

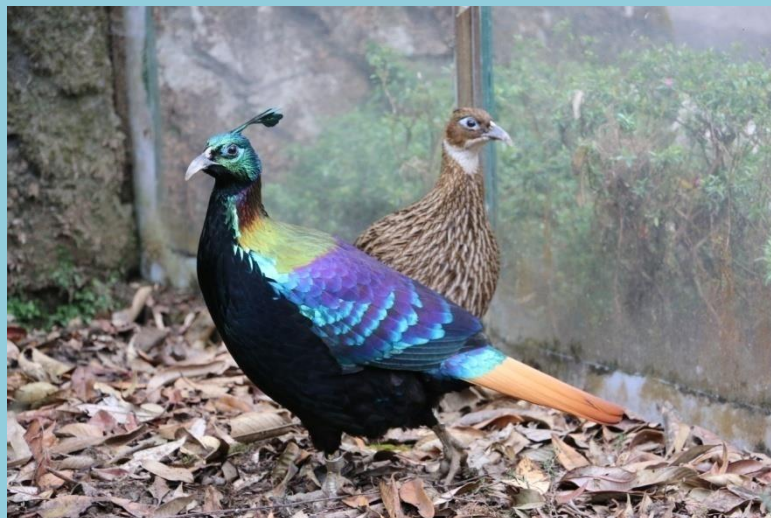


**PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL
NEWS LETTER**

April-June 2016

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



The tasks worth mentioning during the quarter are the celebration of both International Biodiversity Day on 22nd May 2016 and World Environment Day on 5th June 2016. It gives me great pleasure to hear the student's interest on environmental issues and their desire to do something for the upcoming threats to the environment during their extempore speech. The paintings also put me in awe when young students painted red pandas, snow leopards and other animals that they had seen in the zoo. The cleaning campaign taken up by the zoo staff and the shopkeepers near the zoo area was commendable.

Apart from these, arrival of one male snow leopard "Makalu" from Dudley Zoo, U.K. gave a boost to the Conservation Breeding Programme of Snow leopard at the Park. With appropriate enrichments and housing the animals have been quarantined at the new breeding facility. In addition to this births of some important high altitude species were witnessed by the Park. Animal welfare was also given a priority and enrichments were done in the jackal, Black Panther and Asiatic black bear enclosures.

Maintenance and developmental works during the quarter included construction of protection walls in vulnerable areas of the park. Modification of the animal carcass and waste burning sheds were including stairways leading towards the Himalayan newt enclosure were done.

A new site have also been selected for the construction of a new hospital, hopefully the construction shall begin soon.

Mr. Piar Chand, IFS
Director,
PNHZ Park.

BIRTH OF ANIMAL

Sl.No.	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No. of Chicks/Cubs
1	Barking Deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjac</i>)	11th April 2016	1
2	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	21st April 2016	2
3	Himalayan Tahr (<i>Hemitragus jemlachicus</i>)	23rd April 2016	1
4	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	14th May 2016	1
5	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	14th May 2016	2
6	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	23rd May 2016	1
7	Himalayan Tahr (<i>Hemitragus jemlachicus</i>)	1st June 2016	1
8	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	1st June 2016	1
9	Grey Peacock Pheasant (<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>)	3rd June 2016	1
10	Grey Peacock Pheasant (<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>)	25th June 2016	1



Newly born Himalayan Goral



Newly born Blue Sheep

ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF ANIMALS

Date	Animal	Number of Animal	Transferred to
20.06.2016	Himalayan Tahr (<i>Hemitragus jemlachicus</i>)	1:1	Himalayan Zoological Park
25.06.2016	Snow Leopard (<i>Uncia uncia</i>)	1	Dudley Zoo, London UK



Newly acquired Snow Leopard Makalu

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 notebooks are distributed to the students.

