



# PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK

## DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

### NEWS LETTER

#### October-December 2014

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## From the Director's Desk.....



*Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is excited with the progress that it has achieved this year towards becoming the country's leading zoo-based conservation organization. With the preparation of the First master Plan and the exciting vision that it holds it shall change the aspect of Zoo Management, with the primary objective now clearly focused on delivering conservation outcomes.*

*Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in 2015 intends to be a true leader, and an authority on captive animals, the major facilitator of wildlife knowledge that leads to conservation action, and a high profile model for conservation, environmental sustainability and corporate social involvement.*

*The final quarterly newsletter concludes with activities like participation in the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group meeting and Annual Workshop of World Association of Zoo's and Aquarium. During the WAZA the park got an opportunity to present its Conservation Breeding efforts for Red panda and Snow leopard in the world forum. Winning the Earth's Hero's Award for the best ex-situ conservation work has put the Park in its highest stature. During the year, the park made significant progress in upgrading the two Conservation Breeding Centers at Dow Hill and Topkedara including construction of an Amphibian and a Reptile House. Animal exchanges were regular throughout the year. A pair of Red pandas was transferred to Nainital Zoo, to initiate with the breeding of the species for conservation. Publications of scientific articles on diseases, behaviour, enrichment etc were frequent in popular journals like Zoos print and others.*

*I would like to acknowledge the commitment of the West Bengal Forest Department and Zoo Staffs, all of whom have been invaluable in bringing the Zoo to its new height.*

*I wish the Park the very best in its coming year.*

**Mr. A.K. Jha IFS,  
Director,  
PNHZ Park.**

## ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF ANIMALS

Following are the transfer and acquisition of animals during the quarter:

Date	Animal	Name of Zoo
25-11-2014	Red Panda ( <i>Ailurus fulgens</i> )	Transferred to Pandit Gobindh Panth High Altitude Zoo, Nainital.
26-11-2014	Cheer Pheasant ( <i>Catreus wallichii</i> )	Acquired from Pandit Gobindh Panth High Altitude Zoo, Nainital.



Fig. 1: Transfer of Red Panda



Fig. 2: Release of Red Panda at Nainital Zoo



Fig. 3: Cheer Pheasant



Fig. 4: Cheer Pheasant

## PUBLICATIONS

**Gupta, P., Rai, U., Jha, A.K. 2014.** Feeding enrichment and its effects on Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens fulgens*), Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*) and Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. Indian Zoo Year Book, Vol. VIII.

**Mitra, A. & Jha, A.K. 2014.** A short note on environmental enrichment and their effect on the behaviour of captive pheasants at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. Indian Zoo Year Book, Vol. VIII.

## OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The outreach programme of the Park involves students of all levels including trainees. The students are taken for a tour around the park and then interaction sessions are conducted. The session includes discussions on Role of modern Zoo, Conservation Breeding Programmes, how a zoo functions, what are rare and endangered species, environmental issues. What are the efforts taken up by the Park towards saving these species etc. The session also includes question and answer round where the queries of the students are attended to. At the end books related to animals, conservation breeding programmes, biodiversity of the Park and notebook are distributed to the students.

During this quarter the education wing of the Park attended 28 different institutes which are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Number of Teachers</b>	<b>Educational Incentives</b>
08/08/2014	Goethals Memorial, Kurseong	40	02	Visit to Zoo and interaction
06/09/2014	Child Development Centre, Darjeeling	20	08	Visit to Zoo and interaction
18/09/2014	A.P. Forest Academy, Dulapally, Hyderabad	45	02	Visit to Zoo, interaction and tea
19/09/2014	Kashimpur High School, Duttapukur (N) 24 Pgs	35	09	Visit to Zoo and interaction
20/09/2014	Dawhill Forest School, 103 <sup>rd</sup> Batch of DFr/Fr	38	03	Visit to Zoo, interaction and tea
22/09/2014	Central Academy for SFS, Dehradun	39	01	Visit to Zoo and interaction
18/10/2014	Shanti Memorial Academy, Bermick, West Sikkim	42	08	Visit to Zoo and interaction
05/11/2014	Sacret Heart School	32	02	Visit to Zoo and interaction
12/11/2014	Darjeeling Hope Special School	35	10	Visit to Zoo and interaction
14/11/2014	Toong Soong Primary School,	18	02	Visit to Zoo, lunch,

