

# **Proposal for Zoo Ranger Programme**

## **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling**

### **Zoo Ranger Programme:**

The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park proposes to initiate the “Zoo Ranger Programme,” as an education and conservation-oriented initiatives to strengthen the participation of students in wildlife awareness and environmental conservation activities. The programme will encourage young learners to actively engage in conservation education and awareness activities. The selected students will act as a bridge between the zoo and their respective schools, helping to spread awareness among their peers about the importance of conservation of Himalayan wildlife, biodiversity, and ecosystems. The programme also aims to develop leadership, a strong sense of environmental stewardship among young leaders.

- **Eligibility and Enrolment:** The programme will be open to students of Classes VIII and IX from local schools of Darjeeling. Each participating school may nominate two interested and active students to serve as Zoo Ambassadors and Rangers.
- **Selection of Students:** The participating schools will identify and nominate suitable students based on their interest in wildlife and environmental conservation, communication skills, discipline, and participation in school activities. In case any student passes out or leaves the school may nominate new students to continue participation in the programme.
- **Programme activities and Participation:** The selected students will participate in educational sessions, awareness campaigns, interpretation activities, workshops, outreach activities, special event celebrations, and other conservation related activities organized by the zoo. They may also assist in visitor awareness activities and help promote conservation messages within their schools and local communities.
- **Recognition and Incentives:** As recognition and encouragement for their active participation, the selected students may receive certificates, Identity cards, Zoo Ambassador/Ranger T-Shirts, notebooks, and pens with wildlife themes, along with opportunities to participate in various educational and conservational activities organized by the zoo.

The programme will help strengthen conservation awareness among school students and encourage greater public participation in wildlife and environmental conservation activities. It will also help create a stronger connection between the zoo, educational institutions, and local communities.