



BANABANDHU BENGAL SAFARI NEWS LETTER

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NORTH BENGAL WILD ANIMALS PARK, SILIGURI

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NEWSLETTER ADDRESS

Director, North Bengal Wild Animals Park,
5th Mile, Sevoke Rd, Salugara,
Siliguri, West Bengal 734008
dir.nbwap-wb@bangla.gov.in/dirnbwap@gmail.com
eduresearch.bs@gmail.com

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From The Director's Desk

Greetings from NBWAP.

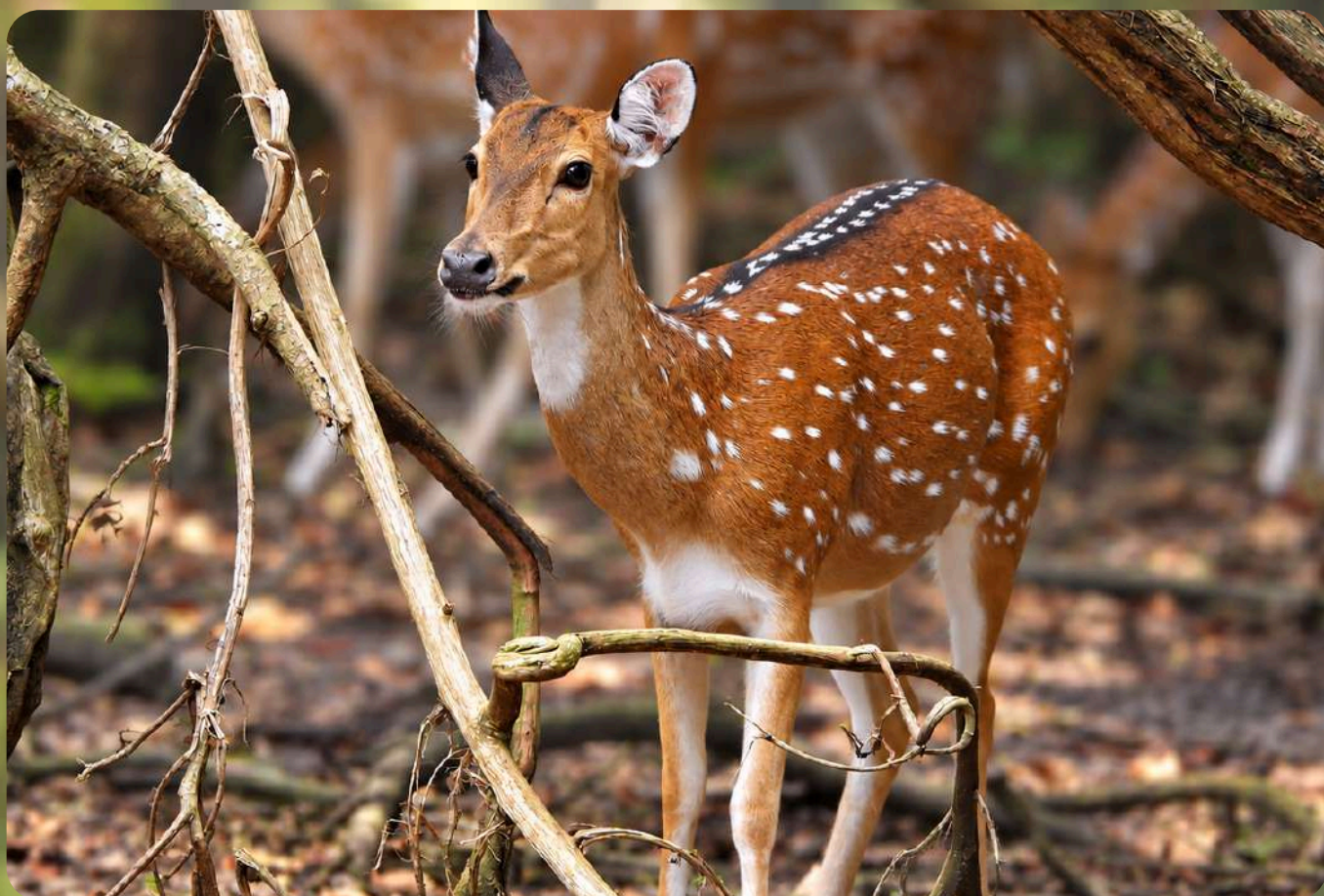
I am pleased to share this issue of Banabandhu (NBWAP Newsletter) to all the readers. This quarter was marked by the celebration of Aranya Saptaha 2026 followed by many educational programmes involving students of various age groups. A commendable progress in the developmental work was achieved besides multiple inhouse trainings and three scientific publications. With the same enthusiasm, the park shall continue to contribute to ex-situ conservation and education.

