



PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL
NEWS LETTER

April-June 2015

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



It gives me immense pleasure to be presenting before you the second quarter of the newsletter for the year 2015. During this quarter the Park celebrated World Environment Day to raise global awareness and to take positive environmental action to protect nature and the planet Earth. Primary schools of the town were invited and activities like painting, colouring and quiz competition were held. A zookeepers training programme was held from 22nd to 26th of June. The trainees were given lectures and hands on training on ex-situ husbandry practices. The Park also witnessed births of animals like Red Panda, Himalayan Tahr, Markhor, Blue Sheep and few species of Pheasants.

Mr. Piar Chand, IFS

Director,

PNHZ Park.

BIRTH

Following animals are born during this quarter in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

| Sl. No | Name of animals | Date of Birth | No. Of Cubs |
|--------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 | Red Panda | 08.06.2015 | 1 |
| 2 | Red Panda | 16.06.2015 | 1 |
| 3 | Himalayan Thar | 21.05.2015 | 2 |
| 4 | Blue Sheep | 22.05.2015 | 1 |
| 5 | Markhor | 25.05.2015 | 1 |

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 446 students and trainees and 34 faculties from 9 institutes which are as follows:

| Date | Name of School/Training Institute/Colleges/Universities | Number of Students | Number of Teachers | Educational Incentives |
|------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 08/04/2015 | Assembly of God Church School, Darjeeling | 102 | 4 | Visit to Zoo and interaction |
| 24/04/2015 | Loreto Convent, Darjeeling | 123 | 10 | Visit to Zoo and interaction |
| 08/05/2015 | Namchi Government College, Kamrang South Sikkim | 14 | 03 | Visit to Zoo and interaction |
| 13/05/2015 | Uttarakhand Forestry Training | 40 | 2 | Visit to Zoo and |

| | | | | |
|------------|---|----|---|---------------------------------|
| | Academy, Haldwani, Uttarakhand | | | interaction |
| 19/05/2015 | St. Antony School, Darjeeling | 40 | 5 | Visit to Zoo and interaction |
| 20/05/2015 | Madhyamik Siksha Kendra | 44 | 4 | Visit to Zoo and interaction |
| 23/05/2015 | Thurbo High School, Darjeeling | 9 | 2 | Visit to Zoo and interaction |
| 27/05/2015 | Municipal Boy's Primary School | 40 | 3 | Visit to Zoo and interaction |
| 27/05/2015 | Central Academy for SFS, Burnihat, Assam | 34 | 1 | Visit to Zoo and interaction |



Educational Tour of Loreto Convent School, Darjeeling



Field Visit of RFO Trainees, Central Academy of State Forest Service,



Educational Tour of St. Anthony School



Field Visit of Uttarakhand Forestry Training Academy

VISITS OF DIGNITARIES TO DARJEELING ZOO AND THEIR VALUABLE COMMENTS

| Date of Visit | Name of the Visitor | Designation | Remarks |
|---------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| 04-05-2015 | Mr. Sushil Srivastava, IFS | PCCF, HoFF, Himachal Pardesh | An outstanding place which is a must for anyone visiting Darjeeling. Extremely well kept and well planned for which full marks to energetic dynamic and very knowledgeable Director Shri Piar Chand and his team. I wish them all the very best in life. |
| 12-05-2015 | Mr S. K. Khamari, WBJS | Judge, Industrial Tribunal (3rd)Kolkata | This is a nice place for visiting of everyone who comes to see Darjeeling. The authority is well maintaining this place. I advice everyone including me to do our duties properly to make our nation good and to resolve all problems raising our head high. |
| 13-05-2015 | Mr. K.S. Samant, IFS | C.C.F/Director Uttarakhand Forestry Training Academy, Uttarakhand. | I have visited Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park twice, once during my training 1979-81 and again with FRO Trainees of UFTA along with Dy. Director, UFTA. PNHZ Park is now emphasizing for the breeding of Red Panda, Snow Leopard. PNHZ Park Director and Education Officer had presented a case study of Red Panda to our FRO Trainees. Very nice to see |

| | | | |
|------------|---|--|---|
| | | | Red Panda, Black Leopard, Snow Leopard and many carnivore and herbivore even birds. Park management has kept the zoo efficiently and carefully. |
| 20-05-2015 | Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog | NITI Aayog, Parliament Street, New Delhi | <p>I am really delighted to see the zoological park set up for nurturing the Himalayan Biological Species. It was highly educative and for my grand children it was fun.</p> <p>I am happy to see the professional upkeep of the zoo. The research activities are of very high standard and scientists are eager to take it to international standard. It's time we provide higher level of funding to improve the standard and provide better facilities. I congratulate the team for their outstanding work and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.</p> <p>God bless you all.</p> |
| 29-05-2015 | Dr. U.R.R. Singh, IFS | Add. PCCF, Himachal Pradesh | Very comfortable stay. Enjoyed the Darjeeling climate. The zoo is very well maintained. I complement the Director and his team for the outstanding management of zoo and receiving wide variety of visitors in the zoo and fulfilling their expectation. I wish all the success. |