	Darjeeling			books and interaction
14/11/2014	Kanya Vaidic Pathshala, Darjeeling	05	02	Visit to Zoo, lunch, books and interaction
14/11/2014	Sarda Nepali Primary School, Darjeeling	08	01	Visit to Zoo, lunch, books and interaction
14/11/2014	Ram Krishna Junior Basic School. Darjeeling	12	06	Visit to Zoo, lunch, books and interaction
14/11/2014	Surottam Vedic Patshala, Darjeeling	12	04	Visit to Zoo, lunch, books and interaction
14/11/2014	Ganesh Junior Basic School, Darjeeling	22	04	Visit to Zoo, lunch, books and interaction
14/11/2014	Swami Vivekananda School	36	07	Visit to Zoo, lunch, books and interaction
14/11/2014	Toroyok Tribal Primary School	16	5	Visit to Zoo, lunch, books and interaction
14/11/2014	Forestry Traaining Centre, Rajabhatkhawa	40	1	Visit to Zoo, lunch, books and interaction
15/11/2014	Pabong Daring Secondary School, South Sikkim	38	19	Visit to Zoo, lunch, books and interaction
15/11/2014	Victoria Boy's School, Kurseong	27	02	Zoo Visit and interaction
18/11/2014	APFA, Dulapally	43	1	Zoo Visit, interaction and tea
21/11/2014	Notre Dame School, Kainjalia	59	6	Zoo Visit and interaction
26/11/2014	Kumudini Homes, Kalimpong	48	1	Zoo Visit and interaction
09/12/2014	Pokhriabong Girls H.S. School	24	4	Zoo Visit and interaction
10/12/2014	Singla Junior Basic School	32	6	Zoo Visit and interaction
15/12/2014	Bright Life Academy	40	10	Zoo Visit and interaction
19/12/2014	Nawa Bikash Gairigaon Coaching Centre	42	8	Zoo Visit and interaction
29/12/2014	Ram Krishna Mission	38	2	Zoo Visit and interaction



**Fig. 5: School Visit**



**Fig. 6: School Visit**

**VISITS OF DIGNITARIES TO DARJEELING ZOO AND THEIR VALUABLE  
COMMENTS:**

<b>Date of Visit</b>	<b>Name of the Visitor</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
06-10-2014	Justice Manjula Chellur	Hon'ble, Chief Justice, High Court of Calcutta	It is very experience to see rare animals in this park. The staff is very curious and good.
16-10-2014	Justice Pranab Kumar Chattopadhyay	Hon'ble Judge, High Court, Calcutta	Several time I had visited this zoo since my childhood with my family members. This time I had opportunity to stay here. Zoo is well maintained and animals are properly conserved. One can find many rare animals in this zoo. Staff are well behaved and very cordial and helpful. Sincere thanks to the Director who is very much sincere to maintain the standard of this zoo. Best wishes to everyone connected with the zoo.
08-11-2014	Mrs. Silva Alex Rubel	Zoo Zurich, Director, Switzerland	Thank you for your hospitality. We enjoyed seeing the flourishing breeding programme of endangered Himalayan species, the well kept animals. It is an inspiring place for conservation.
08-11-2014	Mr. Cesare Avesani Zaborra	Zoo Director, Parco Naturaviva, Verona, Italy	I am very much impressed for good quality of the collection and the people involve. I like sheep collection and Red Panda.
08-11-2014	Justice A.K. Roy	9/1B Sadananda Road, Kalighat, Kolkata 700026	I am quite delighted by this zoo. It is fascinating to see here even thje Royal Bengal Tiger and rare species are kept with great care. Mr Jha, Director of the Zoo accompanied me throughout and explained me in every simple way. I do appreciate his dedication in the maintenance of the zoo and above all his love for the animal.
10-11-2014	Mr. Bijoy Chatterjee	Former Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Chemical and	A very well maintained and expertly kept zoo. I was very happy to see that all the animals were very lively and enjoying good health even though they are in captivity. The credit must go to all the staff

