

NEWSLETTER

PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

LAST QUARTER | OCTOBER- DECEMBER | 2021



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This Quarter issue:

- Natality
- Mortality
- Wildlife Week
- International Zookeeper Day
- International Snow leopard Day
- Inauguration program of WWF's Darjeeling bird watching club at PNHZ Park.
- Children's Day Celebration
- Work done in Taxidermy in this quarter
- Enrichment in this quarter
- Development work in this quarter

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From the Directors Desk...

Greetings to you from the PNHZP family. It gives me great pleasure to present the last quarterly newsletter of this year. This quarter includes birth of animals, this quarter the park celebrate Wildlife Week, International Zookeeper Day, International Snow Leopard Day , Children's day online. The developmental work remain undone in this quarter.

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

**Director
PNHZ Park
Darjeeling**

NATALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No
1.	Himalayan Goral(<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	08.01.2022	2:0:0

MORTALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	02.10.2021	1:0:0
2.	Cockatiel (<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>)	05.10.2021	1:0:0
3.	Snow Leopard(<i>Panthera uncia</i>)	27.10.2021	0:1:0
4.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	29.12.2021	0:1:0
5.	Common Palm Civet (<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>)	14.12.2021	1:0:0
6.	Blue & Gold Macaw (<i>Ara ararauna</i>)	01.12.2021	0:1:0
7.	Jackal (<i>Canis aureus</i>)	30.12.2021	1:0:0

Wildlife Week

Wildlife Week is celebrated every year across India between 2nd to 8th October with an aim to protect and preserve the flora and fauna of India. This year the week 2021 is celebrated from 2nd October to 8th October. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park celebrates Wildlife Week every year with various programs. However this year due to pandemic, the park decided to take the online route for this celebration. Every day for one week the park released pictograms of various conservation breeding programme on all the social media platform to raise awareness about the parks contribution toward wildlife conservation.

PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
THE COORDINATOR ZOO FOR THE CONSERVATION BREEDING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

RED PANDA:

Ailuurus fulgens fulgens



ENDANGERED

The Red Panda conservation breeding program of PNHZ Park.

- The Red Panda captive breeding project was started during the '90s.
- The first successful breeding of Red Panda occurred on 20.06.1994 when two cubs were born.
- The Red Panda Breeding Project at PNHZ Park, Darjeeling is one of the most successful and only breeding programs of the species in its natural distribution zone.
- In 2003-04 the park successfully completed restocking of Red Pandas in the wild.
- The release program was highly successful as one female zoo-born Red Panda mated with a wild male and gave birth to a cub.
- Currently, the park houses a healthy population of 27 Red Pandas.

"WILDLIFE WEEK"
"Sankshobhan ka Sankalp: Ek Jan Bhagidari (A conservation collective)"

OCTOBER 2-8

PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
THE COORDINATOR ZOO FOR THE CONSERVATION BREEDING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

SNOW LEOPARD:

Panthera uncia



VULNERABLE

The Snow Leopard conservation breeding program of PNHZ Park:

- The first ex-situ conservation breeding program in the park started in 1986 as a Snow Leopard conservation breeding project.
- The Snow Leopard Breeding Project is one of the most successful and the only breeding project of the species in South East Asia.
- In the year 2000, a pair of Snow Leopard was brought from Ladakh out of which one was housed named "Neeta" which has contributed immensely to the gene pool of the captive Snow Leopard.
- Currently, the park houses a healthy population of 12 Snow Leopards with 3 cubs born this year.

"WILDLIFE WEEK"
"Sankshobhan ka Sankalp: Ek Jan Bhagidari (A conservation collective)"

OCTOBER 2-8

PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
THE PARTICIPATING ZOO FOR THE CONSERVATION BREEDING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

BLUE SHEEP:

Pseudois nayaur



The Blue Sheep conservation breeding program at PNHZ Park:

- The first founder stock of Blue Sheep was brought from Okinawa Foundation, Japan.
- The two pairs of sheep successfully bred and gave birth to a total of 10 individuals.
- Since 2010-15 the park has witnessed a total birth of 14 blue sheep.
- In 2015, one pair of Blue Sheep was transferred to Sikkim Zoo and successful breeding was reported by Sikkim Zoo in 2015.
- Currently, the park has viable population of Blue Sheep and the breeding pairs are housed both in the display area and in the Conservation Breeding Center for pheasants and herbivores at Dowhill, Kurseong.

