

NEWSLETTER

PADMAJA NAIDU HIMALAYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK
DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL

FIRST QUARTER|JANUARY- MARCH |2026



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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
Website: www.darjeelingzoo.in

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mr. Arun Kumar Mukhopadhyaya
Director
Mr. Shiromani Syangdan
Estate officer
Miss. Pranita Gupta
Zoo Biologist
Miss. Bishaka Pradhan
Education Assistant

From the Directors Desk...

Greetings from PNHZP family! I am delighted to present the first quarterly newsletter of the year. This quarter featured several significant updates including natality, mortality, animal adoption, celebration of Republic Day and the celebration of World Wildlife Day. A total number of 500 students/trainees/ other officials from 11 different schools/institutes visited the park in this period. Enrichment activities and taxidermy work were carried out, alongside overall developmental initiatives. Additionally, a programme was organized to felicitate the best performing staffs of the park based on staff nominations, along with a staff farewell.

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.	Mishmi Takin (<i>Budorcas taxicolor taxicolor</i>)	01.02.2026	1:0:0
2.	Himalayan Goral (<i>Naemorhedus goral</i>)	21.01.2026	1:0:0
3.	Barking Deer (<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>)	11.01.2026	0:1:0
4.	Sambar Deer (<i>Rusa unicolor</i>)	19.01.2026	0:1:0

MORTALITY

SL.No	Name of Animals	Date of Death	No
1.	Diamond Dove (<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>)	03.01.2026	0:0:2
2.	Red Panda (<i>Ailurus fulgens fulgens</i>)	10.01.2026	0:1:0
3.	Blue Sheep (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>)	25.01.2026	1:0:0
4.	Diamond Dove (<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>)	05.02.2026	0:0:1
5.	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	11.02.2026	0:1:0
6.	Diamond Dove (<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>)	15.02.2026	0:0:1
7.	Himalayan Newt (<i>Tylototriton verrucosus</i>)	28.02.2026	0:0:10
8.	Kalij Pheasant (<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>)	05.03.2026	0:1:0
9.	Temminck's Tragopan (<i>Tragopan temminckii</i>)	20.03.2026	1:0:0

Adoption of animals in this quarter

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

Sl. No	Name of the Adopter	Name of the animal Adopted	Period of Adoption
1.	Miss. Priyanka Sen	Himalayan Wolf (Lhamu)	03.03.2026 to 02.03.2027
2.	Mackintosh Burn Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Panda- 5 nos. (Hilly, Victory, Kimbu, Nikki & Dilip) • Snow leopard- 1 no. (Vijay) • Royal Bengal Tiger- 1 no. (Akash) • Siberian Tiger- 1 no. (Lara) • Asiatic Black Bear- 2 nos. (Sina & Meena) 	30.03.2026 to 29.03.2027

Educational visit

Sl. No	Date	Name of the School/ Training Institute/ College	Number of Students	Number of faculty	Educational Incentives
1.	05.01.2026	Murshidabad University	22	3	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
2.	09.01.2026	Nandi Foundation, Darjeeling	150	15	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
3.	20.01.2026	IFS- State Darshan	2		Educational Tour
4.	23.01.2026	Towards Future, NGO, 24 Parganas	15	3	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee
5.	24.01.2026	Ranchi Forest Training Centre, Forest Guards	84		Educational Tour Educational materials.
6.	07.02.2026	Forest Training School Cum DFO, Jharkhand, Forest Guards	84	2	Educational Tour Educational materials.
7.	17.02.2026	Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, FROs	34	1	Educational Tour, Educational materials.

8.	17.02.2026	IAS Officers, Batch 2024-2025	10		Educational Tour, Educational materials.
9.	20.02.2026	Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, FROs	35	1	Educational Tour, Educational materials.
10.	13.03.2026	IAS Officers, Batch 2024-2025	10		Educational Tour, Educational materials.
11.	20.03.2026	St. Teresa's Higher Secondary School, Darjeeling	54	3	Concession on zoo entry ticket fee



IAS Batch 2024-25



Forest Training School Cum DFO, Jharkhand, Forest Guards



Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy, FROs



Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, FROs

Republic Day Celebration

The Park celebrated India's 77th Republic Day on 26.01.2026. All staff of the park gathered in front of the Asiatic Black Bear enclosure at 9am for flag hoisting. The Director of the Park and the Assistant director cum Veterinary Officer addressed the staff of the park.

