

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

BENGAL SAFARI NEWS

TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH



BENGAL SAFARI'S 2ND ANNUAL ZOO FESTIVAL 2023: A CELEBRATION OF LEARNING AND FUN



Bengal Safari proudly hosted its much-anticipated 2nd **Annual Zoo Festival** from the **12th to the 14th of November**, a harmoniously blended education, entertainment, and ecological awareness. This year's festival showcased a diverse range of activities designed to engage visitors of all ages.

Among the highlights was the **Nature Trail**, a guided journey through the Safari's rich landscapes, offering a deeper understanding of local flora and fauna. Participants immersed themselves in the splendour of nature, enhancing their appreciation for the environment.

Another captivating feature was the **"Best Out of Waste"** workshop, fostering creativity and sustainability. Visitors explored innovative ways to repurpose materials, emphasizing the importance of recycling and responsible consumption.

A special treat awaited children under 12 years old as they received **complimentary entry passes**. These passes granted them exclusive access to explore the wonders of the on-foot zoo, the Reptile Zone, the enchanting Butterfly Garden, Nakshatra Vanam (Medicinal Plant Garden), the Nature Interpretation Centre, the Children's Play Area, and various other amenities. This gesture aimed to spark curiosity and inspire a lifelong -

love for nature among the younger audience. Notably, alongside enthusiastic visitors, several children's homes actively participated in the festival, contributing to a warm and inclusive atmosphere. Throughout the festival, Bengal Safari offered engaging and educational programs, including **wildlife themed film screenings, fun quizzes, and interactive sessions** such as **"Talking About Your Favourite Animals."** Participants were recognized and appreciated with special Zoo Festival certificates as tokens of gratitude for their enthusiastic participation. Notably, the festival welcomed the active involvement of children's homes, fostering a sense of community and inclusivity.

The 2nd Annual Zoo Festival at Bengal Safari epitomized a commitment to holistic education, eco-consciousness, and community engagement. It served as a testament to the Safari's dedication to wildlife conservation and nurturing a deeper connection between people and nature.



"CHILDREN'S DAY AT ZOO FESTIVAL 2023: UNITING HEARTS, SHARING SMILES"



The culmination of Zoo Festival 2023 marked a poignant celebration of unity and altruism. Amidst the jubilant festivities, we had the privilege of **commemorating Children's Day** in the esteemed company of **specially-abled children**, illuminating the day with unparalleled joy and camaraderie. Additionally, on this momentous occasion, we distributed essential winter supplies and thoughtfully curated souvenirs to these remarkable children. Their radiant smiles upon receiving these gifts were a testament to the warmth of generosity and inclusivity shared on this day.



We extend our **heartfelt gratitude to all contributors and participants** for their invaluable support in creating an unforgettable experience. May this stand as a testament to the significance of fostering an environment where every child is embraced and celebrated.

ENHANCING ANIMAL WELFARE: IMPLEMENTING FEED ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS AT BENGAL SAFARI



To improve the well-being of animals kept in zoos, feed 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 enrichments were incorporated into the enclosures at the Aviary section, Lesser cat enclosures, Tiger shelter, Bear shelter, and Leopard shelter at North Bengal Wild Animals Park (NBWAP) in the month of November 2023.

1. Suspension of seasonal fruits in the aviary section.



2. Grapes on a twig.



3. Live fish enrichment



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



WORK PROGRESS OF RESEARCH PROJECTS AS OF NOVEMBER 2023

- 272 stool samples of various animal species housed within enclosures and safari areas were collected and analyzed for gastrointestinal parasites. Stool test reports were prepared.
- All raw data have been fed in an Excel sheet. A master data sheet will have been prepared for future data analysis.
- Chapter 1 on introduction and literature review has been completed, reviewed, revised, and finalized for the project report.

Ongoing work and plan: collection and analysis of stool samples for endoparasite prevalence will continue till December 2023 for the present project. Chapter 2 titled Study Location and Surveillance annotation is in progress.



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

- Blood analysis of the in-house captive elephants of NBWAP was conducted. Multiple analysis from the same serum/ whole blood sample was done in this preliminary investigation.
- The initial chapters on the introduction and literature review were compiled.
- Between October to November, the first field visit to Jaldapara National Park and Gorumara National Park was completed. Twenty-three (23) individual elephants from Jaldapara and ten (10) individual elephants from Gorumara National Park were sampled. The blood samples were processed at the veterinary hospital, NBWAP for Hematology, and serum biochemistries evaluation.

Ongoing work and plan: Descriptive statistics and the preparation of interim reports are currently underway. Simultaneously, efforts to secure permission from the respective dignitaries for the second field visit are in progress.

Project 3: "Captive Breeding & Management of Bengal Tiger" is in progress

- Chapter 1 on the Introduction and literature review has been completed by the research scholar. The chapter has been reviewed and is being revised.
- Chapter 2 titled 'The Behavioural Pattern of Captive Tigers in Enclosures vs Safari Areas' has been compiled.
- Chapter 3 titled 'Determination of the frequency of occurrence of resting, exploring, and stereotypic behaviour in captive tigers at NBWAP' has been compiled.

Ongoing work and plan: Ongoing work and plan: a visitor survey is one of the objectives of the project, and will be worked on by the scholar. Baseline hematobiochemical parameters will be examined, along with behavioral observation in combination with the evaluation and improvement of interim reports. A case report for publication purposes will be written and submitted to a popular veterinary journal.

CUBS WERE VACCINATED AND HAVE BEEN WEIGHED IN NOVEMBER BY THE VETERINARIAN AT BENGAL SAFARI.

In the meticulous process of safeguarding the tiger cubs' health at Bengal Safari, the veterinarian administered crucial vaccinations, shielding these young felines from potential threats like Canine distemper and rabies. Each tiny injection represented a shield against formidable adversaries, ensuring these majestic creatures grew strong and resilient.

Moreover, the weighing session wasn't merely a routine task; it was a window into the cubs' development. With each cub carefully placed on the scale, their growth was meticulously noted, allowing the veterinarian to track their progress and ensure they were thriving as they should. The delicate handling techniques employed during this process showcased not only the veterinarian's expertise but also their deep commitment to the welfare of these magnificent animals.



Yogen Ghatani from Rhenock, East Sikkim, adopted a **Rose-ringed Parakeet**, while **Dr. Amitava Roy** of Kendriya Vihar, Kolkata, adopted Yanchen, the **Fishing Cat**, which holds the distinction of being West Bengal's state animal and is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Additionally, **The Round Table of India** from Sevoke Road, Siliguri, has adopted Mohini, the **Himalayan Black Bear**, from Bengal Safari. Their collective efforts underscore a strong commitment to safeguarding endangered species.

NOVEMBER ADOPTIONS AT BENGAL SAFARI: THREE ANIMALS WERE ADOPTED AT THE BENGAL SAFARI – A HIMALAYAN BLACK BEAR, A FISHING CAT, AND A ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET.

