

NEWSLETTER

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

SECOND QUARTER | APRIL-JUNE | 2024



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NEWSLETTER ADDRESS

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From the Directors Desk...

Greetings from PNHZ Park family, we are proud to present the second quarterly newsletter for the year 2024. This quarter remain eventful as the park celebrated Earth day & World Environment Day involving students from several local schools of Darjeeling. Workshops on 'Bird aviary management & captive breeding of birds' & 'Taxidermy & skeletal articulation' for the zoo keepers & staffs held in this quarter. In this quarter the park released four Himalayan Gorals in the Singalila National Park (SNP). Developmental works included construction of new snow leopard enclosure at PNHZ Park.

I hope to share more with you in the next quarter.

**Director
PNHZ Park
Darjeeling**

NATALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No
1.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	04.04.2024	1:0:0
2.	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	19.04.2024	0:1:0
3.	Mishmi Takin (<i>Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor</i>)	11.05.2024	1:0:0
4.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	19.05.2024	0:1:0
5.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	23.05.2024	0:1:0
6.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	25.05.2024	1:0:0
7.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	31.05.2024	0:1:0
8.	Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	01.06.2024	0:0:4
9.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	02.06.2024	0:0:1
10.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	03.06.2024	0:0:7
11.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	03.06.2024	0:0:6
12.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	05.06.2024	0:0:6
13.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	06.06.2024	0:0:6
14.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	10.06.2024	0:0:6
15.	Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	12.06.2024	0:0:3
16.	Himalayan Palm Civet (<i>Paguma larvata</i>)	15.06.2024	0:0:3
17.	Jungle Cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>)	15.06.2024	1:0:0
18.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	19.06.2024	0:0:3
19.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	22.06.2024	0:0:4
20.	Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	23.06.2024	0:0:2
21.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	27.06.2024	0:0:2
22.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	30.06.2024	0:0:3

MORTALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Snow Leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)	01.04.2024	1:0:0
2.	Reeves Pheasant (<i>Syrnaticus reevesii</i>)	07.04.2024	0:1:0
3.	Golden Pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	08.04.2024	1:0:0
4.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	13.04.2024	0:1:0
5.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	13.04.2024	1:0:0
6.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	15.04.2024	1:0:0
7.	Leopard cat (<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>)	15.04.2024	0:1:0
8.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	16.04.2024	1:0:0
9.	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	04.05.2024	1:0:0
10.	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	04.05.2024	1:0:0
11.	Golden Pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	07.05.2024	1:0:0
12.	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nychthemera</i>)	10.05.2024	1:0:0
13.	Common Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)	12.05.2024	0:1:0
14.	Jungle Cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>)	15.05.2024	1:0:0

15.	Himalayan Wolf (<i>Canis lupus himalayensis</i>)	16.05.2024	0:1:0
16.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	10.06.2024	0:1:0
17.	Silver Pheasant(<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	23.06.2024	1:0:0
18.	Golden Pheasant(<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	26.06.2024	0:1:0
19.	Himalayan Tahr (<i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>)	28.06.2024	0:1:0

Acquisition of animals

Date	Animals	Ratio	Acquired from
27.09.2024	Royal Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>)	0:1:0	North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri

Transfer of animals

Date	Animals	Ratio	Transfer to
07.04.2024	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	2:2:0	Singalila National Park

Educational visits

Sl. No	Date	Name of the School/ Training Institute/ College	Number of Students/ Trainees	Number of faculty	Educational Incentives
1.	03.04.2024	The Assembly of God Church School	67	4	-
2.	01.05.2024	Indian Forest Service Officers, Indian Institute of Forest management	19	2	Zoo Pamphlets & educational materials
2.	09.05.2024	Nistarini College, Dept. of Botany	17	5	-
3.	22.05.2024	Sikkim Govt. College	30	1	-
4.	28.07.24	19 th Batch, North India Exposure Tour	46	1	Zoo Pamphlets & educational materials



