



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

NEWS LETTER

JANUARY- MARCH 2018

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From the Directors Desk...

Greetings to you all from the PNHZP family. It gives me great pleasure to present the first quarterly newsletter of this year. During this quarter the park welcomed the birth of cubs of Snow leopard and Himalayan wolf which further strengthened the conservation breeding program for these animals. A number of developmental and enrichment work was also done this quarter including the completion of the male and female restrooms at the park and the chick rearing houses for the pheasants. The park also celebrated World Wildlife day this quarter to spread awareness regarding the threats faced by the big cats. Apart from this event we also hosted 375 students and 43 faculties from 9 institutes.

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

**Director
PNHZ Park
Darjeeling**

BIRTH OF ANIMAL

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No
1.	Snow Leopard (<i>Uncia uncia</i>)	04.03.2018	1:1:0
2.	Himalayan Wolf (<i>Canis areus</i>)	27.03.2018	2:2:0
3.	Grey Langur (<i>Seminopethicus entellus</i>)	13.03.2018	1:0:0
4.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	21.02.018	0:0:3
5.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	22.02.018	0:0:3



DEATH OF ANIMALS

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	05.12.2018	1:0:0
2.	Red jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	02.03.2018	0:0:1
3.	Red jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	05.03.2018	0:0:1
4.	Reeve's Pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>)	29.01.2018	1:0:0
5.	Golden pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	02.02.2018	0:1:0

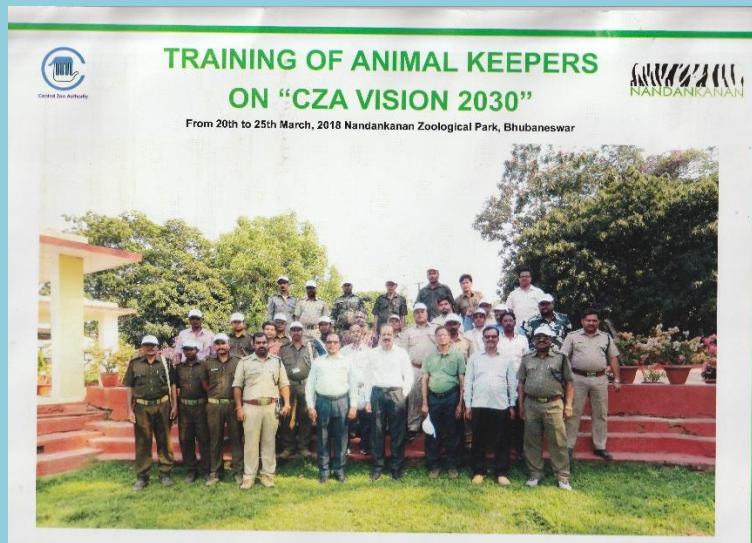
ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF ANIMALS

Date	Animals	Number of Animals	Acquired from
21.03.2018	Jungle Cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>)	1:1:0	North Bengal wild animal park
23.03.2018	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	1:0:0	North Bengal wild animal park
10.03.2018	Blue and Gold Macaw (<i>Ares chloropterus</i>)	0:0:1	Recue Centre, Salt lake
21.03.2018	Blue and Gold Macaw (<i>Ares chloropterus</i>)	0:0:2	North Bengal wild animal park
10.03.2018	Sand Boa (<i>Erynx johnii</i>)	0:0:5	Alipore Zoo
19.03.2018	Monitor lizards (<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>)	0:0:2	Alipore Zoo
10.03.2018	Rat Snake (<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>)	0:0:2	Recue Centre, Salt lake
10.03.2018	Checkered Keel Back (<i>Xenochroptis piscator</i>)	0:0:2	Recue Centre, Salt lake
10.03.2018	Elongated Tortoise (<i>Indotestudo elongate</i>)	0:0:2	Recue Centre, Salt lake

Date	Animals	Number of Animals	Transferred to
15.03.2018	Golden Pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	1:1:0	Burdhwan Zoo
05.03.2018	Silver pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	0:1:0	Alipore Zoo
15.03.2018	Golden Pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	1:1:0	Burdhwan Zoo

