

Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park

Intelligent perimeter technology keeps wild leopards at bay.





Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park, spread over 1,914 hectares, is the largest International Zoological Park in India. Providing a true 'India Safari' experience, Gorewada Zoo is bordered by thick forest inhabited by numerous species of wildlife. The differentiating factor for the Zoological Park is the open enclosures in which animals live, resembling their natural habitats.

The Zoological Park aims to create awareness among visitors about the conservation of various natural ecosystems and wild animals. It offers several safaris, where visitors are inside buses and animals roam free in their large enclosures – starting from Leopard to Sloth Bear through to Herbivores and Tigers. It even has its very own rescue centre. The Park near the Gorewada Lake also promotes research, education, and training for wildlife researchers

The Zoological Park required a robust perimeter security solution after an incident in which a leopard from the wild in Gorewada Forest killed five deer, three black bucks, and a four-horned antelope housed in an enclosure at the rescue centre. The leopard jumped over the five-meter-high chain-link fence, despite the enclosure having a solar-powered electric fence protection system. It was found that the solar-powered fence design was faulty, enabling the leopard to enter the enclosure without deterrence or detection.

There are at least six leopards in nearby Gorewada Forest that are known for frequently coming near the leopard enclosure. So, to ensure history does not repeat itself, Gallagher's Monitored Pulse Fence technology was installed to protect 2,850 meters of the Park's herbivore safari (protecting an area of 45 hectares). The Park's Monitored Pulse Fence installation includes 2.4 meters of energized fencing above a 3-meter-high chain link fence. It is the first energized fence of its kind in Central India. Whilst the need for the Monitored Pulse Fence was driven by intruding leopards, attempts to breach the perimeter, whether animal or human, will now be deterred and detected by an energized pulse sent around the perimeter fence line.

Installed by Certified Channel Partner, Spearhead Multi Techno Pvt Ltd, the fence is monitored and controlled through Gallagher's Command Centre software, with plans to integrate with CCTV and floodlights in the future.

Sarang Bannore, Managing Director of Spearhead Multi Techno Pvt Ltd, explains, "If any animal tries to breach the perimeter, they will be deterred by the Monitored Pulse Fence." Monitored pulse fencing meets stringent safety criteria, while delivering a short but safe shock, making it almost impossible to climb the fence.

"The best part is, if an incident arises, the computerized system detects the fence zone in which the fault has occurred, which enables a timely and accurate intervention from staff," said Bannore.

While typical animal management solutions provide a deterrent, they do not provide the same level of detection capabilities as security solutions. The benefits of installing the Monitored Pulse Fence at the Zoological Park means not only will intruders, or leopards in this case, be deterred by an energized pulse, but the intrusion will also be detected, and the Zoo Director along with his Rangers can respond to the incident immediately.

Gallagher's perimeter system intelligently differentiates between serious breaches and disturbances by wildlife, birds, or harsh weather conditions. When a fence sensor is triggered, an alarm will activate for that zone, allowing guards to immediately focus their attention where it is most needed

"Unlike CCTV, which only provides evidence after the incident has occurred, unless someone is always monitoring the live feed – a Monitored Pulse Fence system raises an alarm when an intrusion or attempted trespassing event occurs," said Bannore.

The entire fence operates in Gallagher's Command Centre software, making it easy to trace logs and events on the fence line. The software is user-friendly and provides real-time information on fence voltage, battery voltage, the temperature of the controller, and if there's any tampering with the controllers. This intelligent perimeter technology ensures the Zoological Park's animals are protected from intruding wild predators.

"Having the intelligence of Command Centre at the core of the solution, means full integration between perimeter, intrusion, access control, and video management systems is seamless. When the Zoological Park is ready to integrate their CCTV, they will be able to direct cameras to the area in which the incident occurred, allowing them to better co-ordinate a response.

"Gallagher's Monitored Pulse Fence provides us with the reassurance that our nilgais and deer, within the herbivore safari, are safe and secure from any wild predators."

Rishikesh Ranjan,
General Manager — Nagpur Region, at FDCM

"All international zoos have a solar/mains-monitored pulse system. Hence, we recommended the Gallagher system, as it catered to the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra's (FDCM) specialized requirements. Gallagher are innovators in Monitored Pulse Fence technology, and their security solutions are in use in over a hundred countries," said Bannore.

Rishikesh Ranjan, General Manager — Nagpur Region, at FDCM explained after the Zoological Park experienced an intrusion of a wild leopard within their herbivore enclosure, they knew they needed a safe and secure perimeter solution to deter future incidents from occurring.

"Gallagher's Monitored Pulse Fence provides us with the reassurance that our nilgais and deer, within the herbivore safari, are safe and secure from any wild predators," said Ranjan.

Ranjan explains they have seen several benefits from the Gallagher system.

"The 2,850 meters of Monitored Pulse Fence is divided into 12 zones, and the system keeps a close watch on each zone and its voltage. Additionally, Gallagher's Command Centre software delivers a real-time site wide view that allows us to monitor events and access custom reports whenever we need to."

Keeping animals, staff, and visitors safe is essential for Balasaheb Thackeray Zoological Park. Not only does Gallagher's Monitored Pulse Fence keep leopards at bay, but it ensures no unwanted person, or animal, can enter the herbivore enclosure.

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