



NEWSLETTER

**PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL**

FIRST QUARTER | JANUARY-MARCH | 2021



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This Quarter issue:

- **Natality**
- **Mortality**
- **Acquisition and Transfer of Animals**
- **Republic Day**
- **Office Picnic**
- **World Wildlife day**
- **Women's Day**
- **Research Work Carried out in this quarter**
- **Work done in Taxidermy in this quarter**
- **Enrichment in this quarter**
- **Development work in this quarter**

From the Directors Desk...

A very Happy New Year to all from PNHZ family. It gives me immense pleasure to present the first quarterly newsletter of this year. This quarter as usual includes natality, mortality of animals, transfer and acquisition of animals from different zoos. The park also celebrated 72nd republic day, Women's day and World Wildlife Day,2021. The developmental work this quarter includes installation of CCTV camera around zoo premises, installation of new signage boards for Bengal Natural History Museum.

I hope I have more to share with you next quarter.

**Director
PNHZ Park
Darjeeling**

NATALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No
1.	Slow Loris (<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>)	25.02.2021	o.o.1
2.	Mishmi Takin (<i>Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor</i>)	07.02.2021	0.0.1
3.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)		0.0.13
4.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	16.01.2021	0.0.1

MORTALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	02.01.2021	0.1.0
2.	Himalayan Tahr (<i>Hemitragus jemlachius</i>)	15.01.2021	0.1.0
3.	Common Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)	31.01.2021	0.1.0
4.	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	11.02.2021	0.1.0
5.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	11.02.2021	1.0.0
6.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	24.02.2021	0.1.0
7.	Slow Loris (<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>)	26.02.2021	1.0.0
8.	Himalayan Pit Viper (<i>Gloydius himalayanus</i>)	28.03.2021	1.0.0
9.	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	26.03.2021	0.1.0

Republic day

The Park celebrated India's 72nd Republic Day on 26.01.2021. All staff of the Park gathered outside the Director's residence at 9am for flag hoisting. The Director, PNHZP; Assistant director cum Veterinary officer, PNHZP; Assistant Curator cum Estate officer, PNHZP and Animal Supervisor, PNHZP addressed the staff of the Park. The celebration ended with distribution of sweets to the staff.



Office Picnic

The Annual PNHZ Park staff picnic was held on 5th February, 2021 to celebrate the passing of another year and to welcome the next. The picnic was held behind the Asiatic Bear Enclosure.



World Wildlife Day

Every year March 3rd is celebrated as World Wildlife Day to raise the awareness of issues that impact wildlife. The theme of United Nations World Wildlife Day 2021 was 'Forests and livelihoods: sustaining people and planet'. The United Nations aims to highlight the significance of how forests give a livelihood to many communities, especially indigenous and local communities. As the impact of the global pandemic Covid 19 increases day by day, the park decided to celebrate this very day online to avoid any biohazard.

The park conducted an online poem writing competition that had 2 categories including 2 subcategories which are summarised below:

Category 1		Category 2	
Age below 14 years		Age above 15 years	
Subcategory		Subcategory	
Nepali language	English Language	Nepali language	English Language

The theme for the poem competition was: **“Sustaining people and wildlife.”**

The entries were accepted from 27th March, 2021 to 3rd March, 2021 (Till 2 p.m. IST). 3 winners from each category were awarded books and certificate as prize.

The event witnessed active participation. The poems were submitted to the Parks email. The entries were judged by the Assistant estate officer, PNHZP, the Research Assistant, PNHZP, the Library Assistant, PNHZ and the Education Assistant, PNHZP on the following criteria:

- Relevance to theme.
- Concept of wildlife and conservation.

Following are the winners of the Poem writing competition:

Poem Competition (Category: Age group above 14 years)		
Subcategory: English		
Sl no.	Place	Name
1.	First	Miss. Nilanjana Thapa
2.	Second	Mr. Bedan Chettri
3.	Third	Mr. Abishek Pradhan
Subcategory: Nepali		
Sl no.	Place	Name
1.	First	Mr. Felix Lepcha
2.	Second	Mr. Tshering Lepcha
3.	Third	Mr. Ewald Kongchen

Poem Competition (Category: Age group below 14 years)

Subcategory: English

Sl no.	Place	Name
1.	First	Ms. Aastha Pattanaik
2.	Second	Mr. SayyamBarida
3.	Third	Mr. Omkar Mukhopadhyay

Subcategory: Nepali

Sl no.	Place	Name
1.	First	Mr. Sai Siddhartha Tamang



**Ms. Aastha Pattanaik, 1st Place
(Category: Below 14 years, English)**



**Miss. Nilanjana Thapa, 1st Place
(Category: Above 14 years, English)**



**Mr. Bedan Chettri, 2nd Place
(Category: Above 14 years, English)**

Women's Day

This year the park celebrated Women's Day on March 8th, 2021. This day is symbolic of the historic journey of women around the world have taken to better their lives. It comes as a reminder that while a lot has been achieved, the journey is long, and a lot more needs to be done.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day was "Women in leadership: achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world".