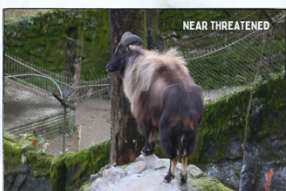
"WILDLIFE WEEK"
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OCTOBER 2-8

PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
THE PARTICIPATING ZOO FOR THE CONSERVATION BREEDING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

HIMALAYAN TAHR:

Hemitragus jemlahicus



NEAR THREATENED

The Himalayan Tahr conservation breeding program at PNHZ Park:

- The first founder stock of Himalayan tahr was brought from Okinawa Foundation, Japan.
- The two pairs of sheep successfully bred and gave birth to a total of 8 individuals.
- Since 2011-16 the park has witnessed a total birth of 9 Himalayan tahr.
- Currently, the park has viable population of Himalayan Tahr and the breeding pairs are housed both in the display area and in the Conservation Breeding Center for pheasants and herbivores at Dowhill, Kurseong.


"WILDLIFE WEEK"
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PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
THE COORDINATOR ZOO FOR THE CONSERVATION BREEDING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

HIMALAYAN WOLF:

Canis lupus himalayensis



The Himalayan Wolf conservation breeding program of PNHZ Park:

- The Himalayan Wolf features on schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- The first pair of Himalayan Wolf was brought to Darjeeling Zoo in 1990 from Shimla Zoo, India.
- Since then Darjeeling Zoo has been breeding Himalayan Wolves successfully.
- Himalayan Wolves from PNHZ Park have been transferred to Nainital Zoo, Shimla Zoo, Gangtok Zoo.
- The Zoo currently houses 6 Himalayan Wolves.

"WILDLIFE WEEK"
"Sankshobhan ka Sankalp: Ek Jan Bhagidari (A conservation collective)"

OCTOBER 2-8

PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
THE COORDINATOR ZOO FOR THE CONSERVATION BREEDING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

HIMALAYAN NEWT:

Tytilotriton himalayensis



ENDANGERED

The Himalayan Newt conservation breeding program at PNHZ Park:

- The Himalayan newt is one of the rarest and oldest amphibian creatures found only in the hills of Darjeeling in India.
- It is the keystone species for lentic habitat and its population trend is decreasing.
- PNHZ Park started the Conservation Breeding program from the year 2002.
- Eight salamanders were brought from Jorpokhari and introduced in zoo ponds, during the rainy season.
- In order to make the visitors aware of this fast disappearing species, the zoo authority built a terrarium for display of the salamanders, the terrarium was completed in the year 2003.
- The Zoo currently houses 50 Himalayan Newts.

"WILDLIFE WEEK"
"Sankshobhan ka Sankalp: Ek Jan Bhagidari (A conservation collective)"

OCTOBER 2-8

International Zookeeper Day

International Zookeeper Day is celebrated every year on 4th October to encourage education and public awareness of the important role of keepers in wildlife conservation.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park celebrated International Zookeeper Day 2021 to appreciate all the zookeepers for their hardwork and contribution toward animal welfare of the zoo. The program started with a small speech from Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, Director, PNHZP, Shri. Partha Sarathi Pramanik, Deputy Director, PNHZP, Dr. Joy Dey, ADVO, PNHZP and Shri. Shiromani Syangden, Estate Officer, PNHZP. This is followed by felicitating all the zookeepers with Khada and a small token of appreciation.



International Snow leopard Day

Every year on 23rd October is celebrated as International Snow Leopard Day to create awareness about the conservation and preservation of these vulnerable species. There is no denying the fact that due to urbanization, pollution, and human interventions the population of Snow Leopard is decreasing day by day.

PNHZ Park being the coordinating zoo for the Snow leopard conservation breeding program have a successful contribution in Snow Leopard conservation. This year the park decided to celebrate this day by creating a short video of snow leopards focusing all the aspects about snow leopards of the zoo. The video was uploaded on the parks social media platforms to raise awareness.

The link to watch the video: <https://www.facebook.com/646575185987023/videos/274794091223145>

Inauguration program of WWF's Darjeeling bird watching club at PNHZ Park.

Inauguration program of WWF's Darjeeling Bird watching club was held on 29th October, 2021 at PNHZ Park. The club was inaugurated by Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, IFS Director, PNHZ Park, Mr. Dependra Sunar, WWF Darjeeling and Dr. Saibal Sengupta, Nature Club, St. Robert's School, Darjeeling. The programme was organised by WWF in collaboration with PNHZ Park.