Best Regards

E Vijayakumar, IFS

Director

North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri.



Celebration of Aranya Saptaha 2026 on 15th July 2026

Aranya Saptaha 2026 was celebrated on 15 July 2026 at the North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri, under the inspiring theme “একটি গাছ মায়ের নামে” (Ek Ti Gaach Mayer Name).

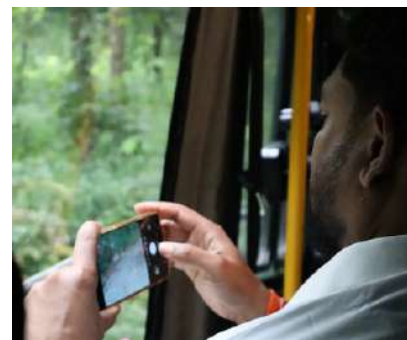
The theme seeks to inspire people to plant and nurture trees as a tribute to their mothers, while fostering a deeper emotional bond between people and nature and reaffirming our collective responsibility towards environmental conservation.

The programme was graced by the presence of Shri Manoj Kumar Oraon, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Department of Forests and the Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal; Shri Anandamay Barman, Hon'ble Minister of State, Finance Department and Transport Department, Government of West Bengal; Smt. Sikha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Dabgram-Fulbari Assembly Constituency; Shri Manish Jain, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal; Shri Sandeep Sundriyal, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, West Bengal; Shri Rajesh Kumar, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden; West Bengal; Dr Anupama, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (North), West Bengal; Shri J. V. Bhaskar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), North, West Bengal; Shri Samir Gazmer, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Hill Circle), West Bengal; and other invited dignitaries. The Director of the Park, Shri E.Vijayakumar, IFS welcomed all the dignitaries and officials. As part of the celebration, the Aranya Rath, a specially designed awareness vehicle, was ceremonially flagged off to carry the message of forest conservation, environmental protection and the importance of tree plantation to the wider community.

A ceremonial plantation programme was also organised, during which the Hon'ble dignitaries planted saplings under the campaign “একটি গাছ মায়ের নামে”.

The celebration aimed to inspire greater public participation in environmental conservation and to encourage individuals to plant and nurture trees in the name of their mothers. Through this meaningful campaign, the message of a greener, healthier and more sustainable future was shared with the community.





Photographs taken during Aranya Saptaha 2026 Celebration at NBWAP

Celebration of World Zoonosis Day on 6th July 2026

On 6th July 2026, an awareness programme was conducted for the animal attendants on the topic “Zoonotic Disease in Zoo Animals”. 31 Animal Attendants attended the programme, and availed insights into the basics of zoonosis and preventive measures. After the technical session that was led by the Veterinary Officer of the park, an interactive session, including “Q and A” test was carried out for the staff. The programme ended with an acknowledgement followed by refreshment distribution.



Presentation by the Veterinary Officer,
NBWAP



Q and A for the Animal
attendants



Interactive session with the
Animal attendants

Celebration of International Tiger Day on 29th July 2026

The International Tiger Day was celebrated on 29th July 2026 with the students of Nirmala Convent School, Amar Jyoti International School, Ektiasal Tileswari Adhikari High School, and Techno India Group Public Schools. A total of 120 students participated in various competition like Clay Model Making, Face Painting, Drawing & Colouring, Poster, Photograph, Mask and Model Display, along with a visit to the Tiger Shelter. Besides this, the students also exhibited their talents through singing, dancing and ellocution, dedicated to wildlife and tiger conservation. The programme ended with an acknowledgement by the Zoo Biologist, NBWAP, who also encouraged and sensitised the young students on individual contribution towards conservation as a whole. Refreshments and certificates were distributed.