This year the Park organized a programme to felicitate the staffs of PNHZ Park based on staff nominations for the best performing staff of the park. The nominations were divided into three categories, Animal & Veterinary Section, Office section and the Research & Field Section. Mr. Dipen Gurung, Zookeeper, was awarded as the best performing staff under the Animal & Veterinary Section, Mr. Amit Pradhan, Office Assistant, was awarded under the Office Section and Mr. Bidhan Tamang, Security personnel, was felicitated under the Research & Field Section.

Similarly, Mr. Rohit Gurung, Zookeeper, from Conservation Breeding Centre, Topkeydara and Mr. Kishor Dewan, Zookeeper from Conservation Breeding Centre, Dowhill were awarded as the best performing staff.





Mr. Amit Pradhan, Office
Section



Mr. Bidhan Gurung, Research
& Field Section



Mr. Dipen Gurung, Animal &
Veterinary section



Mr. Kishor Dewan, CBC Dowhill

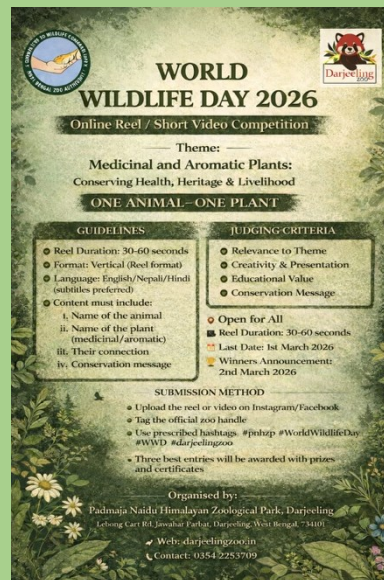


Mr. Rohit Gurung, CBC
Topkeydara

Celebration of World Wildlife Day, 2026

World Wildlife Day is celebrated every year to raise public awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation and protecting ecosystems. This year the theme of World Wildlife Day was **“Medicinal & Aromatic Plants- Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods”**.

As a part of the observance, an Online Reel/ Video Competition under the theme, **“One Animal- One Plant”** was organized to encourage creative and awareness on the significance of medicinal and aromatic plants. The submitted reels/ videos were uploaded on the Zoo official Instagram and Facebook handles.

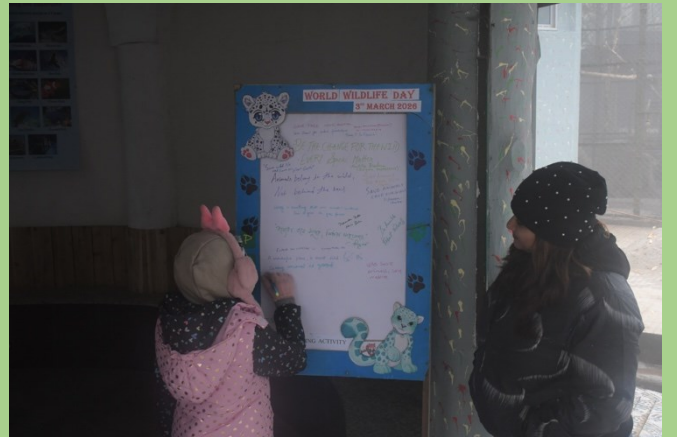
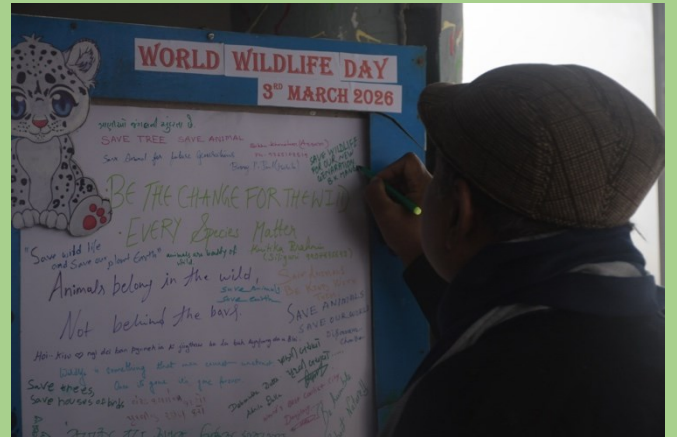
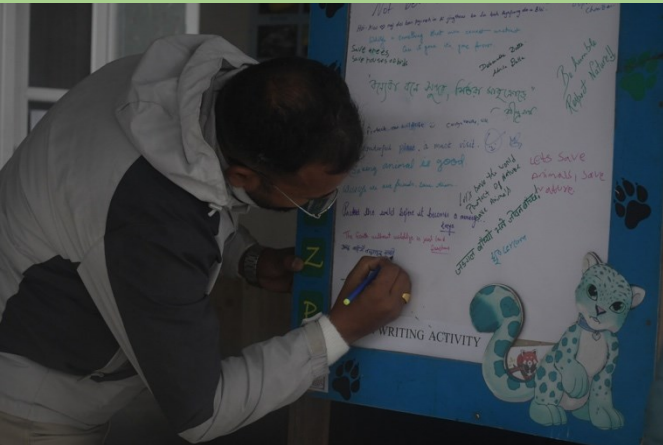


