



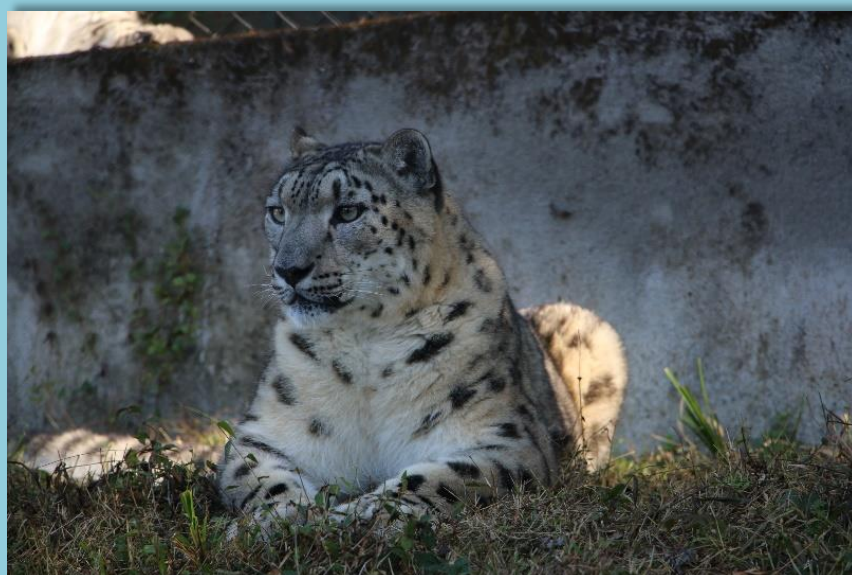
PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

NEWS LETTER

JULY- SEPTEMBER 2018

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From the Directors Desk...

Greetings to you from the PNHZP family. It gives me great pleasure to present the third quarterly newsletter of this year. This has been a very eventful quarter for the Park. The park celebrated its 60th Foundation day this quarter and also welcomed the birth of three red panda cubs in July further strengthening the conservation breeding program for these animals. The park also celebrated International Red panda day on 15th September 2018 to further support the breeding program by raising awareness among the visiting tourists, locals and students on the Red panda, the threats faced by the species and the conservation efforts to save the species worldwide and by the park. The park also celebrated Van Mahotsava by planting saplings in the parks forest area and surrounding vicinity. A lot of development and enrichment work was also done this quarter including new resting platforms and ropes in the Grey Langur enclosure, painting of the park, new perches for pheasants at the Conservation Breeding Centre at Dowhill etc. Apart from this we also hosted 321 students and 25 faculties from 8 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.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>)	09.07.2018	0:0:3
2.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	14.07.2018	0:1:0
3.	Lady Amherst's (<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>)	07.07.2018	0:0:3
4.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	21.08.2018	0:1:0
5.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Naemorhaedus goral</i>)	09.09.2018	1:1:0
6.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	21.09.2018	0:1:0

DEATH OF ANIMALS

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>)	13.07.2018	0:0:2
2.	Red Jungle fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	02.07.2018	0:0:1
3.	Reeves's pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>)	02.07.2018	0:0:1
4.	Reeves's pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>)	05.07.2018	0:0:1
5.	Reeves's pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>)	09.07.2018	0:1:0
6.	Reeves's pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>)	15.07.2018	0:0:1
7.	Jungle Cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>)	19.07.2018	0:1:0
8.	Rat Snake (<i>Pantherophis obsoletus</i>)	21.07.2018	0:0:1
9.	Sand Boa (<i>Eryx johnii</i>)	26.07.2018	0:0:1
10.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	22.08.2018	0:1:0
11.	Reeves's pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>)	03.08.2018	0:0:1
12.	Reeves's pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>)	06.08.2018	0:1:0
13.	Indian rock python (<i>Python molurus</i>)	05.08.2018	0:1:0
14.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	20.08.2018	0:1:0
15.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	21.09.2018	0:1:0

ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF ANIMALS

Date	Animals	Number of Animals	Transferred to
02.07.2018	Golden pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	2:2:0	Adina Deer Park, Malda
02.07.2018	Silver pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	2:2:0	Adina Deer Park, Malda
01.08.2018	Lady Amherst's pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>)	1:1:0	North Bengal wild animal park
01.08.2018	Bengal Monitor Lizard (<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>)	0:0:2	North Bengal wild animal park
20.09.2018	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	0:1:0	Himalayan Zoological Park, Sikkim

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 321 students and 25 faculties from 8 institutes.