Winners of the Clay Modelling Competition

1st Place: Pernika Majumder and Sondipona Chakraborty, Techno India Group Public Schools.

2nd Place: Anamika Roy, Joyshree Shah, Rimi Sarkar, and Pouliza Chakraborty, Amar Jyoti International School

3rd Place: Saanghvi Ghoshal and Ankush Shah, Techno India Group Public Schools.

Winners of the Face Painting Competition

1st Place: Kaviya Agrawal and Pahal Agrawal, Nirmala Convent School.

2nd Place: Rosalyn Malsawmhluichhangte and Dhritisa Paul, Amar Jyoti International School

3rd Place: Nandini Basak and Archismita Dutta, Techno India Group Public Schools.

Winners of the Drawing Competition

1st Place: Saanvi Paul, Nirmala Convent School.

2nd Place: Kriti Shah Dutta, Techno India Group Public Schools.

3rd Place: Kaira Sen Majumder, Nirmala Convent School.



Poster presentation



Elocution / Poem Recitation



Drawing & Colouring Competition



Song and Drama Performances by the students



Dance performance by the students

Tiger themed face painting by the students



Tiger themed face painting by the students



Clay making by the students



Clay making by the students



Certificate distribution to the students by the Range Officer, NBWAP



Certificate distribution to the students by the Zoo Biologist, NBWAP



Group Photograph

Celebration of World Lion Day on 10th August 2026

To spread awareness about lion conservation to the general public, World Lion Day Celebration on 10th August, 2026 was designed to address two groups of audiences: The preschool students of Kidzee Shastrinagar and 1st semester students of North Bengal St. Xavier's College.

In the first half of the programme, a kids friendly presentation on Lions was delivered to the preschool students led by Research Scholar, NBWAP, while in the second half, technical session on the distribution of lion in their natural habit and techniques of behavioural study was addressed to the college students by Research Assistant-1, NBWAP. A hands-on training on behavioural techniques on pre-recorded video of a male lion housed at NBWAP was carried out.

The participants were taken to the Lion Shelter to see the inhouse lions of the park. The combination of fun as well as learning or developing skills was deeply appreciated by the respective teachers of the school. Face mask, colouring sheet, and certificates were distributed to all the participants (22 from Kidzee Shastrinagar and 18 from St. Xavier's College). Refreshments were distributed at the end of the programme.



Kids Friendly Presentation delivered by the Research Scholar, NBWAP to the students of Kidzee Shastrinagar



Presentation on behavioural techniques to the 1st semister students of St. Xavier's College by Research Assistant-1, NBWAP

Demonstration of data entry by Research Assistant 1



Teachers and Professors being acknowledged by the Education Assistant, NBWAP

Refreshment Distribution and group photo of students from St. Xavier's College



Group Photographs

Celebration of 80th Independence Day on 15th August 2026

On 15 August 2026, North Bengal Wild Animals Park (NBWAP) celebrated the 80th Independence Day of India with great patriotic spirit and enthusiasm. The occasion commemorated the sacrifices and contributions of the nation's freedom fighters while celebrating the values of unity, pride, and patriotism. The programme was marked by flag hoisting by the Director, NBWAP, the singing of the National Anthem and Nathional song, creating a memorable and inspiring atmosphere for all present.



Photographs of the Independence Day Celebration at NBWAP

Celebration of Vulture Awareness Day on September 5th 2026

Vulture Awareness Day was celebrated with the animal attendants through a series of enrichment activities designed to encourage natural behaviours and improve the captive environment of the vultures. As part of the structural enrichment, an additional perching site was created inside the enclosure using natural logs and coconut rope. The arrangement provided the vultures with an elevated resting and perching opportunity and increased the structural complexity of the enclosure. A feeding enrichment activity was also conducted using a jute bag. Pieces of meat were placed inside the bag, encouraging the vultures to investigate and interact with the enrichment material while accessing the food. This activity was intended to stimulate natural food-searching and feeding behaviours. The activities also provided an opportunity for the animal attendants to participate in and understand the importance of enrichment in vulture husbandry and welfare.



Incorporation of two perching sites for Vultures at the vulture enclosure.