Children's Day

Children's day in India is celebrated every year on 14th November to increase the awareness of people towards the rights, care and education of children. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park celebrates Children's day every year with various programs, inviting many schools and their students to share knowledge about this park and its contribution in wildlife conservation. This year due to pandemic, the park decided to take the online route for this celebration.

The park decided to hold a week-long celebration for this year that started on 8th November and ended on 14th November. The program included an online "Poem writing and Poetry recital Contest". The theme and categories as follows:

Theme: "Nature, Forest & Wildlife"

Categories: 1. STD V to STD VII Sub-Categories: English | Hindi | Nepali | Bengali
2. STD VIII to STD X

Entries were accepted till 14th November (until 2 p.m. IST) and by 15th November, the park announced the winners of the competitions. The winners of each competition were awarded with certificates and books as a prize.

The event witnessed active participation. The drawings and essays were submitted to the Parks email. The entries were judged by the Deputy Director, PNHZP and Zoo Biologist, PNHZP on the following criteria:

- Creativity.
- Relevance to theme.
- Concept of wildlife and conservation.

Following are the winners of the "Poem writing and Poetry recital Contest":

Category 1: STD V to STD VII			
Subcategory: English			
Sl No.	Place	Name	School
1	First	Ms. Aaheli Ghoshal	The BSS School
2	Second	Ms. Ishita Darnal	The BSS School
Subcategory: Bengali			
1	First	Ms. Adyitiya Ray Chowdhury	La Martniere for Girls
2	Second	Ms. Mayurakshi De	La Martniere for Girls
Subcategory: Hindi			
1	First	Ms. Ayati Jhunjhunwala	La Martniere for Girls
Category 1: STD VIII to STD X			
Subcategory: English			
1	First	Ms. Titas Pal	The BSS School
2.	Second	Ms. Ahana Bhumik	The BSS School
Subcategory: Bengali			
1.	First	Ms. Bipasha Nath	The BSS School

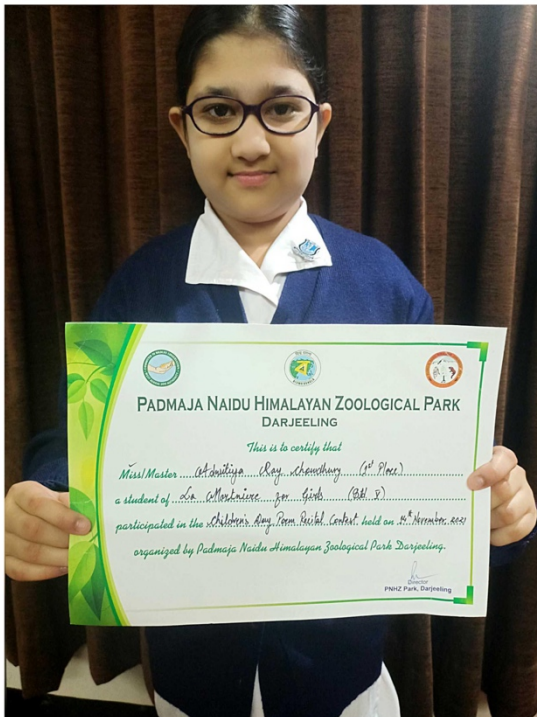
The park decided to awarded one complementary prize to a student of STD I for her effort Ms. Sharanya Sinha



Ms. Aaheli Ghoshal



Ms. Ishita Darnal



Ms. Adyitiya Ray Chowdhury



Ms. Mayurakshi De



Ms. Ayati Jhunjhunwala



Ms. Titas Pal



Ms. Ahana Bhumik



Ms. Sharanya Sinha

Taxidermy work done in this quater

Sl. No.	Name of Specimen	Date of Acquisition	Accession No.	Remarks
1	Asian Golden Cat	13.12.2021	BNHM/M/210	Skinned, Tanned and under mounting process.
2	Himalayan Sherow Head	27.12.2021	BNHM/M/211	Skinned, Tanned and under mounting process.

- Two Himalayan Palm Civet with Accession number BNHM/M/204 and BNHM/M/205 was mounted and put on display in BNHM
- One Flying Squirrel with Accession number BNHM/M/203 was mounted and put on display in BNHM.
- One Yellow Throated Martin with Accession number BNHM/M/69 was mounted and put on display in BNHM



Enrichment in this quarter



Building A cave like structure for Asiatic Black Bear Enclosure