



**PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK**  
**DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL**  
**NEWS LETTER**  
**JANUARY- MARCH 2019**

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## **From the Directors Desk...**

**Greetings to you from the PNHZP family. It gives me great pleasure to present the first quarterly newsletter of this year. This quarter, we welcomed the Mishmi Takins from Berlin Tierpark Zoo, Germany in January. The Takin is the national animal of Bhutan and currently PNHZ Park is the only zoo in India that has these animals for display. The Park also undertook several developmental work this quarter including modification of the aviary, construction of a treatment coupe for carnivores at the Veterinary hospital, construction of rain water harvesting tank and squeeze cages in the carnivore enclosure. We also welcomed 368 students and 33 faculty members 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.	Common Grey Langur ( <i>Semnopithecus entellus</i> )	11.01.2019	0:0:1
2.	Barking Deer ( <i>Muntjac muntiacus</i> )	06.03.2019	0:1:0
3.	Leopard Cat ( <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> )	21.03.2019	0:0:1
4.	Himalayan Goral ( <i>Naemorhaedus goral</i> )	27.03.2019	0:1:0

## DEATH OF ANIMALS

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Mishmi takin ( <i>Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor</i> )	15.02.2019	1:0:0
2.	Barking Deer ( <i>Muntjac muntiacus</i> )	06.03.2019	1:0:0
3.	Cockatiel ( <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i> )	09.03.2019	0:0:1
4.	Leopard Cat ( <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> )	21.03.2019	0:0:1

## ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF ANIMALS

Date	Animals	Number of Animals	Acquired from
19.01.2019	Mishmi takin ( <i>Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor</i> )	3:2	Berlin Tierpark Zoo, Germany

## WORKSHOP ATTENDED BY STAFF

1. Dr Joy Dey, Assistant Director cum Veterinary Officer attended the workshop for **Indian Zoo Veterinarians** from 7th to 9th January, 2019 held at Shri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden, Mysore.
2. Mr Neepen Tamang, Mr Binod Subba and Mr Bidhan Tamang, Zookeeper, PNHZ Park attended the training on **Chemical restraint of Wild Animals** from 22nd and 23rd January, 2019 held at North Bengal Wild Animal Park, Siliguri.
3. Mr Neepen Tamang, Zookeeper, PNHZ Park and Mr Bidhan Tamang Zookeeper, PNHZ Park attended a training for **Technique of capturing of deer and other animals** from 28th and 29th March, 2019 held at Zoological Garden, Alipore Kolkata



Training for Chemical restraint of Wild Animals at North Bengal Wild Animal Park, Siliguri



**Training for Indian Zoo Veterinarians at Shri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden, Mysore.**



**Training for Technique of capturing of deer and other animals at Zoological Garden, Alipore Kolkata**

**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 368 students and 33 faculties from 9 institutes.**

Date	Name of school/Training institute/ Colleges/ Universities	Number of students/ trainees	Number of teachers/ Instructors	Education incentives
09.01.2019	Vidya Sagar University, Midnapore	48	02	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
23.01.2019	Subash Chandra Bose Centenary College, Murshidabad	28	07	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and



				Interaction.
28.01.2019	North Point School Winter Camp	40	05	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
29.01.2019	North Point School Winter Camp	40	05	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction/ Lecture.
24.02.2019	RFO Training, Karnataka Forest Academy	43	02	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
09.03.2019	Basic Course, HMI	30	02	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
15.03.2019	RFO Training, Odisha Forest Rangers College	48	02	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
16.03.2019	Central School For Tibetans, Darjeeling	42	07	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
17.03.2019	RFO Training, Odisha Forest Rangers College	49	01	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction



**Educational tour of the trainees, Basic Course, HMI**







**Educational Tour of RFO Trainees, Odisha Forest Rangers College**



**Educational Tour of Central School for Tibetans, Darjeeling**



**Educational Tour of RFO Trainees, Odisha Forest Rangers College**



## SNOW FALL IN DARJEELING

Darjeeling experienced snowfall after nearly a decade. The temperatures in Darjeeling plummeted to  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  on 28.01.2019 resulting in snowfall in some parts of the town including Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. The park houses fauna of the Eastern Himalayan region therefore the animals were comfortable. No damage occurred to the Park infrastructure. The tourists were pleasantly surprised and delighted at the sight of the snowfall.



## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

The Park celebrated 70th Republic Day 2018 on 26th January by hoisting of the National flag at 9 am by Shri Rajendra Jakher, 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.







### ACQUISITION OF MISHMI TAKIN (*Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor*)

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park welcomed five numbers of Mishmi Takin (*Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor*) from Tierpark Berlin Zoo, Germany on 20.01.2019 under the animal exchange program. The Park received three males and two females (3:2).

S.No	House Name	Sex	Microchip no	Date of Birth
1.	Rocky	Male	98II00004397556	11.02.2016
2.	Danny	Male	276094500516326	15.03.2016
3.	Claire	Female	276094500436078	18.03.2016
4.	Ramona	Female	900200000150542	16.03.2017
5.	Charles	Male	900200000472333	05.06.2018

The animals were quarantines within the park for a period of one month. After the quarantine period, the animals were put in display for the visitors.

The Mishmi takin (*Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor*) is an endangered (IUCN) goat-antelope native to India, Myanmar and the People's Republic of China. It is a subspecies of Takin. It is categorized as Schedule I under the Wildlife Protection Act. The Mishmi Takin lives in Northeast India and eats bamboo and willow shoots. It has an oily coat to protect it from the fog. The animal is the national animal of Bhutan. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is the only zoo in India that has these majestic animals in their display.





