

NEWSLETTER

PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

THIRD QUARTER | JULY-SEPTEMBER | 2023



EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, IFS

Director

Dr. Joy Dey

ADVO

Mr. Shiromani Syangden

Estate officer

Mr. Mahesh Gurung

Animal Supervisor

Miss. Pranita Gupta

Zoo biologist

Miss Ruma Mandal

Education Assistant

This Quarter issue:

- Natality
- Mortality
- Transfer of animals
- Adoption of animals
- Educational visit of school
- Celebration of Foundation Day
- Celebration of Independence Day
- Celebration of International Red Panda Day
- Enrichment in this quarter
- Development in this quarter
- Special achievement

NEWSLETTER 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...

PNHZ Park proudly announces the birth of 5 Red Panda cubs from the Red Pandas which were released in the wild with the purpose of augmenting the wild panda population. With this news we gladly present the third quarterly newsletter of the year 2023. This quarter the park celebrated Van Mahotsava, Foundation day & Independence Day. The International Red Panda day was celebrated by organising a 'Red Panda Ranger Program' where students of local schools participated, also a team conducted an outreach program involving the B.Sc students at the zoology department of Darjeeling govt. College. More than 200 students/trainees/ probationary officers visited the park in this quarter for educational purpose. This quarter the park celebrated "Swachhata hi seva campaign" to honour Prime Minister's Swach Bharat Abhiyan. Developmental works include painting of chairs, construction of orchid wall, tiles for visitor pathway, flag hoisting area etc.

I hope to share more with you in the next quarter.

**Director
PNHZ Park
Darjeeling**

NATALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	Ratio
1.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	07.07.2023	0:0:1
2.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	10.09.2023	0:1:0
3.	Cockatiel (<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>)		0:0:3

MORTALITY

Sl. No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	Ratio
1.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	09.07.2023	1:0:0
2.	Barking Deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>)	11.07.2023	0:1:0
3.	Barking Deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>)	06.08.2023	1:0:0
4.	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	14.08.2023	0:1:0
5.	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	17.08.2023	1:0:0
6.	Golden Pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	17.08.2023	0:1:0
7.	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	02.09.2023	0:1:0

Adoption of animals in this quarter

This quarter the park has six adopters. The details of the adopters are listed below:

Sl. No	Name of the Adopter	Name of the animal Adopted	Period of Adoption
1.	Mr. Sandipan Sarkar	Rose-ringed Parakeet	10.07.2023 to 09.07.2024
2.	Mr. Manish Agarwal	Roseate Cockatoo	01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024
3.	Miss. Olly poranonda Banerjee	Red Panda	25.07.2023 to 24.07.2024
4.	Mr. Pradeep V. Hegde	Red Panda	11.08.2023 to 10.10.2023
5.	Miss. Neelanjana Rai	Himalayan Newt	01.09.2023 to 31.08.2024
6.	Mr. Arafat SK	Cockatiel	04.09.2023 to 03.09.2024

Educational visit

Sl. No	Date	Name of the School/ Training Institute/ College	Number of Students/ Trainees	Number of faculty	Educational Incentives
1.	27.07.2023	WWF- India, Field Office	50	1	-
2.	13.09.2023	New Light Academy, Darjeeling	95	25	-
3.	14.09.2023	Odisha Forests Ranger's college, Angul	31	2	Zoo Pamphlets & educational materials
4.	16.09.2023	West Point School, Darjeeling	80	6	-
5.	23.09.2023	Telangana State Forest Academy, Hyderabad	49	2	Zoo Pamphlets & educational materials
6.	24.09.2023	Laxmipur Milar Vidyamandir High School	36	26	-
7.	29.09.2023	Brajaballavpur Brajamohan Tiary Sikshaniketan	110	10	-
8.	30.09.2023	CASFOS, Dehradun	70	1	Zoo Pamphlets & educational materials



Visit of Odisha Forest Ranger's college



Visit of Telengana State Forest Academy



Visit of CASFOS, Deradun

Celebration of Van Mahotsava

‘Van Mahotsava’ is an annual tree planting festival celebrated in the month of July. During this festival crores of trees are planted all over India. The beautiful tradition of Van Mahotsav was started in 1950 by Shri. K. M. Munshi, the union minister for Agriculture and Food with an objective to create mass awareness regarding planting of trees and conservation of forests. ‘Van Mahotsav’ is celebrated by planting trees or saplings in homes, offices, schools, colleges, etc.

