



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

**January- March 2017**

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## *From the Directors Desk...*

Greetings to you all from the PNHZ Park family. I am very happy to be presenting before you the first quarter of 2017 newsletter. The year started with a happy note by welcoming the arrival of new born of some mammals and pheasants. The Park also sent some of its animals to Delhi Zoo and received a few species in return.

A Zoo keepers training programme was organized by the Park from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Participants from various zoos and rescue centers under West Bengal Zoo Authority participated in the training programme. The training majorly focused on training the Zookeepers various aspects of ex-situ husbandry practices and record keeping.

In spite of the cold winter months students and trainees thronged the zoo with an aim to learn about wildlife and conservation. A total of 652 students and trainees including 59 teachers/instructors were engaged with different conservation education activities followed with several lectures and visit about the Park, its objectives and its activities.

The developmental works in this quarter including beautification of the Park – carpeting of the visitors pathway, completion of the Veterinary hospital, painting of the BNHM museum etc. The newly established taxidermy unit have initiated the work of animal stuffing, preparing of head mounts, skin etc. for the exhibit purpose.

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 Chicks /Cub
1	Common Grey Langur ( <i>Semnopithecus entellus</i> )	04.01.17	1:0:0
2	Common Grey Langur ( <i>Semnopithecus entellus</i> )	08.01.17	1:0:0
3	Himalayan Goral ( <i>Naemorhedus goral</i> )	17.03.17	0:1:0
4	Red Jungle Fowl ( <i>Gallus gallus</i> ) Leg band no: 269 Enclosure no: 14	22.03.17	0:0:2

## DEATH OF ANIMAL

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No of Chicks /Cub
1	Temminck's Tragopan ( <i>Tragopan temminckii</i> )	12.01.17	1:0
2	Reeves's Pheasant ( <i>Syrnaticus reevesii</i> )	11.02.17	1:0

## ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF ANIMALS

Date	Animal	Number of Animals	Acquired from
01.03.17	Himalayan Goral ( <i>Naemorhedus goral</i> )	1:2	National Zoological Park, Delhi
01.03.17	Barking Deer ( <i>Muntiacus muntjak</i> )	2:0	National Zoological Park, Delhi
01.03.17	Kaleej Pheasant ( <i>Lophura leucomelanos</i> )	0:2	National Zoological Park, Delhi
01.03.17	Red Jungle Fowl ( <i>Gallus gallus</i> )	2:3	National Zoological Park, Delhi

Date	Animal	Number of Animals	Transferred to
21.02.17	Lady Amherst ( <i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i> )	0:1	National Zoological Park, Delhi
21.02.17	Barking Deer ( <i>Muntiacus muntjak</i> )	1:0	National Zoological Park, Delhi

## 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 652 students and 59 faculties from 10 institutes.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of school/ Training institute/ Colleges/ Universities</b>	<b>Number of students/ trainees</b>	<b>Number of teachers/ instructors</b>	<b>Education incentives</b>
18.01.2017	St. Joseph Winter School for Under privileged children	160	13	Education Materials, Packet lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
18.01.2017	Jubliant Elite Academy, Ilam, Nepal	30	06	Education material, Packet Lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
20.01.2017	St. Joseph Winter School for Under privileged children	160	13	Education material, Packet lunch, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
20.01.2017	Wildlife management tour of officer trainees of XXXII Certificate course. Wildlife Institute of India.	15	02	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
08.02.2017	EWSCT, Darjeeling	50	06	Education material, Packet lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
13.02.2017	Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun	34	01	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
13.03.2017	Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore	38	01	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
21.03.2017	St. Thomas High School, Odisha	72	07	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
28.03.2017	Dr. Grahams Homes, Kalimpong	23	03	Education material, Packet lunch. Visit to Zoo and Interaction.
31.03.2017	St. Mary's Girl High School, Odisha	70	07	Education material, Visit to Zoo and Interaction.



**Educational Tour of students of St. Josephs Winter School for Under Privileged Children**



Educational tour of Jubliant Elite Academy, Ilam, Nepal



Wildlife management tour of officer trainees of XXXII Certificate course. Wildlife Institute of India.



Educational Tour of EWSCT, Darjeeling



**Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun**



**Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore**

**VISIT OF DIGNITARIES TO DARJEELING ZOO AND THEIR VALUABLE COMMENTS**

<b>Date of Visit</b>	<b>Name of Visitor</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
20.03.2017	Shri Gautam Deb	Minister of Tourism Department of West Bengal	



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

## ZOO KEEPEERS TRAINING PROGRAMME, 2017

The Zoo Keepers Training Workshop was held from on 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling. The said Training Workshop was approved in the 14<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 as Agenda No. 11.

