

inaccessible to Madras, Mysore, Hyderabad and South India in general. Thus, the charge of being inaccessible may be levelled against any place in India so that it is not quite fair to condemn Pusa mainly on that account. The things that really matter are good

facilities, right talent and proper scientific atmosphere: if these are ensured, an institute situated even in the most obscure corner of the country can come to the forefront, and attract visitors not only from the whole of India but other parts of the World as well.

NEWS

NEW SPECIES: 5,200 FOUND PER YEAR

... "Charting the rate at which discoveries of new animal species have been made since 1758, a French scientist has determined that discoveries reached a peak of 12,100 new species per year between 1900 and 1950, and that in the second half of the twentieth century the discovery rate has leveled off at 5,200 species a year. Zoologist Bernard Heuvelmans... estimates that a total of more than 1.2 million species have already been identified, as opposed to the 4,406 that were known in 1758, when Carolus Linnaeus first

categorized the different classes of animals. Over 70% of the known animal species are insects, (Heuvelmans) does not attempt to estimate the number of species that remain undiscovered (estimates by other scientists range from 4 million to over 30 million) or how many species became extinct before their existence was documented." (Reproduced with permission from *Press Digest, Current Contents*®, No. 37, September 10, 1984, p. 14, Copyright by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)

SHOULD MAN MANIPULATE WILDLIFE?

... "A heightened interest in nature and wildlife has caused many environmentalists and naturalists to vociferously oppose what they call 'meddling with nature'. . . . Advocates of hands-on wildlife management point to the many organisms whose declining populations have been arrested or revived by manipulating them or their environments. These include bald eagles, black-footed ferrets, peregrine falcons, ospreys, whooping cranes, bobcats, Arabian oryxes, rare ferns and lady slippers. . . . One of the most articulate spokesman for managing nature when crises arise is Russell Peterson, president of the National Audubon Society. In an interview he said: "Years ago we wanted to let nature take its course — no captive breeding or other artificial actions. But things got so bad that we had to do something about it." Peterson has on many occasions stated his belief that because humans have created many of the conditions that have

endangered or wiped out other species, drastic means were often needed to correct them, a chore, he says, 'that is our responsibility'. Many of those opposed to man's jockeying of wildlife say that the problem of habitual destruction should be addressed before wild creatures themselves are manipulated or bred in captivity. . . . 'Man is poor at understanding the consequences of his actions.' David Brower (founder and chairman of Friends of the Earth) said, 'and he should not try to rearrange what he does not understand. There is an intricate balance of life on earth, and putting pieces out and putting them somewhere else, or rearranging them, upsets the earth's biota as a whole'." (Reproduced with permission from *Press Digest, Current Contents*®, No. 37, September 10, 1984, p. 13, Copyright by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)
