



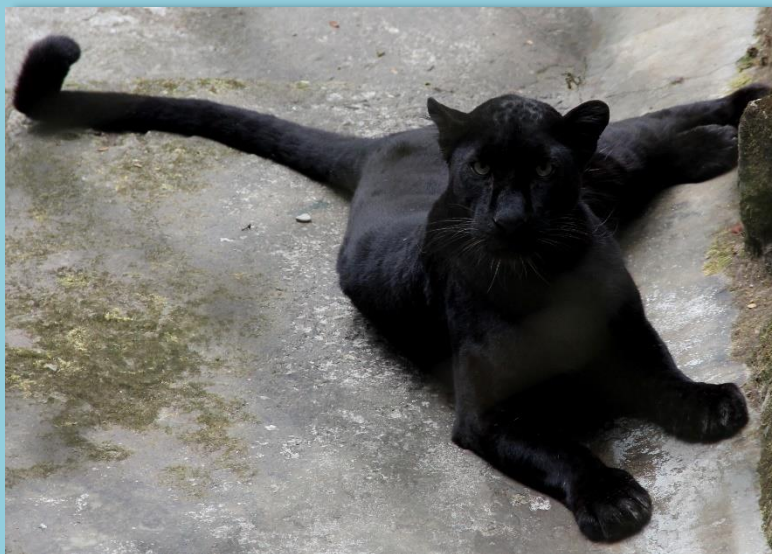
**PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL**

NEWS LETTER

April- June 2017

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From the Directors Desk...

The Park was delighted to receive The Honble' State Tourism Minister, Shri Gautam Deb on 24.04.2017. Sir Deb visited the Bengal Natural History Museum and the display area of the Park.

The Park in this quarter celebrated International Biodiversity Day on 22nd May 2017 and World Environment Day on 5th June 2017. Extempore competition and painting competitions were organized with various topics given to the students to present their view on the theme “*Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism*” and “*Connecting People to Nature*”. The Park during such occasions takes an opportunity to convey the message about environmental awareness and the efforts done by the park towards conservation.

In this quarter the Park witnessed the birth of some important high altitude species like the Himalayan Tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*), Himalayan Goral (*Nemorhaedus goral*) and Markhor (*Capra falconeri*). Enrichment works were done in various animal enclosures aiming towards their welfare. A rescued Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*) have been treated and quarantined and have now adjusted in captivity. The visitors have shown an interest in watching this individual in its enclosure.

Various educational institutions, research and training institutes throughout this quarter requested for an educational tour for their students and trainees. The park's Research & Education section caters to their requests with well laid out programme for the day. This has helped the Park towards disseminating knowledge not only on the Himalayan fauna but also on the biodiversity of the eastern Himalayan region.

The Park also equally laid emphasis towards the beautification and maintenance of the Park.

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

**Director
PNHZ Park
Darjeeling**

BIRTH OF ANIMAL

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No of faun
1.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Naemorhedus goral</i>)	24.04.2017	1:0:0
2.	Himlayan Tahr (<i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>)	28.04.2017	0:1:0
3.	Himalayan Tahr(<i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>)	03.05.2017	1:0:0
4.	Markhor(<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	26.04.2017	0:1:0
5.	Markhor(<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	05.05.2017	1:0:0

RESCUE OF ANIMALS

Date	Animal	Number of Animals	Acquired from
26.05.2017	Indian Rock Python (<i>Python molurus</i>)	1	Singla T.Estate, Darjeeling

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 refreshments.

During this quarter the education wing of the Park attended to 570 students and 75 faculties from 14 institutes.

Date	Name of school/ Training institute/ Colleges/ Universities	Number of students/ trainees	Number of teachers/ instructors	Education incentives
07.04.2017	Faculty of Agricultural, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	50	04	Education Materials, Packet lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
08.04.2017	College of horticulture, Kerala Agricultural University	58	04	Education material, Packet Lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
15.04.2017	Grace Academy English School, Garidhura	52	12	Education material, Packet lunch, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
19.04.2017	St. Michaels Higher Secondary School	94	06	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
25.04.2017	DF/Fr Training, Rajabhatkhawa	24	01	Education material, Packet lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
05.05.2017	A.G. School	41	02	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
06.05.2017	Rotary Club (Dr. Grahams's Homes, St Augustine School, Vrindavan School)	37	03	Education material, Packet lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.