Date	Name of school/Training institute/ Colleges/ Universities	Number of students/trainees	Number of teachers/instructors	Education incentives
02.07.2018	Sarda Vallabh Bhai Patel National Police Academy	14	01	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
16.07.2018	St. Josephs School, Darjeeling	99	03	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
31.08.2018	Glendale Academy, Darjeeling	20	02	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
22.09.2018	Basic Course, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute	82	10	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction/ Lecture.
25.09.2018	In service SFS officers/ Sr. FROs, Central Academy of Forest Education	08	-	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
26.09.2018	Banbole High school	58	03	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
27.09.2018	Forestry Training Centre, Rajabhat khawa	28	02	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
28.09.2018	American international School, Chennai	12	04	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction



Sarda Vallabh Bhai Patel National Police Academy



Educational Tour of Banbole High school



Educational tour Of St Josephs School, Darjeeling



Educational Tour of Glendale Academy, Darjeeling



Educational Tour of Forestry Training Centre, Rajabhatkhawa



Educational Tour of Basic Course, HMI

FAREWELL TO SHRI PIAR CHAND, IFS

On 16th August 2018, we bid farewell to Shri Piar Chand, IFS, and former Director PNHZ Park. Shri Chand served the Park as the Director from 15.01.2015- 16.08.2018. In his tenure the park saw the completion of the new Veterinary hospital at the park, new visitor amenities, acquisition of Snow leopards from Dudley Zoo, England and Mulhouse Zoo, France, birth of three Snow leopards and nine Red pandas. His contribution to the park is commendable. Shri Rajendra Jakher, IFS took over the charge of Director, PNHZ Park from Shri Piar Chand, IFS.



Farewell of Shri Piar Chand, IFS and former Director, PNHZP



Handing over of charge to Shri Rajendra Jakher, IFS, Director, PNHZP

VAN MAHOTSAV CELEBRATION, 2018

Van Mahotsav, a weeklong festival of tree planting is organised every year in the month of July all across India and lakhs of trees are planted. Van Mahotsav was launched in the year 1950 by Shri Kanhaiyalal. M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food to create an enthusiasm in the popular mind for the preservation of forest and planting of trees, as "trees mean water, water means bread and bread is life". It was also hoped that it would create tree consciousness among the people.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological park like every year celebrated Van Mahotsav on July 1st with the plantation of trees by the park staff within the Park's forest area. This year the members of the shop keepers association were also involved in the tree planting ceremony around the park including the staff quarters and the roads leading up to the park.

The park planted species of *Rhododendron* sp. (Gurans), *Castronopsis hystrix* (Katus), *Alnus nepalinsis* (Utis) and *Quercus fenestrata* (Arkawla). The tree plantation ceremony was followed by lunch organised by the park for all zoo staff and the members of the shopkeepers association.





INTERNATIONAL RED PANDA DAY 2018 CELEBRATION

International Red Panda Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of November every year. This year the day falls on 15th September 2018. With the decline in their habitat, International Red Panda day hopes to encourage people to learn about these adorable animals and help save the biome in which they live.

Padmaja Naidu celebrated the International red panda Day on 15th September 2018. A poster presentation was arranged on the terrace of the new Bengal Natural History Museum involving volunteers and the staff of the park. The posters included information on Red panda biology, facts, habitat, threats, conservation efforts worldwide, conservation efforts at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and adoption of red Panda at the Park.

The program began at 9:30 am with a procession with the zoo staff and volunteers holding posters that displayed information about the Red Panda. The procession began at the main gate and ended at the Bengal Natural history Museum. After the procession, an interactive session between the zoo volunteers and the zoo visitors was held at the terrace of the museum where the visitors could come and take pictures with the informative posters, read and learn about the pandas and interact with the zoo staff and volunteers regarding the red panda.