Fig: Education visit of Indian Forest Service Officers on 01.05.2024



Fig: Education visit of 19th Batch, North India Exposure Tour on 28.07.2024

Training programs held at PNHZP in this quarter

Sl. No.	Resource Person	Subject matter of Training	Period of Training	Number of participants
1.	Dr. Joy Dey, ADVU, PNHZP	Bird aviary management & captive breeding of Birds	30 th April, 2024	12
2.	Dr. Santosh A. Gaikwad, Professor of Anatomy, Bombay Veterinary College	Taxidermy & skeletal articulation	6 th May to 11 th May, 2024	7

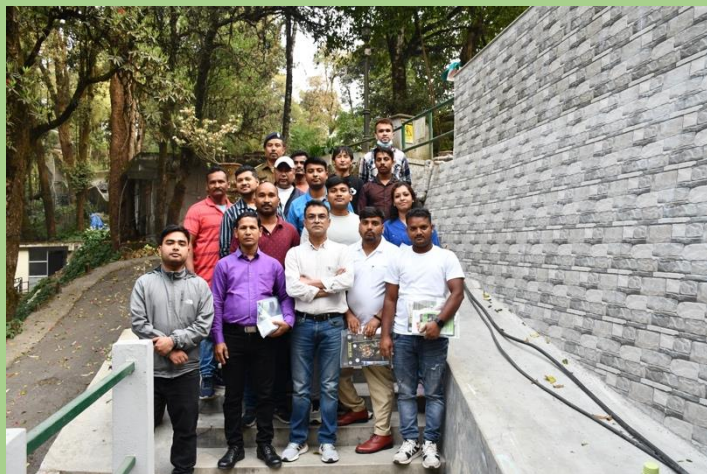


Fig: Training on Bird aviary management & captive breeding of Birds



Fig: Training on Taxidermy & skeletal articulation

Release of Himalayan Goral in Singalila National Park

Two pairs of himalayan goral was released in Singalila National Park on 07.04.2024 in presence of Shri Debal Ray, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wildlife Warden, West bengal; Shri Rajesh Kumar, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest North Bengal; Shri Bhaskar J.V., IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest Wildlife (North); Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, IFS, Director, PNHZ Park; Shri Jiju Jaesper J., IFS, DFO Malda; Shri Viswanath Pratap N, IFS, DFO Darjeeling Wildlife Division and officials and staff of PNHZ Park.



Staff training in this quarter

Sl. No.	Name and designation of the zoo personnel	Subject matter of Training	Period of Training	Name of the Institution where the Training attended
3.	Mr. Bedan Chettri, Library Assistant	National Workshop on Application of Geospatial Tools & Techniques	10 th to 13 th June, 2024	Sikkim Alpine University, Sikkim



Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated on 22nd April every year to raise awareness on the importance of protecting the Earth's natural resources for future generations. This year the theme of Earth Day is “Planet vs Plastics”. The theme aims to bring attention to the serious issue of plastic pollution and how it harms nature.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park celebrated Earth Day 2024 by distributing handmade bamboo bird feeders to several local schools of Darjeeling & also installed the feeders around the zoo premises. The name of the schools are listed below:

1. The Assembly of God Church School
2. Norte Dame Academy
3. West Point School
4. Ghoom Boys Higher Secondary School
5. Nepali Girl's Higher Secondary School
6. St. Robert's School
7. St. Teresa's School
8. Turnbull Higher Secondary School
9. Gyanoday Niketan
10. St. Joseph's School

The students & teachers enthusiastically took part in the program and installed the feeders around their school premises. Thus the aim of PNHZP to raise awareness among young students about the reduction of plastic material usage and move towards more environment friendly options.





World Environment Day Celebration

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5th June to demonstrate support for environmental protection via various measures. The theme of World Environment Day 2024 was **“Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience”**.

In this regard, the park organised a **“Poster Making Competition”** for the young students of class VIII & IX. Students from 6 different local schools in Darjeeling participated in the program.

Sl. No	Name of the School	No of Participants	STD
1.	St. Michael's H. S. School	2	VIII & IX
2.	Mount Hermon School	2	VIII & IX
3.	Sambotta Tibetan School	2	VIII & IX
4.	West Point School	2	VIII & IX
5.	Loreto Convent School	2	VIII & IX
6.	Gyanodaya Niketan	2	VIII & IX

The scheduled program for World Environment Day 2024:

11:00am: Registration of students, faculty and distribution of chart papers.