During this quarter the education wing of the Park attended to 616 students and 82 faculties from 15 institutes which are as follows:

Date	Name of School/Training Institute/Colleges/Universities	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Educational Incentives
06.04.2016	Municipal Boys High School, Darjeeling	42	03	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
08.04.2016	Netaji Higher Secondary School, Ghayabari	25	12	Lunch, Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
08.04.2016	Mountain Heritage School, Ghoom	70	05	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
09.04.2016	Sholom English School, Rimbik	16	08	Lunch, Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
20.04.2016	Assembly of God Church, Darjeeling	100	03	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
22.04.2016English School, Relling, Darjeeling	20	06	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
23.04.2016	Risheehat H.S. School, Darjeeling	45	06	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
30.04.2016	Dr. Grahaum Homes, Kalimpong	27	03	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
06.05.2016	Chongtong H.S. School, Darjeeling	46	05	Lunch, Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
08.05.2016	Xaviers International College, Nepal	14	02	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
11.05.2016	Goke High School, Darjeeling	22	02	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
27.05.2016	St. Xavier's School, Alipurduar	25	04	Education materials,

				Visit to Zoo and interaction
31.05.2016	Mount Hermon School, Darjeeling	35	04	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
31.05.2016	Eastern Command Army Adventure Cant. Lebung	69	04	Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction
05.06.2016	Lower Aloorbari School, Darjeeling	60	15	Lunch, Education materials, Visit to Zoo and interaction



Educational Tour of Risheehat H.S. School, Sikkim



Educational Tour of Goke High School



Educational Tour of E C Army Adventure

VISITS OF DIGNITARIES TO DARJEELING ZOO AND THEIR VALUABLE

Date of Visit	Name of the Visitor	Designation	Remarks
03.04.2016	Mr. V.K. Yadav, IFS	APCCF & Member Secretary, WBZA	Visit to Zoo and Conservation Breeding Centre at Dowhill and Topkey Dara. Interaction with Director and his team. Thanks for the good work.
19.04.2016	Dr. Umapathy	Principal Scientist, CSIR-LaCONES, CCMB, Hyderabad	It is an excellent visit to the zoo. Well maintained and clean. Understand many breeding program and successful breeding. The proposed museum also add to the value it is well thought and planned one. I would wish many more success to the various conservation breeding program at the zoo.
16.05.2016	Mr. H.K. Duivedi	Principal Secretary, Finance, GOWB	It was indeed a pleasure and a great learning experience. An excellent work being done by the zoo authority especially breeding programme. The researcher are really great and doing a splendid job. The efforts need to be supported by all nature lovers. Keep up the good job.
21.05.2016	Mr. Jagmohan Sharma	APCCF, Water Resources Dept. Govt. of Karnataka	Stayed at GH and visited zoo. Zoo is clean and has good signages. Hospital would improve by better attendance w.r.t. upkeep. It was useful to visit your zoo dear Director. All the best.
23.05.2016	Mr. Pradeep Vyas, IFS	PCCF, Wildlife and CWLD, West Bengal	A very well maintained zoo specially in high altitude spp. Could sense its utility in many more ventures for conservation of wildlife of Darjeeling Himalayas. Thanks to everyone.

25.05.2016	Mr. S.S. Negi	D.G. Forest and Special Secretary, Govt. of India, New Delhi	An excellent zoo which I visited after over 30 years. The staff is also well versed in zoo management, keep it up.
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Park Visit by Mr. S.S. Negi, D.G. Forest and Special Secretary, GOI



Mr. Pradeep Vyas, IFS , PCCF, Wildlife and CWLD, West Bengal

Dr. Umapathy, Principal Scientist, CSIR-LaCONES, CCMB, Hyderabad

Workshop attended by zoo officials

Name of the workshop	Name of the person	Place	Presentation	Period
Forest Biodiversity and Plant Science	Mr. Bhupen Roka	Gangtok	----	1 Day on 5th May 2016



Workshop attended by Mr Bhupen Roka

International Biodiversity Day

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park organized International Biodiversity Day on 22nd of May 2016. The chief guest of the event was Mr. Pradip Vyaas, IFS, PCCF/CWLW, Govt. of West Bengal. An extempore competition involving the students of different Madhyamik Schools of Darjeeling was organized at the zoo auditorium. Twelve students from six different schools participated in the event. The extempore competition was judged by Mr Deepen Sunar, Project Head, WWF Darjeeling and Mr Sapan Pradhan, Asst. Professor, St. Joshep's College Darjeeling. Ram Krishna Siksha Parishad Higher Secondary School was declared as the best team while Miss Nikita Rai of Bloomfield High School and Miss Chandani Limbu of Sardeshwari Government High School were adjudges 1st and 2nd best speaker respectively. Mr Palden Tamang a student of St. Joshep's College Darjeeling and Kapil Chettri student of Asutosh College, Kolkata also participated and presented their views on biodiversity issues.