Park visit by V.K. Saraswat, Member NITI Aayog

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION 2015

The Park celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June 2015. The theme for this year was “Greening the Blue”. Different primary schools from Darjeeling were invited to participate in the program to promote awareness on the importance of trees and biodiversity and its impact on the environment and our lives in general. Sit and Draw competition and Quiz competition was organized for the students from Grade I-IV. Four school with a total of twenty two students participated in the programme.

The winner of the Sit and Draw competition were as follows:

First Prize: Sneha Tamang, Municipal Girls Primary School

Second Prize: Alishan Rai, Municipal Girls Primary School

Third Prize: Ankit Sharma, Swami Vivekananda Primary School

Swami Vivekananda Primary School was declared winner in Inter Primary School Quiz Competition.



World Environment Day Celebration 2015



Sit and Draw Competition



Prize Distribution by Director, PNHZ Park

REPORT ON THE “ZOO KEEPER’S TRAINING PROGRAMME” HELD FROM 22.06.2015-26.06.2015

Date and Venue:

In the 10th meeting of the Governing Body of the West Bengal State Zoo Authority held on 28th January, 2015 the proposed training programme for the Zoo keepers in Zoological gardens for both North and South Bengal was approved by the governing body. The training-workshop took place on 22-26 June 2015 at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling.

Training programme and the Team:

The members of the training team were Mr. Piar Chand IFS, Director, Dr. Uttam Mani Pradhan Veterinary Officer, Mr. Shiromani Syangden, Estate Officer, Mr. Purna Ghishing, Animal Supervisor, Mr. Sudhir Ghatraj Ranger, Ms. Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist, Mr. Bhupen Roka, Education Assistant, Ms. Pranita Gupta, Research Scholar and Mr. Aditya Mitra, Research Scholar.

Agenda

The training team agreed to a draft agenda prior to the training –workshop (attached as Annexure I) which was approved by the participants. The agenda were as follows

Day 1:

- Opening and Introduction
- Introduction to Zoos in India: History of Zoos, Category of Zoos, Role in Conservation.
- Zoo keeping and the Challenges Ahead.
- Visit to the Park and Old Conservation Breeding Centre Snow Leopard and Red Panda.

Day 2:

Lectures

- Management of Carnivores in Captivity
- Environment Enrichment techniques for captive animals.
- Environmental Enrichment for Birds and Pheasants.
- Feeding Enrichments in Captive animals

- Hands on training (Preparing enrichment items)

Day 3:

- Visit to new Conservation Breeding Centre for Snow Leopards and Red Panda and Conservation Breeding Centre for Pheasants and herbivores.

Day 4

Lectures

- Types of diseases, treating and taking care of diseased animals.
- Importance of Hygiene in Captive animals.
- Role of zookeepers in enclosure designing for captive animals
- Disaster Management and emergencies in zoos.
- Practical demonstration (Animal restraint and animal handling during treatment)

Day 5

Lectures

- Importance of feeding in Captive Animals.
- Record keeping and its importance.
- Animal Transportation and Exchange Programmes
- Keeper's Talk
- Valedictory

Participants

The training workshop was attended by nineteen zoo keepers from various zoos, rescue centers and parks.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Zoo | No. of Candidate |
|---------|---|------------------|
| 1 | Alipore Zoological Park, Kolkata | 2 |
| 2 | Sunderban Wild Animals Park, Jharkhali | 0 |
| 3 | Paschimanchal zoological Park, Jhargram | 2 |
| 4 | Bardhaman Zoological Park, Burdawan | 2 |
| 5 | Rasikbil Mini Zoo, Coochbehar | 2 |

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| 6 | Surulia Mini Zoo, Purulia | 1 |
| 7 | Garchumuk Deer Park, Howrah | 1 |
| 8 | South Khaibari Rescue Centre, Alipur Duar | 1 |
| 9 | Adina Deer Park, Maldah | 0 |
| 10 | Kunjanagar Nature Park, Alipur Duar | 1 |
| 11 | Kumari Kangsabati Deer Park, Bankura | 2 |
| 12 | Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park | 5 |
| TOTAL | | 19 |