The training workshop was attended by twenty six Zoo Keepers from various zoos, rescue centers and parks.

No.	Name of the Zoo	No. of Candidate
1	Zoological Garden Alipore, Kolkata	3
2	Sundarban Wild Animal Park	3
3	Bardhaman Zoological Park, burdwan	3
4	Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling	3
5	South Khairbari Rescue Center, Alipurdura	2
6	Adina Deer Park	3
7	Garchmuk deer Park	2
8	Junglemahal Zoological Park, Jhargram	2
9	North Bengal Wild Animal Park	2
10	Rasikbeel Mini Zoo	1
11	Surulia Mini Zoo	2
	TOTAL	26

The Training programme was initiated at 9:00 a.m. with registration for the participants for the workshop. At 10:00 a.m. the inaugural session conducted by Ms. Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist of the Park began by welcoming all the participants of various zoos, deer parks and rescue centers by offering khadas. The Director in his welcome address once again warmly welcomed everyone and highlighted the importance and the need of such a training programme. The director's address was followed by a word or two from the senior officers of the Park regarding the training programme. The participants were then asked to introduce themselves. After the inaugural function everyone gathered for a photo session followed by tea.

The plenary session began at 12:00 noon with a presentation by Ms Upashana Rai, Zoo Biologist, PNHZP titled ***“Introduction to Zoo's in India; History of Zoo's, Zoo's in India, Categories of Zoo's, Role in Conservation”*** which gave an overview of Number of Zoos in India, categorization of zoos, the role of Central Zoo Authority and the state zoos authorities in guiding different zoos in ex-situ management of captive animals and the importance of zoos as ex-situ centers for Conservation Breeding Programme. The participants were then taken for a visit to the display area of the Park and the old Conservation Breeding center. The participants were shown various species of high altitude animals and were made aware as to how a collection plan of a zoo should be planned. The other important facilities like signage's (animal and directional) drinking water, resting areas, toilets, guides etc. were also made aware to the participants. In the breeding center the participants were given information about the oldest Conservation Breeding Centre of Snow leopard. The participants were taken around the Centre and all the existing facilities were shown to them including the housed individuals of snow leopard and red panda. The participants were given a brief lecture as to how the breeding programme of snow leopard was initiated and how this park has been successful in breeding snow leopards since 1986. The two adjacent open enclosures of the Red Panda were also shown to the participants. The day ended with a discussion with the participants regarding the day's event.

The second day started at 9:30 a.m. with the presentation by the Director on ***“Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and its Conservation Breeding Programme”***. The Director in his lecture highlighted the details of the Park – establishment, infrastructures its objectives and vision, animal collection plan, facilities in the Park and the two important Conservation breeding programmes. The director's lecture was followed up by a presentation by Dr. Joy Krishna Dey, Scientific Officer, West Bengal Zoo Authority. Dr. Dey highlighted the basic of Zoo keeping, their basic daily duties and more importantly how zoo keepers should maintain records of the animals that they are working for, in his presentation ***“Role of Zoo Keeper in Record Keeping”***. The two morning lectures was followed by a tea break after which everyone was taken to the field once again by Mr. Purna Ghising, Animal Supervisor, for a ***“Talk on the duties of the Keeper, seasonal responsibilities, how things are managed and coordinated and whom does the keeper approach etc or report”***. The keepers were also shown different types of animal feed in the store that are provided to the animals at the Park, how the animals are fed, feed quantity, hygiene etc. The participants were also exposed to the different aviaries and were shown how they have been made predator proof, the chick rearing house, the different substrate materials that is

