

NEWSLETTER

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

THIRD QUARTER | JULY-SEPTEMBER | 2026



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From the Directors Desk...

Greetings from PNHZP family! I am delighted to present the third quarterly newsletter of the year, highlighting key updates on animal natality, mortality, acquisition, transfer and adoption. This quarter also witnessed educational visits, celebrations of important environmental days, International Red Panda Day, and the release of Himalayan Goral and Red Jungle Fowl into Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary.

Continued efforts were also made towards animal enrichment, taxidermy work and the overall development of the park.

I look forward to sharing more updates in the next quarter.

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

NATALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Birth	No
1.	Himalayan Tahr (<i>Hemitragus jemlahicu</i>)	02.07.2026	0:1:0
2.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	02.07.2026	0:0:2
3.	Lady Amherst (<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>)	04.07.2026	0:0:2
4.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	06.07.2026	0:0:4
5.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Naemorhedus goral</i>)	06.07.2026	0:1:0
6.	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	08.07.2026	0:0:2
7.	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	11.07.2026	0:0:1
8.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	11.07.2026	0:0:1
9.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	13.07.2026	0:0:1
10.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	15.07.2026	0:0:1
11.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Naemorhedus goral</i>)	20.07.2026	0:1:0
12.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	21.07.2026	0:1:0

MORTALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	08.07.2026	1:0:0
2.	Snow Leopard Cub (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)	08.07.2026	0:1:0
3.	Snow Leopard Cub (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)	09.07.2026	0:1:0
4.	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	27.07.2026	0:1:0
5.	Golden Jackal (<i>Canis aureus</i>)	31.07.2026	0:1:0
6.	Grey Peacock Pheasant (<i>Polyplectron bicalcaratum</i>)	10.08.2026	0:1:0
7.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	12.08.2026	1:0:0
8.	Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)	19.08.2026	1:0:0
9.	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	02.09.2026	0:1:0
10.	Silver Pheasant (<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	02.09.2026	1:0:0

Adoption of animals in this quarter

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

Sl. No	Name of the Adopter	Name of the animal Adopted	Period of Adoption
1.	Mr. Nilesh Kumar Saha	Braking Deer (Ronit & Prakriti)	09.07.2026 to 08.07.2027
2.	State Bank of India, Darjeeling	- Red Panda (Karma) - Siberian Tiger (Akamas) - Asiatic Black Bear (Guddu)	22.07.2026 to 21.07.2027

Educational visit

Sl. No	Date	Name of the School/ Training Institute/ College	Number of Students	Number of faculty	Educational Incentives
1.	04.07.2026	St. Joseph's Convent, Kalimpong	48	3	50% Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
2.	22.07.2026	West Bengal Forest School, Dowhill Dy. FROs	14	3	Educational Tour Educational Materials
3.	27.07.2026	Advance Training Academy, Purba Bardhaman	75	10	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
4.	28.07.2026	Banbole High School (H.S)	30	2	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
5.	31.07.2026	Camellia School	48	3	50% Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
6.	16.09.2026	Maharani Girl's Higher Secondary School	15	3	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee & Educational Tour
7.	22.09.2026	Sree Chaitanya College, Habra	19	2	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
8.	25. 09.2026	Sambhota Tibetan School, Darjeeling	16	2	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
9.	25.09.2026	State Forest Training Institute, Mahilong, Ranchi (Forest Guard)	112	1	Educational Tour



**West Bengal Forest
School, Dowhill, Dy. FROs**



**Maharani Girl's Higher
Secondary School, Darjeeling**



**State Forest Training Institute,
Mahilong, Ranchi, Forest Guards**

Aranya Saptaha Celebration

In observance of Aranya Saptaha 2026, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, organized a Plantation Drive and Sit & Draw Competition on 15th July 2026. The programme was conducted with the participation of 16 students from North Point Academy, along with accompanying teacher and the zoo staff members. The programme schedule is as follows:

10:30am: Assemble near the Asiatic Black Bear Enclosure.

10:40am to 11:15am: Plantation Drive around the zoo premises.

11:30am to 1:00pm: Sit and Draw Competition.

1:00pm to 1:30pm: Evaluation of Drawing.

1:30pm to 2:00pm: Prizes/Certificates Distribution.

2:00pm: Distribution of Packet Lunch & Dispersal.