11:15 am: Address by the Director, PNHZP in the main assembly area of the park (in front of the Asiatic Black Bear enclosure).

11:20 am: Commencement of the Competition

11:20 am to 12:20 pm: Time given to the students to make the posters

12:20pm to 12:50pm: Distribution of refreshment

12:55pm: Announcement of the result & distribution of prizes/certificates

01:15 pm: Dispersal

The event witnessed active participation. The posters were judged by the Deputy Director, PNHZP, Assistant Director cum Veterinary Officer, PNHZP & Zoo Biologist, PNHZP on the following criteria:

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

Following are the winners of the Poster making competition:

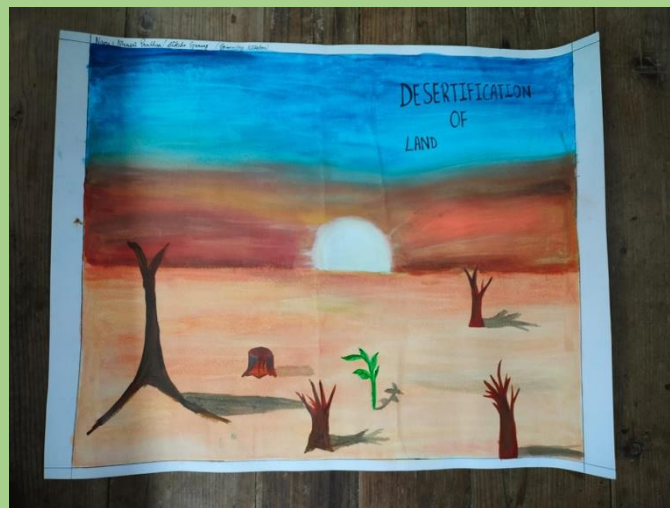
Sl No.	Place	Name	Class	School
1.	First	Miss. Erin Puno	IX	Mount Hermon School
		Miss. Apti Pradhan	VIII	Mount Hermon School
2.	Second	Miss. Divyashika Hingmang	IX	Loreto Convent School
		Miss. Riddhi Lama	IX	Loreto Convent School
3.	Third	Miss. Dikcha Gurung	IX	Gyanodaya Niketan
		Miss. Nivasri Pradhan	IX	Gyanodaya Niketan



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place





Taxidermy work done in this quarter

List of Specimens:

Sl. No.	Name Of Specimen	Date of Collection	Accession No.	Remarks
1.	Markhor (Head)	04/05/2024	BNHM/M/218	The flesh from the skull was removed & cleaned; the skin is under tanning process for further mounting.
2.	Large Indian Civet (Skeleton)	10/05/2024	SK/BNHM/M/02	After skinning the body was kept under warm water for maceration.
3.	Himalayan Goral (Skin)	13/05/2024	BNHM/M/219	The skin was cleaned & is under tanning process for further mounting.

- The skeleton of kalij Pheasant with accession no. SK/BNHM/PH/01 was put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 18/4/2024.
- Himalayan Tahr skeleton with accession no. SK/BNHM/M/03 was put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 13/06/2024.
- A completely articulated skeleton of Leopard Cat with accession no. SK/BNHM/M/04 was put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 20/06/2024.
- A completely articulated skeleton of Burmese Rock Python with accession no. SK/BNHM/R/01 was put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 27/06/2024.



Development in this quarter



Fig: Development of new Snow Leopard enclosure at PNHZP



Fig: Repair & maintenance of Toilets at PNHZP

Enrichment in this quarter



Fig: Enrichment at Red Panda Enclosure at Old Conservation Breeding Centre



Fig: Aerial walkways at lesser carnivore enclosure



Fig: Building of feeding Platform at herbivore enclosures





Fig: Pre-monsoon enrichments at herbivore enclosures



Fig: Visual barrier at snow leopard enclosure