		Fertilizer	and their team leader, the Director, who have been doing their job with great dedication.
14-11-2014	Mr. Satish Sharma	Colonel	The most educative zoo trip with two most interactive persons from Darjeeling Zoo.
14-11-2014	Mr. S.P. Malik	Colonel, Army Headquarter, New Delhi	Very well kept Himalayan Zoo. A rare zoo to visit.
14-11-2014	Mr. Murari Lai	16/8, Ramesh Najar, New Delhi-110015	It was a fantastic experience to visit the zoo and see the animals and birds in near natural environ.
22-12-2014	Mrs. Suchandra Kundu , Joydip Kundu	Society for Heritage and Ecological Researches (SHER) 7A, Khudiram Bose Road, Kolkata-700006	Excellent hospitality and a warm stay. The zoo is so well kept and should be replicated at all existing zoos all over.
28-12-2014	Mr. B.S. Bonal and Family	Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority.	Our visit to the Darjeeling Zoo was very educational and fun. We could see some animals like Blue Sheep, Thar, Snow Leopard which are not generally not seen anywhere else. Also loved the fact that that initiation for breeding of various animals are taken. The cleanliness in and around the zoo is highly is highly applaud able. Loved the whole experience. Thank you Alankar uncle ( Director), Upashana Ji, Bhupen Ji, Aditya Ji for making our visit to Darjeeling Zoo a memorable one. Plus the information provided is highly appreciated.  Thank you for making our visit memorable. Wish to visit here again and also welcome you to Delhi.  Suchitra Bonal.
<b>Dowhill</b>			
01.10.2014	Mr. G.Haldar	PS to MIC	Satellite Zoo of Darjeeling Zoo at Dow Hill is well maintained by the staff for Conservation Breeding centre. The atmosphere of the zoo is very good. Hope the zoo will increase its betterment for



			animals. Wishes and best of luck to the staff of this satellite zoo.
11.10.2014	Dr. A.K. Raha	Ex PCCF. WB and Advisor, Department	Visited this Conservation Breeding centre at Dow Hill. I fell really happy to see that this centre, originally started as breeding centre for exotic pheasants has engaged largely o develop into a very well managed conservation breeding centre for a number of exotic and endangered indigenous species. A wonderful work done by Mr. Alankar Jha, Director who has really developed into a Conservation Breeding specialist. Please keep it up.
11.12.2014	Mr. S.K. Md. Saidul Haque	BE (Col) ME Chief Engineer, WBZA, Kolkata	Inspected the instant conservation Breeding Centre at Dow Hill with Sudhir Kumar Gahatraj DR/FR along with support of staff. The unit is well maintained. Different works as executed under plan Budgetary head of A/C and under non plan Budgetary head of A/C, have been inspected. Quality of executed works is upto the marks. Additional fund support is likely to render Centre as an excellent centre after eliminating present shortcomings
22.12.2014	Mrs. Suchandra Kundu	Wildlife Warden, Kolkata	The ambience and management is praiseworthy. It is necessary to keep the centre out of bound for tourists and general public. Animals and birds should not be on public display



**Fig. 7: Visit of Shri B.S. Bonal, Member Secretary, CZA**



**Fig. 8: Visit of Shri B.S. Bonal, Member Secretary, CZA**



**Fig. 9: Visit of Shri B.S. Bonal, Member Secretary, CZA**

## WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PROGRAMME ATTENDED BY ZOO OFFICIAL AND STAFF

Name of the training	Name of the person	Place	Presented	Period
Annual meeting of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group	Shri A.K. Jha, IFS, Director Miss Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist, Shri Bhupen Roka, Education Officer	New Delhi, India		30th of October 2014 to 2nd of November 2014
69 <sup>th</sup> WAZA Annual Conference and Technical Congress	Shri A.K. Jha, IFS, Director Miss Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist, Shri Bhupen Roka, Education Officer	New Delhi, India	Conservation Breeding of Red Panda in Darjeeling Zoo- 1990 to 2013	2nd of November 2014 to 6th of November 2014
Workshop on Master Planning for Zoo Education	Shri Bhupen Roka, Education Officer	Dehradun, Uttarakhand		15th-18th of December 2014



