

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

BENGAL SAFARI NEWS

TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH



**RECORD-BREAKING
FOOTFALL AT BENGAL
SAFARI ON JANUARY 1ST,
2024.**



Bengal Safari Breaks Records on January 1st, 2024

On January 1st, 2024, Bengal Safari saw an incredible surge in attendance. Visitors from across the country flocked to the park to witness the wide range of wildlife and enjoy the thrill of a safari. The park set a new record, with **approximately 8000 visitors, and earned revenue of Rs. 9,00,000.** This can be attributed to the park's improved infrastructure, better facilities, and dedication to wildlife conservation. Despite the large crowds, the park's staff ensured that all visitors had a safe and enjoyable experience. The visitors were treated to a variety of activities, including guided tours, on foot zoo visits, safaris, a nature interpretation centre, nakshatra vanam, a food court, adventure sports and other visitor's amenities. Overall, it was a day that will be remembered for years to come, and the park's management is already preparing to make the next New Year's Day even more remarkable.



TWO ENDANGERED BIRD SPECIES WERE RECENTLY RELEASED IN THE AVIARY FOR VISITORS



Helmeted Curassow



Great Curassow



On December 15th, 2023, we acquired two birds from Harinalaya, Newtown, Kolkata. After the necessary quarantine period and veterinary observations, the birds were released into the aviary. Visitors can now enjoy watching these birds in their semi-natural habitat.

The first species is the Helmeted Curassow, which is indigenous to the eastern Andes of Venezuela and Colombia. These birds are named after the blueish-gray casque on their head, which resembles a helmet.

The second species is the Great Curassow, which can be found in the rainforests of West and Central Africa. Great curassows can be recognized by a large, circular, yellow protrusion located at the base of their upper mandible, level with their eyes. Additionally, they possess a prominent, forward-curling crest.

Both Helmeted Curassows and Great Curassows are remarkable birds known for their striking appearance and unique characteristics. The Helmeted Curassow, with its distinctive blue-grey casque, is an endangered species. Great Curassows, are known for their impressive courtship displays, which involve the male puffing up and fanning his tail feathers while emitting a deep booming call. They are omnivorous and feed on fruits, insects, small animals, and even snakes found in their natural habitat. It's truly a treat to see these magnificent birds in their semi-natural habitat at our aviary, and we hope visitors will enjoy observing and learning more about them.

On January 10th, 2024, approximately 55 trainees from the Dow Hill Forest School's 69th batch of Forest Guards visited the Bengal Safari during their educational excursion. They were able to enjoy both a guided foot tour of the zoo and all the safaris.

The guided foot tour offered an up-close encounter with various indigenous and exotic species, emphasizing the significance of conservation efforts. The trainees expressed their admiration for Bengal Safari's breeding programs and habitat restoration initiatives.

The safari was a highlight of the trip, providing a chance to observe the animals in their natural habitats. The trainees were introduced to a diverse range of species, which left them awestruck.

The zoo's education assistant delivered an informative presentation about conservation, zoo management's role in protecting wildlife, the zoo's accomplishments, and the Bengal Safari's impact on socio-economic development. The trainees were inspired to become conservation advocates and to promote sustainable practices in their future work as forest guards.

Overall, the field trip proved to be an enriching and unifying experience for the trainees, fostering an appreciation for nature and highlighting the crucial importance of wildlife conservation. It also emphasized the role of zoos in such efforts.



EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION FOR THE 69TH FOREST GUARD BATCH AT BENGAL SAFARI



TRANQUILIZATION TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AT BENGAL SAFARI



On January 15th, 2024, Bengal Safari conducted the Tranquilization Training Programme for Wildlife Management. Dr. Nick Doley, the Veterinary Officer, NBWAP; Staff of the Veterinary section, Staff of the Security section, and all animal attendants participated in the program.

This training programme is crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of animals within the park. It equips park staff with the necessary skills to properly use tranquilizers and safely immobilize animals for medical procedures or relocation.

The training covers various topics, including animal behavior and physiology, drug dosages and administration, and safety precautions. Participants learn how to identify the appropriate tranquilizer for each species and monitor the animal's vital signs during the process.

Bengal Safari is committed to providing the highest level of care for its animals while ensuring the safety of its staff and visitors. The Tranquilization Training Programme is one of the many ways the park invests in training and education to create a safe, secure environment for both animals and humans.

Compared to the previous year, Bengal Safari, a nature and wildlife park, experienced a significant jump in both revenue and visitors during January 2024. Around 62,520 people visited the park and the revenue generated was approximately Rs. 1,10,52,920. This growth could be attributed to the increasing interest in eco-tourism and sustainable travel, which has driven demand for nature and wildlife experiences. Bengal Safari caters to this demand by providing visitors with a stunning natural environment and a diverse range of wildlife species.



BENGAL SAFARI SEES MAJOR GROWTH IN JANUARY 2024, VISITOR NUMBERS AND REVENUE

THE WESTERN HOOLOCK GIBBON: A STAR ATTRACTION AT BENGAL SAFARI
THE BENGAL SAFARI RECENTLY INTRODUCED A PAIR OF WESTERN HOOLOCK GIBBONS IN THEIR DISPLAY ENCLOSURE, AND THE RESPONSE FROM VISITORS HAS BEEN FANTASTIC.



