

NEWSLETTER

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

THIRD QUARTER | JULY-SEPTEMBER | 2025



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NEWSLETTER 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

EDITORIAL BOARD

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Former Director
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From the Directors Desk...

PNHZ Park proudly present the third quarterly newsletter of the year 2025. This quarter the park celebrated Van Mahotsava, Foundation day and Independence Day. Van Mahotsav was celebrated with a tree plantation drive, various fun games were organised on Foundation Day to encourage staff participation and teamwork. The International Red Panda day was celebrated by organising a 'Poster Making & Mask making Competition' where students of local schools participated. More than 328 students/trainees/ probationary officers visited the park in this quarter for educational purpose.

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

**Director
PNHZ Park
Darjeeling**

NATALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	Ratio
1.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	02.07.2025	0:0:6
2.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	04.07.2025	0:0:4
3.	Red jungle fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	07.07.2025	0:0:7
4.	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	09.07.2025	0:0:1
5.	Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	12.07.2025	0:0:3
6.	Lady Amherst (<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>)	14.07.2025	0:0:1
7.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	15.07.2025	0:1:0
8.	Golden Pheasant(<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	15.07.2025	0:0:7
9.	Lady Amherst (<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>)	16.07.2025	0:0:1
10.	Red jungle fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	20.07.2025	0:0:3
11.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	21.07.2025	0:0:6
12.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	21.07.2025	0:1:0
13.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	23.07.2025	0:0:5
14.	Fischer's Lovebird (<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>)	25.07.2025	0:0:10
15.	Red jungle fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	25.07.2025	0:0:3
16.	Red jungle fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	26.07.2025	0:0:6
17.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	13.08.2025	1:0:0
18.	Fischer's Lovebird (<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>)	20.08.2025	0:0:13
19.	Lilian's Lovebird (<i>Agapornis lilianae</i>)	20.08.2025	0:0:5
20.	Rosy Faced Love bird (<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>)	20.08.2025	0:0:2
21.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	25.08.2025	0:1:0
22.	Fischer's Lovebird (<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>)	22.09.2025	0:0:12
23.	Lilian's Lovebird (<i>Agapornis lilianae</i>)	22.09.2025	0:0:8

MORTALITY

Sl. No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	Ratio
1.	Leopard Cat (<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>)	07.07.2025	1:0:0
2.	Baring Deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>)	12.07.2025	0:1:0
3.	Baring Deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>)	25.07.2025	1:0:0
4.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	07.08.2025	1:0:0
5.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	15.08.2025	0:1:0
6.	Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	15.08.2025	1:0:0
7.	Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	15.08.2025	1:0:0
8.	Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	16.08.2025	1:0:0
9.	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	19.08.2025	0:1:0
10.	Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	19.08.2025	0:1:0
11.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	29.08.2025	0:1:0
12.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	03.09.2025	1:0:0
13.	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	05.09.2025	1:0:0
14.	Lady Amherst (<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>)	08.09.2025	1:0:0
15.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	13.09.2025	0:1:0
16.	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	20.09.2025	1:0:0

Acquisition of animals

Date	Animals	Ratio	Acquired from
05.07.2025	Victoria Crowned pigeon (<i>Goura victoria</i>)	1:1:0	Zoological Garden Alipore, Kolkata
23.07.2025	Fischer's Lovebird (<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>)	0:0:10	Garchumuk Deer Park, Howrah
	Lilian's Lovebird (<i>Agapornis lilianae</i>)	0:0:10	
	Rosy Faced Love bird (<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>)	0:0:7	
	Diamond dove (<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>)	0:0:5	
	Quaker Parakeet (<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>)	0:0:1	

Educational visit

Sl. No	Date	Name of the School/ Training Institute/ College	Number of Students/ Trainees	Number of faculty	Educational Incentives
1.	19.07.2025	Tamralipa Mahavidyalaya, Dept. of Physiology	17	2	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
2.	24.08.2025	Sutahata Janakalyan Sikshaniketan	64	7	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
3.	18.08.2025	Sikkim Government College, Namchi	31	5	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
4.	14.09.2025	Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun	59	1	Zoo Pamphlets & educational materials
5.	21.09.2025	Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun	59	1	Zoo Pamphlets & educational materials
6.	24.09.2025	Hakola High School	50	25	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
7.	24.09.2025	Sambhunagar High School	48	12	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee



Celebration of Van Mahotsava

‘Van Mahotsav’ is an annual tree-planting festival held in July, during which millions of trees are planted across India. This meaningful tradition was initiated in 1950 by Shri K. M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food, with the aim of raising widespread awareness about the importance of tree plantation and forest conservation. The festival is observed by planting saplings in homes, schools, colleges, offices, and various public spaces.