**Fig. 10: WAZA & CBSG Meet 2014**



Fig. 11: Workshop on Master Planning for Zoo Education, Dehradun

## REPORT OF CBSG AND WAZA MEET 2014

Mr. Alankar Jha IFS, Director, Miss Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist and Mr. Bhupen Roka, Education Officer participated in the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG from 30<sup>th</sup> October- 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014 and the 69<sup>th</sup> WAZA Annual Conference and Technical Congress from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014) hosted by the Central Zoo Authority which was held at New Delhi, India. The theme of the CBSG meeting was *‘Application of the one plan approach in India and beyond’*. The one plan approach is to enhance global collaboration and communication in all aspects of species conservation planning and implementation, to accelerate the evolution of species conservation planning tools, and to contribute significantly to achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The key issues discussed by the working groups were- *IUCN Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP), Species Conservation Toolkit Initiatives (SCTI), IUCN Guidelines, India’s National Conservation Breeding Program and Dysfunctional Zoos*. The theme of the WAZA conference was *“Biodiversity is us”- reflecting the Decade on Biodiversity*. Mr. A.K. Jha IFS, Director gave a technical presentation on **“Conservation Breeding of Red Panda in Darjeeling Zoo- 1990 to 2013 on 04.11.2014**. During the Exhibition and poster session a poster on the “Breeding Biology of Snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*) was presented by Mr A.K. Jha IFS Director and Miss Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist.



Fig. 12: CBSG Meet 2014, New Delhi



Fig. 13: WAZA Meet, New Delhi 2014

## RBS EARTH HERO AWARD 2014

Earth Hero Award is award instituted by Royal Bank of Scotland in association with World Association of Zoos and Aquarium which ‘recognizes and honors individuals and institutions who work exceptionally hard to preserve and protect critical eco-systems.’ PNHZ Park is the first zoo in the country to receive the prestigious award. The jury panel comprising active wildlife enthusiasts, environmentalist and conservationists reviewed nomination received from across the country and declared the award for the park for its active role in conservation breeding programme of endangered Himalayan species and also for its efforts in educating, motivating and initiating awareness about the importance of conservation of Himalayan eco-system. The ceremony for the RBS Earth Heroes Awards 2014 was announced at awards function held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi on 4th November.



**Fig. 14: RBS Earth Hero Award 2014**



**Fig. 15: RBS Earth Hero Award 2014**

## CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Park celebrated Children's Day on 14th of November. 169 students and 32 teachers from different Primary School and Secondary School participated in the programmes. Zoo visit was organized for the students which were followed by talk from Zoo Biologist, Education Officer, Research Scholar and Animal Supervisor on Role of Zoo in Biodiversity Conservation, In-situ Conservation, In-situ ex-situ linkage etc. At the end zoo brochures, note book, zoo books and packet lunch were provided to the students and teachers.

## HEALTH CAMP FOR YEAR 2014

The annual Health camp for the year 2014 was held on 26th December 2014 at Park. The camp was conducted by prior order of the Director by Dr. Palman Das, Director, Planters Nursing Home and his entire team with assistance of the Veterinary Section of the PNHZ Park. All the staff of the park was present for the said medical camp and individual check up of the entire staff was done along with the distribution of the medicines as per the individual prescription. The staffs were also given anti rabies vaccination as per schedule by the veterinary section.



**Fig. 16: Health Camp 2014 at PNHZ Park**

## DISINFECTION OF THE PHEASANTRY AT DOW HILL

The Conservation Breeding Centre for pheasants and herbivores at Dow Hill, Kurseong, houses some of the endangered Himalayan pheasant species, such as Satyr Tragopan, Himalayan Monal, Cheer Pheasant and Temminck's Tragopan along with Red Jungle Fowl, Kaleej Pheasant and a few other exotic species. In order to achieve a success in the coming breeding season, it is necessary to keep the aviaries enriched as well as maintain a sterile environment for the birds and the chicks. Without a good hygienic environment, the birds will always face an uphill battle to survive and to breed. Soiled perches, faecal droppings and spilt food all need to be cleared regularly.

Dow Hill being at a greater altitude than Darjeeling Zoo, has lower levels of temperature but a high level of humidity. Thus there is an increased tendency of microbial diseases to occur in the animals. Recently officials at the Park made an effort to conduct a sanitation program at the pheasantry at Dow Hill. Tilling of the substrate soil of each of the aviaries was done manually, followed by spraying the ground, perches, shelters and nest baskets with a mixture of Potassium Permanganate and Kohrsolin. The chain links were sterilized with blow torches to kill microbes and other harmful organisms. The surroundings were made predator proof by sprinkling Carbolic Acid and Formalin. Birds are extremely sensitive to harmful substances in the air they breathe; therefore the aviaries were emptied out prior to the disinfection procedures. It is being anticipated that there will be an increased success in chick hatchability and survivability in the upcoming breeding season.



**Fig. 17: Tilling of the substrate soil**



**Fig. 18: Disinfection with Blow Torch**