WORKSHOP ATTENDED BY STAFF

Mr Binod Subba, Zoo Keeper at PNHZP attended a Zoo Keepers training Program held at Nandankanan Zoo, Odisha from 20th- 25th March, 2018. The training organised by the Nandakanan Zoo by the order of Central Zoo Authority. The theme for the workshop was “CZA Vision 2030”



OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The outreach programme of the Park involves students of all levels including trainees. The programme includes a tour of the park followed by an interactive session where topics such as role and functions of the modern zoo, conservation breeding programmes, environmental issues and the work of the zoo in working towards conserving rare and endangered species are discussed. Educational material regarding information on the housed animals of the park, conservation breeding programmes of the zoo, its biodiversity etc. are distributed to the students along with notebooks and lunches.

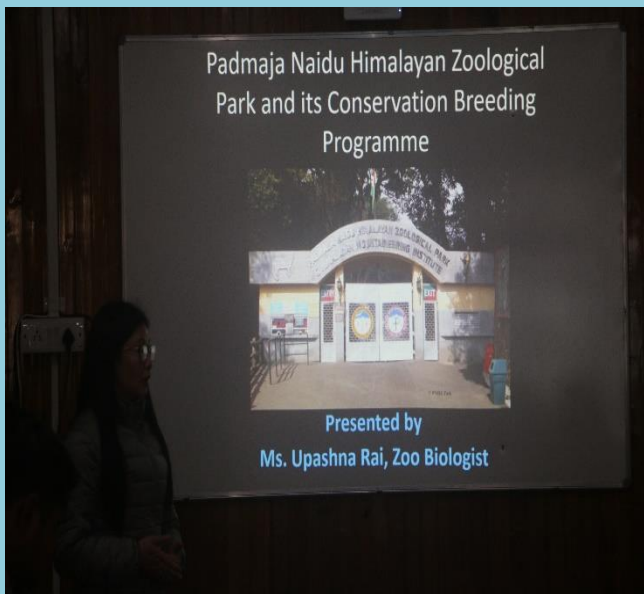
During this quarter the education wing of the Park attended to 375 students and 43 faculties from 9 institutes.

Date	Name of school/Training institute/ Colleges/ Universities	Number of students/ trainees	Number of teachers/instructors	Education incentives
22.01.2018	St. Joseph School, Winter Camp	58	13	Education Materials, Packet lunch, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
23.01.2018	CASFOC SFS Training	21	1	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction. Packet lunch.
26.01.2018	Missionary of Charity	55	10	Education Materials, Packet lunch, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
01.03.2018	RFO Training Batch CASFOS, Burr	32	1	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
02.03.2018	Telangana State Forest Academy, Dulapally, Hyderabad	63	1	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
05.03.2018	World Wildlife Day	32	10	Education Materials, Packet lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
18.03.2018	Guide Training Course through skill development for unemployed youth, GTA.	27	0	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.

20.03.2018	RFO Trainees from Kundal Forest Academy	32	2	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
30.03.2018	Rockvale Academy, Kalimpong	55	5	Education Materials, Packed lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.



St. Joseph School, Winter Camp



CASFOS SFS Training



Missionaries of Charity



RFO Training, CASFOS, Burnihat



TSEA Training, Hyderabad



RFO Training, Kundal forest Academy



**Educational tour of Rockvale Academy,
Kalimpong**

CELEBRATION OF WORLD WILDLIFE DAY, 2018

Every year on 3rd March 2018 the world celebrates World Wildlife Day. The theme for this year World Wildlife Day was “Big Cats: Predators under Threat”. Big cats are among the most widely recognized and admired animals across the globe. However, today these charismatic predators are facing many and varied threats, which are mostly caused by human activities. Over the past century we have been losing big cats, the planet’s most majestic predators, at an alarming rate. World Wildlife Day 2018 gives us the opportunity to raise awareness about their plight and to galvanize support for the many global and national actions that are underway to save these iconic species.