Plantation Drive: The plantation drive was organized around the zoo premises with the active participations of the students accompanied by their teacher and the zoo staff members. As a part of initiative, 50 indigenous tree saplings were planted. The details of the saplings are as follows:

Sl.No	Name of the Saplings	Number Planted
1.	Rani Chap (<i>Michelia doltsopa</i>)	15
2.	Ghogeey Chap (<i>Magnolia campbelli</i>)	15
3.	Lapchey Kawlo (<i>Machilus edulis</i>)	10
4.	Katus (<i>Castanopsis sp.</i>)	5
5.	Aarupatey (<i>Prunus napaulensis</i>)	5
Total		50

Sit & Draw Competition: Following the plantation drive, a Sit & Draw competition was organized on the theme "Forest of My dreams". The competition encouraged students to creatively express their vision of forest, wildlife, and environmental conservation through art.

The winners of the Sit & Draw competition are as follows:

Position	Name of the student	Name of the school
1 st	Miss. Lhamin D. Sherpa	North Point Academy
2 nd	Master. Chewang Norbu Sherpa	North Point Academy
3 rd	Master Punit Yadav	North Point Academy

The programme concluded with the announcement of the winners and the distribution of Prizes & Certificates to the winners and participants of the competition.



International Tiger Day, 2026

PNHZ Park celebrated International Tiger Day on 29th July 2026 with enthusiastic participation from students enrolled under Zoo Rangers Programme. A total of 8 Zoo Rangers participated in the programme. The celebration began with a Plantation Drive, where the Zoo Rangers planted native saplings within the zoo premises, symbolizing their commitment to a greener and healthier environment.

Following the Plantation Drive, the students participated in an Educational Zoo Tour, during which they learned about the rich biodiversity of Eastern Himalayas and the conservation initiatives undertaken by the zoo.

The Zoo Rangers also observed Enrichment Activities for the Royal Bengal and Siberian Tiger. They learned how enrichment encourages natural behaviour, enhances the physical and mental well-being of captive animals.

The programme served as the first introductory gathering of the Zoo Rangers, providing students with an opportunity to interact with Zoo staff members and begin their journey as young ambassadors for wildlife and the environment.

As a part of the awareness campaign, informative leaflets on Tiger conservation were distributed among Zoo visitors.

The programme concluded with enthusiastic participation from the Zoo Rangers, Visitors and Zoo staff, successfully promoting environmental awareness and a responsible stewardship of nature.



PNHZ Park Foundation Day, 2026

PNHZ Park celebrated its 68th Foundation Day with enthusiasm and participation from the staff members of the park. The celebration was organized over two days, with various games and activities for the staff, followed by the Foundation Day programme.

1. Staff Games & Activities - 13th August 2026.

As a part of the Foundation Day celebrations, various games and activities were organized for the staff members on 13th August 2026. The activities included:

For Male Staff

1. Marathon

- Below 40 years
- 40-50 years
- 50-60 years

2. Tug of war (5 members in each team)

3. Sack Race

For Female Staff

1. Passing the ball

2. Water filling race

3. Thread & needle competition

The activities were conducted according to the schedule programme:

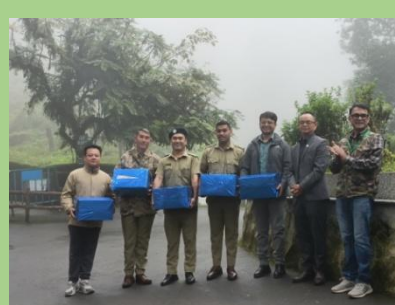
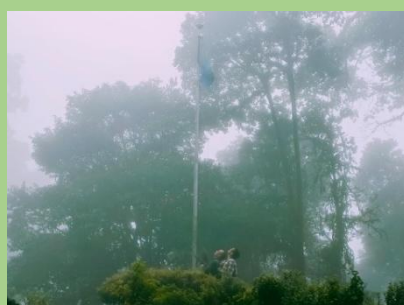
Sl.No	Time	Activities
1	9:00 – 10:00 am	Marathon from the Old Conservation Breeding Centre (CBC) to the PNHZ Park
2	10:00 -10:30 am	Tug of War, Sack Race
3	10:30 – 11:00 am	Passing the ball, Water filling race, Thread & Needle competition
4	11:00 am	Dispersal

2. Foundation Day Programme - 14th August 2026

The main Foundation Day programme was held on 14th August 2026. All the staff members assembled near the Asiatic Black Bear enclosure at 8:00 am with the hoisting of the park flag, followed by the park Anthem. Director PNHZ Park, Assistant Director Cum Veterinary officer and Estate officer PNHZ Park addressed the staff after, followed by the prize distribution to the winners of the various games and activities and distribution of sweets.