required, their feeding, various enrichments etc. Mr. Ghising in his lecture also made the participants aware about their day to day duties in the Park- what they should do during their duties in the morning, the entire day and before they leave their duty. At 12:00 noon the participants were back in the lecture room where a presentation on “*Environmental Enrichment and Enrichment technique for Captive Breeding*” by Ms Upahna Rai. The lecture mainly focused on what is enrichment, why is it necessary for captive animals, types of enrichments, different types of enrichment for various animal species, its pitfalls etc. During the lecture Ms. Rai also mentioned that enrichments that are cost effective and can be done in any ex-situ facilities. She further mentioned that the Zoo keepers can design enrichments on their own keeping in account the species specificity. Dr. Dey after the presentation further added about enrichment and its significance. The lecture was followed by a lunch break till 2:00 p.m. After lunch everyone gathered once again and the day ended with another presentation on “**Disaster Management in Zoos**” by Ms Rai where various kinds of Disasters that can occur in zoos like – fire outbreaks, civil disturbance, escape of animals, erratic behavior by visitors etc and role of a zoo keeper to avoid and control the situations if it ever occurs, was highlighted. The lecture session was followed up by a practical demonstration by Mr. Vikash Chettri, laboratory technician, on artificial incubation. The Participants were shown various incubator models in the veterinary hospital, incubation methods were demonstrated including artificial incubation of eggs and the rearing of chicks hatched by this method.

On the third day of training, the trainees were taken for a visit to the two Conservation Breeding Centers at Topkedara, 3<sup>rd</sup> mile and Dow Hill, Kurseong. At the facilities, the trainees were given a lecture on **why a conservation breeding center is required, what are the aspects that needs to be considered while developing a breeding center and the modern facilities to be made available for better captive management of the species concerned**. In the pheasant and herbivore breeding center, a practical demonstration was given on **herbivore and pheasant capture, proper handling of pheasant, ringing and ways to assess the status of pheasant. The seven and the two unit aviaries, egg incubation, chick rearing and medical treatment centre attached to these aviaries were shown to the trainees and the significance of having such a compact facilities was also explained.**

The fourth day began with the participants going out for a local tour to Tiger Hill and Batasia loop. The session began at 11:45 a.m. with a lecture by Mr Sujoy Kumar Dutta, Assistant Veterinary officer, North Bengal Wild Life Animal Park, Siliguri on “*Handling of Diseased Animals and Responsibility of Zoo Keepers*”. Mr. Sujoy gave an overview on the different kinds of diseases that commonly occur in different wild animals. In this context he said that the zookeepers should maintain personal hygiene while interacting with animals directly or indirectly to prevent the occurrence of zoonotic diseases. He further elaborated that annual health camps should be held in every ex-situ facilities. He also highlighted the importance of basic precautionary measures like-wearing gloves and mask while removing feces from the enclosures, having a separate uniform and boots while working inside any animal enclosures and aviaries and reporting any kind of changes seen in case of animals. After lunch, Mr. Pradeep Singh, Veterinary Compounder of the Park in his deliberation on “**Practical observation of restraint of any one animal species, care and precaution**” exhibited various equipment required for the chemical restraint of animals. The chemical restraint as shown to the participants required CO<sup>2</sup> gun, blow pipe, darts, drugs etc. He taught the participants about how the doses are prepared depending on the body weight of the animals and how to achieve accuracy while darting animals. After the demonstration, Mr. Aditya Mitra, Zoo Biologist of North Bengal Wild Life Animal Park, Siliguri, gave a lecture on “**General Biology care and Management for Pheasants and Carnivores in Captivity**”. The lecture highlighted all the ex-situ husbandry practices that should be adopted for the pheasants and carnivores in captivity for their well-being.

On the final day Ms. Pranita Gupta, Education Assistant, PNHZ Park delivered a lecture on” **Feeding of Animals in Captivity and Feeding Enrichments for Captive Animals**” which highlighted the importance of food and water and zoo nutrition for captive animals, guidelines for feeding captive animals, feeding chart, food preparation, handling including maintenance of hygiene and several methods for feeding enrichment of captive animals. The final lecture of the training session was delivered by Ms Upashna Rai Zoo Biologist on “**Record Keeping of animals in Captivity**”. The lecture deliberated on the importance of record keeping by zoo keepers, what data should be recorded, software used for record keeping, and format for maintaining individual records. This was followed by a feedback session between the zoo staff including the zoo Director and the participants. The interaction session was followed up by a valedictory session. Certificates and mementos were distributed to the participants.





