



# WOODSTOCK SCHOOL

## PRESS RELEASE

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2010  
Subject: Langur Patrol at Woodstock School!

A year ago, Woodstock School (Mussoorie) added three langur monkeys on its payroll: Suraj, Bhawan, and Pawan. Their sole responsibility is to chase off rhesus monkeys that have been harassing students and raiding garbage bins on campus.

Mussoorie generally, along with many parts of India and the rest of the world, is prone to the problem of troops of monkeys who scavenge around for food scraps. There is little natural control over the numbers.

Periodically we have reduced their numbers by having catchers in and transporting them down to Rajaji Park, but others fill the gap. The CARE organization have devised ever more monkey-proof garbage cans and composting bins, but no strategy so far has been effective.

Enter Suraj, Pawan and Bhawan. These three langurs have been working with their handlers as they roam the campus at critical times ensuring that the paths are clear for students and staff to walk to and from school. The langurs have been brought up from an agency in New Delhi on a semester-long contract – their patrol has greatly reduced the rhesus monkey problem at Woodstock.

Rhesus monkeys beat a quick retreat when confronted by a domineering langur. The use of trained langurs has been in the news for a few years, particularly in relation to the government offices in South Block, Delhi, where this innovative idea was first tried out. It proved to be successful at least initially in displacing the monkeys from that area, and evidence so far is that it is having a similar effect here. This simian security squad and their human handlers have since driven off rhesus monkeys at many places in Delhi, including the parliament buildings of the Lok Sabha.

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*For further information please contact:*

**Karan Madhok**

Woodstock School, Mussoorie

Uttarakhand 248179

Tel: 0135-661-5172

Email: [karanmadhok@woodstock.ac.in](mailto:karanmadhok@woodstock.ac.in)