

# BANABANDHU ZOO NEWS



## QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER



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## IN THIS ISSUE

In this quarter of the year, Bengal Safari welcomes new Director of the park Shri. Dharamdeo Rai, IFS, the charge handed over by Shri. Rajendra Jakhar, IFS (Director of the PNHZP). In the beginning of this quarter, free medical health check up camp was also organised for the staff members of the park. Later, in the mid of this quarter, Member Secretary of Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi and also Member Secretary of West Bengal Zoo Authority, Kolkata has visited the park. The park has been also visited by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & HOFF, Govt. Of W.B, as well as by many other forest officials, dignitaries as well as many institutions. This quarter also observed the birth of new borns. On the occasion of World Environment Day, the park has celebrated the day by planting saplings with staff members and the visitors.

## STAFF CORNER

### **Welcome of Director, NBWAP, Shri. Dharmdeo Rai**

Shri Dharmdeo Rai (IFS) took over the charge as Director of North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri from Shri. Rajendra Jakhar (IFS) on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019.

## RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### **Medical Health Check up Camp**

On the very beginning of this quarter i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019, the park has organised free medical health check up camp for the staff members in the seminar hall of the administration building.

Camp was organized in association with Medica North Bengal Clinic, Siliguri. The 4 team members of Hospital including One Physician, Dr. Debanjan Dhar, and Three other supporting staff conducted the camp. Free physical examination along with Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure tests were provided by the Hospital.

Total of 41 staff members viz., Assistant Director, Range Officer, Zoo Supervisor, Two Asst. Zoo Supervisors, Six Animal Attendants, Four Drivers, Five Office Staff, Twenty-One Field Staff attended the Health Check up Camp. During the camp, doctors also advised them for the various medicines and consultation during the camp.



**Figure:** Staff members of NBWAP during Free Medical Health Check up Camp at Seminar Hall

### **Open Painting Event**

In the month of May-June, 2019, the park management came out with new concept of “Open Painting Event” for the wildlife enthusiast and nature admirers those who can bring their imagination come to live through painting. This concept being very new to the visitors yielded unsuccessful result but the park strives to reintroduce the concept again during the visitor season of October- November.

### **Submission of Phase- II report of Project on flora and fauna of NBWAP**

The compilation of collected data and the draft report of the second phase of the study have been submitted to the Office of the Director, North Bengal Wild Animals Park. During the second year of the extension period of the project a total of 80 quadrates for vegetation structure of the Bengal Safari, 80 quadrates for natural fodder status of herbivores within Bengal safari and 40 quadrates for the status of epiphytes of Bengal Safari have been studied in the floral survey. During this period, 2 tree species, 1 climber species, 1 shrub species and 14 herb species have been identified in addition to the already recorded 456 species of flora during the first phase of the study. During the project transect quadrates have been studied within four zones of the park, viz., visitors area, riverine area, herbivore area and the biodiversity zone for insects, birds and arachnids. A total of 56 species of insects, 7 species of fishes, 20 species of aquatic benthic fauna and 13 species of birds have been identified during the second phase of the faunal study in addition to the already recorded 495 species of fauna during the first phase.

### **World Environment Day Celebration**

World Environment Day (WED), a flagship campaign of United Nation’s for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues from manmade destruction, overpopulation, global warming, to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime. WED is celebrated on every 5<sup>th</sup> of June, of the year has grown to become a global platform for public outreach, with participation from 143 countries annually each year. Every year it has been celebrated with a new theme that major corporations, NGOs, communities, governments etc., adopt to advocate environmental issues.

In this regard, Bengal Safari being working close to wildlife and nature celebrates World Environment Day by planting saplings around the Park premises. This year, we decided to celebrate among the visitors and staff members for the specific day. The total of more than 35 plant saplings of different varieties was planted on the particular day.





**Figure:** Visitors and Staff Members planting saplings during the World Environment Day Celebration.

### **Development of Digital Library of Pugmark and Scat Identification of Captive Bengal Tigers of Bengal Safari**

North Bengal Wild Animals Park at present has a total tiger population of 1 male and 3 females, while 1 male has been transferred to Alipore Zoo as a CZA programme for breeding loan. Keeping in mind the aspect of tiger conservation, the Park is conducting a study on the identification of tiger pugmarks and scat. A digital library is being developed which would enable researchers and foresters to identify pugmarks and scats more accurately in the wild, thereby creating lesser confusion between indirect evidences of leopards and tigers.