07.05.2017	Karnataka Forest Academy	46	04	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
10.05.2017	Sant Nirankari Mission	31	15	Education material, Packet lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
12.05.2017	Good Start Montessori School	36	05	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
20.05.2017	Darjeeling Montessori High School	92	13	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction
26.05.2017	Kalijhora Primary School	09	06	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction



Educational tour of students of College of horticulture, Kerala

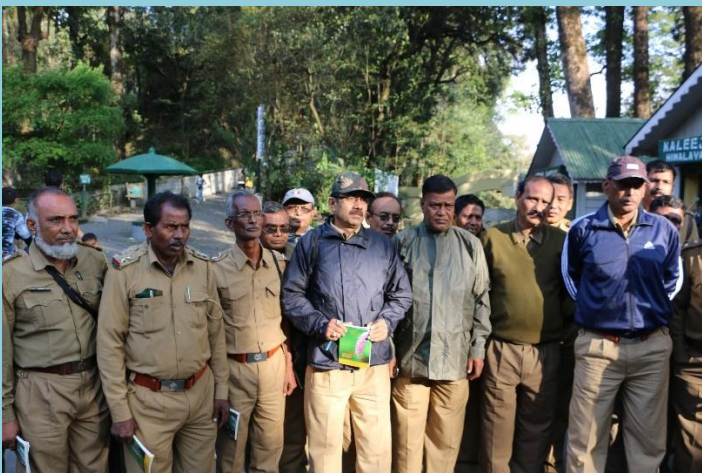


Educational Tour of students of Grace Academy English School





Educational tour of students of St. Michaels Higher secondary School.



DF/Fr Training, Rajabhatkhawa



Educational tour of students of Assembly of God Church School



Educational tour of Good Start Montessori School.



Educational tour of Students from the Rotary Club, Darjeeling



Karnataka Forest Academy



Educational tour of students of students of Sant Nirankari Mission

DIGNITARIES TO DARJEELING ZOO AND THEIR VALUABLE COMMENTS

Date of Visit	Name of Visitor	Designation	Remarks
20.04.2017	Shri Gautam Deb	Minister of Tourism Department of West Bengal	



Shri Gautam Deb, Minister of Tourism of West Bengal at BNHM

INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY, 2017 CELEBRATION

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park organized International Day for Biodiversity on 22nd of May 2017. The theme for this year's Biodiversity day was "*Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism*". The chief guest of the event was Shri V.K Yadav, IFS, Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority.

An extempore competition involving the students of different schools of Darjeeling was organized at the Bengal Natural History Museum auditorium by the zoo. Two students from either or class IX and X from twenty different schools were invited to participate in the competition. The program saw the participation of twenty students from ten different local schools. The participant school list is as follows.

S.No	Name of School	No of Participants
1.	St. Teresa's Higher Secondary School	2
2.	Municipal Boys Higher Secondary School	2
3.	R.K.S.P	2
4.	Nepali Girls Higher Secondary School	2
5.	Assembly of God Church School	2
6.	North Point School	2
7.	St. Pauls School	2
8.	West Point School	2
9.	Gyanoday Niketan	2
10.	Notre Dame Academy	2

The extempore completion was judged by Dr Uttam Mani Pradhan, Veterinary Officer, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and Mr Saibal Sengupta, Assistant Teacher, St Roberts Higher Secondary School, Darjeeling.

The event commenced at 10 am with the registration of the participant students and teachers, followed by hi-tea and the extempore competition followed by the screening of a wild life movie along with the distribution of packet lunch to all the students and teachers. The programme ended with the announcement of the winners of the competition and prize distribution.

WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY 2017 PROGRAMME

10:00 am: Students and teachers assemble in the hall

10:00 am- 10:30 am: Registration

10:30 am- 10:40 am: Welcome speech by Miss Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist

10:40 am- 11:00 am: Address by Director, PNHZP and Chief Guest

11:00 am- 11:30 am: Hi- tea

11:30 am- 1:00 pm: Extempore competition

1:00 pm- 2:00 pm: lunch and Wildlife movie

2:00 pm- 2:30 pm: Remarks of the Judges

2:30 pm- 3:00 pm: Prize Distribution and Vote of Thanks.

For the extempore competition, the students were given topics relevant to the theme for this year's International Biodiversity day. The students were made to pick up a piece of paper with the topic using a lucky draw system. The students were given 20 minutes to prepare their topics and each student was given a maximum time of 10 minutes each to speak on their respective topics.