This year in West Bengal the Van Mahotsav week celebrated from 14th July to 20th July. The Park celebrated the first day of Van Mahotsav by planting several indigenous plants and inaugurated the Orchid Wall with the plantation of 30 indigenous species of Orchids for educational purposes for the visitors.



Foundation Day Celebration

The Park celebrated its 66th Foundation Day on 14.08.2023. All staff of the Park gathered Infront of Asiatic Black Bear Enclosure at 8:00 am for the flag hoisting followed by singing of the zoo anthem by the staff. The Assistant Director cum Veterinary officer and Assistant Curator cum Estate officer addressed the staff of the Park. The celebration ended with distribution of sweets to the staff.



Independence Day Celebration

The Park celebrated India's 77th Independence Day on 15.08.2023. All staff of the Park gathered in front of Asiatic Black Bear Enclosure at 8:30 am for the flag hoisting. The Assistant Director cum Veterinary officer and Assistant Curator cum Estate officer addressed the staff of the Park. The celebration ended with distribution of sweets to the staff.



Celebration of International Red Panda Day

Red Pandas are endangered species native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China. They are legally protected in countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China. In the last 20-odd years, the global population of red pandas has declined by roughly 50 percent. To raise awareness regarding the conservation of these elusive species, every third Saturday of September is celebrated as International Red Panda Day. This year, the day falls on September 16th.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, internationally renowned for the conservation of this elusive species celebrates International Red Panda Day every year to raise awareness among the students and the public. On this occasion this year the park decided to conduct a “Red Panda Ranger Program” for the students of different local schools. Students from 6 different local schools in Darjeeling participated in the program.

Sl. No	Name of the School	No of Participants	STD
1.	Nepali Girl’s Higher Secondary School	5	VIII & IX
2.	Gyanoday Niketan	5	VIII & IX
3.	The Assembly of God Church School	5	VIII & IX
4.	St. Teresa School	5	VIII & IX
5.	West Point School	5	VIII & IX
6.	St. Michaels School	5	VIII & IX

The schedule for the Red Panda Ranger Program is below:

10:30am: Registration of students and faculty at conference hall of PNHZP.

10:40am: Presentation on Conservation Breeding of Red Panda at PNHZP and distribution of lapel pins and Pocket Diaries.

11:00am: Interaction with the Red Panda Zoo keeper and learning the management system of Red Pandas (enclosure management, feeding etc) in the zoo and the tour of the zoo.

12:30pm: Interaction with the Director and a short quiz on Red Pandas.

01:00pm: Refreshments and dispersal.

The program ended with an awareness program which was held for the B.Sc. Zoology students of Darjeeling Govt. College (DGC). A team from Research & Education section visited the Zoology Department of DGC and gave a presentation on the status, threats, conservation measures for Red Panda followed up by a small educational video.



Enrichment in this quarter



Addition of swing and hanging rope in Langur enclosure



Addition of platforms in Snow Leopard enclosure



Addition of scratching post and platforms in Leopard Cat & jungle Cat enclosure

Development in this quarter



Painting of chairs for tourists



Tiles for visitor's pathway



Construction of Orchid wall



Wall below main gate



Construction of flag hoisting area

Special Achievement of Zoo



The three released Red Pandas, Numa, Teesta and Neera have given birth to total 5 cubs after mating with wild Red Pandas. This is a great success for the Parks Red Panda augmentation program.