A second home for the Asiatic lions in Madhya Pradesh
The Palpur sancturay in Northern Madhya Pradesh in the Vindhya hill region may soon turn out to be a sanctuary for the Asiatic lions which will be shifted from Gir forest in Gujarat. This is a 64-crore centrally sponsored lion re-introduction project. This (345 sq. km) will be expanded to cover 3,700 sq. km by 2015 A.D. to accomodate the lions. The shifting involves tranquilising the lions and transporting them.

A pre-release centre for herbivores is being set up near Manak chowk, west of the Kuno river. This will be the initial translocation and acclimatisation site for the Asiatic lions. The first lot is likely to be transported during 2000-2001 when the prey base is ready and the human population shifted from the jungle to outside. The residents of the affected villages will be rehabilitated with suitable accomodation and other facilities. *The Times of India, 21st July '97*

Draft legislation on bio-diversity flayed

The Indian government's draft for bringing a bill on biological diversity in the country has met with disapproval, partially for not going into the core issue of ownership rights of biological resources. The experts feel that ithere are all kinds of laws in the country for conservation and that the biodiversity legislation should focus on the issue of ownership rights. Several countries have ensured ownership rights through executive orders and countries such as Australia, Phillipines, and indonesia have regulated the use of their biosources. The role of local communities and indigenous knowledge has not been included in the Draft and some environmentalists feel that it may be just 'another bureaucratic exercise'. The document should be widely circulated before finalisation. *Times of India, New Delhi, 5th Sept '9*

Fish prove more effective in controlling malaria:

One of the most successful low-cost technologies in the country's malaria control programme was undertaken last year in the state of Maharashtra by which larvivorous fish such as guppies are introduced in water bodies in the village to destroy the larvae of malaria-bred mosquitos. Incidence of malaria declined considerably. Karnataka repated similar experiments in Hassan District with remarkable results. A scientists' meet at Hyderabad felt that this method was superior to genetically engineered sterile male mosquitos programme, a plan of the Tamil Nadu government. *Times of India, Mumbai, 8th Sept '97*

Locusts are breeding towards Rajasthan

In Aug. 28, Swarms of locusts were spotted in the border districts of Jaisalmer and Barmer in West Rajasthan. The locust control organisation and the Rajasthan state agricultural department swung into action to destroy them. Insecticides were sprayed in time and the authorities expect the ffect to be minimal. The government of Pakistan co-operated with the Indian authorities in facing this menace. *Times of India, New Delhi, 11th Sept '97*

Jobless Jumbos

As a sequel to the India's Supreme Court's order banning movement of timbers from the North- Eastern states, the owners of elephants faced the problem of maintaining elephants which 'have overnight turned literally into white elephants'. In Kailasahar town in Tripura, there was a procession of elephants carrying placard "We are hungry". Advertisements appeared in local dailies offering the elephants foe sale. The spectacle of unemployed elephants was described as ' humiliating '. *Times of India, New Delhi, 15th Sept '97*

Bengal Government to erect memorial for elephant

At the Garumara reserve forest in West Bengal a memorial in the form of a statue of an elephant will be erected for an elephant ' Jatraprasad ' which died in July this year at the age of sixty. *The Times of India, New Delhi, 20th Sept '97*

Mayur Vihar over-run by Snakes

The residents of Mayur vihar in East Delhi were panicked by the sudden appearance of snakes from the pits and bushes of parks located in their area. The unhygenic conditions were reported to be the cause of reappearance of snakes after many years. There were cases of children being bitten by snakes. The residents complained about the negligence of authorities to keep the area clean. *Times of India, New Delhi, 30th Sept '97*

Delhi schools yet to be notified about right of choice to dissect

A recent Delhi High Court order has decided that 'dissection may be made optional for students of the senior secondary stage'. A Delhi based N.G.O. Kindness to Animals and Respect for Environmental (KARE) along with other kindred organisations has petitioned the court to give the students ' a right of choice'. Camellia Satija, the head of KARE says that 'alternatives like computer programming, slides, charts and 3D models are available and can serve the same purpose'. *Times of India, 2nd July '97*

Man-eater struck villagers burn leopard alive

It is alleged that a lepord was burnt alive by villagers of Pauri districts in Garhwal region (U.P.) under the mistaken identity for a man-eater. A lepord was trapped on the 3rd May and the death by burning occured the next day. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests confirmed man-eater had killed four persons during a week's time in the month of May, but he was not sure of the burnt animal's guilt. *Pioneer, New Delhi, 6th July '97*

Uncommon eagle gets a new lease of life in Delhi Zoo

An uncommon eagle was gifted to the Delhi Zoo by a group of teenagers who picked it up from a tomb near the Bhogal area (Delhi). The zoo authorities, after a good study of it, described it as 'a mountain hawk eagle'. The body and head shape is

distinct from the more common eagle. " It is darker and has a sheen in its feathers but has a distinctive pale head. This eagle is found in Sri Lanka, Southern India, Himalayas and as far north as Japan. *Times of India, 6th July '97*

