

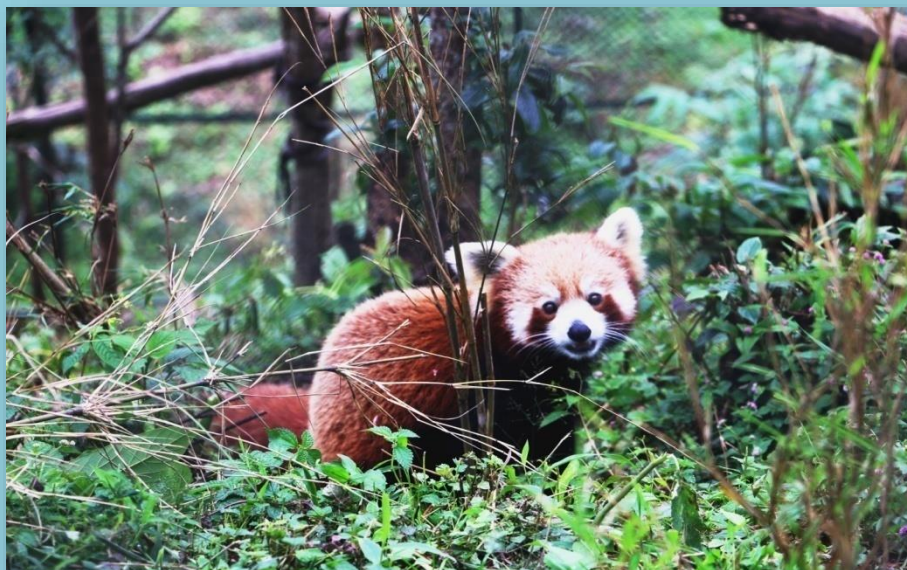


**PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK  
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL  
NEWS LETTER**

**July- September 2016**

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## *From the Directors Desk...*

It gives me immense pleasure to be sharing with you the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly newsletter of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. Achievement in this quarter has been in terms of the Snow leopard Conservation Breeding Programme where the park for the second time has been able to acquire one male snow leopard from Mulhouse zoo, France. The animal reached Kolkata on 31.08.2016 and on the early hours of 1<sup>st</sup> September the male named “Namkha” reached Darjeeling Zoo.

The housing of Himalayan Monal, Cheer Pheasant, Grey Peacock Pheasant and Temminck’s tragopan were modified by having concrete substrate, fine mesh wire slant roofing, airy and well lighted breeding and rearing rooms followed later by species-specific enrichments. Enrichments were also done routinely in the other animal enclosures and breeding centres.

Regular educational and training programmes were imparted to the school students and trainees from various institutes. Significant visits to the Institution includes- Dr. D.N. Singh IFS, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority, MoEF & CC, GOI and Mr. V.K. Yadav IFS, Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority.

**Director  
PNHZ Park  
Darjeeling**

## BIRTH OF ANIMAL

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No of Chicks /Cub
1	Barking deer ( <i>Muntiacus muntjac</i> )	16.07.2016	1 Male

## ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF ANIMALS

Date	Animal	Number of Animals	Acquired from
1.09.2016	Snow leopard (Makalu)	1	Mulhouse Zoo, France

Date	Animal	Number of Animals	Transferred to
31.08.2016	Silver pheasant	1:1	Garchumuk deer park, Howrah
31.08.2016	Red Jungle fowl	2:2	Garchumuk deer park, Howrah
31.08.2016	Golden pheasant	1:1	Garchumuk deer park, Howrah

## 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 280 students and faculties from 6 institutes.

Date	Name of school/ Training institute/ Colleges/ Universities	Number of students	Number of teachers	Education incentives
27.08.2016	West Bengal Forest School Dowhill 106 <sup>th</sup> Batch DR/FR Trainees	26	3	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
30.08.2016	Simkuna Sai High School	45	2	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
10.09.2016	St. Edmins English Institute	25	8	Education material, Packet lunch, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
18.09.2016	Forestry Training Centre, Rajabhat Khawa	50	3	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
24.09.2016	Greenhill English school, Sonada	100	8	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
30.09.2016	State Forest Training Institute, Hijli	34	2	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.





**Training for DR/Fr from Forestry Training Centre, Rajabhat Khawa**



**Educational tour of St Edmins English Institute**



**Educational Tour of Greenhill English School**



**Training of 106<sup>th</sup> Batch of DR/Fr from State Forest Training Institute, Hijli**



## VISIT OF DIGNITARIES TO DARJEELING ZOO AND THEIR VALUABLE COMMENTS

Date of Visit	Name of Visitor	Designation	Remarks
01.07.2016	Shri Prasanta Saha	Secretary General AIDA & Secretary, Anti-Pollution Society & Chief Coordinator Tata Steel Kolkata	It was really educative as well as interesting to know about so many rare animals. I would also like to associate with the animal adoption plan.
27.07.2016	Brigadier General Shahriar Ahmed Choudhary, NDC, PSC	Additional Director General Commander, North West Region, Bangladesh Border Gaurd	Wonderful Museum. We had the opportunity to visit Bengal Natural Museum. The authority was very kind to allow us to visit and see the rare species of the world. A special thanks to Director of the museum. Wish you all the best.
06.08.2016	Shri P. Hari	Advocate, Kerala	Very nice zoo and zoological park. Very good and well maintained surroundings. Thank you.
02.09.2016	Shri V.K Yadav, IFS	APCCF & Member Secretary, WBZA	Attended the workshop.
15.09.2016	Dr. D.N. Singh, IFS	Member Secretary, CZA, New Delhi	Excellent management, praiseworthy conservation breeding, nice arrangement, warm hospitability, cozy environment. Keep it up.



