

NEWSLETTER

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

THIRD QUARTER | JULY-SEPTEMBER | 2024



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NEWSLETTER ADDRESS

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From the Directors Desk...

PNHZ Park proudly announces the birth of 4 Red Panda cubs & 2 Snow Leopard cubs in this quarter. With this news we gladly present the third quarterly newsletter of the year 2024. This quarter the park celebrated Van Mahotsava, Foundation day & Independence Day. The International Red Panda day was celebrated by organising a 'Red Panda Storytelling Competition' where students of local schools participated. More than 200 students/trainees/ probationary officers visited the park in this quarter for educational purpose. Developmental works include the construction of paid parking space for vehicle, pedestrian lane, rain shelter, Baby Care room, artificial waterfall & shops for local vendors.

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.	Snow Leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)	10.07.2024	0:0:2
2.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	12.07.2024	0:0:2
3.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	23.07.2024	0:0:2
4.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	25.07.2024	2:0:0
5.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	26.08.2024	0:0:1
6.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	08.08.2024	1:0:0
7.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>)	09.09.2024	1:0:0

MORTALITY

Sl. No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	Ratio
1.	Jungle Cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>)	09.07.2024	0:1:0
2.	Binturong (<i>Arctictis binturong</i>)	09.07.2024	1:0:0
3.	Golden Pheasant (<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	12.07.2024	1:0:0
4.	Binturong (<i>Arctictis binturong</i>)	13.07.2024	0:1:0
5.	Binturong (<i>Arctictis binturong</i>)	13.07.2024	0:1:0
6.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	13.07.2024	1:0:0
7.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	13.07.2024	1:0:0
8.	Asian Palm Civet	13.07.2024	0:1:0
9.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	22.07.2024	0:1:0
10.	Snow Leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)	31.07.2024	1:0:0
11.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	03.08.2024	0:1:0
12.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	06.08.2024	1:0:0
13.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	10.08.2024	1:0:0
14.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	13.08.2024	0:1:0
15.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	17.08.2024	1:0:0
16.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	17.08.2024	0:1:0
17.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	21.08.2024	1:0:0
18.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	22.08.2024	1:0:0
19.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	24.08.2024	0:1:0
20.	Mishmi Takin (<i>Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor</i>)	27.08.2024	1:0:0
21.	Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>)	03.09.2024	1:0:0
22.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	03.09.2024	1:0:0
23.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	17.09.2024	0:1:0
24.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	18.09.2024	0:1:0
25.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	30.09.2024	1:0:0
26.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	30.09.2024	1:0:0
27.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	30.09.2024	0:1:0
28.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	30.09.2024	0:1:0
29.	Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>)	30.09.2024	0:1:0

Acquisition of animals

Date	Animals	Ratio	Acquired from
27.09.2024	Himalayan Black Bear (<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>)	0:2:0	Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbuley, Gangtok
	Himalayan Tahr (<i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>)	0:1:0	Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbuley, Gangtok

Transfer of animals

Date	Animals	Ratio	Transfer to
27.09.2024	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	1:1:0	Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbuley, Gangtok
	Golden Pheasant(<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>)	2:2:0	Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbuley, Gangtok
	Silver Pheasant(<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>)	2:2:0	Himalayan Zoological Park, Bulbuley, Gangtok

Educational visit

Sl. No	Date	Name of the School/ Training Institute/ College	Number of Students/ Trainees	Number of faculty	Educational Incentives
1.	12.08.2024	Kanyashree, Darjeeling	55	10	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
2.	28.08.2024	Army Public School, Darjeeling	109	18	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
3.	09.09.2024	Sikkim Government College, Namchi	38	5	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
4.	28.09.2024	Mathurapur High School, Mathurapur	70	15	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
5.	13.09.2024	Camellia School, Darjeeling	75	14	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
6.	14.09.2024	Sambhota Tibetan School, Darjeeling	70	4	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
7.	30.09.2024	Kedarpur Ram-Nanda High School, Kedarpur	112	10	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee

Training programs held at PNHZP in this quarter

Sl. No.	Resource Person	Subject matter of Training	Period of Training	Number of participants
1.	Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan, Chief Scientist from LaCONES lab, CCMB	On Biobanking facility	20 th July, 2024	8



Celebration of Van Mahotsava

‘Van Mahotsava’ is an annual tree planting festival celebrated in the month of July. During this festival crores of trees are planted all over India. The beautiful tradition of Van Mahotsav was started in 1950 by Shri. K. M. Munshi, the union minister for Agriculture and Food with an objective to create mass awareness regarding planting of trees and conservation of forests. ‘Van Mahotsav’ is celebrated by planting trees or saplings in homes, offices, schools, colleges, etc.