ENHANCING ANIMAL WELFARE: IMPLEMENTING FEED & STRUCTURAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS AT BENGAL SAFARI



To improve the well-being of animals kept in zoos, feed & structural enrichment is essential. It offers cognitive stimulation, motivates physical activity, and fosters behavioural diversity by imitating natural foraging behaviours. Boredom, stereotypical behaviours, and related health problems are avoided with this proactive approach. Differentiating stimuli enhances the overall welfare of zoo animals by fostering a more dynamic and engaging living environment, which is the general idea behind enrichment programs at zoos. Considering these facts, various feed & structural enrichments were incorporated into the enclosures at the various animal sections at North Bengal Wild Animals Park (NBWAP) in the month of January 2024.



Enhancements to the mandrill enclosure have been proposed to improve feeding and structure. The enclosure modified with climbing structures and hanging ropes to promote physical activity and encourage natural behaviors. Additional shaded areas will protect the mandrills from the sun and provide a comfortable environment for them to rest. These enhancements aim to improve the mandrills' overall health and well-being.



To improve the overall management and well-being of our leopards, we have installed a new, high-positioned structure. This design features multiple levels for climbing and resting, providing our leopards with exercise, play, and a greater sense of security. The addition of this new structure will help fortify the shelter and promote better physical and mental health for our leopards.



Enrichment Feeding in Animals and Aviary Sections



Project 1: The Study on Dung/Scat Analysis of Herbivore Animals in North Bengal Wild Animals Park to Analyze Presence of Gut Parasites

- The Research Assistant (Ms Prishka Pariyar) is working on the compilation of the final report. Chapter 2 on annotation notes and the study area was completed. Data compilation and further analysis are in progress.

Project 2: The Study of Hematological and Biochemical Values of Captive Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

- Statistical analysis for the interim report has been completed. The Research Assistant (Ms Prishka Pariyar) is presently compiling the interim report. Further, blood samples from our in-house elephants (Laxmi and Urmila) were collected and analysed for hematobiochemical parameters.

Project 3: Captive Breeding and Management of Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) At North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri

- The research scholar (Ms Karabi Roy Pramanik) is presently compiling data of behavioural observations for further analysis. Observations of the captive tigers along with manuscript writing are in progress.



WORK PROGRESS OF RESEARCH PROJECTS AS OF JANUARY 2024



The Veterinary Assistant is collecting the blood samples for the analysis of hematobiochemical parameters.

SUCCESSFUL RESCUE AND TREATMENT OF A LEOPARD CUB DURING JANUARY MONTH AT BENGAL SAFARI



On January 16, 2024, a Common Leopard cub, aged approximately 11 months, was rescued by the Ada Bari Beat, Salugara Range and transported to the Bengal Safari veterinary hospital for medical treatment. Once the cub was nursed back to health, it was released back into the wild by the authorities.



The leopard cub is receiving vital treatment from the veterinary team.



BENGAL SAFARI CELEBRATED ITS NINTH ANNIVERSARY ON JANUARY 21, 2024.

The North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), located in the heart of North Bengal, has become a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. Over the past nine years, the staff at Bengal Safari have worked tirelessly to create a safe and enjoyable environment for all of its animal residents.

In addition to maintaining the zoo's facilities, the staff has also implemented educational programs to teach visitors about the importance of wildlife conservation. These programs have been a huge success and have helped to raise awareness about the threats facing many of the world's endangered species.

To celebrate the zoo's ninth anniversary, Bengal Safari held a special event for its visitors. Visitors were able to get up close and personal with some of the zoo's most beloved residents, including the majestic Bengal tiger and the adorable western hoolock gibbon.

Looking ahead, the staff at Bengal Safari are excited to continue their work in promoting wildlife conservation and providing an unforgettable experience for all of their visitors. With each passing year, the zoo has become a shining example of what is possible when we work together to protect the world's most vulnerable creatures.

BENGAL SAFARI COMMEMORATED 75TH REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA



On January 26th, 2024, Bengal Safari celebrated India's 75th Republic Day by hosting the national flag of India. The Director, Assistant Director, Range Officer and other staff members of the zoo were present to witness the flag hoisting ceremony. At the event, the Assistant Director delivered an address, underscoring the importance of Republic Day in India's history and its ongoing relevance to the country. He highlighted the day as a celebration of India's democratic principles and the unification of its diverse cultures. The Assistant Director also emphasized the significance of preserving and protecting India's wildlife, along with the vital role played by Bengal Safari in this effort.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS IN JANUARY

During the month of January, several educational institutions visited the Bengal Safari for educational purposes. Here are a few glimpses of their visits.



DEGNITARY VISITS IN DECEMBER



On January 11th, 2024, Dr. Atanu Raha, a retired IFS and former PCCF Hoff West Bengal, visited Bengal Safari and commended the staff's conservation efforts. He praised the park's work in preserving endangered species. Dr. Raha emphasized the importance of conservation efforts in today's world and thanked the staff for their dedication. The visit was a success and highlighted the significance of protecting natural heritage for future generations.

On January 15th, 2024, Dr. Mariya Fernandes, the Vice Chairperson of the West Bengal Forest Development Corporation (WBFDC), visited Bengal Safari. While on the premises, she met with the management team to discuss diverse topics such as animal welfare, living conditions, and quality of care. Dr. Fernandes expressed her enjoyment of the safari, which featured the iconic Royal Bengal Tiger of West Bengal. Additionally, she praised the park's state of maintenance and educational value.



On January 20th, 2024, Damayanti Sen, IPS, visited the Bengal Safari and was thoroughly impressed by the environment and the well-maintained zoo. She heartily commended the team for their excellent work.

NEWSPAPER DELIGHTS

