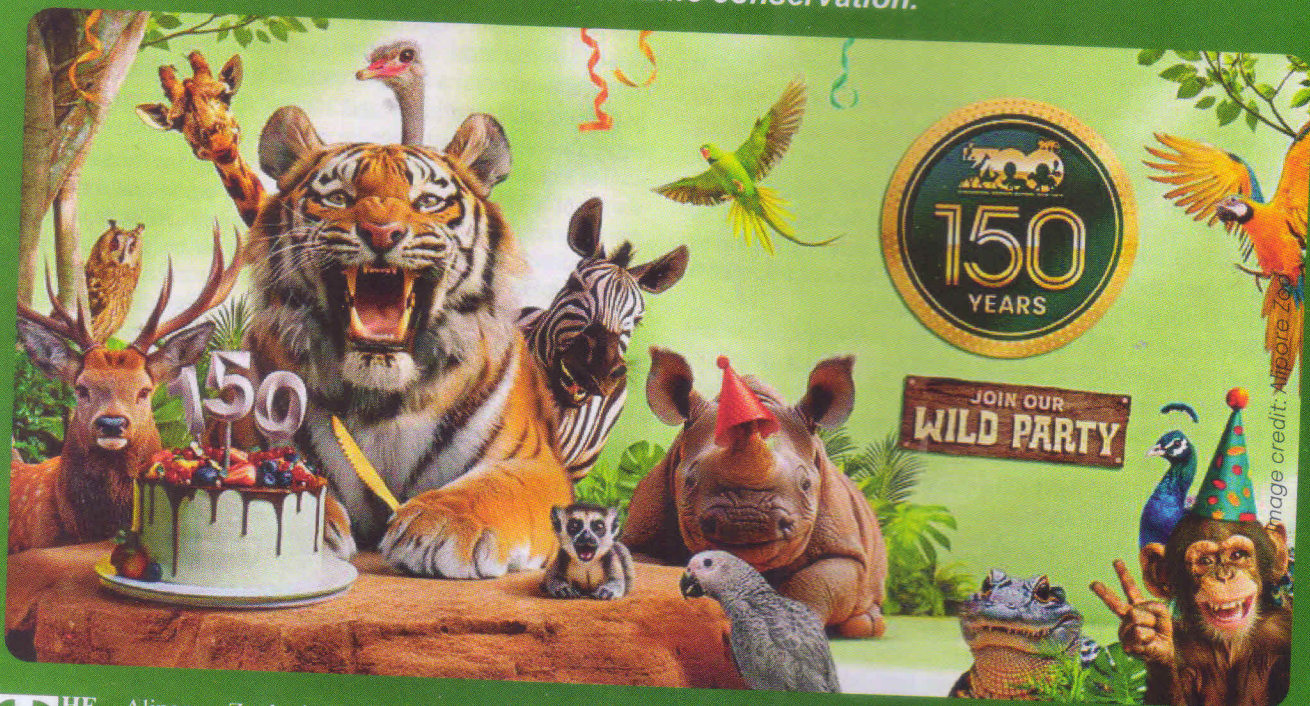


150 Glorious Years of the Kolkata Zoological Garden

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The Alipore Zoo celebrated its 150th anniversary on 24 September 2024. The Zoo stands as one of India's oldest and most revered zoos. As it marks this milestone, the zoo plays an important role in wildlife conservation, education, and research. We celebrate World Wildlife Day on 3 March every year, reminding us of the importance of protecting and conserving wildlife. Alipore Zoo stands as a living testament to wildlife conservation.



THE Alipore Zoological Garden celebrated its sesquicentenary on 24 September 2024. The zoo was established on 24 September 1875 but was opened to the public on 1 May 1876. It was inaugurated by Edward VII, then Prince of Wales. The Zeerut Bridge in Alipore was all decked up for the occasion, and amongst the crowd of the rich and the famous of Bengal, the prince walked in and inaugurated the zoo. The prince did not come empty-handed. He gifted the zoo a pair of young elephants, who were probably the first elephants in the zoo.

The zoo was formed with the cooperation and patronage of both the British India government and the Indian princes,

kings and wealthy noblemen. The zoo boasted a unique and rich collection of fauna and fabulous gardens laid out under the watchful eyes of George King, a botanist of repute. It also had a rink (later used for cat and dog shows), a boating and fishing facility, a bandstand, a hospital, a library, and a state-of-the-art laboratory, which brought it an immense reputation far and wide and regular visits of dignitaries.

Interestingly, this zoo of the capital city of British India was opened not only for the exhibition of animals, birds, and reptiles but also as a centre of research and a true living laboratory. The behaviour of the fauna housed here was keenly observed, studied and jotted down. This led to