



# PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL NEWS LETTER July-September 2015

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



I am very happy to present before you all, the third quarterly newsletter of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park a medium through which the activities and achievements of the zoo is highlighted and made known to you all. This quarter experienced heavy monsoon and the Park made all necessary arrangements for the safety and prevention of mortality in the animals at the Park and in the breeding centres. The lactating females of Red pandas, Himalayan Tahr, Markhor etc and their cubs and fauns were kept under continuous observations including the adult and sub adult snow leopards that are prone to illness during such weather. Other animals were also equally taken care of during the monsoons. Births of barking deer and Asian Palm civet were witnessed during this quarter. In spite of the downpour 598 students along with their teachers visited the park to know the zoo and the animals better. Other visits included trainees from various training institutes and Departments. The Research and Education wing of the Park guided the students and the trainees with visits around the animal enclosures including lectures on Zoos and Conservation Education.

The Park on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015 celebrated its 57<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day. Since its inception the Park has made commendable achievements and has also been declared as “*Centre of Excellence*” by the Central Zoo Authority. I wish to work towards the objective of the Park and aim to take it to greater heights and wish to share the Parks activities and success in the quarterly that shall follow.

**Mr. Piar Chand, IFS**

**Director**

**Padmaja Naidu Himalayan**

**Zoological Park, Darjeeling**

## Birth of Animals

Sl. No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No. Of Cubs
1	Asian Palm Civet ( <i>Paradoxurus hermaphoditus</i> )	31.08.2015	3
2	Barking Deer ( <i>Muntiacus muntjac</i> )	31.08.2015	1



Juvenile Asian Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphoditus*)

## Publication

**Arun Kumar, Bhupen Roka, Upashana Rai, P. Anuradha Reddy:** Molecular sex identification of red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) suitable for non invasive genetic studies. European Journal of Wildlife Research. ISSN 1612-4642 DOI 10.1007/s10344-015-0928-2

## WORKSHOP ATTENDED BY ZOO OFFICIALS

Name of Trainees	Name of the person	Place	Presentation	Period
1. Zoo Keepers Training Programme at Zoological Garden, Alipore	1. Shri K.P. Rai, Zoo Keeper 2. Shri Amar Chettri, Zoo Keeper	Zoological Garden, Alipore	-----	21st to 23rd September 2015



**Zoo Keepers Training Programme at Zoological Garden, Alipore**

## 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 zoo diaries are distributed to the students.

During this quarter the education wing of the Park attended 598 students, 146 trainees and 34 staffs from different institutes which are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of School/Training Institute/Colleges/Universities</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Number of Teachers</b>	<b>Educational incentives</b>
28-07-2015	Forest Range Officer's for the year 2015-16 Central Academy for State Forest Service, Burnihat, Assam	39	1	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
04-08-2015	104 <sup>th</sup> Batch Dr/Fr Trainees of West Bengal Forest School, Dow-hill, Kurseong	18	3	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
25-08-2015	Goethals Memorial School, Kurseong	110	6	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
11-09-2015	Participants of Wildlife Trade workshop	35	2	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
15-09-2015	Goethals Memorial School, Kurseong	38	2	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
15-09-2015	Border's Guard, Bangladesh	25	3	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
26-09-2015	57th Session of Forest Guard's Trainees, Forestry Training Centre, Rajabhatkhawa	29	2	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.
29-09-2015	St. Teresa's Higher Secondary School, Darjeeling	450	15	Visit to Zoo, lecture and interaction.



**Participants of Wildlife Trade Workshop**



**104<sup>th</sup> Batch Dr/Fr Trainees of West Bengal Forest School, Dow-Hill**

### **Celebration of 57th Foundation Day of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park**

The Birch Hill (Jawahar Parbat) where the Zoological Park is presently located was originally a private property and was gifted in 1877 by Mr. William Lloyd to the “Official Trustee of Bengal” on behalf of the “Trust Children of Samuel Smith”, and in terms of the said trust to the Govt. of Bengal for the purpose of “Protection of the Forest at and around Birch Hill and its maintenance as a place of research for the residents. Sri Tenzing Sherpa, a resident of Darjeeling and a famous Mountaineer, was one of the two men (the other being Sir Edmund Hillary, from New Zealand) who stood for the first time atop the highest mountain of the world, Mount Everest on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1953. To commemorate the ‘conquest’ of Everest and to encourage the adventurous sports of mountaineering, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute was established at Birch Hill in the year 1954. In order to afford an opportunity for the study of typical specimen of Himalayan flora and fauna to the students of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and others, it was decided by the Council of Ministers on 22<sup>nd</sup> January,