The winners of the various games and activities are as follows:

Marathon	
Division	Winner
Below 40 years	1 st : Sahil Gurung
	2 nd : Arbin Tamang
	3 rd : Ashish Subba
40-50 years	1 st : Aditya Tamang
	2 nd : Udip Singh
	3 rd : Amit Pradhan
50-60 years	1 st : Amar Chettri
	2 nd : Bharat Rasaily
	3 rd : Siddhartha Chhetri
Tug of War	
Winners	Sourav Sharma
	Buddha Tamang
	Uttam Tamang
	Pema Dorjee Bhutia
	Nima Sherpa
Sack Race	
1 st	Uttam Tamang
2 nd	Anam Tamang
3 rd	Pema Dorjee Bhutia
Passing the Ball	
1 st	Rohini Chhetri
2 nd	Ranju Gurung
3 rd	Sabita Sunwar
Water Filling Race	
1 st	Bishaka Pradhan
2 nd	Hemlata Pradhan
3 rd	Pranita Gupta
Thread & Needle Competition	
1 st	Rohini Chhetri
2 nd	Bishaka Pradhan
3 rd	Preetika Lakandri



Independence Day Celebration

The 80th Independence Day was celebrated at PNHZ Park on 15th August 2026. The park staff assembled near the Asiatic Black Bear enclosure at 9:00 am for the celebration. The programme commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag, by the Director PHNZ Park and Estate Officer, followed by the National Anthem and Vande Mataram. The staff was addressed by the Director followed by the Estate Officer.

As a part of the celebration, the **Best Beat Award** was organized to recognize the efforts of the Zookeepers in maintaining their respective beats and enclosures. The beats were evaluated by the designated committee based on the following criteria:

- **Animal Husbandry & Animal Care**
- **Enclosure Maintenance & Hygiene**
- **Safety, Hygiene & Security**
- **Record Keeping & Reporting**
- **Teamwork & Cooperation**
- **Initiative, Innovation & Professional Development**

- **Performance Indicator: Animal mortality recorded in the assigned beat. (Score: Negative marking: Pheasants/Birds –0.5 per mortality; Herbivores –1 per mortality; Carnivores & Lesser Carnivores –2 per mortality)**

List of Winners for the Best Beat Award are as follows:

Position	Beat No.
1 st	Beat No. 5 (Herbivore section)
2 nd	Beat No. 6 (Old Conservation Breeding Centre)
3 rd	Beat No. 3 (Carnivore section)

The celebration concluded with the distribution of certificates and prizes to the winners in recognition of their efforts and dedication followed by sweet distribution.



Raksha Bandhan Celebration

On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, 28.08.2026, PNHZ Park organized a “Tie a Rakhi to Nature” programme for young visitors. The children tied eco-friendly natural fiber ropes as symbolic Rakhi’s to trees, spreading the message of caring for and protecting nature. The programme encouraged young visitors to develop a sense of responsibility towards trees, wildlife and the environment.



International Red Panda Day Celebration

Every year, International Red Panda Day is observed on the third Saturday of September to create awareness about the conservation of the Red Panda and its natural habitat. This year, the Park celebrated the day on 19th September. As a part of this year's celebration, PNHZ Park organized a series of educational and creative activities to engage students, Zoo Rangers and visitors in the Red Panda conservation.

The following are the list of activities organized on International Red Panda Day:

1. **Zoo Rangers:** Zoo Rangers prepared leaflets on International Red Panda Day which were distributed among the visitors of the zoo by them sharing important messages to spread awareness about the Red Panda Conservation. PNHZ Park also organized an Induction Ceremony for Zoo Rangers to recognize and welcome Zoo Rangers as important guardians for wildlife. The ceremony highlighted the aims and objectives of the programme, roles and responsibilities as Zoo Rangers.
2. **Poster Making Competition:** Poster Making competition was organized for college students, who were encouraged to prepare visitor-friendly poster on the topic "Bamboo & Red Panda: Protecting the Food and the Forest". They were asked to present the information in a simple and engaging manner that could be understood by the school students and visitors. 5 students from Darjeeling Government college participated in the programme.
3. **Online Poster Making Activity:** To encourage wider public participation, an online digital poster making activity was organized. Participants were invited to create digital posters based on the theme "Bamboo & Red Panda: Protecting the Food and the Forest" OR "Restore. Reconnect. Protect: Securing a Future for the Red Pandas". The top three creations were selected for certificates and recognition, and the selected posters were featured on the Park's social media platforms on International Red Panda Day.