S. No	Topics
1.	Positive contribution of tourism to biodiversity awareness
2.	The human side of biodiversity and sustainable tourism
3.	Impact of tourism on biodiversity
4.	Principles of sustainable tourism
5.	Safe and sustainable food and its value
6.	Can biodiversity conservation action benefit the poor?
7.	Sustainable tourism in protected areas
8.	Role of stake holders towards sustainable tourism
9.	Tourism and Biodiversity achieving common goals towards sustainability
10.	Role of NGOs in Sustainable Tourism
11.	Linking tourism and biodiversity conservation
12.	Role of social media in biodiversity
13.	Is tourism significant in biodiversity hotspot countries?
14.	Tourism driven impact in natural world heritage
15.	Recommendations for local residents in tourism destinations
16.	Guidelines for tourism in park and protected areas.
17.	Take only photographs leave only footprints.
18.	Renewable energy in the tourism industry.
19.	Sustainable tourism in the Himalayan region.
20.	Role of local communities in maintaining biodiversity

The students were judged based on relevance to the topic, presentation of ideas, language, confidence and fluency. The winners list and their topics are as follows.

Winner	Name	School	Topic
1 st	Mr Mahin. E. Alam	North Point School	Principles of sustainable tourism
2 nd	Mr Sahil Roka	Ram Krishna Siksha Parishad	Role of NGOs in Sustainable Tourism
3 rd	Miss Sitoshna Chettri	Gyanoday Niketan	The human side of biodiversity and sustainable tourism

The 1st prize winner was given a cash prize of Rs 3000 along with a certificate, book and a trophy. The 2nd prize winner was given a cash prize of Rs 2000 along with a certificate and a trophy. The 3rd prize winner was given Rs 1000 along with a certificate. All the participants were given certificates and education materials from the zoo along with packet lunches and caps. The teachers and the judges too received mementos from the park.

The main purpose of organizing an extempore competition for senior students of various local schools was to open a dialogue in between students and also between students and authorities that contribute towards conservation efforts and to understand the students perception and knowledge about our biodiversity, the problems plaguing it along with ways to counter the loss of biodiversity through individual and collective efforts.







WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, 2017 CELEBRATION

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June 2017. This year's theme was “*Connecting People to Nature*”. The park organized a sit and draw competition to celebrate the event and to educate students about environmental issues and the importance of working towards conservation. The invitation to participate in the event was sent out to 20 schools who were requested to send two students each from either or class IV and V along with a teaching staff. A total of 11 schools accepted the invitation to compete in the event. 22 Students and 10 teachers of different schools of Darjeeling participated in the programme.

S.No	Name of School	Number of Participants
1.	St. Michaels Higher Secondary School	2
2.	St. Robert's Higher Secondary School	2
3.	Bloom Field High School	2
4.	Ram Krishna Siksha Parishad	2
5.	Sardeshwari Higher Secondary School	2
6.	Goodstart Montessori School	2
7.	Bethany School	2
8.	North Point School	2
9.	Birch Hill School	2
10.	West Point School	2
11.	Notre Dame Academy	2

The programme for the day included an educational tour of the park by Miss Pranita Gupta, Education Assistant, Miss Rohini Chettri, Research Assistant and Mr Sairus Bhaktaraj, Taxidermist where the students were not only given information about the zoo and the captive animals but were also educated about the various conservation efforts of the zoo and also their roles in preserving our environment. The programme list is as follows:

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY 2017 PROGRAMME

10:00 am: Students and teachers assemble in the hall

10:00 am- 10:15 am: Registration

10:15 am- 10:30 am: Welcome address

10:30- 11:00 am: Hi- tea

11:00 am- 12:00 am: Educational tour of the Park

12:00 pm- 12:15 pm: Juice break

12:15 pm- 1:15 pm: Drawing/ Painting competition

1:15 pm- 2:00 pm: Lunch and Wildlife movie

2:00 pm- 2:30 pm: Prize Distribution and Remarks of the Judges

The theme for the sit and draw competition was “Connecting people with nature” and was judged by Dr Uttam Mani Pradhan, Veterinary officer, PNHZP and Miss Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist, PNHZP. The participants were judged on the basis of relevance to the topic, their ideas and their ability to portray their ideas.

The winners list is as follows:

Prize	Name of Student	School
1 st	Master Avinave Shankar	Bethany School
2 nd	Master Saif Ali	Ram Krishna Siksha Parishad
3 rd	Miss Ridhima Rai	West Point School

The 1st, 2nd and the 3rd prize winners were given a cash prize of Rs 1000, Rs 800 and Rs 500 respectively along with a certificate, trophy and a book. All the participants were also given certificates, educational materials and caps. The teachers were also given mementos. All the attendees of the program were also given packet lunches and refreshments.