The Training-Workshop

The training-workshop began with an inaugural function where the Director and the senior officers of the Park lighted the diya followed by a welcome address by the Director. The director during his address 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 where Mr. Bhupen Roka, Education Assistant of the Park in his lecture highlighted about what *a zoo, history about the zoo, concept of modern zoos, aims and objectives of zoos and conservation breeding programmes*. After lunch break Ms. Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist presented a lecture on *Zoo keeping as a profession and the challenges that lie ahead for the zookeepers and the profession*. The participants were then taken for a visit to the display area of the Park and the Conservation Breeding center. The participants during their visit were shown various species of high altitude animals and were also made aware as to how a collection plan of the zoo should be planned. The other important facilities like signage's (animal and directional), drinking water, resting area, toilets, guides etc were also made aware to the participants. In the breeding centre the participants were given information as to why a Conservation breeding centre is required and managerial practices done for red panda and Snow leopard were shown. The day ended with a discussion with the participants regarding the day's event and also allowing the participants to contribute their comments. The second day lectures focused on Animal Enrichment Programme. Ms. Rai in her presentation highlighted *adverse effect of captivity making enrichment for the captive animals a necessity, what is it, its importance, goals to be achieved, types of enrichment, who should be enriched, documented effects and its pitfalls*. Mr. Aditya Mitra, Research Scholar of the Park and Mr. Bhupen Roka Education Assistant in their lectures highlighted

about the *environmental enrichment for birds and pheasants and feeding enrichment of Wild animals in captivity* respectively. In the second half the trainees were divided into two groups to design enrichment for the animals in the breeding centers and the display area. On the third day of the training the trainees were taken for a visit to the two Conservation Breeding centers at Topkedara, 3rd Mile and Dow Hill, Kurseong. At the facilities the trainees were given a lecture on *why a Conservation breeding centre is required, what are the aspects that needs to be considered while developing a breeding centre and the modern facilities to be made available for better captive management of the species concerned*. In the Pheasant and herbivore breeding centre *a practical demonstration was given on – Pheasant capture, proper handling of the pheasant, ringing and ways to assess the health status of the pheasant. The seven and the two unit aviaries, egg incubation, chick rearing and medical treatment attached to these aviaries were shown to the trainees and the significance of having such a compact facility was also explained*. On the fourth day Dr. Uttam Mani Pradhan, Veterinary Officer delivered a lecture on *signs of animal sickness, clinical and preventive diseases including preliminary treatments that can be done by the zookeepers*. Dr. Pradhan also talked about the *hygiene in captive animals*. The lecture was followed by *useful information on enclosure designing for captive animals* by Mr. Shiromani Syangden, Estate officer of the Park. On the later part of the day Dr. Uttam Mani Pradhan and the veterinary team gave a field demonstration on *animal restraint, emergency treatments on the field, ways to maintain hygiene in the enclosures, night shelter and surrounding areas*. On the last day Ms. Rai delivered a lecture on Record keeping and its significance followed by Mr. Mitra in his lecture giving information on record keeping of birds and pheasants. The final presentation highlighted on Animal transportation and exchange programmes. Reading materials prepared by the Park and West Bengal Zoo Authority was also distributed to the participants for future reference. A keeper's talk was organized at the end followed by a valedictory session. Certificate and mementos were distributed to the participants. The feedback forms received from the participants were analyzed. Maximum of the participants were of the opinion that the training programme have been very useful for them and they shall adopt certain feasible methods in their park. They have also expressed that such training programmes should be organized in future as well.



Zoo Keeper's Training Participants along with Director, PNHZ Park and Organizing Committee



