



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

NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2018

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EDITORIALBOARD

Shri Rajendra Jhaker, IFS
Director

Mr. Shiromani Syangden
Estate officer

Mr. Purna Ghising
Animal Supervisor

Miss Upashna Rai
Zoo Biologist

Miss Pranita Gupta
Education Assistant

NEWS LETTER ADDRESS

Director,
Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological
Park,
Darjeeling- 734101
West Bengal, India
Tel: 0354-2254250 (Ch)
2253709 (Off), 2252522 (Fax)
E-mail: pnhzp@yahoo.com
Website: www.pnhzp.gov.in

From the Directors Desk...

Greetings to you from the PNHZP family. It gives me great pleasure to present the last quarterly newsletter of this year. This quarter we celebrated Children's Day in association with Hayden Hall Community Development Centre, Darjeeling involving children from remote areas of Darjeeling. We also observed Child's Right week in association with the District Child Protection Unit, Darjeeling by organizing an outreach program for local students and teachers. In addition to this the Park also hosted 1364 students and 168 faculties from 29 institutes for educational tours of the park. The developmental work this quarter included remodeling of two herbivore enclosures for the purpose of housing Mishmi Takins that will be arriving at the Park from Tierpark Berlin Zoo, Germany in January. Apart from that the park is also constructing a new back entrance to the conference hall at the BNHM.

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.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Naemorhaedus goral</i>)	13.10.2018	1:0:0
2.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	13.10.2018	1:0:0
3.	Barking Deer (<i>Muntjac muntiacus</i>)	09.11.2018	0:1:0
4.	Barking Deer (<i>Muntjac muntiacus</i>)	16.11.2018	1:0:0

DEATH OF ANIMALS

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Reeves's pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>)	16.11.2018	0:1:0
2.	Reeves's pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>)	26.11.2018	1:0:0
3.	Barking Deer <i>Muntiacus muntjac</i>	27.11.2018	1:0:0
4.	Cheer pheasant <i>Catreus wallichii</i>	03.12.2018	1:0:0
5.	Blue sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	27.12.2018	1:0:0

ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF ANIMALS

Date	Animals	Number of Animals	Transferred to
24.10.2018	Golden pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	1:1:0	Assam State Zoo
24.10.2018	Silver pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	1:1:0	Assam State Zoo
24.10.2018	Lady Amherst's pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>)	1:1:0	Assam State Zoo
28.12.2018	Silver pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	1:1:0	Rasikbeel Mini Zoo
28.12.2018	Golden pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	1:1:0	Rasikbeel Mini Zoo

WORKSHOP ATTENDED BY STAFF

1. Shri Rajendra Jakher, IFS, Director, PNHZ Park attended the annual conference of Indian Zoo organised by Central Zoo Authority in association with Nawab Wazid Ali Shah Zoological Garden, Lucknow from 12th to 15th November 2019.
2. Mr Neepan Tamang, Zookeeper, PNHZ Park attended the Zoo Keeper Training organised by the Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park, Ranchi held from 17th to 21st December 2018. The aim of the training was to enable animal keepers to enhance their professional knowledge, sharpen their skills, benefit by the experience of others and develop a wider outlook.



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 1364 students and 168 faculties from 29 institutes.

Date	Name of school/Training institute/ Colleges/ Universities	Number of students/trainees	Number of teachers/Instructors	Education incentives
06.10.2018	Notre Dame Primary School, Kajjalay	41	05	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
06.10.2018	Salesian College, Sonada	19	02	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
07.10.2018	Father Lebonde School, Siliguri.	61	08	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
13.10.2018	Little Bells School, Darjeeling	31	03	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction/ Lecture.
24.10.2018	HMI Advance Course	45	07	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
26.10.2018	HMI Basic Course	68	05	Education Materials, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
27.10.2018	Namchi Public School, P.O. Namchi South Sikkim.	24	04	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
30.10.2018	Rhododendroen Integratus Boarding School ,Maneybhanjyang, Darjeeling	65	09	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
30.10.2018	R.K.S.P. Boys H.S. School Darjeeling	31	02	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
31.10.2018	Bikash Sangh Primary School, Kalimpong	13	09	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
02.11.2018	Gyanoday Niketan, Darjeeling	101	09	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
13.11.2018	West Bengal Forest School Dowhill Kurseong	35	01	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
14.11.2018	Vision Academy Badamtam L.K. Division Lebong Darjeeling	19	03	Packet lunch, Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
14.11.2018	Pulbazar Junior Basic School, Pulbazar	10	03	Packet Lunch, Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
14.11.2018	Dhajea No. 9 Primary School, Darjeeling	03	02	Packet Lunch, Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction

14.11.2018	Dhajea T.E. Primary School, Darjeeling	05	06	Packety Lunch, Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
14.11.2018	Avongrove T.E. Primary school, Darjeeling	10	08	Packet lunch, Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
14.11.2018	Dhajea Vidhya Sagar Primary School, Darjeeling	05	05	Packet lunch, Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
17.11.2018	Loreto Convent Darjeeling	400	10	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
17.11.2018	Kanchanjunga Primary school, Darjeeling	19	10	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
17.11.2018	Holy Angels School, Darjeeling.	27	04	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
18.11.2018	Galaxy English School, Darjeeling.	37	07	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
21.11.2018	Kumudini Homes. Kalimpong.	32	02	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
28.11.2018	HMI Basic course	80	05	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
03.12.2018	Anulia High School	44	10	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
12.12.2018	Pul-Kanya Pathsala, Pulbazar, Darjeeling.	10	10	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
15.12.2018	Karnataka forest Academy, Dharwad, Karnataka, India	45	02	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
16.12.2018	Goreto Gaan Primary School Hum Busty, P.O. Takdha , Darjeeling	31	12	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction
17.12.2018	Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Dimapur, Nagaland.	53	05	Education Materials. Visit to Zoo and Interaction



Educational Tour of Notre Dame Primary School, Kaijalay



Educational Tour of Rhododendroen Integratus Boarding School, Maneybhanjyang



Educational tour of R.K.S.P. Boys H.S. School Darjeeling

Educational tour of Vision Academy Badamtam L.K. Division Lebong



Educational Tour of Gyanoday Niketan, Darjeeling



Educational Tour of 60th batch of Forest Guard Trainees, West Bengal Forest School, Dowhill



Educational Tour of Dhajea No. 9 Primary School, Dhajea T.E. Primary School, Avongrove T.E. Primary school, Dhajea Vidhya Sagar Primary School, Darjeeling



**Educational Tour of Loreto Convent,
Darjeeling**



**Educational Tour of Galaxy English School,
Darjeeling**



**Educational Tour of Basic Course of Himalayan Mountaineering
Institute Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling**



Educational Tour of Anulia High School



Educational Tour of trainees from CASEFO, Karnataka Forest Academy



Educational Tour of Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Dimapur, Nagaland.



Educational Tour Vision Academy, Badamtam, Darjeeling.

STAFF RETIREMENT

On 01.12.2018, Shri Ram Singh Balmiki, retired from his service at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. A farewell function was organised by the staff of Darjeeling zoo on 27th December 2018 to bid farewell and to honour Shri Balmiki for his invaluable service to the park. The farewell function was attended by all members of the staff who along with other officials thanked Mr Balmiki for his service and honored him by presenting him with a gold ring. The program ended with the distribution of refreshments to all the staff of the park.



CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The park celebrated Children's day in association with Hayden Hall Community Development Centre, Darjeeling. The park organized an outreach program for children from remotely located schools in Darjeeling in association with Hayden Hall Community Development Centre. The program included 52 students and 27 teachers from 6 schools and was held on 14th November 2019. The outreach program comprised of an educational tour of the park along with quiz competition and the showing of a wildlife movie. The children and teachers were also provided with packet lunches, water and juice along with educational materials.