The aim of this event was to spread awareness among the zoo visitors not only about the biology, habitat and status of the Red panda but also the threats faced by the species and conservation measures taken up by the park, the breeding program and other measures taken worldwide to save this species.



Procession around the Park with the zoo staff and volunteers





Interactive Session between the zoo staff, volunteers and visitors at BNHM

FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

Padmaja Naidu Himayalan Zoological Park celebrated its 60th Foundation Day on 14th August 2018. To celebrate this important landmark all the zoo staff assembled in front of the Director's bungalow at 9:00 am for the hoisting of the Zoo flag along with singing of the zoo anthem. Shri, Shiromani Syangden, Estate Supervisor, PNHZ Park addressed the staff after followed by the distribution of sweets.

In its 60 years Padmaja Naidu Himayalan Zoological Park has successfully bred and is also the only zoo in the world to successfully reintroduce captive red pandas into the wild. The park has also successfully bred Snow leopards and this program is the most successful snow leopard breeding program in South east Asia. The zoo is involved in the conservation breeding of several high altitude pheasants and herbivores. Apart from its conservation breeding programs, the park also organises out reach programs to educate the local population on the local flora and fauna and the importance of conservation. We will continue to work towards our goal of conservation, research and education.





INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Like every year the park celebrated 72nd Independence Day of India on 15th August 2018. This year the national flag was hoisted by Mrs Karuna Niroula, Head Clerk, PNHZ Park at 9 am followed by a rendition of the National Anthem. The staff was then addressed by Mr Asim Gurung, Store supervisor, Mr Purna Ghising, Animal Supervisor and Mr Shiromani Syangden, Estate Supervisor, PNHZ Park. The program ended with the distribution of sweets to all the staff members present.



TAXIDERMMY WORK DONE IN THIS QUARTER

1. Ten Krishna Peacock butterfly, Scientific Name: *Papilio Krishna* Moor 1857, Four Common Mormon butterfly, Scientific Name: *Papiliopolytes* Linnaeus, 1758, Two Sport Sword Tail butterfly, Scientific Name: *Graphiumnomius* (Esper 1793) was added for display in the Entomological section.
2. The specimens in the birds showcase was cleaned, brushed and petrol washed.
3. Preservation of Red Panda Cub as Bottled Specimen

Date of Collection: 17th July 2018

Accession No. : BNHM/M/55 & BNHM/M/56

Two Red Panda cubs acquired from the PNHZP were measured, weighed and cleaned with water. A glass jar was cleaned and dried, and then the solution of formalin 9:1 in proportion was prepared with the help of the measuring container. The cleaned specimen was then tied or fixed on the slide with help of a string and then put in the glass jar, filled it with the solution of formalin for preservation.

4. Dichlorobenzene was added to the old roll specimens in BNHM.
5. Skinning of one Flying Squirrel

Scientific Name: *Pteromyini*

Collected from Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

Date of Skinning 5th August 2018

Accession No. : BNHM/M/57

The specimen was first measured and weighed, the dead specimen was then laid on the table with the belly upturned. An incision was made in the skin throughout the full length of the abdominal wall intact which results in the easy separation of the skin and body wall. After making the incision, the skin is pulled free from the body. Alum powder was sprinkled frequently to absorb blood and to maintain a firm grip while skinning the specimen. Skinning of the specimen was done and preserved the same by using alum powder and carbolic acid.



6. Skinning of one Reeves Pheasant

Scientific Name: *Syrnaticus reevesii*(Gray, 1829)

Collection: From Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

Date of Collection: 6th August 2018

Acc No. A/PH/144

The dead specimen was laid on the table with the belly upturned. The belly and the breast feathers were parted along the centre of the body where a bare strip of skin shows 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 was pulled free from the breast. Alum powder was 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.