For this occasion, the park arranged various activities for the female visitors and staffs:

1. Breaking Glass pyramid with ball.
2. Tail the Deer.
3. Shoot the ball in a Basket.
4. Light 20 candles in 30 seconds.

Also, some special activities were arranged for the PNHZ Park female staffs only:

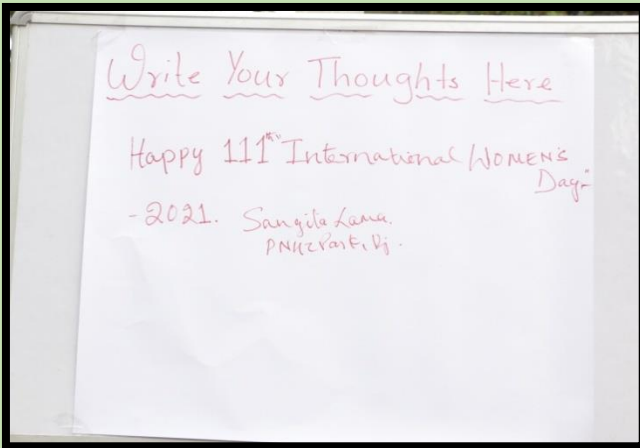
1. All female staffs wore same color dress (color code: Red)
2. Musical chair was arranged at the lawn in front of Directors bungalow. 3 winners from the musical chair were awarded with gift vouchers. They were:

SI No.	Place	Name
1.	1 st Place	Mrs. Shakala Shankar
2.	2 nd Place	Mrs. Sangita Lama
3	3 rd Place	Mrs. Ranju Gurung

Chocolates were distributed to all the female visitors and staffs along the ongoing programme.

The aim of the celebration was to show our respect and gratitude not only for the female staffs of PNHZP but also the visitors.

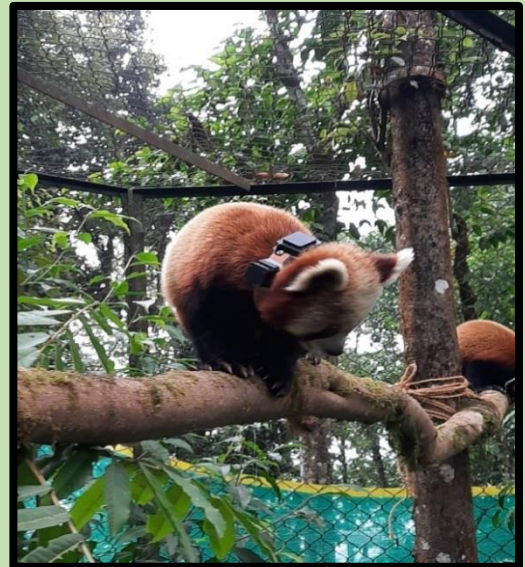




RESEARCH WORK CARRIED OUT IN THIS QUARTER

- **Project Red Panda Augmentation in Singalila National Park:**

In the ongoing project, this quarter the radio collars were being tested on a Red Panda to check their proper functioning. For this, the model of the radio collars used were Lite Track 130 TRD-L, these collars help the researchers to collect baseline data like, daily movements, behavioral data and as well as the geographical location of the Red Pandas. Radio tracking involves fitting the study animal with a radio collar. These collars are designed to minimize impact on the animals' behavior and to maximize their detectability. The wireless operating license was received on 22.10.2020 valid up to 30.06.2021 and the Iridium satellite subscription was activated on 06.11.2020. One male red panda, Noel, fitted with radio collar. The animal adapted quickly to the collars and no behavioural deviations were noted. The collar was working well and remote schedule sent by the connecting collar to computer.



- **Project “Study on hematology and blood biochemistry of various species of captive mammals at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park”:**

In conjugation with the ongoing study on blood and serum biochemical values of various captive mammals at PNHZ Park, an opportunistic investigation was conducted on a rescued common leopard which was brought to the park on 3rd January 2021, in an injured condition for treatment. After 18 days of its arrival in the Veterinary hospital of the park, blood samples were collected on 22nd January and 15th February 2021 by physically restraining the animal in a squeeze cage. Phlebotomy was done from the lateral coccygeal vein and the blood samples were placed in vacutainer EDTA and Serum separator vile for analysis.