The main aim of organizing such a programme was to get children from primary division of local schools involved and educated regarding environmental issues and conservation measures and also to grasp their understanding on the particular subject and to broaden their knowledge.







SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

An adult male Common leopard with the house name, Monu, frequently observed having an injury on its left forelimb, was treated successfully at the park. The animal was treated during the month of November and December with antibiotics and regular dressing. On 11th January, the common leopard was physically restrained and thorough checking of the wound was done. The animal has healed and is shows no limping.

ANIMAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

An animal exchange program between the National Zoological Park, Delhi and Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park took place under the order of the Central Zoo Authority. Lady Ahmerst (0:1) and Barking deer (1:0) from Darjeeling zoo was taken by Mr Pradeep Singh, Veterinary compounder, Mr Deepak Roka, Assistant Animal Supervisor and Mr Ruden Lepcha , Zoo keeper on 21.02.2017 and Himalayan Goral (1:2), Barking deer (2:0), Kaleej pheasant (0:2) and Red Jungle Fowl (2:3) was brought in exchange on 01.03.2017. The purpose of animal exchange is to increase the animal collection and to diversify the gene pool of the concerned animals.

STAFF RETIREMENT AT PNHZP

On 31st March 2017, Mr Sang Dorjey Tamang, Head Clerk retired after 34 years of service. Mr Tamang joined the park on 1st February 1983. A farewell function was organised by the staff of Darjeeling zoo on 30th March 2017 to bid farewell and to honour Mr Tamang for his invaluable service to the park. The farewell function was attended by all members of the staff including the Director, Mr Piar Chand, IFS who along with other officials thanked Mr Tamang 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.



WORK DONE AT TAXIDERMY UNIT, BNHM

The taxidermy unit at Bengal Natural History museum under PNHZ Park has undertaken the work of preserving all the existing specimen at BNHM as well as new specimens that are brought to the museum. The Taxidermy work is done by Mr. Sairus Bhaktaraj under the supervision of Mr Arun Gupta, Former Scientist and Mr. Shivbachan Ram, Former taxidermist of the Indian museum. The work includes labelling specimens, preserving specimens by using chemicals, cleaning and maintenance of pre-existing specimens on display, skinning and mounting of new dead specimens collected from Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and surrounding areas. This quarter skinning of 2 birds, 1 pheasant and 1 mammal has been done.

List of Birds skinned:

S. No	Bird
1.	Munia (<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>)
2.	Parakeet

List of Mammals skinned:

S. No	Mammal
1.	Reeves Pheasant <i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i> (Gary, 1829)

List of Mammals skinned:

S. No	Mammal
1.	Large Indian Civet (<i>Viverra zibetha</i> Linnaeus, 1758)

Skinning of the specimen was done and preserved the same by using alum powder and carbolic acid for further stuffing and mounting.



NEW DEVELOPMENTAL WORK IN THIS QUARTER

The new developmental work taken up in this quarter were the installment of solar panels within the park, completion of the truss at BNHM, repairing and painting of the guard room, display of new animal and informational signage, painting of bumpers within the zoo, painting of the Monal and Kaleej Shoppe, construction of drains in the pheasantry in the display area and repair of steps in the visitors pathway.



Instalment of solar panels



Completion of Truss at BNHM

Construction of drains at the pheasantry



Repair and Painting of the Guard house



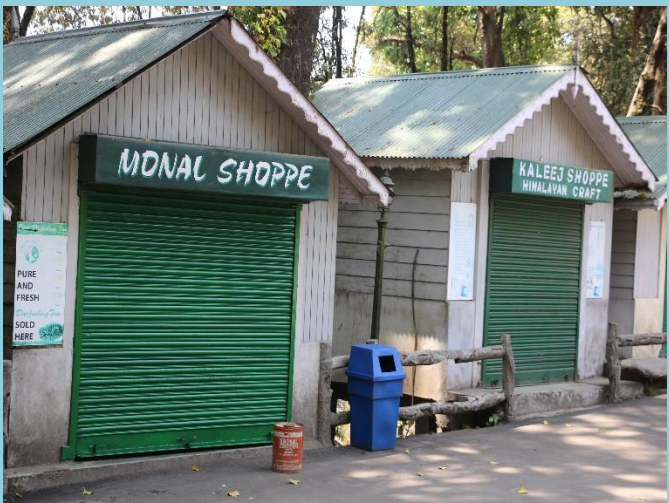
Display of new informative and directional signage



Painting of Bumpers



Repair of steps in the visitors pathway



Painting of the Monal and Kaleej Shoppe