The Park celebrated Van Mahotsav on 4th July by planting several indigenous plants around the zoo premises.



Foundation Day Celebration

The Park celebrated its 66th Foundation Day on 14.08.2024. All staff of the Park gathered Infront of Asiatic Black Bear Enclosure at 8:00 am for 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 celebration ended with distribution of sweets to the staff.



Independence Day Celebration

The Park celebrated India's 78th Independence Day on 15.08.2023. All staff of the Park gathered Infront 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 endangered species native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China. They are legally protected in countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China. In the last 20-odd years, the global population of red pandas has declined by roughly 50 percent. To raise awareness regarding the conservation of these elusive species, every third Saturday of September is celebrated as International Red Panda Day. This year, the day falls on September 21st.

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 the public. On this occasion this year the park decided to conduct a “Red Panda Storytelling Competition” for the students from different local schools. Students from 7 different local schools in Darjeeling participated in the program.

Sl. No	Name of the School	No of Participants	STD
1.	St. Robert’s H. S. School	2	XI & XII
2.	Mount Hermon School	2	XI & XII
3.	Sambotta Tibetan School	2	XI & XII
4.	West Point School	2	XI & XII
5.	Gyanodaya Niketan	2	XI & XII
6.	Camellia School	2	XI & XII
7.	The Assembly of God Church School	2	XI & XII

The schedule for International Red Panda Day Storytelling competition 2024 is below:

10:30am: Registration of students and faculty at conference hall of PNHZP.

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

11:00am to 12:30 pm: Commencement of the Competition. (Each students will pick one topic based on Red Panda conservation, behaviour & biology & will get 10 minutes to narrate their stories in front of judges)

12:30pm to 1:00pm: Distribution of refreshment

01:00pm: Announcement of the result & distribution of prizes/certificates

01:30 pm: Dispersal

The event witnessed active participation. The stories were judged by the Director, PNHZP, Assistant Estate Officer, PNHZP & Zoo Biologist, PNHZP on the following criteria:

- Facts & imagination.
- Fluency of narration.
- Relevance to the given topic.

Following are the winners of the Story telling competition:

Sl No.	Place	Name	Class	School
1.	First	Miss. Aditi Ray	XI	The Assembly of God Church School
2.	Second	Miss. Prazna Pradhan	XII	Mount Hermon School
3.	Third	Mr. Parikshit Rai	XI	Gyanoday Niketan



Taxidermy work done in this quarter

List of Specimens:

Sl. No.	Name Of Specimen	Date of Collection	Accession No.	Remarks
1.	Binturong (Skin)	12/07/2024	BNHM/M/220	The skin was cleaned, tanned and mounted.

- The skeleton of Red Panda with accession no. SK/BNHM/M/05 was articulated and put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 04/07/2024.
- The skeleton of Temminck's Tragopan with accession no. SK/BNHM/PH/02 was completed and put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 11/07/2024.
- The skeleton of Large Indian Civet accession no. SK/BNHM/M/02 was articulated and put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 22/08/2024.
- The skeleton of Serrow with accession no. SK/BNHM/M/06 was articulated and put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 26/09/2024.



Enrichment in this quarter



Cleaning of Pond and enclosure of Himalayan Black Bear



Installation of bamboo sheet at Barking deer enclosure



Construction of Feeding platform at Barking deer enclosure



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

Development in this quarter



Construction of artificial waterfall



Construction of shops below the zoo



Construction of Childcare room



Construction of rain shelter



Construction of paid parking