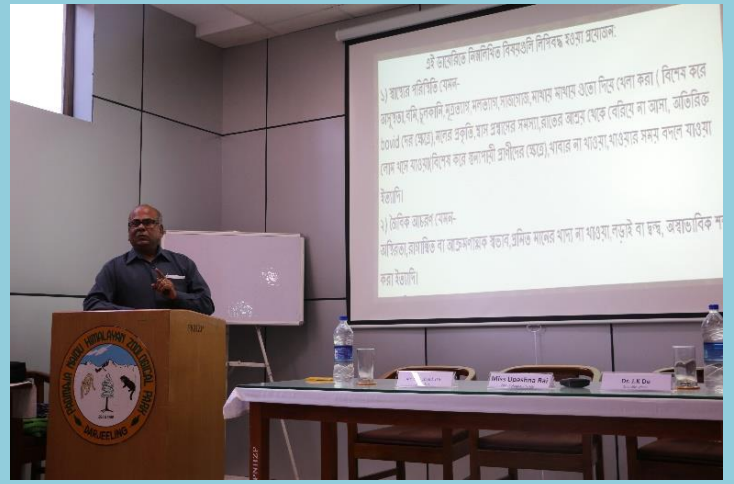
Inaugural session followed by hi-tea



Presentations by the Director, Mr Piar chand, IFS and Ms. Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist



Exposure Visit to PNHZ Park and Old Conservation Breeding Centre



**Presentations by the Director, Mr Piar chand, IFS and Dr. J.K. Dey, Scientific Officer, PNHZP**



**Hands on Training by Mr Purna Ghising and Mr Vikash Chettri on Zoo Management and Artificial Incubation**



**Field Visit to The Conservation Breeding Centre for Snow leopards and Red panda, Topkeydara**



**Practical Demonstration on Handling and Ringing of Pheasants at The conservation breeding centre for Pheasants and Herbivores, Dowhill**



**Presentations by Mr Sujoy .K. Dutta and Mr Aditya Mitra, NBWAP**



**Presentations by Mr Pradeep Singh and Ms Pranita Gupta, PNHZP**



**Participant Feedback Session**



### Valedictory Session

## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

The Park celebrated the 68<sup>th</sup> Republic day of India on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The staff of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park assembled in front of the Directors bungalow at 9 am. The program included hoisting of the national flag and singing of the national anthem followed by a short speech by the Director, Mr Piar Chand, IFS. The program ended with the distribution of sweets to all staff of the park by the Director on the occasion of Republic Day.



## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, Mr Sang Dorjey Tamang, Head Clerk retired after 34 years of service. Mr Tamang joined the park on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1983. A farewell function was organised by the staff of Darjeeling zoo on 30<sup>th</sup> 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 painting of Bengal Natural History Museum, installment of barriers in front of the exhibit to prevent visitors from touching the exhibits at BNHM, installment of truss at BNHM, carpeting of the zoo roads used by the visitors and further construction of the new veterinary hospital.



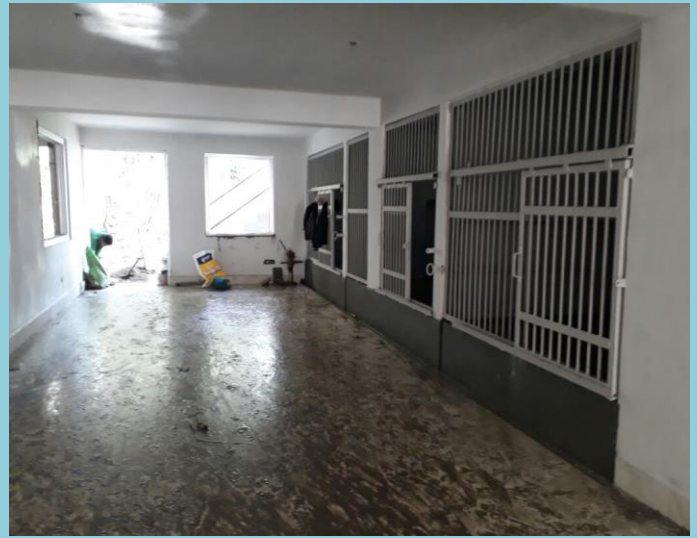
Painting and instalment of Truss at BNHM



Instalment of Visitors Barrier at BNHM



Carpeting of Visitors pathway



**Further Construction of the new Veterinary hospital including the new inpatient ward**

### **ENRICHMENT OF ENCLOSURES IN THIS QUARTER**

The enrichment activities in the park is taken up on a regular basis in the display and all the conservation breeding centres for all species. The enrichments for this quarter was done in the Asiatic black bear enclosure where fresh logs were placed and new wooden platforms were placed and in the jackal enclosure where a barrier made of bamboo stalks was palced in the enclosure to prevent the animal from pacing.



**New wooden platform in the Asiatic black bear enclosure**



**Bamboo Barrier at the Jackal enclosure**