Hematological parameters like Hb concentration, Total RBC and WBC count, differential count, PCV, ESR, and RBC indices were evaluated. For biochemistry, SGPT, SGOT, CRE, ALP, GLU, CHOL, TRI, TPROT, ALB, BUN, Ca, Phos, Mg, Chloride, Uric acid, and electrolyte (K and Na) were recorded.

The values for most of the above-mentioned parameters were observed to be similar to those of the captive leopards housed at PNHZ Park and Bengal Safari, Siliguri. However, a slight increase in cholesterol level was seen in this duration. This may be due to the availability of feed and lack of exercise. Throughout the study, the value of uric acid was always below one, contrary to those of other captive leopards.

Since baseline hematological and serum biochemical values that can be used to assess the health status of Indian leopards is still lacking (Shanmugam *et al.*, 2017), our study will augment more database to generate a concrete reference interval for this subspecies.



TAXIDERMY WORK DONE IN THIS QUARTER

Sl. No.	Name of Specimen	Date of Acquisition	Accession No.	Remarks
1	Himalayan Palm Civet	27.01.2020	BNHM/M/205	Skinned, Tanned and under mounting process
2	Common Leopard cub	08.02.2021	BNHM/BS/6	Kept as bottled specimen
3	Barking Deer Fawn	11.02.2021	BNHM/M/206	Skinned, Tanned and under mounting process
4	Common Leopard Cub	21.02.2021	BNHM/BS/7	Kept as bottled specimen
5	Cheer Pheasant	25.02.2021	BNHM/PH/148	Skinned, Tanned and kept as rolled specimen
6	Slow Loris	26.02.2021	BNHM/BS/8	Kept as bottled specimen
7	Himalayan Pit Viper	30.03.2021	BNHM/BS/9	Kept as bottled specimen

ENRICHMENT IN THIS QUARTER



Introducing wheat sprouts at pheasant enclosure



Hanging various fruits and vegetables for pecking

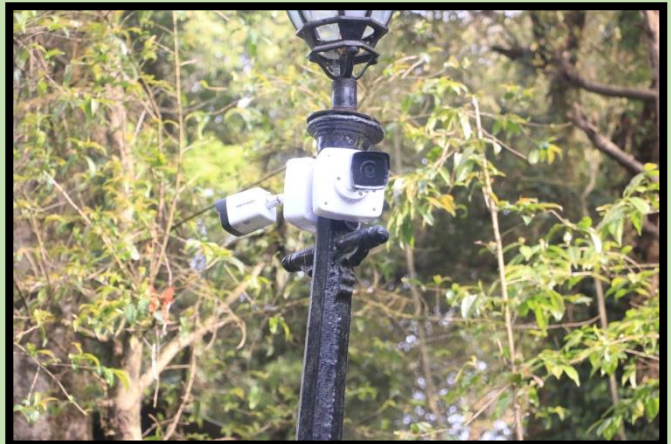


Pouring honey into hollow of a log for Asiatic Bear

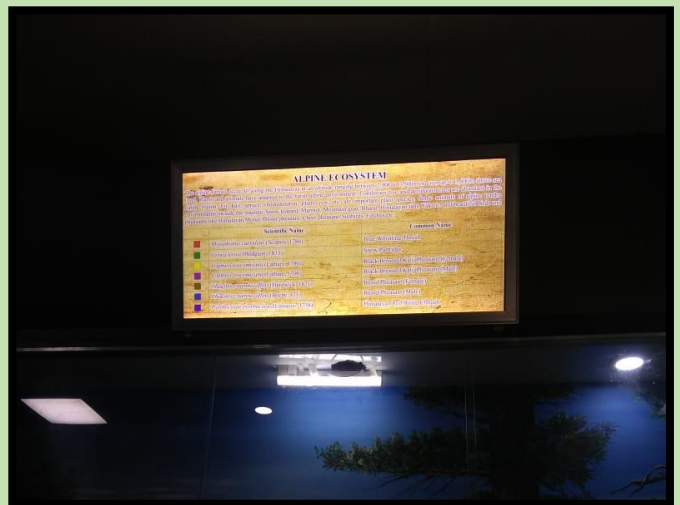


Providing whole fruit for Asiatic Bear

DEVELOPMENT IN THIS QUARTER



Installation of CCTV camera around the whole zoo premises



Installation of new signages for BNHM