Inaugural Speech by Mr Piar Chand, Director



Lecture by Mr Siromany Sangdan



Lecture by Ms Upashana Rai



Lecture by Mr Bhupen Roka



Lecture by Mr Aditya Mitra



Interaction with Dr Uttam Mani Pradhan



Hands On Training



Hands On Training





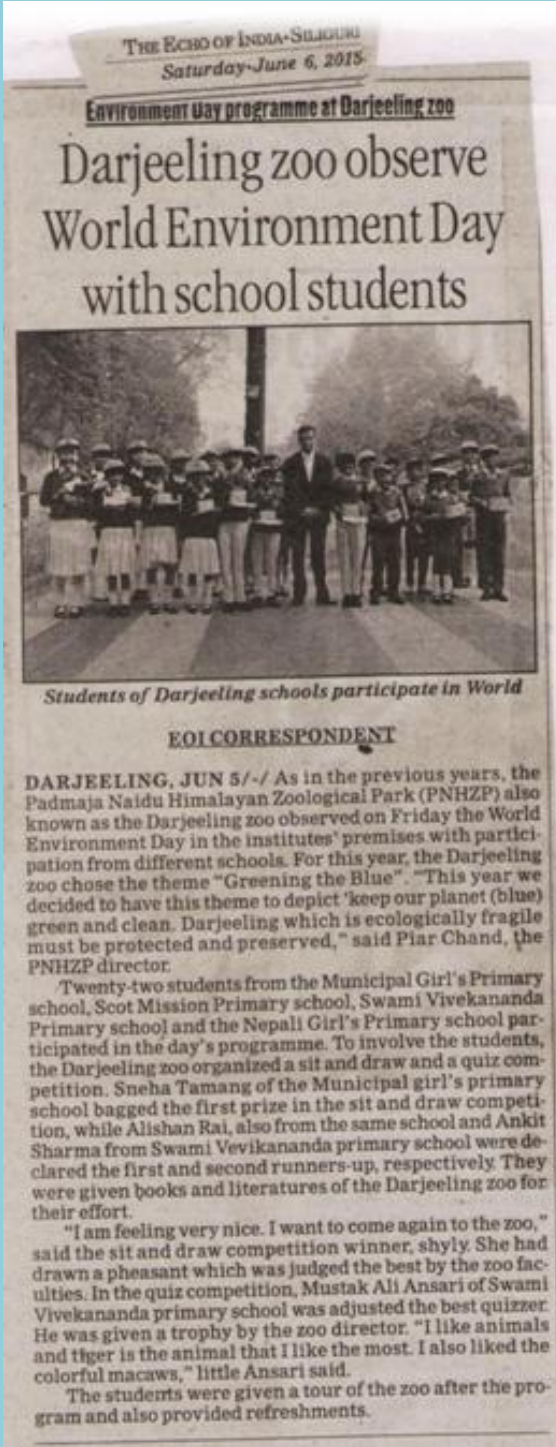
Hands On Training



In House Discussion



Valedictory Programme



दार्जीलिङ जू-मा विश्व पर्यावरण

समय संवाददाता

दार्जीलिङ, ५ जून।

विश्व पर्यावरण दिवसको अवसरमा आज दार्जीलिङ पद्मजा नायडु हिमालयन जुलोजिकल पार्क (जू)-ले दार्जीलिङका चारवटा प्राथमिक पाठशालाका विद्यार्थीहरूलाई लिएर हाजिरी जवाब प्रतियोगिता साथै बस अनि चित्र बनाउ प्रतियोगिताको आयोजना गर्‍यो। जू-का निर्देशक प्यार चन्दको उपस्थितिमा आयोजित यस कार्यक्रमको जानकारी गराउँदै दार्जीलिङ जू-का एडुकेशन अफिसर भूपेन रोकाले भने-हाल दार्जीलिङ जिल्लामा जैव विविधता, पर्यावरण विषयमा विभिन्न कार्यक्रमहरू हुने गरेको छ। तर यस्ता कार्यक्रमहरूमा उच्च माध्यमिक, उच्चतर माध्यमिक र महाविद्यालयका विद्यार्थीहरू मात्रै उपस्थित हुन्छन्, तर पर्यावरणसित सम्बन्धित विषय र कार्यक्रमहरूमा हामीले प्राथमिक पाठशालाका विद्यार्थीहरूलाई जानकारी दिन आवश्यक छ। यसैको फलस्वरूप आज दार्जीलिङ जू-ले प्राथमिक पाठशालाहरूका स-साना विद्यार्थीहरूलाई लिएर विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस पालन गरिएको हो अनि पर्यावरणबारे उनीहरूलाई अवगत गराइयो।

यी स-साना विद्यार्थीहरूलाई भविष्यका कर्णधारहरू हुन्, उनीहरूले यस विषयमा सानै उमेरदेखि जान्न-बुझ्नपर्छ भन्ने उद्देश्य राखेर नै आज जू-मा यो कार्यक्रम गरिएको हो। यसैबीच, पर्यावरण दिवसको अवसरमा आयोजित बस अनि चित्र बनाउ प्रतियोगितामा नगरपालिका कन्या प्राथमिक पाठशालाका विद्यार्थी स्नेहा तामाङ प्रथम भइन् भने यसै विद्यालयकी छात्रा अलिशन राई दोस्रो भइन्। स्वामी विवेकानन्द प्राथमिक पाठशालाका विद्यार्थी अंकित शर्माले यस प्रतियोगितामा तेस्रो स्थान ओगटे। यस्तैप्रकारले हाजिरी जवाब प्रतियोगितामा स्वामी विवेकानन्द प्राथमिक पाठशाला प्रथम भयो भने यसै विद्यालयका विद्यार्थी मुस्ताक अली अन्सारी उत्कृष्ट प्रतियोगी घोषित भए। आजको कार्यक्रममा नगरपालिका कन्या प्राथमिक पाठशाला, नेपाली कन्या प्राथमिक पाठशाला, स्कट मिशन पाठशाला अनि स्वामी विवेकानन्द प्राथमिक पाठशालाले अंशग्रहण गरेका थिए।