In line with the UN General Assembly Resolution proclaiming World Wildlife Day, the CITES Secretariat calls on all member States and organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and sub-regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and all interested individuals, to: observe and raise awareness of the theme for World Wildlife Day 2018 in an appropriate manner; to associate the celebrations with major national and international conservation events, where appropriate; to organize campaigns to reduce the demand for illegal wildlife and their products using targeted strategies in order to influence consumer behavior; and to make use of the World Wildlife Day logo as widely as possible.

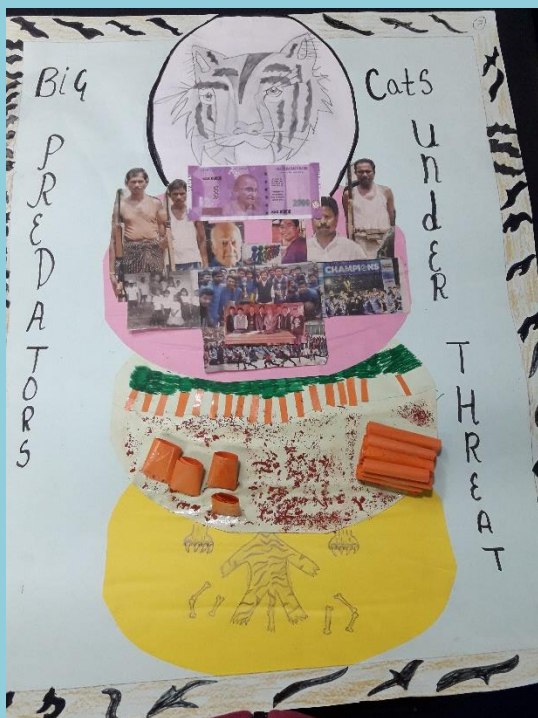
Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park celebrated World Wildlife Day on 5th March 2018. The park organized an outreach program for the students of the local schools. 3 students from class 7-8 from each school were invited to participate in a poster making and poster presentation competition held at the park. The theme for the poster making competition was same as the theme for the world wildlife Day i.e. “Big Cats: Predators under threat”

S.No	Name of School
1.	St. Michaels Higher Secondary School
2.	St. Robert’s Higher Secondary School
3.	Municipal Boys Higher Secondary School
4.	Municipal Girls Higher Secondary School
5.	Notre Dame Academy

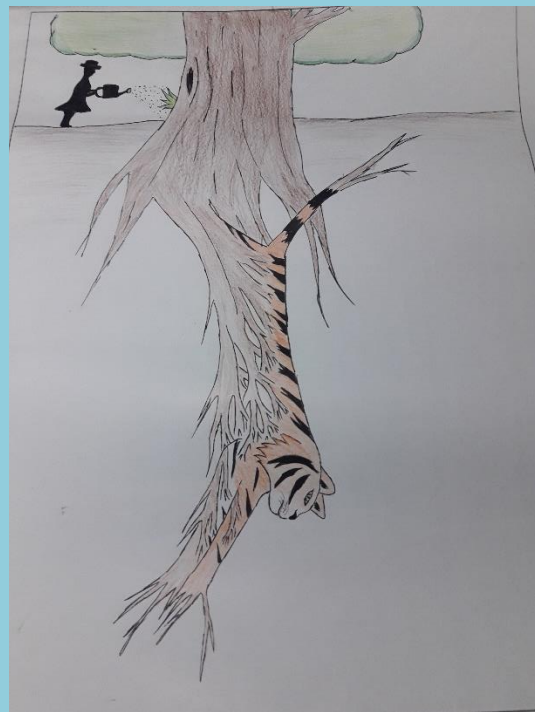
6.	West Point Higher Secondary School
7.	Turnbull Higher Secondary School
8.	Ram Krishna Siksha Parishad Higher Secondary School
9.	Gyanoday Niketan
10.	The Assembly of God Church School

