



PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL
NEWS LETTER

July- September 2017

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EDITORIALBOARD

Mr. Piar Chand, IFS

Director

Mr. Shiromani Syangden

Estate officer

Mr. Purna Ghising

Animal Supervisor

Miss Upashna Rai

Zoo Biologist

Miss Pranita Gupta

Education Assistant

NEWS LETTER ADDRESS

Director,

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological
Park,

Darjeeling- 734101

West Bengal, India

Tel: 0354-2254250 (Ch)

2253709 (Off), 2252522 (Fax)

E-mail: pnhzp@yahoo.com

Website: www.pnhzp.gov.in

From the Directors Desk...

The Park during this quarter was unable to involve itself into any kind of activities due to an indefinite strike than began from 15th June 2017. Immediate measures were taken up by the Park in consultation with the West Bengal Zoo Authority to run the zoo. Security of the Zoo compound and the other three breeding centers including the feed of the animals were taken care of immediately. A detailed status report about the functioning of the zoo was submitted twice to the Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority, Kolkata.

During this period, the Park witnessed birth of three red panda cubs. The activities in the field were kept to the minimum with minor repair and enrichment works in the enclosure. The strike finally got over on 26th September 2017 after which pending works both in the field and office were taken care of.

**Director
PNHZ Park
Darjeeling**

BIRTH OF ANIMAL

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No ofcub/faun
1.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>)	08.07.2017	0:0:2
2.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>)	16.07.2017	0:0:1
3.	Barking Deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjac</i>)	15.09.2017	0:0:1
4.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	24.07.2017	0:0:1

The park welcomed the birth of three Red panda cubs this quarter. Prashana (Stud book no 15118), the female red panda, gave birth to a cub on 16.07.2017. The sire of the cub is Shifu (Stud book no 13175) and the birth took place at the old conservation breeding center at the park. Rigsel (Stud book no 0789) gave birth to two cubs on 08.07.2017 at the Conservation breeding center at Topkey dara. The sire of the cubs in Balam (Stud book no 15117). The sex of the cubs is yet to be identified.



DEATH OF ANIMALS

Mukti, the Royal Bengal tigress (*Panthera tigris*), with the transponder number 956000002070949, passed away on 21.08.2017. She was rescued and was approximately 19 years old at the time of her death. The post mortem was done on 21.08.2017 and the cause of death was found to be multiple organ failure due to old age. The body was incinerated inside the park premises. She was a valuable part of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park family and will be deeply missed.



WORKSHOP ATTENDED BY STAFF

Dr Uttam Mani Pradhan, Veterinary Officer at PNHZP attended a training workshop on “Capacity Building of Indian Zoo Veterinarians on Animal Health Management in Captivity” organised by the Central Zoo Authority. The workshop was held at New Delhi from 16th September to 19th September 2017. The workshop involved the collaboration between the CZA and Smithsonian National Zoological Park, Washington D.C, USA regarding capacity building and scientific training in the area of Animal Health Management and Veterinary Wildlife Medicine.



ENRICHMENT IN THIS QUARTER

The enrichment work taken up in this quarter include new aerial walkways in the lesser carnivore and carnivore section, new feeding platform in the red panda enclosures and new logs in the Himalayan black bear enclosure.



New aerial walkways in the lesser carnivore enclosures



New aerial walkways in the carnivore enclosures



New logs and platform in the Himalayan Bear enclosure



New feeding platforms in the Red Panda enclosure

ZOO DURING STRIKE

Due to the political unrest in Darjeeling, a strike was called from 15th June 2017 to 26th September 2017 during which the zoo was closed off to visitors. However in this time regular maintenance of the Zoo premises and enrichment of the animal enclosures were done including adding new aerial walkways to the animal enclosures, repair of stairs and drains of the night shelters, electrical repair work in the new Bengal Natural History Museum and completion of the New Veterinary Hospital. There was no hindrance to the supply of food or any other need of the captive animals during the strike.



