

NEWSLETTER

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

SECOND QUARTER | APRIL-JUNE | 2024



In this issue:

- Natality
- Mortality
- Educational Visits
- Training programs held at PNHZP
- Staff Training
- Augmentation of Himalayan Goral
- Celebration of Earth Day
- Celebration of World Environment Day
- Work done in Taxidermy in this quarter
- Enrichment in this quarter
- Development work in this quarter

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
Website: www.darjeelingzoo.in

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, IFS
Director
Mr. Shiromani Syangden
Estate officer
Miss. Pranita Gupta
Zoo Biologist
Miss Ruma Mandal
Education Assistant

From the Directors Desk...

Greetings from PNHZ Park family, we are proud to present the second quarterly newsletter for the year 2024. This quarter remain eventful as the park celebrated Earth day & World Environment Day involving students from several local schools of Darjeeling. Workshops on 'Bird aviary management & captive breeding of birds' & 'Taxidermy & skeletal articulation' for the zoo keepers & staffs held in this quarter. In this quarter the park released four Himalayan Gorals in the Singalila National Park (SNP). Developmental works included construction of new snow leopard enclosure at PNHZ Park.

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

**Director
PNHZ Park
Darjeeling**

NATALITY

| SL.No | Name of Animals | Date of Birth | No |
|-------|--|---------------|-------|
| 1. | Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>) | 04.04.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 2. | Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>) | 19.04.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 3. | Mishmi Takin (<i>Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor</i>) | 11.05.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 4. | Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>) | 19.05.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 5. | Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>) | 23.05.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 6. | Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>) | 25.05.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 7. | Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>) | 31.05.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 8. | Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>) | 01.06.2024 | 0:0:4 |
| 9. | Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>) | 02.06.2024 | 0:0:1 |
| 10. | Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>) | 03.06.2024 | 0:0:7 |
| 11. | Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>) | 03.06.2024 | 0:0:6 |
| 12. | Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>) | 05.06.2024 | 0:0:6 |
| 13. | Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>) | 06.06.2024 | 0:0:6 |
| 14. | Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>) | 10.06.2024 | 0:0:6 |
| 15. | Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>) | 12.06.2024 | 0:0:3 |
| 16. | Himalayan Palm Civet (<i>Paguma larvata</i>) | 15.06.2024 | 0:0:3 |
| 17. | Jungle Cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>) | 15.06.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 18. | Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>) | 19.06.2024 | 0:0:3 |
| 19. | Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>) | 22.06.2024 | 0:0:4 |
| 20. | Temminck's tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>) | 23.06.2024 | 0:0:2 |
| 21. | Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>) | 27.06.2024 | 0:0:2 |
| 22. | Cheer Pheasant (<i>Catreus wallichii</i>) | 30.06.2024 | 0:0:3 |

MORTALITY

| SL.No | Name of Animals | Date of Death | No |
|-------|--|---------------|-------|
| 1. | Snow Leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>) | 01.04.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 2. | Reeves Pheasant (<i>Syrnaticus reevesii</i>) | 07.04.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 3. | Golden Pheasant(<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>) | 08.04.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 4. | Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>) | 13.04.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 5. | Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>) | 13.04.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 6. | Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>) | 15.04.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 7. | Leopard cat (<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>) | 15.04.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 8. | Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>) | 16.04.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 9. | Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>) | 04.05.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 10. | Markhor (<i>Capra falconeri</i>) | 04.05.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 11. | Golden Pheasant(<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>) | 07.05.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 12. | Silver Pheasant(<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>) | 10.05.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 13. | Common Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) | 12.05.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 14. | Jungle Cat (<i>Felis chaus</i>) | 15.05.2024 | 1:0:0 |

| | | | |
|-----|--|------------|-------|
| 15. | Himalayan Wolf (<i>Canis lupus himalayensis</i>) | 16.05.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 16. | Red Jungle Fowl (<i>Gallus gallus</i>) | 10.06.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 17. | Silver Pheasant(<i>Lophura nycthemera</i>) | 23.06.2024 | 1:0:0 |
| 18. | Golden Pheasant(<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>) | 26.06.2024 | 0:1:0 |
| 19. | Himalayan Tahr (<i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>) | 28.06.2024 | 0:1:0 |

Acquisition of animals

| Date | Animals | Ratio | Acquired from |
|------------|--|-------|--|
| 18.06.2024 | Golden Pheasant(<i>Chrysolophus pictus</i>) | 2:2:0 | Ghosh Bird Center, Kolkata |
| | Reeves Pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus reevesii</i>) | 1:1:0 | |
| | Blue Eared Pheasant (<i>Crossoptilon auritum</i>) | 1:1:0 | |
| | Green Pheasant (<i>Phasianus versicolor</i>) | 1:1:0 | |
| | Elliot's pheasant (<i>Syrmaticus ellioti</i>) | 1:0:0 | |
| 25.06.2024 | Royal Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>) | 0:0:3 | North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri |

Transfer of animals

| Date | Animals | Ratio | Transfer to |
|------------|--|-------|-------------------------|
| 07.04.2024 | Himalayan Goral (<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>) | 2:2:0 | Singalila National Park |

Educational visits

| Sl. No | Date | Name of the School/ Training Institute/ College | Number of Students/ Trainees | Number of faculty | Educational Incentives |
|--------|------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | 03.04.2024 | The Assembly of God Church School | 67 | 4 | - |
| 2. | 01.05.2024 | Indian Forest Service Officers, Indian Institute of Forest management | 19 | 2 | Zoo Pamphlets & educational materials |
| 2. | 09.05.2024 | Nistarini College, Dept. of Botany | 17 | 5 | - |
| 3. | 22.05.2024 | Sikkim Govt. College | 30 | 1 | - |
| 4. | 28.07.24 | 19 th Batch, North India Exposure Tour | 46 | 1 | Zoo Pamphlets & educational materials |



Fig: Education visit of Indian Forest Service Officers on 01.05.2024



Fig: Education visit of 19th Batch, North India Exposure Tour on 28.07.2024

Training programs held at PNHZP in this quarter

| Sl. No. | Resource Person | Subject matter of Training | Period of Training | Number of participants |
|---------|---|--|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Joy Dey, ADVO, PNHZP | Bird aviary management & captive breeding of Birds | 30 th April, 2024 | 12 |
| 2. | Dr. Santosh A. Gaikwad, Professor of Anatomy, Bombay Veterinary College | Taxidermy & skeletal articulation | 6 th May to 11 th May, 2024 | 7 |

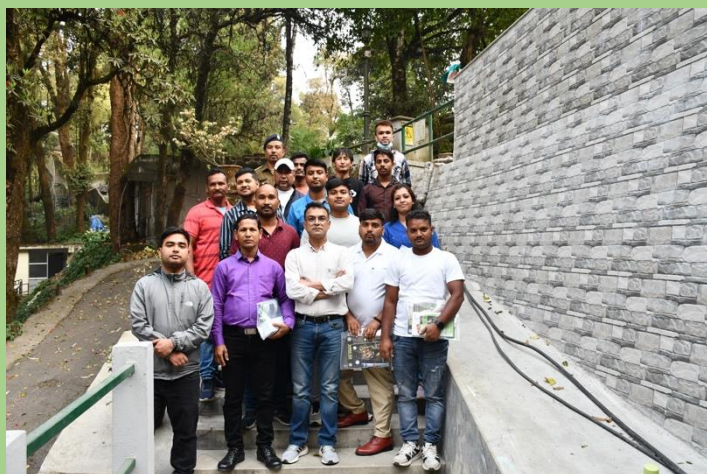


Fig: Training on Bird aviary management & captive breeding of Birds



Fig: Training on Taxidermy & skeletal articulation

Release of Himalayan Goral in Singalila National Park

Two pairs of himalayan goral was released in Singalila National Park on 07.04.2024 in presence of Shri Debal Ray, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wildlife Warden, West bengal; Shri Rajesh Kumar, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest North Bengal; Shri Bhaskar J.V., IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest Wildlife (North); Dr. Basavaraj S. Holeyachi, IFS, Director, PNHZ Park; Shri Jiju Jaesper J., IFS, DFO Malda; Shri Viswanath Pratap N, IFS, DFO Darjeeling Wildlife Division and officials and staff of PNHZ Park.



Staff training in this quarter

| Sl. No. | Name and designation of the zoo personnel | Subject matter of Training | Period of Training | Name of the Institution where the Training attended |
|---------|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Mr. Bedan Chettri, Library Assistant | National Workshop on Application of Geospatial Tools & Techniques | 10 th to 13 th June, 2024 | Sikkim Alpine University, Sikkim |



Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated on 22nd April every year to raise awareness on the importance of protecting the Earth's natural resources for future generations. This year the theme of Earth Day is “Planet vs Plastics”. The theme aims to bring attention to the serious issue of plastic pollution and how it harms nature.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park celebrated Earth Day 2024 by distributing handmade bamboo bird feeders to several local schools of Darjeeling & also installed the feeders around the zoo premises. The name of the schools are listed below:

1. The Assembly of God Church School
2. Norte Dame Academy
3. West Point School
4. Ghoom Boys Higher Secondary School
5. Nepali Girl's Higher Secondary School
6. St. Robert's School
7. St. Teresa's School
8. Turnbull Higher Secondary School
9. Gyanoday Niketan
10. St. Joseph's School

The students & teachers enthusiastically took part in the program and installed the feeders around their school premises. Thus the aim of PNHZP to raise awareness among young students about the reduction of plastic material usage and move towards more environment friendly options.





World Environment Day Celebration

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5th June to demonstrate support for environmental protection via various measures. The theme of World Environment Day 2024 was **“Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience”**.