The event started at 10:00 am with registration of the students and the teachers followed by the inauguration ceremony where the inaugural speech was given by Mr. Shiromani Syangden, Estate officer, PNHZP. Ms Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist, PNHZP gave a presentation on the threats faced by big cats and the efforts being made to conserve them. The poster making competition began after tea and the children were given an hour to complete their posters and 10 minutes each to present their posters in front of the audience. The winners were chosen on the basis of the creativity and message being conveyed by the posters. Accordingly the winners for the poster making/ presentation were as follows:

Prize	School	Student names	Standard
1 st Prize	St Michaels Higher Secondary School	Sapna Rai	VIII
		Bibek Singh	VII
		Cheden Lepcha	VII
2 nd Prize	St Roberts Higher Secondary School	Kalpiti Gurung	VIII
		Prasanth Tamang	VIII
		Karan Das	VIII
3 rd Prize	Ram Krishna Siksha Parishad Higher Secondary School	Saif Ali	VII
		Aviraj Rai	VIII
		Rajkumar Rai	VIII



First Prize



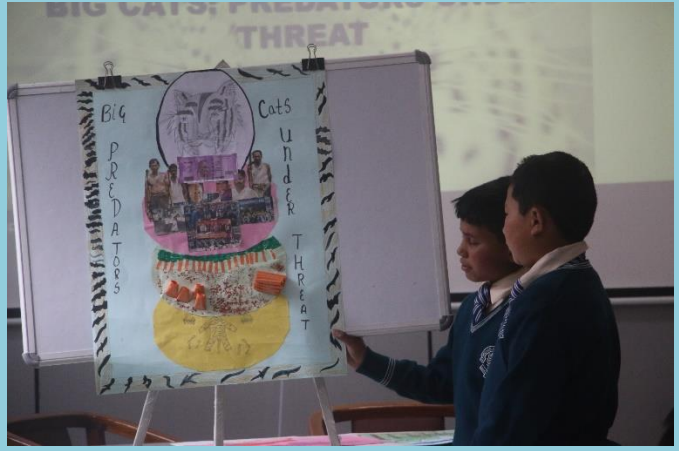
Second Prize



Third Prize

The participants were also shown a wildlife movie and given packet lunch and educational materials.





REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

The Park celebrated 69th Republic Day 2018 on 26th January by hoisting of the National flag at 9 am by Mr Piar Chand, IFS, Director, PNHZ Park followed by singing of the National Anthem. The Director then addressed the staff of the park. Like every year the program ended with the distribution of sweets to all the staff members.



TAXIDERMY WORK DONE IN THIS QUARTER

- Added Formalin to Fish, Reptiles and Snake specimen in BNHM
- Skinned one Rose ringed Parakeet

Scientific Name: *Psittacula krameri* (Acc No. A/PK/36)

Collected from: PNHZP, Date of Collection: 30.01.2018

Skinning of the specimen was done and preserved the same by using alum powder and carbolic acid and was kept as a rolled specimen.



- Skinning and Mounting of one Reeves's Pheasant

Scientific Name: *Syrnaticus reevesii* (Gray, 1829) (Acc No. A/PH/143)

Collection: From PNHZP, Date of Collection: 30.01.2018, Date of Mounting: 22.03.2018

Skinning:

The dead specimen was then laid on the table with the belly uppermost. The belly and the breast feathers are parted along the centre of the body where a bare strip of skin is shown plainly. An incision is made in the skin

throughout the full length of the abdominal wall intact. The skin and body wall are easily separated. After making the incision, the skin is pulled free from the breast meat. Alum powder should be sprinkled frequently to absorb blood and to have a firm grip while skinning the bird. Skinning of the specimen was done and preserved the same by using alum powder and carbolic acid.

Mounting of Bird: First an artificial body is made with the help of soft jute wrapped into a galvanized wire pointed at both the end. This is folded into the middle and wrapped together firmly to make an ovate body core. Around this body core flat ward of jute are wrapped, and this is continued till the pear shaped form is obtained.