Cleaning of the transparent fibre sheet of the Pheasantry



Repair of stairs leading to the night shelter of Black leopard



Repair of drains in the night shelters



Repair of the keepers resting room and night shelters



New Veterinary Hospital



Electrical work at BNHM



Painting of the Director's Bungalow and fencing wall



STATUS REPORT OF THE ZOO DURING THE STRIKE

Two status reports vide letter No 277/PA 32/WBZA1/Core Pt VI /PNHZP dated 2/8/17 and letter No 307/ PA 32/WBZA1/Core PtVI /PNHZP dated 31.08.17 was sent to the Member Secretary, WBZA giving the status of the zoo during the 104 days strike due to political unrest in Darjeeling. The letters stated the following:

STATUS REPORT OF PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK DURING POLITICAL CRISIS BEGINNING FROM 15.06.2017

An indefinite strike was called for from afternoon of 15th June 2017 in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts by the political party “GorkhaJanmuktiMorcha” to protest “undemocratic” and pre planned police action” as per newspapers records (The Telegraph, 16th June 2017) . An indefinite agitation was already going on but it was so far focused on government offices only while rest of the establishments were functioning normally. The clash between the Morcha supporters and the police forces on 18th June followed with frequent events of burning down Government properties further deteriorated the situation. Amidst the existing circumstances, the administration of Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling ensured that the captive animals have no short comings in its upkeep and care. Different sections of the Park worked accordingly under the supervision of the director for ensuring safety of the institution and that of the animals too.

➤ **Director’s Personal Section (Administrative Office)**

The office issued Identity Cards for all the staffs both permanent and casuals so that they could come for their duties with any hindrance, especially for the staffs engaged for the daily cleaning and feeding of the animals.

The Bills taken care of.

Salary of staffs ensured.

Communications received replied accordingly.

Updating the West Bengal Zoo Authority with the day to day functioning of the Park.

➤ **Estate Section**

As on 16/-7/2017 the Estate Section engaged all the permanent male staffs of the park for protection duty inside the zoo at various places on a rotation basis. The staffs manned the different beats and performed patrolling inside the zoo.

Eight numbers of labour were engaged for night camp duty in two camps situated along the boundary wall of the Park. These labours were deputed for night duty on a daily basis.

The regular keeping staff of Topkedara, CBC were asked to perform night duty along with the security personnel already on duty at Topkedara, CBC.

For Satellite zoo Dow Hill, similar measures were taken and six extra personnel were engaged for night duty and patrolling for security of the facility.

The Estate Officer along with the Asst. Security Supervisor monitored the situation on a daily basis and reported the same to the Director, PNHZ Park, Darjeeling.

All the above mentioned measures are still in place and is proposed to be continued till the situation becomes normal.

All the staff members along with the security staffs are working as a team to protect the property of the Park and all necessary steps have been taken to ensure the same with the direction of the Director, PNHZ Park, Darjeeling.

➤ **Veterinary Section**

The Veterinary Officer making his regular visits and attending to all the emergencies concerning animal’s health along with the Veterinary Compounder and the Laboratory technician.

Parasitological examination for the month of June and July of all the animals of the display area and the breeding centers completed.

Scheduled deworming of those animal under the schedule during the month of June and July completed.

No major illness witnessed during the month of June and July.

Medicines and vitamin supplements provided to the following animals:

Pheasants, Snow leopard, Royal Bengal Tiger and Red Panda

Deaths recorded of the following animals: Himalayan Wolf, Newly born fawn of Sambar deer and one male Reeves Pheasant. All these animals had a natural death.

The Medical History Sheets of the animals are being updated regularly.

All required medicines are available in the hospital however if required all the medical shops in the town are open.

Visit to the Conservation Breeding Centre for the Red Pandas and the Snow Leopard at 3rd Mile, Topkedara and the Conservation Breeding Centre for the Pheasants and the Herbivores at Dow Hill, Kurseong hasn't been possible for the Veterinary Officer or his subordinates however, an account of the animal health is being taken up regularly through telephonic conversation with the Range Officer, Veterinary Compounder (at Dow Hill, Kurseong) and the Zoo Keepers of the two farthest breeding centers. . Emergency oral medicines have been stocked in these two breeding centres. The Old CBC is being visited regularly.