Speech delivered by participant



Teachers and participants from different schools



Mr. Pradip Vyaas, IFS, PCCF/CWLW, Govt. of West Bengal gracing the occasion



World Environment Day Celebration

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, celebrated Environment Day based on the Theme “Zero Tolerance to wildlife Trade”. 71 students and 13 teachers of Lower Aloorari Primary School, Darjeeling participated in the programme. The students were taken for a zoo visit by Mr. Bhupen Roka, Education Officer and Ph.D scholar of the Park. The students and the teachers were made aware about the endangered species that PNHZ park houses, their status and how currently animals like snow leopard, common leopard, lesser carnivores are being used in wildlife trade and how the Park is working towards its conservation. The visit was later followed by a painting competition followed by Prize distribution ceremony. Mr. Purna Ghishing, Animal Supervisor, Mr. Siddartha Chettri, Asst. Estate Supervisor and Ms. Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist were present during the programme Mr. Pravat Rai stood first and Mr. Pemsang Tamang stood second. Educational materials were also distributed to the students and the

teachers. The Research and Education Section of the Park have always been organising such Environmental related programmes involving local schools and have been able to work towards conservation issues through such awareness campaigns. The Research cell of the Park have been doing commendable work on the research aspect on endangered species and have always encouraged the local students for research purpose.



Lecture by Mr. Bhupen Roka



Sit and Draw Competition

New Snow Leopard in PNHZ Park

Darjeeling Zoo welcomes a male snow leopard named “Makalu” aged 2 Y, 2M, 14D Int stud # 3140 from Dudley Zoo, United Kingdom in the early hours of 25th June 2016 at the New Conservation Breeding Centre for Red Panda and Snow leopard at Topkedara, 3rd Mile, Darjeeling. “Makalu” shall be quarantined for a period of 30 days before it is formally introduced to the other inhabitants at the centre. The individual has been a part of an exchange programme for contributing to the Conservation Breeding Programme of Snow leopard at Darjeeling Zoo.



Arrival of Snow Leopard at Kolkata



Makalu at CBC, PNHZ Park

Mission Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan

In line with the world environment day celebration, a cleanliness drive was taken up by the park authorities along with the shopkeepers of the shops within the vicinity of the zoo. The day programme included cleaning the areas of the zoo and the surrounding compound. The shopkeepers and the zoo staffs showed active participation in the programme.



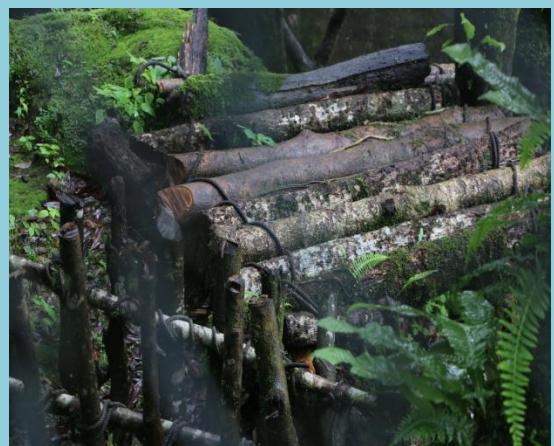
Cleanliness drive at PNHZ Park and surrounding area

Enclosure Enrichment

Enrichment works were carried out in the Black Panther enclosure and jackal enclosure. The enclosures were enriched with a view to make the animals' use of all the possible areas of the enclosure and to reduce pacing and other stereotypic behaviours.



Wooden Platform at Black panther



Wooden Platform at jackal

Developing Taxidermy in PNHZ Park

Dead red panda specimen was collected from the veterinary section of the PNHZ Park. After deskinning of the specimen the skin was soaked in the mixture of alum powder, carbolic acid, salt and water and the stuff was prepared using galvanized wire, jute, cotton, threats etc. the work was conducted by new taxidermist Mr. Sairus Bhaktaraj Pradhan under the supervision of Mr. Shivobachan Ram, former taxidermist of Zoological Survey of India.