S.No	School Name	No of Students	No of Teachers
1.	Vision Academy, Badamtam	19	5
2.	Pulbazar Junior Basic School, Pulbazar	10	3
3.	Dhajea No 9 Primary School	3	2
4.	Dhajea Tea Estate Primary School		
5.	Avongrove Primary School	5	6
6.	Dhajea Vidhya Sagar Primary School	5	5



OBSERVING CHILD RIGHTS WEEK IN ASSOCIATION WITH DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION UNIT, DARJEELING

The District Child Protection Unit organized various programs involving children to create awareness on Children Rights and Protection. The week long program from 14th November- 20th November, 2019 included an outreach program for under privileged children from Darjeeling and their escorts at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park on 17th November 2019.

The program included 46 children and 10 escorts from Kanchenjunga Primary School and Holy Angels School in Darjeeling. The outreach program comprised of an educational tour of the park, a talk on the conservation of local flora and fauna of Darjeeling, information on the management of captive animals and the conservation

breeding program of the park along with a quiz competition and screening of a wildlife movie. The participants were given refreshments and educational materials at the end of the program.



TAXIDERMY WORK DONE IN THIS QUARTER

1. Dichlorobenzene was added to the specimens in the Old Collection of BNHM showcase.
2. Skinning of one Reeves Pheasant

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

Collected from Padma Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

Date of Collection: 28th November 2018

Acc No. A/PH/145

One Reeves pheasant was acquired from the PNHZ Park, it was then skinned and preserved as a rolled specimen.



3. Skinning of one Barbet

Scientific Name: *Megalaimidae*

Collected from Padma Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

Date of Collection: 12th December 2018

Acc No. : A/CR/25

One Barbet was collected from PNHZ Park, it was then skinned and preserved for further mounting.



4. Skinning of one Blue Sheep

Scientific Name: *Pseudois nayaur*

Collected from Dowhill Satellite Zoo

Date of Collection: 27th December 2018

Acc No. : BNHM/M/58

One Blue Sheep was acquired from Dowhill, it was then skinned. The skin was then soaked in chemical (solution of Carbohic acid, alum powder and salt) for a day so that it can be tanned for further mounting. The head of the animal was boiled in water so that all the flesh can be removed easily from the skull and it was kept dry for further mounting.



List of specimens skinned, mounted or preserved

Sl no.	Name	Accession no.
1	Reeves Pheasant <i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i> (Gray, 1829)	A/PH/145
2	Barbet <i>Megalaimidae</i>	A/CR/25
3	Blue Sheep <i>Pseudois nayaur</i>	BNHM/M/58

ENRICHMENT IN THIS QUARTER

The enrichment work taken up in this quarter include new wooden resting platform in the Royal Bengal Tiger enclosure, aerial walkway in the carnivore enclosures, new nesting boxes in the red panda enclosures and new feeding platforms in the herbivore enclosures..



Wooden platforms at the Royal Bengal Tiger Enclosure



Aerial Walkways in the Carnivore enclosures & new cubbing boxes in the red panda enclosure



Feeding platforms in herbivore enclosures

DEVELOPMENT WORK AT PNHZP IN THIS QUARTER

The developmental work taken up during this quarter include the construction of the back entrance to the conference hall at the new Bengal Natural History Museum (BNHM), construction of reinforced fall as a protection measure against landslides, insatllation of solar panels, construction of concrete stairs behind the barking deer enclosure leading up to the herbivore night shelters, placement of additional railing as protective barriers in the herbivore enclosures, replacement of the PVC sheets in the pheasantry with clear glass panels for improved viewing, placement of new informative and directional signages around the park and painting of directional arrows in the visitors path for the convinience of the visitors and ease of maintenance of visitor flow in the park. The old enclosures for Barking Deer and Himalayan Goral were modified for Mishmi Takins that are being brought to PNHZ Park from Berlin Tier Park Zoo, Germany.



Construction of back entrance at BNHM



Construction of reinforced wall



Installation of additional solar panels



Construction of concrete stairs behind the herbivore enclosures



Additional barriers in the herbivore enclosures



Installation of glass viewing panels in the pheasantry



Painting of the souvenir shops



New informative and directional signage



Directional signs on the zoo path for visitors



Remodelling of the herbivore enclosure for Mishmi Takin