Sanitation of the enclosures been taken care of by distributing all the required sanitation materials to all the beats.

➤ **Animal Section**

Under the supervision of the Animal and the Asst. Animal Supervisor the daily upkeep and feeding of the animal hasn't been hampered. The in-charge of the section have ensured that all individuals from far and near taking care of the animals report daily to the zoo for their assigned task. The section in-charge have been able to issue identity cards from the authority to be produced wherever they are required to due to heavy patrolling by the security forces or by the movement supporters so that they are allowed to walk up for their duties.

The display area and the Old breeding Centre for Red Panda and the Snow leopards are visited daily by the Animal Supervisor and the Asst. Animal Supervisor with daily update to the Director in person. Emergencies of any kind is being addressed immediately with the help of the authority.

The feed items, quality and quantity is being checked by the supervisors daily before being dispatched to the respective beats. No complains have been recorded during the past two months (June & July 17).

Regular cleaning of the enclosure is being ensured but no kind of enrichment works (designing new platforms, aerial walkways, new furniture's, changing of ropes etc) have been possible.

During the month of June and July births/hatching of the following animals have been witnessed.

Sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*): Birth of one unidentified faun on 06.07.2017.

Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens fulgens*): two cubs on 08.07.2017 and 1 cub on 16.07.2017.

Blue Sheep (*Pseudois nayur*): one faun on 21.07.2017.

Cheer Pheasant (*Catreus wallachi*): four chicks hatched at CBC, Dow Hill, Kurseong.

The Conservation Breeding Centre for the Red Pandas and the Snow Leopard at 3rd Mile, Topkedara and the Conservation Breeding Centre for the Pheasants and the Herbivores at Dow Hill, Kurseong have not been visited by the supervisors, but telephonic communications are being made regularly with the staffs of the two centers for getting regular updates about the functioning and animal health status.

Daily field events are being compiled in the daily report and made available to the Veterinary Officer and the Zoo Biologist to be finally put up to the Director. No daily reports being received from the breeding Center at Kurseong.

➤ **Store Section**

There has been no compromise in the quality and quantity of the feed items provided to the animals. Quantity of the items are being disbursed as prescribed in the feed chart.

Items not available are tomatoes, papaya and green chilies.

Extra feed as suggested for the lactating mothers by the staffs for Red panda, Blue sheep, H. Tahr and Markhor are being supplied regularly.

The staffs of the commissary section (store) are reporting for duty daily. The cook is also reporting to the duty daily and preparing the feeds and distributing timely.

There have been no complaints placed as regards to feed and feed items in the "Daily Feed Inspection Register (2017-2018).

The supply of beef and mutton has not been disrupted and the suppliers have been able to keep the supply regular.

The supply of chicken have been disrupted and the same has been replaced by either beef or mutton.

As for the dry rations the stocks are enough for around 25 days after which the staff members along with the store keeper and Estate Officer went down to Siliguri and brought the essential commodities during the night of 08.07.2017.

As of now the feed and medicines required for the upkeep of the animals are in stock and if in need we may procure the same from Siliguri in near future.

➤ **Research & Education Section**

Behavioral studies conducted for the Red Panda in the display area and the old breeding center (report enclosed). Studies on the captive Himalayan Goral concerning an ongoing project was disrupted when the political situation in the town deteriorated.

The two ongoing projects “Status Survey of Himalayan Goral (*Nemorhaedus goral*) at Singalila National Park, Neora Valley National Park, Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary and Kurseong Division” and “Study of Microflora and Micro fauna at PNHZ Park” had to be interrupted.

Drafts of the Annual report (16-17), communications received from zoo authorities prepared to be dispatched later.