This study is being conducted for a period of 1 month, whereby the different physical parameters of both the scat and the pugmarks will be identified.

Below are few photographs from the collected samples:



Pugmark of Adult Male



Pugmark of Adult Female



Pugmark of Female Cub



Pugmark of Female Cub



Scat of Adult Male



Scat of Adult Female



Scat of Female Cub-1



Scat of Female Cub-2

### VETERINARY CORNER

#### **Handing Over of Rescued Birds**

On 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 Belakoba Forest Division Officials has handed over the rescued birds to the North Bengal Wild Animals Park in presence of Range Officer, Zoo Biologist, Veterinary Officer and Veterinary Assistant. The rescued birds include 2 nos. of Hill Mynas and 07 nos. of Parrots which were housed under quarantine and for medical care in a Veterinary Hospital.



#### **Wildlife Conservation Initiatives in and around Protected Areas of North Bengal**

In an initiative for wildlife conservation, rescued and injured birds and animals from protected areas of nearby North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Bengal Safari, are brought to the Park Veterinary Hospital for treatment and rehabilitation. Most of the animals are released into the wild after treatment and recovery but in case of critical cases, they are kept in quarantine enclosures under observation and for rehabilitation until the animals get recovered.

Following are the lists of rescued animals that were brought to the Park Veterinary Hospital for treatment and rehabilitation of wild animals carried out by the Zoo.

Sl. No.	Species	No. of Animals Acquired	No. of animals Disposed	Acquired from & date	Disposed to & Date
1	Parakeets	7	7	24.05.2019 Belakoba Range	Released in Wild
	Hill Myna	2	2		
2	Parakeets	5	5	11.06.2019 Belakoba Range	Released in Aviary of the Park
	Hill Myna	2	2		

Following are the lists of Post Mortems conducted by Veterinary Officer, North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Bengal Safari in different Forest Divisions.

Sl. No.	Date of Post Mortem	Species	Range	Division
1	11.06.2019	Bison	Panighatta Range	Kurseong Division
2	14.06.2019	Bison	Naxalbari Range	

### ANIMAL'S CORNER

#### **New Borns of the Safari Park**

##### **Spotted Deer**

In the month of April and May, a total of **forty** fawns were born.



**Figure:** A month old fawns

##### **White Peacock**

In the month of June, a total of **four** peachicks were hatched.



**Figure:** A week old Peachicks

##### **Golden Pheasant**

In the month of June, **two** chicks were hatched.



**Figure:** A week old chick

## VISITOR'S CORNER

### INSTITUTION VISITS

Sl. No.	Date	Name Of Institution	No. Of Teachers	No. Of Students
1.	03/04/2019	Govt. Sec. School Melli Bazar	04	31
2.	30/04/2019	Muraliganj High School (H.S.)	04	124
3.	30/04/2019	Adarsh Vidyalaya Hindi High School (H.S.)	14	99
4.	12/05/2019	St. Angel Tech High School	03	09
5.	12/05/2019	Holy Cross High School	04	20
6.	12/05/2019	NIT	20	100
7.	12/05/2019	National Integration Team (Sevoke Military Stn)	19	82
8.	17/05/2019	Mount Carmel School, Kalimpong	10	44
9.	29/05/2019	Shri Ram Centennial School, Siliguri	15	45
10.	07/06/2019	KV, CRPF Campus, Siliguri	02	40
11.	18/06/2019	Netaji Girls' High School, Siliguri	02	24
12.	20/06/2019	Khoribari High School (H.S)	02	120
13.	28/06/2019	Bagdogra Balika Vidyalaya	12	104
14.	28/06/2019	Saraswati Vidya Niketan	15	30
<b>Total No. Of Students and Teachers</b>			<b>127</b>	<b>872</b>

### Visitor Database

Year	No. Of Zoo Visitors		No. Of Safari Visitors		Total Visitors	Total Revenue (Rs.)
	Adults	child	Adults	child		
2019						
April	3555	282	13064	497	17,398	24,97,040
May	4959	515	18323	880	24,752	35,52,530
June	8548	792	20060	990	30,390	39,49,335

### Visit of Member Secretary of Central Zoo Authority

On 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, IFS, Member Secretary, CZA, had visited the park and also took a round within Safari and animal shelter with the Director of the Park Shri. Dharmdeo Rai, IFS. During his visit, he has discussed about the management of the animals, as well as shared his rich experience and valuable suggestions with the Veterinary Officer, Zoo Biologist, Education Assistant and Animal Supervisor.