In this regard, the park organised a **“Poster Making Competition”** for the young students of class VIII & IX. Students from 6 different local schools in Darjeeling participated in the program.

| Sl. No | Name of the School | No of Participants | STD |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. | St. Michael's H. S. School | 2 | VIII & IX |
| 2. | Mount Hermon School | 2 | VIII & IX |
| 3. | Sambotta Tibetan School | 2 | VIII & IX |
| 4. | West Point School | 2 | VIII & IX |
| 5. | Loreto Convent School | 2 | VIII & IX |
| 6. | Gyanodaya Niketan | 2 | VIII & IX |

The scheduled program for World Environment Day 2024:

11:00am: Registration of students, faculty and distribution of chart papers.

11:15 am: Address by the Director, PNHZP in the main assembly area of the park (in front of the Asiatic Black Bear enclosure).

11:20 am: Commencement of the Competition

11:20 am to 12:20 pm: Time given to the students to make the posters

12:20pm to 12:50pm: Distribution of refreshment

12:55pm: Announcement of the result & distribution of prizes/certificates

01:15 pm: Dispersal

The event witnessed active participation. The posters were judged by the Deputy Director, PNHZP, Assistant Director cum Veterinary Officer, PNHZP & Zoo Biologist, PNHZP on the following criteria:

- Creativity.
- Relevance to theme.
- Concept of wildlife and conservation.

Following are the winners of the Poster making competition:

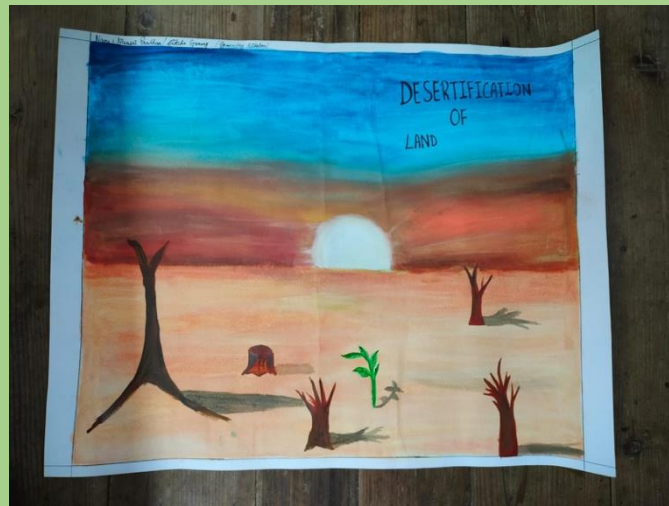
| Sl No. | Place | Name | Class | School |
|--------|--------|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 1. | First | Miss. Erin Puno | IX | Mount Hermon School |
| | | Miss. Apti Pradhan | VIII | Mount Hermon School |
| 2. | Second | Miss. Divyashika Hingmang | IX | Loreto Convent School |
| | | Miss. Riddhi Lama | IX | Loreto Convent School |
| 3. | Third | Miss. Dikcha Gurung | IX | Gyanodaya Niketan |
| | | Miss. Nivasri Pradhan | IX | Gyanodaya Niketan |



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place





Taxidermy work done in this quarter

List of Specimens:

| Sl. No. | Name Of Specimen | Date of Collection | Accession No. | Remarks |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---|
| 1. | Markhor (Head) | 04/05/2024 | BNHM/M/218 | The flesh from the skull was removed & cleaned; the skin is under tanning process for further mounting. |
| 2. | Large Indian Civet (Skeleton) | 10/05/2024 | SK/BNHM/M/02 | After skinning the body was kept under warm water for maceration. |
| 3. | Himalayan Goral (Skin) | 13/05/2024 | BNHM/M/219 | The skin was cleaned & is under tanning process for further mounting. |

- The skeleton of kalij Pheasant with accession no. SK/BNHM/PH/01 was put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 18/4/2024.
- Himalayan Tahr skeleton with accession no. SK/BNHM/M/03 was put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 13/06/2024.
- A completely articulated skeleton of Leopard Cat with accession no. SK/BNHM/M/04 was put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 20/06/2024.
- A completely articulated skeleton of Burmese Rock Python with accession no. SK/BNHM/R/01 was put on display in skull & skeleton section of BNHM on 27/06/2024.



Development in this quarter



Fig: Development of new Snow Leopard enclosure at PNHZP



Fig: Repair & maintenance of Toilets at PNHZP

Enrichment in this quarter



Fig: Enrichment at Red Panda Enclosure at Old Conservation Breeding Centre



Fig: Aerial walkways at lesser carnivore enclosure



Fig: Building of feeding Platform at herbivore enclosures





Fig: Pre-monsoon enrichments at herbivore enclosures



Fig: Visual barrier at snow leopard enclosure