After evaluation, the best three entries were selected as follows:

- 1st position: Miss. Aishwarya Pradhan
- 2nd position: Mr. Ajit Das
- 3rd position: Mr. Asim Giri

A Slogan Writing Activity was conducted for Zoo visitors within the Zoo premises. Visitors of different age groups enthusiastically participated and expressed their ideas through thoughtful and impactful Slogans.

Through engaging activities and public participation, the programme effectively reinforced the importance of plant conservation for sustainable health and livelihoods.



Staff farewell

PNHZ Park bid a warm farewell to Mr. Ashok Chhetri on 12th March 2026, following his retirement after long and dedicated service as a Forest Guard. Mr. Chhetri retired after 39 years of dedicated service, PNHZ Park will always cherish his dedication and valuable contributions. The park wishes him all a happy, healthy, fulfilling life ahead, and a joyful retirement.



Taxidermy work done in this quarter

- The mounting of Himalayan Brown Wood Owl with accession no. BNHM/OWL/01 was completed on 27.02.2026 and is in Taxidermy unit.
- The mounting of slow loris with accession no. BNHM/M/221 was completed on 06.03.2026 and is in Taxidermy unit.
- Maintenance of Rolled specimen by chemical process and thorough cleaning was done in Taxidermy unit from Box no. J to R.
- Maintenance and thorough cleaning of entomological section has been done and preservatives were added.



Mounted Himalayan Brown Wood Owl



Mounted Slow Loris

Enrichment in this quarter



Installation of Bamboo Cubicles for Hidden feeding enrichment at Grey Langur enclosure



Installation of Rain shelter at Himalayan Tahr enclosure



Building of Rain shelter at Alpaca enclosure



Building of Rain shelter at Sambar deer enclosure



Feeding Enrichment for Macaw



Wooden ball at Asiatic Black Bear enclosure



Climbing pole at Asiatic Black Bear enclosure



Rope Swing at Grey Langur enclosure

Development in this quarter



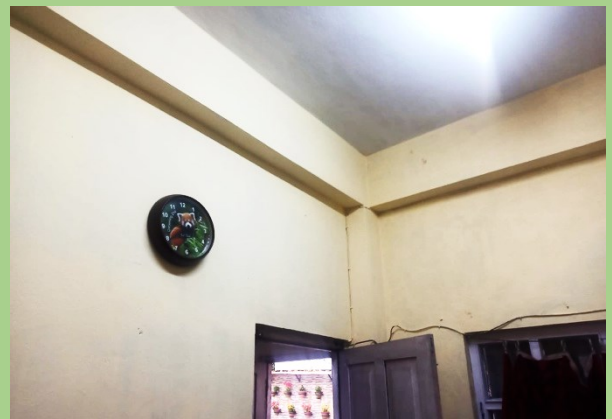
Installation of CCTV monitoring system



Lopping of trees at the Red panda enclosure



Installation of solar-powered streetlight



Painting at the ticket counter etc.



Tiling work at the Staff Quarters



Vertical Fencing extension & Electric fencing installation at old Conservation Breeding Center