7. Damaged Beetles in the Entomological section was repaired and fixed and thoroughly cleaned with liquid benzene.



8. Touch wood was applied to the horns and head mount after cleaning.

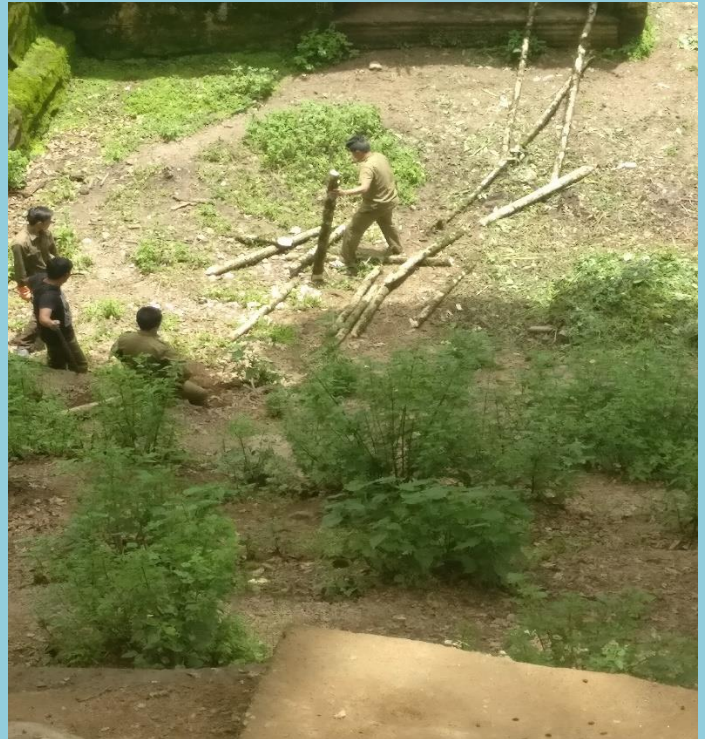


ENRICHMENT IN THIS QUARTER

The enrichment work taken up in this quarter include new aerial walkway in the red panda enclosures, new resting platforms and ropes in the common grey langur enclosure, new feeding platforms in the herbivore enclosures, new wooden stumps in the Asiatic black bear enclosures, and new perches and substrate enrichment in the pheasantry at the conservation breeding centre for herbivores and pheasants, Dowhill.



New perches and substrate enrichment in the pheasantry at the conservation breeding centre at Dowhill.