**Park Visit by Brigadier General Shahriar Ahmed Choudhary, NDC, PSC**



**Park Visit by Dr D.N. Singh, IFS, Member Secretary, CZA and Mr V.K.Yadav, IFS, Member Secretary, WBZA**



## OPENING OF THE NEW BENGAL NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM TO VISITORS

The new Bengal Natural History Museum was opened to visitors on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016.

The museum was handed over to the park on 07.01.2010 and construction of the new building and shifting of specimens was completed by August 2015. The visitors can see a collection of fauna of North Bengal and the Eastern Himalayas in the museum. The museum maintains 2922 rolled birds, 47 rolled mammal skin and 52 well maintained flat mammalian skin along with specimens of butterflies, moths, dragonflies and beetles. The museum also maintains a small taxidermy unit.



Visitors at the Bengal Natural History Museum

## TRAINING ON REPTILES

Mr Arub Ghosh from North Bengal Wildlife Animal Park conducted a training for handling of snakes for zookeepers on 09.09.2016. In this training he demonstrated the basic techniques for snake identification, snake behaviour, how to safely work with a snake, how to safely approach, capture and relocate venomous and non venomous snakes and proper first aid for snake bite.



Mr Arub Ghosh demonstrating how to safely handle snakes



## ANNUAL MEDICAL CAMP

The medical camp was held on 28.07.2016 under Dr Plaban Das which included free Doctor consultation. The consultation was availed by 57 members of the staff and benefits included biochemical tests, ECG, X ray, Ultrasonography and ECG. The medical camp is held every year to ensure the physical well being of the field staff who in turn maintain the well being of the captive animals of the park.



Annual Medical Camp under Dr Plaban Das

## NEW SNOW LEOPARD IN DARJEELING ZOO

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016, Darjeeling zoo welcomed a new member to the family, a male snow leopard named Namkha, aged 2 years 3 months, from Mulhouse zoo, France as a part of the exchange programme for contributing to the Conservation breeding programme of Snow leopard at Darjeeling zoo. Namkha arrived at Kolkata via Amsterdam on 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2016 and was brought to the Conservation breeding centre for Red pandas and Snow leopards at Topkeydara, Darjeeling the day after, where he was quarantined for 30 days and the appropriate vaccines were administered to him before being brought into contact with other inhabitants at the centre. Namkha is a valuable addition to the already successful conservation breeding program of snow leopards at Darjeeling zoo.



Namkha at the conservation breeding centre for Red Pandas and Snow Leopards at Topkeydara, Darjeeling

## STAFF FAREWELL

The park bid farewell to Mr. Bhupen Roka and Ms. Christina Pradhan on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Mr Bhupen Roka was the Education Assistant and has served the park for 5 years. He also did his research work on the project titled “Study of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in ex-situ facilities in correlation with in-situ facilities for conservation breeding at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park” and recently completed another project titled “Studies on population and behavioural ecology of Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) in Singalila National Park, West Bengal, India”. Ms. Christina Pradhan served the park as the Lower Division Clerk for a year and a half and was in charge of the library and data entry in the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS). Their contribution to the park is invaluable and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



Farewell of Mr Bhupen Roka & Miss Christina Pradhan



Farewell address by Mr Bhupen Roka



## ZOOLOGICAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING (ZIMS) 2016

The ZIMS training workshop, an interactive session organized by the Central Zoo Authority was held at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling from 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The training was inaugurated by Dr D.N. Singh, IFS (Member Secretary, CZA) and Shri V.K. Yadav, IFS (Member Secretary, WBZA) and was conducted by Shri Moin Ahmed, Regional Coordinator, ZIMS (Species 360). All the nominated zoos except Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura participated in the training. Participants from West Bengal Zoo Authority and North Bengal Wildlife Animal Park were also invited for the workshop. Mr. Moin Ahmed guided the participants with their data entry and updates including introduction to medical ZIMS.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park worked on animal transaction and event details. Assam State Zoo & Botanical Garden, Himalayan Zoological Park, Gangtok and Biological Park, Itanagar worked on entry of individual animals into ZIMS with a total count of 128, 69 and 214 individuals respectively currently in ZIMS record. All the four zoos updated the animal inventory of the individual species. Individual ids were created for local and medical administrators. An overview of the medical ZIMS was presented by Mr Ahmed and access was given to zoos for initiating medical ZIMS. The entries of medical records of animals were initiated. Presentations regarding using various aspects of ZIMS and user manual of PM 2000 including software for update and maintenance of Stud book for endangered animals for conservation breeding were provided.



Welcoming of Dr. D.N. Singh, IFS, Shri V. K. Yadav, IFS and the participants at the commencement of the workshop



The ZIMS training workshop in progress conducted by Shri Moin Ahmed





Valedictory session of the participants by the Director Shri Piar Chand, IFS

### NEW DEVELOPMENTAL WORK IN THIS QUARTER

The new developmental work taken up in this quarter were modification of pheasantry in the display area- predator proof substrate, slant roofing, keepers pathway, breeding and rearing houses and installation of electric fencing in the two new open topped enclosures of snow leopard.



Predator proof substrate for the pheasantry



Slanting of roof of the pheasantry



## ENRICHMENT OF ENCLOSURES IN THIS QUARTER

The enrichment activities in the park is taken up on a regular basis in the display and all the conservation breeding centres for all species. The enrichments for this quarter was done in the two newly built housing facilities at topkey dara breeding centre and the display area of the park. The old ropes and logs were replaced by fresh ones in the lesser carnivore enclosures and other carnivore enclosures. The perching structures, wodden nest boxes were included in the pheasantries.



Designing of aerial walkways and replacement of ropes in the lesser carnivore section