importance as indicators of ecosystem health.

Registration for Sunday Bird Walk:

To ensure meaningful learning and effective participation, each Sunday Bird Walk is limited to 20–25 participants. Prior registration is mandatory, and places are allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration form remains open from Monday to Friday each week. The link is available on the official website of the National Zoological Park and through the NZP Saathi mobile application.

Director
National Zoological Park
New Delhi