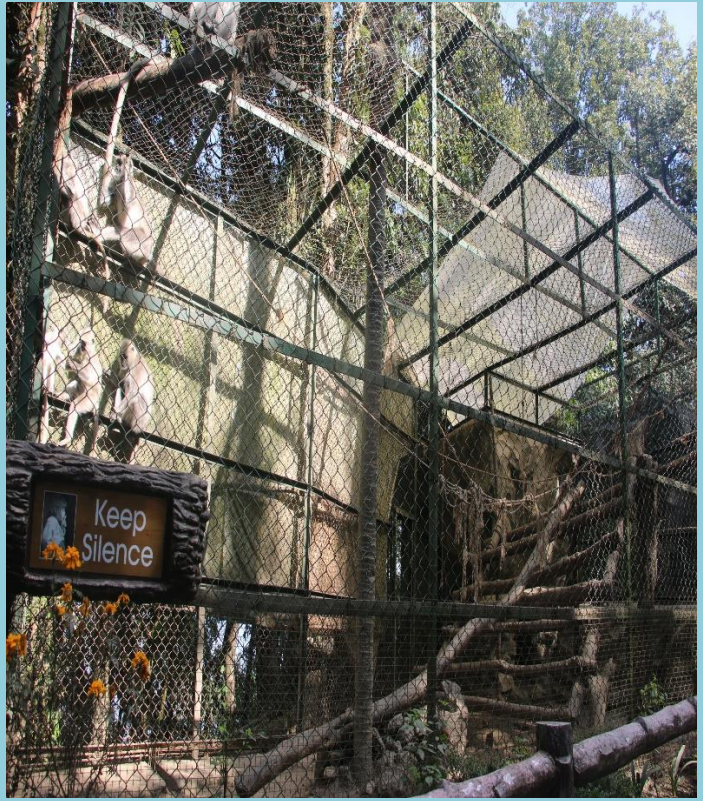


Aerial walkway at the Red Panda Enclosures

Feeding platforms in herbivore enclosures



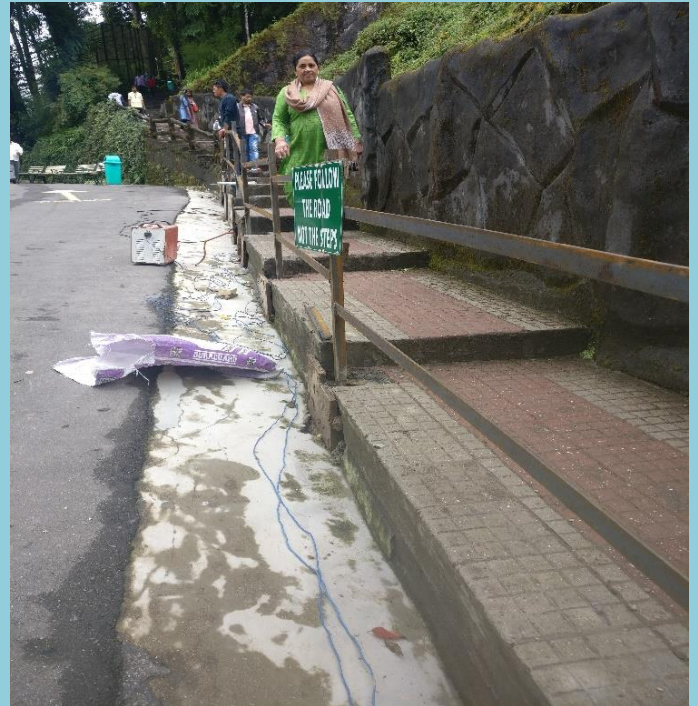
Wooden stumps in the Asiatic Black Bear enclosure



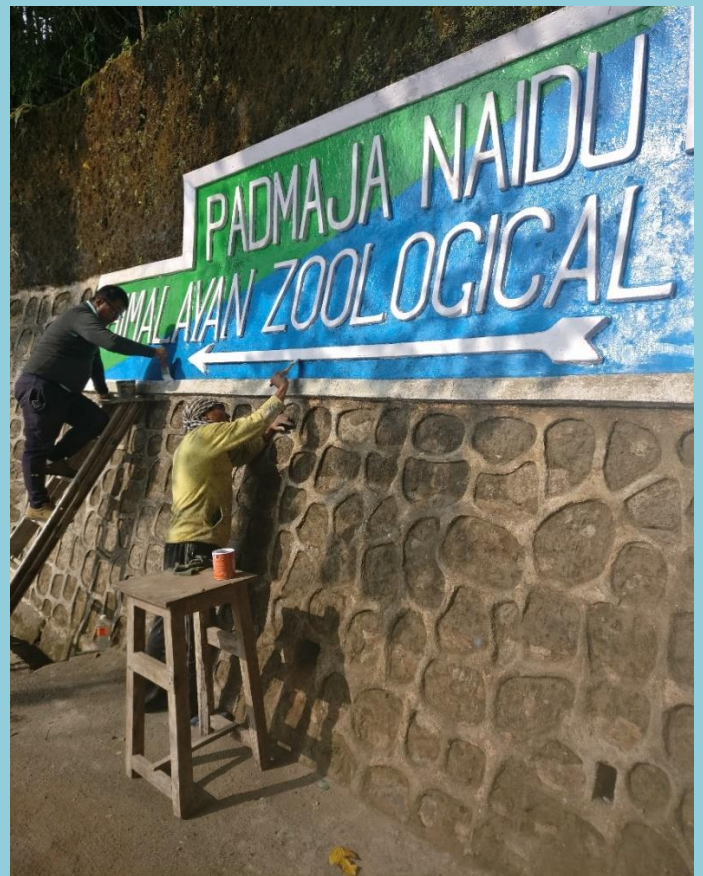
Resting platforms and ropes in the Grey Langur enclosure

DEVELOPMENT WORK AT PNHZP IN THIS QUARTER

The development work taken up in this quarter by the zoo include installation of railings along the Asiatic Black bear enclosures and painting of the park premises.



Railings alongside the Asiatic black bear enclosure



Painting of the park premises