The posters were judged by the Assistant Director Cum Veterinary Officer, PHNZP & Estate Officer, PNHZP on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- Relevance to the theme &
- Scientific Accuracy.

Following are winners of the Poster Making Competition:

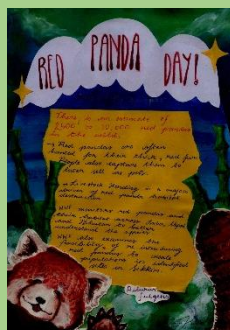
Sl. No	Place	Name	Name of the College
1.	1 st	Upadhristi Saha	Darjeeling Govt. College
2.	2 nd	Rishu Koley	Darjeeling Govt. College
3.	3 rd	Koushikdittyia Rajbanshi	Darjeeling Govt. College

The following are the names of the participants selected for the Best Three Creations for Online Poster Making Activity:

- Sudarsha Tamang
- Sidharth Chhetri
- Ashwin Lama

The programme concluded with the distribution of Zoo Ranger T-shirts to the Zoo Rangers followed by the distribution of prizes and certificates to the winners and participants of the Poster- Making competition. At the end of the programme, packet lunches were also distributed to the participants and accompanying teachers.

The concluding session acknowledged the enthusiastic participation and creative efforts of everyone involved in the celebration.



Release of Himalayan Goral and Red Jungle Fowl in Latpanchar, Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary.

On 29.09.2026, three numbers (2:1) Himalayan Goral (*Naemorhedus goral*) and 10 numbers (5:5) Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus*) from Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHNP) were released in Latpanchar Beat, Kuhi, Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary in the presence of Shri Gyachola Yolmo, WBFS, Deputy Director, PHNP, Dr. Joy Dey, Assistant Director Cum Veterinary Officer, PNHNP, Shri Sanjay Chettri, Deputy Forest Ranger, Latpanchar, Shri Siddhartha Chhetri, Assistant Estate Supervisor, PNHNP, Miss Pranita Gupta, Zoo Biologist, PNHNP, Miss Bishaka Pradhan, Education Assistant, PNHNP and Field staffs of PNHNP and Darjeeling Wildlife Division.

A Field Assistant, Mr. Asim Giri and one Field Staff will monitor and track the one released goral and observe its movement following the release for 3 months.

Previously on 15.09.2026. an awareness programme was organized in collaboration with the Darjeeling Wildlife Division at the Latpanchar Forest Guest house for the members of the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and local communities.

Awareness Programme



Release Programme



Staff Farewell

PNHZ Park bid a warm farewell to Mr. Siromani Syangden, Estate Officer, on 30th September 2026, following his retirement after 26 years of dedicated service. His commitment and sincere efforts towards the smooth functioning and management of the park will always be remembered and appreciated. PNHZ Park wishes him a happy, healthy, fulfilling life ahead, and a joyful retirement.



Wildlife Week Celebration 2026

PNHZ Park, Darjeeling, observed Wildlife Week 2026 from 2nd to 8th October 2026 through a series of educational, creative and awareness-based activities. The programmes were organized to promote awareness about wildlife conservation, biodiversity and the importance of protecting natural habitats among students, visitors, locals and tourists.

The various activities conducted as part of the Wildlife Week 2026 are as follows:

1. Online Wildlife Photography and Slogan Competition: 2nd October 2026

The Wildlife Week celebration commenced on 2nd October 2026 with the commencement of the Online Wildlife Photography Competition and Online Slogan Competition. The competitions provided participants with an opportunity to showcase their creativity and express their thoughts and messages on wildlife conservation.

The best two entries from each competition were selected as winners. The photography and slogan competition was evaluated by Assistant Director Cum Veterinary Officer, PNHZP, Estate Supervisor, PNHZP, and Zoo Biologist, PNHZP.

