

NEWSLETTER

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

SECOND QUARTER | APRIL-JUNE | 2026



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NEWSLETTER ADDRESS

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From the Directors Desk...

Greetings from PNHZP family! I am delighted to present the second quarterly newsletter of the year. This quarter featured several significant updates including natality, mortality, and animal adoption along with educational visits by various schools and institutions. The park also celebrated Earth Day, World Environment Day, and the International Day of Yoga, while a health check-up camp was organized for zoo staff. Capacity-building initiatives included training programmes for veterinarians, and continued efforts were made towards animal enrichment, taxidermy work, and overall developmental activities within the park.

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

**Chief Conservator of Forest's & Director
PNHZ Park, Darjeeling**

NATALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No
1.	Mishmi Takin (<i>Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor</i>)	09.04.2026	1:0:0
2.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Naemorhedus goral</i>)	11.04.2026	1:0:0
3.	Snow Leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)	18.04.2026	0:0:2
4.	Common Grey Langur (<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>)	23.04.2026	1:0:0
5.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	14.05.2026	0:0:2
6.	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	29.05.2026	0:0:5
7.	Cockatiel (<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>)	04.06.2026	0:0:4
8.	Ring Necked Pheasant (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>)	07.06.2026	0:0:2
9.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	07.06.2026	0:0:4
10.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	09.06.2026	0:0:3

MORTALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Common Grey langur (<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>)	21.04.2026	1:0:0
2.	Lady Amherst (<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>)	04.06.2026	1:0:0

Acquisition of Animals

Date	Animals	Ratio	Acquired from
25.06.2026	Royal Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>)	0:1:0	North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Salugara

Transfer of Animals

Date	Animals	Ratio	Transfer to
25.06.2026	Royal Bengal Tiger (Leucistic) (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>)	0:1:0	North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Salugara

Adoption of animals in this quarter

This quarter the park has one adopter. The details of the adopter are listed below:

Sl. No	Name of the Adopter	Name of the animal Adopted	Period of Adoption
1.	Miss. Aritri Das	Snow Leopard (Manju)	30.04.2026 to 29.04.2027

Educational visit

Sl. No	Date	Name of the School/ Training Institute/ College	Number of Students	Number of faculty	Educational Incentives
1.	06.04.2026	St. Mary's School, Singla	45	3	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
2.	09.05.2026	Springdale Nursery School, Darjeeling	100	10	50% Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
3.	10.05.2026 to 14.05.2026	Nandankanan Zoological Park • Range Officer • Biologists • Forester • Animal Keeper	4		Educational tour & educational materials
4.	16.05.2026	St. Joseph's Convent, Kalimpong	45	4	50% Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
5.	24.05.2026	Sambhota Tibetan School, Darjeeling	25	3	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee



Staff members of Nandankanan Zoological Park

Earth Day Celebration

Earth day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about environmental protection and sustainable living. The theme for this year was “Our Power, Our Planet” focusing on collective action, nature-positive policies, and investing in sustainable solutions to combat climate change and biodiversity.

PNHZ Park celebrated Earth Day, 2026 on 21st April by organizing an educational programme on “Best Out of Waste” Competition for students of class VIII & IX to encourage creativity and to promote reuse of materials. Students from 5 different local Schools in Darjeeling participated in the program.

Sl.No	Name of the School	No. of Participants	STD
1.	Assembly of God’s Church School	2	VIII & IX
2.	Camelia School	2	VIII & IX
3.	Loreto Convent	2	VIII & IX
4.	St. Teresa’s Girls High School	2	VIII & IX
5.	Nepali Girls High School	2	VIII & IX

The scheduled program for Earth Day, 2026:

10:30am: Registration of Students & Faculty

10:40am: Welcome address & brief introduction about Earth Day & its theme

10:45am to 12:15pm: Address by the Estate Officer & commencement of the Program.

12:15pm to 12:30pm: Tea break

12:30pm to 1:00pm: Presentation of creations by participants and evaluation by the judges

1:00pm to 1:30pm: Announcement of winners & Prize distribution

1:30pm: Distribution of Refreshment & Dispersal

The students participated enthusiastically and showcased innovative crafts made from the waste materials. The Crafts were judged by the Assistant Director Cum Veterinary Officer, PNHZP, and Estate Officer PNHZP on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- Usefulness &
- Presentation

The Winners of the Best Out of Waste Competition are as follows:

Sl. No.	Position	Name of the School
1.	1 st	Assembly of God’s Church School
2.	2 nd	Nepali Girls High School
3.	3 rd	St. Teresa’s Girls High School



Celebration of World Environment Day

On 5th June 2026, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park observed World Environment Day 2026 through a plantation drive under the State-Level Tree Plantation Drive Campaign- “Ekti Gaach Mayer Naame” ("आमाको नाउँमा एउटा बिरुवा"). The programme commenced with the gathering of all officers and staff members in front of the Asiatic Black Bear Enclosure.