Educational materials (Animal Collection Plan, Zoo Pamphlet, A book on the overview of the Conservation Breeding Programme and Zoo Diary) prepared and finalized. Work orders have been issued accordingly for the printing of these materials.

Designing of the Annual Report of PNHZ Park (2015-16) have been completed and quotations have been asked for the same after being approved in the Governing Body Meeting (14th) of the West Bengal Zoo Authority held on 16th May, 2017.

The Park is being visited by the Zoo Biologist regularly.

Record update in the Zoological Management Information System (ZIMS) have not been updated since June 17 due to ban on internet services.

Quarterly submission of the Animal Inventory (April- June 17) have not been done due to ban on internet services.

Except for regular maintenance of the specimens at BNHM no taxidermy work is in progress.

A second status report was sent on

STATUS REPORT OF PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK, DARJEELING DURING THE ONGOING STRIKE.

A report on the various activities undertaken by the Park under the supervision of the Director, PNHZ Park during the political unrest that began from 15.06.2017 was submitted to your office dated 02.08.2017. This report is a follow up as to the work undertaken by various sections since 02.08.2017.

(A) Director’s Personnel Section (Administrative Wing)

- 1) The administrative section have been attending to various official communications received from different zoos, departments etc. The communications are being replied back timely and are being delivered either through fax or by post.
- 2) Bills pertaining to various kinds of purchases are being taken care of.
- 3) Salary of staffs ensured on time.

(B) Estate Section (Security Wing)

- 1) Constant deployment of staffs during the day and night hours for strict vigilant at the display zone, adjoining area of the Park and the other three breeding centres.
- 2) Minor repair works being carried out in the – animal night shelters and visitors pathways.
- 3) Trimming down of trees of the open enclosures and the peripheral areas of the park.
- 4) Cleaning the compound of the Conservation Breeding Centre for Red Panda and snow leopard at 3rd Mile, Topkedara.

(C) Veterinary Section

- 1) Deworming of all the animals done:
 - 08.08.2017: Birds and Pheasants/1:2 Snow leopard with vitamin additives
 - 24.08.2017: Red Panda (7:8) /Royal Bengal Tiger (1:1)/Common leopard (1:1)/Snow leopard (0:1)/All herbivores – Himalayan Goral, /Himalayn Tahr/ Blue Sheep/ Sambar deer/barking deer/Yak with vitamin additives.
 - 28.08.2017: Reptiles with vitamin additives.

2) Treatment :

- Male Kaleej Pheasant – Treatment on 10.08.2017 for Injury on head region due to infighting. The male died on 10.08.2017.
 - Treatment for prolonged chronic illness of uterine bleeding with hind leg paralysis towards the end of a male Royal Bengal Tiger aged nineteen years. The animal was treated from 13.08.2017-20.08.2017. The animal died on 21.08.2017. The Post Mortem was conducted on the same day.
- 3) Visit by the Veterinary Officer of the Park to the Conservation Breeding Centre at Topkedara, 3rd Mile. As reported all the animals are in good health. The new born red panda cubs are fine and the mother is nursing the cubs well.
- 4) The Veterinary unit was shifted to the new building on 17.08.2017.
- 5) The quality and quantity of the feed are being checked regularly by the veterinary officer.

(D) Animal Section

- 1) Both the Animal and the Asst. Animal Supervisor presence in the field daily.
- 2) Monitoring the feed provided to all the animals.
- 3) Monitoring day to day work in various beats- cleaning of the enclosures, night shelters, internal shifting of animals other miscellaneous works.
- 4) Enrichment work done in the lesser carnivore enclosure.
- 5) Daily reports being prepared and circulated to the veterinary officer, zoo biologist and Director.

(E) Commissary Section

- 1) All the feed items have been stocked up well.
- 2) No deficiency of any food items.
- 3) Fresh meat being provided to the animals every day.

(F) Research and Education Section.

- 1) History sheets of all the new born animals prepared manually and in the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS).
- 2) All records being updated manually in the animal history sheet.
- 3) Preparation of draft report of the annual report 2016-17 and quarterly newsletter.