### **Visit of Veteran Actor and wildlife enthusiast**

On 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, a veteran actor of Indian cinema as well as a wildlife enthusiast, Shri Sabyasachi Chakraborty, along with his family had visited the park.



### **Visit of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & HOFF, Govt. Of West Bengal and other Forest Officials**

On 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, the Pricipal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & HOFF, Govt. Of West Bengal, along with other Forest Officials had visited the park. During their visit, they took a round within the animal night shelter as well as safari area with the Director of the Park Shri. Dharmdeo Rai, IFS.

### **Visit of Officials from Deptt. Of Forest, Govt. Of West Bengal**

On 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, shri P.Tantri, Joint Secretary, Deptt. Of Forest and Shri S. Banerjee, PA, Deptt. Of Forest, has visited the Safari park and has also expressed positive thoughts on the maintenance and functioning of the park.

### **Visit of Hon'ble MIC, and other Officials, Dept. Of Tourism, Govt. Of W.B**

On 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, Shri Gautam Deb, MIC, Dept. Of Tourism, Govt. Of W.B. as well as other officials had visited the park in the early hour of the day. During the visit, he met the Director of the Park Shri. Dharmdeo Rai, IFS, as well as other staff and took a round within the animal night shelter as well as safari area to look after its maintenance and functioning.

## **ARTICLES CORNER**

### ***Tam, the Last Known Male Sumatran Rhino in Malaysia***


**-Samir Thapa, Edu. Asst.**

A rhinoceros (from Greek *rhinokerōs*, meaning 'nose-horned', from *rhis*, meaning 'nose', and *keras*, meaning 'horn'), commonly abbreviated to rhino, is one of any five extant species of odd-toed ungulates in the family Rhinocerotidae, as well as any of the numerous extinct species therein. Two of the extant species are native to Africa and three to Southern Asia.

The two African living species are the Black rhinoceros and the white rhinoceros, of which the white rhinoceros is again subdivided into Northern White and Southern White rhinos. The three Asian species are composed of the Indian rhino, the Javan rhino and the Sumatran rhino.

Among all these, the Sumatran rhino, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, is the smallest living rhino species as





well as the one with the most hair. The Sumatran rhino once roamed from the foothills of the Himalayas in Bhutan and north-eastern India, through southern China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and the Malay Peninsula, and onto the islands of Sumatra and Borneo in Indonesia. The species is now confined mainly to Sumatra and is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN.

After decades of deforestation and poaching, it is now thought only 30 to 100 Sumatran rhinos remain in the wild, (some estimates put the number as low as 30 to 80), scattered most on the nearby island of Sumatra and Borneo. The animal is closely related to the woolly rhinoceros, which became extinct about 10,000 years ago.

**Tam** was the last male Sumatran rhino known to survive in Malaysia leaving behind only one female of the subspecies, **Iman**, in the Southeast Asian country. Apart from Iman, the entire global population of the critically endangered Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) now survives in Indonesia.

Tam was captured and relocated from a palm oil plantation in 2008 to the Tabin Wildlife Reserve in the state of Sabah. His translocation to the Sanctuary had brought hopes that he could contribute to efforts to breed his species in captivity but died without having reproduced, proving unsuccessful. The reports claimed that the poor quality of the Tam's sperm as well as the females suffering from reproductive pathologies held for the unsuccessful breeding.

Tam was believed to be about 30 years old at the time of his death i.e., on May 27, 2019 which is said to be old age for his species. Since April, he exhibited an abrupt decline in appetite and alertness, and displayed indications of multiple organ failure.

Now, sole remaining hope for producing new rhinos now lies with a much-delayed effort to artificially inseminate one of Iman's eggs using sperm from a proven breeder at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. However, she has also showed signs of poor health, suffering a ruptured tumor in her uterus since 2017.

Therefore, Sumatran rhinos are so few, in fact, experts now believe isolation is the single biggest threat to the species' continued existence.

Tam's death however shows how critically important the collaborative efforts driving the Rhino Rescue project are as well it wants public to understand how precarious the survival of these rhino species. It also directs us to be laser-focused on saving the remaining rhinos in the wild using a combination of intensive protection and captive breeding, and working with local people to instill pride that the rhino is part of their biological heritage.

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