As part of the campaign, a total of 130 saplings of native species were planted across PNHZP (80 saplings), Conservation Breeding Centre Topkeydara (20 saplings), and Conservation Breeding Centre Dowhill, Kurseong (30 saplings) by Zoo officials and staff members as a contribution towards enhancing green cover and promoting biodiversity conservation. The species- wise plantation details are as follows:

Sl.No	Name of Sapling	Number Planted
1.	Pipli (<i>Exbucklandia populnea</i>)	27
2.	Kafal (<i>Myrica esculenta</i>)	20
3.	Katus (<i>Castanopsis tribuloides</i>)	20
4.	Sawur (<i>Betula alnoides</i>)	20
5.	Paiyu (<i>Prunus cerasoides</i>)	20
6.	Gagun (<i>Saurauia nepaulensis</i>)	10
7.	Nebharo (<i>Ficus auriculata</i>)	6
8.	Phutta (<i>Brassaiopsis hispida</i>)	5
9.	Maya (<i>Rhaphiolepis petiolate</i>)	2
Total		130

To further spread message of environmental conservation among young visitors, caps carrying the slogan “Ekti Gaach Mayer Naame” and "आमाको नाउँमा एउटा बिरुवा" were distributed among children visiting the zoo. The initiative promotes the State-Level Tree Plantation Drive Campaign and encouraged children to develop a sense of responsibility towards nature and environmental protection.

The event was also shared through the Zoo’s different social media platforms to create awareness about environmental conservation.





Health Check-Up Camp for Zoo Staff

A health check-up camp was organized at PHNZ Park on 11.06.2026 for the staff members of the zoo with the support of a medical team from Darjeeling District Hospital. The team comprised Dr. Sayanshi Deb Barma, (Medical Officer), Dr. Asis Bhattacharjee (Medical Officer), Sister Namrata Chhetri, and Mr. Pratap Subba (GDA).

A total of 68 zoo staff members participated in the camp and underwent routine medical examinations. As a preventive measure against occupational exposure to animal-related risks, Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) was administered to Animal Keeper's, Animal Attendants, and the Zoo Biologist.

As a token of appreciation, the PHNZ Park felicitated the medical team with souvenirs in recognition of their valuable support and contribution towards the successful conduct of the Health Check-up Camp.



Celebration of International Day of Yoga

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, observed the International Day of Yoga 2026 on 21st June at the Zoo premises from 6:30am to 7:45am. The programme witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 144 staff members of the park. The observance was conducted in line with this year's theme **"Yoga for Healthy Ageing"**, highlighting the importance of yoga in enhancing overall health and wellness.

The yoga included various asanas, breathing exercises, and meditation techniques under the guidance of yoga instructor Mr. Rudra Sharma, emphasizing the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life and overall health and wellness.

The programme was successfully conducted with active participation promoting the spirit of health and well-being.





Training of Veterinarians for Reintroduction of Tigers at Buxa Tiger Reserve on Biology, behaviour, and Treatment at NBWAP, Salugara, and PNHZ Park, Darjeeling

A two-day training programme for veterinarians was conducted at PNHZ Park Darjeeling from 25th to 26th June 2026. The training programme was a part of four days training programme. The first part was held at North Bengal Wild Animals Park (NBWAP) from 23rd to 24th June 2026. The programme was organized to enhance the knowledge and practical skills of Veterinary Officers in the management and healthcare of Royal Bengal Tigers.

The following Veterinary Officers participated in the training programme:

1. Dr. Anupam Gabur, Veterinary Officer, Buxa Tiger Reserve.
2. Dr. Utpal Sharma, Veterinary Officer, Jaldapara Wildlife Divison.
3. Dr. Soura Maity, Veterinary Officer, Block Animal Health Centre, Kumargram.

The training covered various aspects of veterinary care and health management of Royal Bengal Tigers, including handling and restrain procedures, disease surveillance, diagnosis and treatment protocols, emergency response, immobilization techniques, sample collection, health assessment, record keeping, nutrition, enclosure management, welfare protocols, and practical exposure to routine veterinary procedures.

The programme provided valuable knowledge and practical exposure, enhancing the participant's skills in tiger healthcare and management. The Training concluded with interactive discussions and feedback from the participants.



Taxidermy work done in this quarter

- Maintenance of Rolled specimen by chemical process and thorough cleaning was done in Taxidermy unit from Box no C to I.
- Maintenance and thorough cleaning of skeleton section has been done and preservatives were added.



Enrichment in this quarter



Pre-monsoon enrichments at herbivore enclosures



Installation of aerial walkways at Conservation Breeding Centre Red Panda enclosure



Installation of bamboo barricade at Golden Jackal enclosure



Installation of hanging rope at Snow Leopard and Common Leopard enclosure



Installation of ladder at Asian Palm Civet enclosure



Basket for nesting at Victoria crowned pigeon enclosure



Building of sand bath at pheasantry



Installation of bird bath at aviary

Development in this quarter



Restoration of landside near office area