Next step is to cut and sharpen the neck, leg, and tail wires. The two legs wire is cut two and a half times the length of a leg from the knee to the ball of the foot. These were sharpened at one end only

The leg wire was wrapped with cotton to fill up the vacant space, and the leg wire was inserted through the tarsus and was locked within the artificial body. One end of the body wire was inserted through the skull and the other end through the tail. After that the vacant portion of the body was filled up by using cotton to give the proper shape of the body. After that the body was stitched.



- Four numbers of dead **Indian roofed turtle** *Pangshura tecta* was acquired from PNHZP no 19.03.2018, it was then preserved by adding formalin in Glass jar for further display in BNHM.
- List if specimen skinned, mounted or preserved:

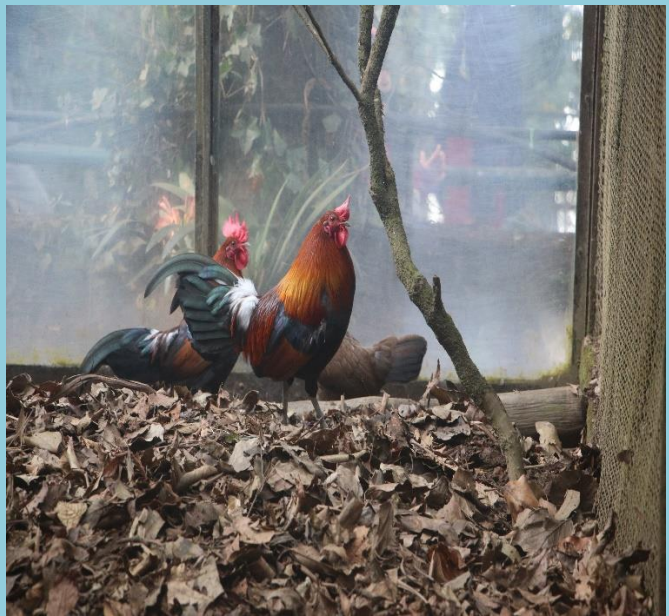
Sl. No.	Name	Accession No.
1	Rose ringed Parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	A/PK/36
2	Reeves Pheasant <i>Syrnaticus reevesii</i> (Gray, 1829)	A/PH/143
3	Indian roofed turtle <i>Pangshura tecta</i>	BNHM/REP/53
4	Indian roofed turtle <i>Pangshura tecta</i>	BNHM/REP/54
5	Indian roofed turtle <i>Pangshura tecta</i>	BNHM/REP/55
6	Indian roofed turtle <i>Pangshura tecta</i>	BNHM/REP/56

ENRICHMENT IN THIS QUARTER

The enrichment work taken up in this quarter include new resting platforms and aerial walkways in the carnivore section. New nesting boxes were also put in the pheasantry and substrate enrichment was also done by putting dry leaves in the pheasant enclosures. Substrate enrichment was also done in the lesser carnivore enclosure by using dry leaves and and logs. In the herbivore enclosures wooden stumps were placed as for the high altitude herbivores to climb on.



New resting platforms and new aerial walkways in the carnivore enclosures



New Nesting boxes and substrate enrichment using dry leaves in the pheasantry



Substrate enrichment using logs and dry leaves in the lesser carnivore section



Wooden stumps in the herbivore enclosure

DEVELOPMENT WORK AT PNHZP IN THIS QUARTER

The development work taken up in this quarter by the zoo include clipping of the roof of the truss at BNHM. New benches were also installed outside the museum to provide a resting space for the visitors. Bamboo fencing was also done outside the BNHM. New television sets were also installed in the museum for the purpose of providing information to the visitors. The construction of the male and female restrooms was completed and opened for use by the visitors. The construction of the new chick rearing house behind the pheasantry was also completed.



Clipping of roof of the truss and new benches for the visitors at BNHM



Bamboo fences at BNHM and new television sets at BNHM for displaying visitor's information



Completion of Male and Female Restrooms at the park.



Completion of new chick rearing houses behind the pheasantry at the park