Indian Trapper to go teach in USA

Ali Husain, 50, a native of Manjhaul village of Begusarai in Bihar is an important person in the eyes of bird researchers. His indigenous bird trapping skill and incredible command over ornithology has earned him a trip to America to demonstrate his skills to scientists on U.S. Wildlife Sanctuaries. The trip is sponsored by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He had helped Salim Ali, 32 years ago to catch birds in Karwar lakes. He made his living by selling birds to traders and zoos but he could not carry out this assocation after the enactment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972. *The Times of India, 13th July '97*

Circuses are heading for extinction

There are only 12 reputed circuses touring the country and their future in bleak. The decline of the popularity of these may cost nearly 90,000 artistes and worker their livilihood. The South Indian are now being replaced by Nepalege and Assamese. Many South Indian workers, mostly from Kerala, seek their furture in Gulf countries. The dwindling open spaces, Satelitte TV's invasion into the houses to entertain children and adult, the animal welfare lobbies elamouring for the elimination of animals from circuses and governments apathy to the demand of the circus owners are the causes for the delay of circuses as source of entertainment. *Times of India, 21.6.97*

Mobile Zoos have been banned

Mobile Zoos have been banned by the Central government. According to Wildlife Protection Society of India, it is an outcome of continuous pressure by wildlife conservation group. *Pioneer, New Delhi, 2nd June'97*

Nilgiri bioreserve is centre of flourishing wildlife trade

The Nilgiri bioreserve covering 15% of Indian total protected area with more than 100 mammalian species, 550 species of birds and 30 reptalian ones, face blatant plonder of its wealth by International Wildlife Trade Cartel. A study by Vatavaran, an N.G.O., revealed that the animals under the total protection inside the reserve are being traded at its fringes, either alive or dead parts. Many of our precious birds like peacock are often sold. The price of an animal appreciates as its name goes up in the Wildlife protection act schedule. Despite stringent National legislation, trade in animals/birds goes on taking advantage of loopholes in the law. *Times of India, 5th June'97*

Living on the edge of a dying city

Delhi is fast becoming a polluted city far from Lutgen's city. Green areas are getting depleted every day. Niret and Nikhil Alva-two brothers have produced much acclaimed TV Serial 'Living on the edge', India's largest running programme on the environment. (100 episodes). It has been dubbed in a number of Indian languages. These brothers brought Journalism into environment. Some of these episodes are on development with due protection for greenary. Central pollution control board reports that the carbon monoxide level was some 800 micrograms in Nov'95. By Nov'96, the level has gone up to 3000 micrograms. Out of 10 residents in Delhi, at least six are suffering from asthma or respiratory diseases. Only 8% of the 1483 sq. kms has green cover. Public consciousness should be awakened to the danger posed by this problem. *Times of India, 5th June'97*

A cool break in Corbett country

Corbett's Park celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. Both the Central/State governments and the print media have organized special seminars and events. Tiger tops Corbett lodge, located at Ramnagar on the banks of the picturesque Kosi can serve as a base for visiting exotic places around the park and for excursions into the Kumaon hills. Best time is between November and June. Corbett's scenic cottage contains old photographs, letters and furniture belonging to Jim Corbett. The lodge is open through the belonging to Jim Corbett. The lodge is open through the year and special rates for the monsoon months. call 6462011 and 6444016 for more details. *Times of India, 17th July 1997.*

Crocodiles swim out of flooded Steel City Zoo

A flash flood of Subarnarekha river inundated large areas of Jamshedpur. The level rose as high as 10 feet and seven crocodiles from the Tata steel Zoo were swept away, but recovered from several areas of the city. The leopards and cheetah sab atop the trees in their enclosures. Fortunately the tigers woo inside the cages when water gushed in. A tiger fell sick after it failed to climb a makeshift perch. *Telegraph, Calcutta, 8th August 1997.*

Health care CAMP at State Zoo

The wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust Organized a health care camp for the staff and their family members as well as the wildlife at the Assam State Zoo on September 17. Mr Nagen Sarma, Minister of Forests, Government of Assam, inaugurated the function. Mr.H.K.Chaudhury, IFS (Retd), Chairman of the Trust, explained that trust had initiated a series of welfare programmes for the staff, and also developmental activities for the wildlife of the State. The Minister declared that through the trust two major programmes would be initiated in the State Zoo i..e. total eradication of T.B. and modernization of the Zoo pathological laboratory. The Minister presented a pack of valuable and essential medicines and surgical items to the Zoo as a token of goodwill heralding the beginning of a new development. The function was attended among others by senior and other conservators, officials and staff of the Forest Department. More than 20 doctors and experts from the Gauhati Medical College Hospital, Capital State Dispensary, Department of AHand Veterinary Science,Khanapara, were present.

The Gauhati Medical Hospital authorities provided free medicines and some were purchased by the Trust and supplied free of cost to thestaff. Free treatment for tuberculosis is being organized by the Trust . In the veterinary health care camp the experts examined in details several zoo animals including chimpanzees,elephants, slow lorris, langurs, gibbons, nilgai, thamin, African rhino. The experts made a round of other enclosures and assessed the general health condition of the animals. The Sentinel, Guwahati, 20 Sept 1997.