This year in West Bengal the Van Mahotsav week celebrated from 14th July to 20th July. The Park celebrated the first day of Van Mahotsav by planting 15,000 indigenous plants and native grasses like Gagun (*Saurauia napaulensis*), Nevara (*Ficus hookeriana*), Pipli (*Bucklandia populnea*), Napier grass (*Cenchrus purpureus*), Champ (*Magnolia campbellii*), Dudilo (*Ficus nemoralis*) across PNHZP, CBC Topkey, and CBC Dowhill. This initiative aims to promote long-term self-sufficiency in meeting the fodder requirements of herbivores.

The plantation program was held on 14th July at 11:00 AM with all officers and staff of PNHZ Park gathering in front of the Asiatic Black Bear enclosure. The event was formally inaugurated by the Director of PNHZP, who planted a sapling in the zoo forest. This was followed by active participation from staff members who planted various saplings throughout the park. The program concluded with a lunch at the PNHZP canteen.



Foundation Day Celebration

On the occasion of the 67th Foundation Day on 14th August 2025, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park organized a series of fun games and activities to celebrate the day with enthusiasm. Various games were organized for the staffs & for the children of the staff. The celebration started with the flag hoisting followed by singing of the zoo anthem by the staff. The Director, Assistant Director cum Veterinary officer and Estate officer addressed the staff of the Park. The program concluded with the distribution of prizes & lunch at the Guest House.

The schedule & games for the day were:

1. Program for the staff children on 9th August 2025 (Saturday):

4 to 6 years	7 to 9 years	10 to 12 years
Football	Sack Race	Sac Race
Pin the Donkey	Throw the ball in a bucket	Throw the ball in a bucket
	Spoon & Ball race	Spoon & Ball race

Schedule:

1. 10:00am- Assembly of all participants in front of Asiatic Black Bear enclosure
2. 10:10 am- Welcome speech
3. 10:30 am onwards- Initiation of the program
4. 01:00 pm- Distribution of prize, packet lunch & dispersal

Winners:

4 to 6 years		
Sl No.	Name	Place
Football		
1.	Miss. Adyashri Gurung	1 st
2.	Mr. Prazual Bishwakarma	2 nd
Pin the Donkey		
1.	Miss. Adyashri Gurung	1 st
2.	Mr. Prazual Bishwakarma	2 nd
7 to 9 years		
Sack Race		
1.	Mr. Pawan Balmiki	1 st
2.	Mr. Rickden Tamang	2 nd
3.	Miss. Advika Chettri	3 rd
Throw the ball in a bucket		
1.	Miss. Advika Chettri	1 st
2.	Miss. Siya Chettri	2 nd
3.	Miss. Sangay Yanchhen	3 rd
Spoon & Ball race		
1.	Miss. Siya Chettri	1 st
2.	Miss. Sangay Yanchhen	2 nd
3.	Mr. Rickden Tamang	3 rd
10 to 12 years		

Sack Race		
1.	Miss. Sambardhana Chettri	1 st
2.	Mr. Ayan Mall	2 nd
3.	Mr. Aryan Balmiki	3 rd
Throw the ball in a bucket		
1.	Miss. Aashna Balmiki	1 st
2.	Mr. Samdup Tamang	2 nd
3.	Mr. Aaron Lepcha	3 rd
Spoon & Ball race		
1.	Miss. Avni chettri	1 st
2.	Mr. Aryan Balmiki	2 nd
3.	Miss. Sambardhana Chettri	3 rd

2. Program for the staffs on 14th August 2025 (Thursday):

1. Marathon (Red Panda Run) for men (Two category: Below 40 years, above 40 years)
2. Musical chair for women

Schedule:

1. 09:00am- Flag Hoisting
2. 11:00 am- Staff Marathon for men (All category)
3. 11:00am - Musical Chair for women
- 6: 11:30 pm -Vote of thanks & prize distribution.
7. 12:00 pm - Lunch & Dispersal

Winners:

Sl No.	Name	Place
Musical Chair		
1.	Miss. Rohini Chettri	1 st
2.	Miss. Ruma Mandal	2 nd
3.	Miss. Ranju Gurung	3 rd
Marathon (Below 40 years)		
1.	Mr. Yogen Dewan	1 st
2.	Mr. Sahil gurung	2 nd
3.	Mr. Arbin Tamang	3 rd
Marathon (Above 40 years)		
1.	Mr. Amar Chettri	1 st
2.	Mr. Deepen Gurung	2 nd
3.	Mr. Dawa Sherpa	3 rd



Farewell to Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, IFS

On 14th August 2025, the park bid farewell to Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, IFS, former Director PNHZ Park. Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi served the park as the Director from 25.08.2021 to 14.08.2025. His contribution to the park is commendable. Shri. Arun Kumar Mukhopadhyay, IFS took over the charge of Director, PNHZ Park from Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, IFS.



Independence Day Celebration

The Park celebrated India's 79th Independence Day on 15.08.2025. All staff of the Park gathered in front of Asiatic Black Bear Enclosure at 8:30 am for the flag hoisting. The Director, Assistant Director cum Veterinary officer and Estate officer addressed the staff of the Park. The celebration ended with distribution of sweets to the staff.



Celebration of International Red Panda Day

Red Pandas are native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China. They are considered as endangered species by IUCN and are legally protected in countries such as India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China. Over the past three generation, their global population has decreased by nearly 50%. To promote awareness about their conservation and declining population, International Red Panda Day is celebrated every year on third Saturday of September. This year, the Park celebrated the day on 20th September.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, internationally renowned for the conservation of this elusive species, celebrates International Red Panda Day every year to raise awareness among the students and public. This year, on this occasion the park decided to conduct a **“Mask making & Poster Making Competition”** for the students from different local schools. 25 students from 7 different local schools in Darjeeling participated in the program.

The schedule for International Red Panda Day Storytelling competition 2025 is below:

10:30am: Registration of students, faculty and distribution of materials at conference hall of PNHZP

10:40am: Address by the Director, PNHZP & inauguration of the program

11:00am to 01:00 pm: Commencement of the Competition.

01:00pm to 01:15pm: Tea Break

01:15pm to 01:45pm: Announcement of the result & distribution of prizes/certificates

02:00pm: Distribution of refreshment & dispersal

The program saw enthusiastic participation of students and teachers. The posters were judged by the Assistant Director cum Veterinary Officer, PNHZP, Estate Officer, PNHZP & Zoo Biologist, PNHZP on the following criteria:

- Creativity.
- Relevance to theme.

Following are the winners of the Poster making & Mask making competition:

Sl No.	Place	Name	Class	School
Poster Making Competition (STD IX & X)				
1.	1 st	Mr. Niten Sherpa	IX	Sambhota Tibetan School
2.	2 nd	Miss. Aapti Pradhan	X	Mount Hermon School
3.	3 rd	Mr. Roshan Sharma	X	Gyanodaya Niketan
Mask Making Competition (STD VII & VIII)				

1.	1 st	Mr. Nima Tshering	VII	Sambhota Tibetan School
2.	2 nd	Miss. Nargis Parveen	VIII	Sambhota Tibetan School
3.	3 rd	Mr. Sumiran Dahal	VI	St. Robert's H.S. School

This year the park's aim was to spread awareness and importance about the endangered Red Pandas and their declining population, the need to protect the forests and their natural habitat and encourage young people to take part in wildlife conservation.



Enrichment in this quarter



Hanging feed enrichment at Herbivore enclosure



Feeding box enrichment at Herbivore enclosure



Installation of swing at Langur enclosure



Addition of Resting Platform and resting shed at Red Panda enclosure at old CBC



Installation of rope, tree branches & feeding platform at pheasantry for perching & feeding



Feeding enrichment at Asiatic Black Bear enclosure