Stuffing of Red Panda

New Construction in this Quarter

The Bengal Natural History Museum has a huge collection 274 of rolled specimens, 64 number of skins, 140 numbers of stuffed items and 1023 number of eggs, for the purpose of which a new two storied building was built up within the vicinity of the Park. The first floor houses one hall and two rooms with the ground floor having a large hall for keeping the specimens. The rooms have been furnished with wooden parqueting. The building shall be used for storing all the specimens, working area for the taxidermist including office area for the taxidermist to do other works.



New Taxidermy Building , BNHM

The other maintenance work that was taken up during the quarter are- protection wall near the HMI entrance and behind the Yak enclosure, modification of the animal carcass and waste burning sheds, broad and permanent stairways constructed leading to the Newt enclosure in the display area of the park.



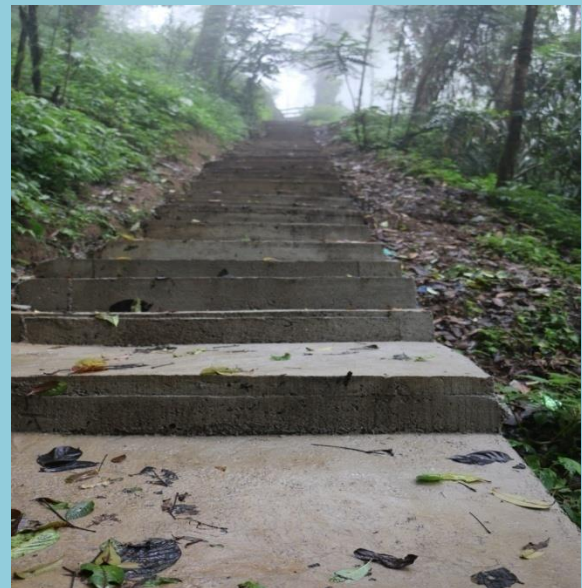
Construction of protection Wall



Maintenance of Wall /Fence



Renovation of Animal carcass burning shed



Construction of new stairs near Himalayan Newt Enclosure

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Darjeeling Gets Snow Leopard From UK, Another From France Soon

All India | Press Trust of India | Updated: June 26, 2016 11:52 IST

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Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP) in the hill station of Darjeeling runs a specialised conservation breeding programme for snow leopards. (Representational image)

KOLKATA: Darjeeling zoo, left with eight female and a lone male snow leopard, has now got a male big cat from England while another from France will arrive later this year for breeding

Darjeeling gets snow leopard from UK, another from France soon - Times of India

29/06/16, 3:30 PM

Printed from THE TIMES OF INDIA

Darjeeling gets snow leopard from UK, another from France soon

PTI | Jun 26, 2016, 10:05 AM IST

Kolkata, Jun 26 () Darjeeling zoo, left with eight female and a lone male snow leopard, has now got a male big cat from England while another from France will arrive later this year for breeding conservation programme.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP) in the hill station of Darjeeling runs a specialised conservation breeding programme for snow leopards, an endangered species whose survival is challenged by poaching and habitat loss.

'Makalu', the two-year-old phantom cat from Dudley Zoological Gardens was flown in to Kolkata from UK and then taken to Darjeeling in a special air-conditioned ambulance on Saturday.

Zoo scientist Upashna Rai said the feline was now in quarantine at the breeding center in Topkeydara, few km away from the zoo.

"After it gets adapted with the local environment we plan to start breeding," she told.

Zoo director Piar Chand said poor sex ratio was hampering breeding and the Central Zoo Authority was requested to send two male snow leopards.

International Studbook Keeper in Helsinki found genetic matches between 'Makalu' with the resident population of the zoo and therefore it was sent here, he said.

Another male of the feline species from France's Mulhouse zoo has been identified and is expected to arrive later in the year.

Snow leopard breeding in the zoo had begun in 1985 and so far it has witnessed 54 births. The last one was born in 2014.

(MORE) NIK KK CR DIP