Winners – Wildlife Photography Competition:

First Position: Mainak Dey

Second Position: Mrigankk Shekhar

Winners – Slogan Competition:

First Position: Apsana Chettri “Link the Trees, Let Wildlife live with ease”.

Second Position: Sushmita Chakraborty “Let Forests Flow, Let Wildlife Grow”.

2. Documentary Screening at BNHM Auditorium: 5th-6th October

As part of the Wildlife Week celebration, a wildlife documentary screening was organized on 5th October & 6th October for visitors from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The screening served as an informative and engaging medium to enhance awareness and understanding of wildlife among the audience.

3. Drawing/Painting Competition: 7th October 2026

On 7th October 2026, a Drawing/Painting Competition was organized for school students as part of the Wildlife Week celebration. A total of four schools participated in the programme.

Sl No.	Name of the Participants	Class	Name of the School
1.	Ayan Rai	IV	Birch Hill Academy
	Vedanshi Mukhia	V	
2.	Pema Diki Sherpa	V	Sambhota Tibetan School
	Karna Sherpa	V	
3.	Tanam Limbu	III	St. Xavier’s School
	Obadaya Rai	IV	
4.	Elishya Rai	V	Assembly of God Church School
	Divansh Khaling Rai	IV	

The activity provided students with an opportunity to express their ideas, creativity and understanding of wildlife and conservation through art. The artwork was evaluated by Assistant Director Cum Veterinary Officer, PNHZP, Estate Supervisor, PNHZP, and Research Assistant, PNHZP based on Creativity and relevance to the theme.

The Following are the winners of the Drawing/Painting Competition:

Sl No.	Position	Name of the Student	Name of the School
1.	1 st	Divansh Khaling Rai	Assembly of God Church School
2.	2 nd	Ayan Rai	Birch Hill Academy
3.	3 rd	Pema Diki Sherpa	Sambhota Tibetan School

4. Wildlife Message Corner – 7th October 2026

A Wildlife Message Corner was set up as part of the Wildlife Week celebration to encourage visitors to actively participate in the conservation awareness programme. Visitors were invited to write and share their messages, thoughts and commitments towards wildlife and nature conservation.

The Wildlife Week Celebration 2026 at PNHZP promoted wildlife conservation through educational and interactive activities, with active participation from students, schools, visitors, and the public.



World Migratory Bird Day 2026

On 10.10.2026, PNHZ Park observed World Migratory Bird Day by organizing awareness activities to promote and educate visitors about bird conservation and habitat protection.

The activities conducted are as follows:

1. Bird Conservation Message Corner:

A Bird Conservation Message Corner was set up near the Migratory Bird section of the BNHM. Visitors were encouraged to share their thoughts, messages, and ideas about bird conservation.

2. Awareness Programme:

An awareness programme was conducted near the Kalij Pheasant and Temminck's Tragopan enclosures for young visitors. The children learned about these pheasant's species and the importance of protecting birds and their natural habitats.



Taxidermy work done in this quarter

Sl.No	Name of the Specimen	Date of Collection	Accession No.	Remarks
1.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	08.07.2026	SK/BNHM/M/16	Under maceration process

- Maintenance and thorough cleaning of mammalian section has been done and preservative was added.

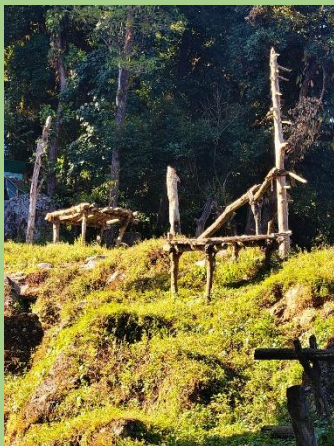
Enrichment in this quarter



Installation of Wooden Ball at Snow Leopard Enclosure



Installation of Wooden Platform at Royal Bengal Tiger Enclosure



Installation of Wooden Platform at Asiatic Black Bear Enclosure



Installation of Nesting Boxes at Cockatoo & Macaw Enclosures



Breeding Pond Enrichment for Himalayan Newt



Terrarium Enrichment for Himalayan Newt



Installation of Visual Barrier at Cockatoo & Macaw Enclosures



Olfactory Enrichment to Siberian Tiger & Royal Bengal Tiger

Development in this quarter



**Repair & Maintenance of Service Pathway
behind the Herbivore Enclosures 1 – 4**



**Development of Stand-up Barrier at
Herbivore Section**