## TAXIDERMY WORK DONE IN THIS QUARTER

- Carbolic acid and camphor applied to the exhibits in the Entomological section.
- An Estuarine Crocodile (Acc. No.: BNHM/REP/52) brought from old BNHM, was brushed, cleaned, painted and maintained for display in new BNHM for visitors.



- **Skinning of Leopard Cat:**

Scientific Name: *Prionailurus bengalensis*

Collection: From Takdha Forest Range

Date of Collection: 03<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2019

Acc. No.: BNHM/M/59

One dead male leopard cat, acquired from Takdha forest region, brought to PNHZ Park, was skinned and tanned for further mounting.



- **Skinning of Asian Palm Civet**

Scientific Name: *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

Collection: From PNHZ Park

Date of Collection: 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019

Acc. No.: BNHM/M/60

- One wild dead male Palm Civet acquired from PNHZ Park, was skinned and tanned for further mounting.
- Solution of formalin was prepared in 9:1 ratio and was added to the bottled specimen in snake section.
- Dichlorobenzene was added to the Old Collection of BNHM and Old Publication of BNHM.

- **Skinning of Asian Palm Civet**

Scientific Name: *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

Collection: From Himalayan Mountaineering Institute

Date of Collection: 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2019

Acc. No.: BNHM/M/61

One wild dead female Palm Civet acquired from HMI, was skinned and tanned for further mounting.

- **Skinning of Asian Palm Civet**

Scientific Name: *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

Collection: From PNHZ Park

Date of Collection: 22<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019

Acc. No.: BNHM/M/62

One wild dead female Palm Civet acquired from PNHZ Park, was skinned and tanned for further mounting.



List of specimens skinned, mounted or preserved:

Sl no.	Name	Accession no.
1	Leopard Cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	BNHM/M/59
2	Asian Palm Civet <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	BNHM/M/60
3	Asian Palm Civet <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	BNHM/M/61
4	Asian Palm Civet <i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	BNHM/M/62

### ENRICHMENT IN THIS QUARTER

The enrichment work taken up in this quarter include new wooden resting platform in the Asiatic Black Bear enclosure, wooden logs in the Markhor enclosure, aerial walkway in the Red panda enclosures, swinging ropes in the Common Grey Langur enclosure and new feeding platforms in the herbivore enclosures.



Wooden platforms at the Asiatic Black Bear Enclosure



Logs in the Markhor enclosure





Aerial Walkways in the Red panda enclosures



Ropes for swinging at the Langur enclosure



Feeding platforms in herbivore enclosures

## DEVELOPMENT WORK AT PNHZP IN THIS QUARTER

The developmental work taken up during this quarter include modification of the aviary in Beat IV, construction of the treatment cell coupe for lesser carnivores below the veterinary hospital, painting of the boundary fence at the off display conservation breeding centre for Snow leopard and Red panda at Topkeydara, construction of the entrance porch cum service room at the Bengal Natural History Museum, construction of the rain water harvesting tank (27000 litres) and fitter tank, repair and maintenance of keepers pathway behind the lesser carnivore and herbivore section, modification of the old tiger exhibit and construction of squeeze cages.



Modification of the Aviary





Construction of treatment cell coupe for lesser carnivores



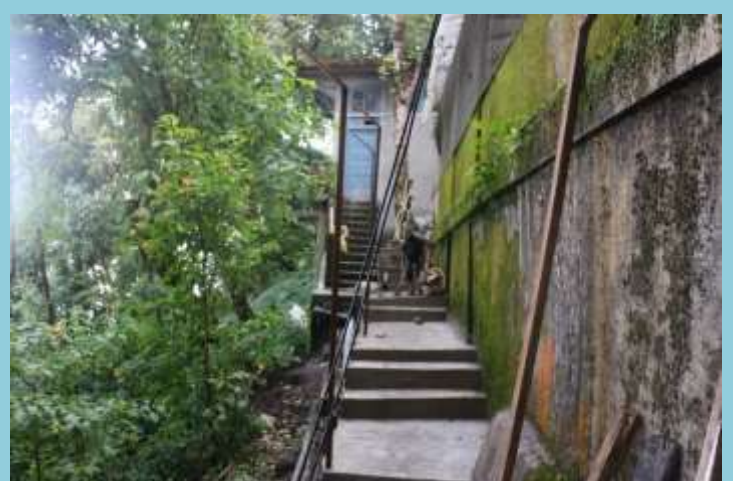
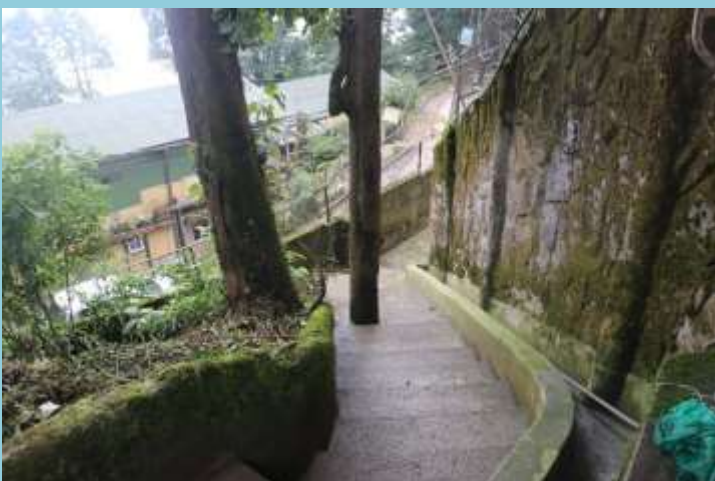
Construction of the entrance porch cum service room at the Bengal Natural History Museum



Construction of the rain water harvesting tank and filter tank



Construction of squeeze cages



Repair and maintenance of keeper's pathway behind the lesser carnivore and herbivore section





Modification of the old tiger exhibit