1956 to set up a Zoological Park at Darjeeling. A post of supervising officer of the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forest was created and Shri D.K. Dey of the Madras Senior Forest Service, who was on deputation to the Govt. of West Bengal, was appointed to this post as the Curator of the Park and Keeper of the Zoo.

The park celebrated its 57th foundation day on 14th of August 2015. The programme started with the Flag hosting ceremony by Shri Piar Chand, IFS, Director and was followed by the inspirational speech by the Director. The programme was conducted by Mr Shiromani Syangdan, Estate Officer of the Park.



**Foundation Day Celebration 2015**

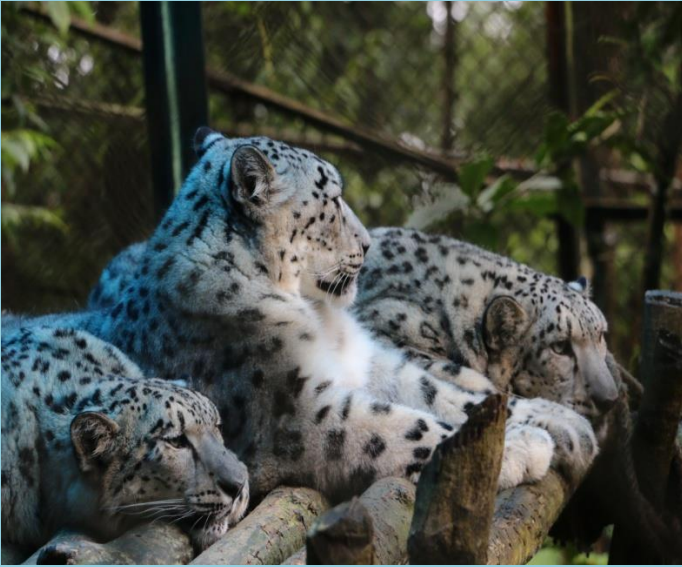
**Site Inspection and initiation of Work of new Snow Leopard Enclosures**

A new site was selected for the construction of enclosures for Snow leopard at the Conservation Breeding Centre for Red Panda and Snow Leopard at Topkedara, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mile, Darjeeling. The site was selected on the basis of topography, vegetation and security. The construction work is under progress. Specifications regarding the enclosures and the night shelters are according to the standards norms prescribed by Central Zoo Authority.

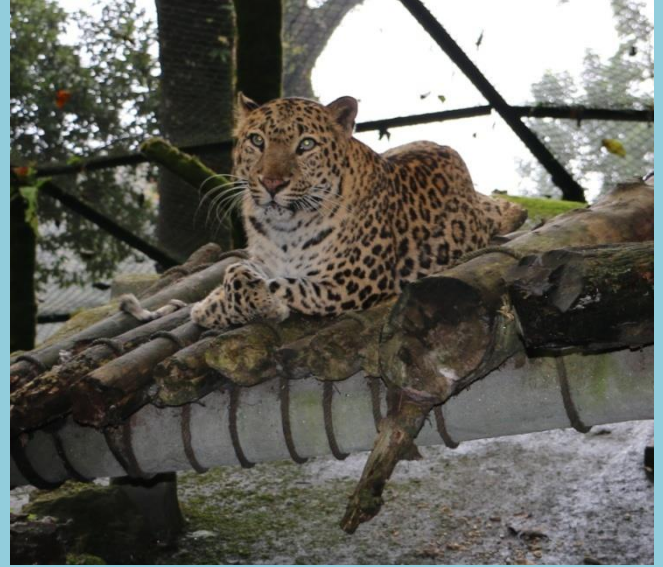


**Construction of New Snow Leopard Enclosure**

**MOODS AND MOMENTS OF THE ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY**



**Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*)**



**Common Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)**



**Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus himalayensis*)**



**Himalayan Palm Civet (*Pamuga larvata*)**