Preparation and incorporation of feed parcel for Vultures at the Vulture enclosure



Zoobiologist addressing the participants



Group photograph

Observance of Forest Martyrs' Day at Bengal Safari



Remembering the martyrs

On 11 September 2026: Bengal Safari observed Forest Martyrs' Day to honour the forest and wildlife personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial candle by the Assistant Director, followed by two minutes of silence in remembrance of the martyrs. The observance concluded with an address by the Assistant Security Supervisor, highlighting the importance of remembering and honouring those who have dedicated their lives to protecting forests and wildlife.

Capacity Building: Awareness cum Training Programme

Programme 1: For Animal Attendants Group A

On 14 Sept 2026, an awareness cum training programme was conducted by NBWAP for the Animal attendants on the topics: Biosecurity measures, Vector Control Measures and Disinfection Protocol. The training started with a general address by the Education Assistant, followed by a detailed explanation on vector control, biosecurity, disease transmission, and sanitation. The Veterinary Assistant explained the importance of personal hygiene and demonstrated the preparation and use of disinfectant, while Research Assistants 1 and 2 focused on zoonosis. The Assistant Zoo Supervisors (1 and 2) explained the reporting protocol that should be followed by the respective keepers during unexpected situations. Feedback from each participant was taken at the end of the programme. The number of participants was 16.



Education Assistant, Zoo Biologist and Research Assistant 1 and 2 addressing the audience



Practical demonstration of disinfectant preparation by the Veterinary Assistant.

Address by the Assistant Zoo Supervisor 1.

Programme 2: For security personnel

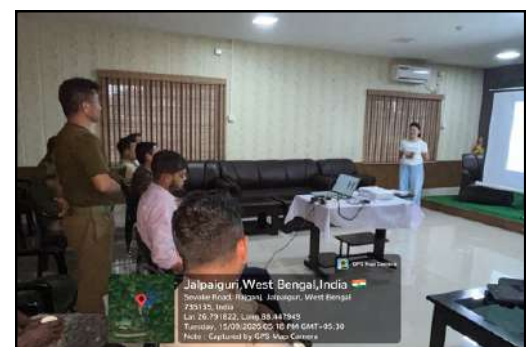
On 15 September 2026, a training programme on “Smartness and Conduct” was conducted for the security staff at NBWAP. The programme commenced with an opening address by the Education Assistant, who emphasised the importance of biosecurity measures in safari parks and zoos. This was followed by an informative presentation by the Zoo Biologist on professional conduct, highlighting the importance of uniforms, discipline, security measures, and reporting systems. An interactive session involving the Zoo Biologist and Assistant Security Supervisor was conducted, followed by a group discussion and an address by the Range Officer, NBWAP. A total of 13 participants attended the programme, and feedback was collected at the end of the session.



Presentation by the Zoo Biologist, NBWAP



Address by the Range Officer, NBWAP



Interactive Session

Programme 3: For Animal Attendants Group B

An awareness-cum-training programme was conducted by NBWAP for animal attendants from both day and night duty parties on biosecurity measures, vector control measures, and disinfection protocols. The programme commenced with an introductory address by the Education Assistant, followed by a detailed explanation of vector control, biosecurity, disease transmission, and sanitation by the Zoo Biologist. The Veterinary Assistant highlighted the importance of personal hygiene and demonstrated the preparation and proper use of disinfectants. Research Assistant-I emphasised the importance of zoonosis awareness. The animal attendant at the Leopard Night Shelter demonstrated disinfection procedures to the night duty staff. A total of 30 participants attended the programme, and feedback was collected.



Education Assistant and Zoo Biologist addressing the participants



Demonstration of disinfection by the Animal Attendant of Leopard Shelter



Veterinary Assistant explaining hygiene and disinfection methods to the participants



Address by the Assistant Zoo Supervisor-2

Programme 4: For Kitchen Staff

An awareness-cum-training programme was conducted by NBWAP for the kitchen staff (total 5 staff members) on 24/09/2026. Biosecurity measures related to staff safety and hygiene were thoroughly discussed. The programme focused on the correct preparation and use of chemical disinfectants, maintenance of personal and kitchen hygiene, and effective rodent control measures.



Address by the Zoo Biologist, NBWAP

Programme 5: For Sanitation Section, JFMC and Zoo Canteen, and Security Personnel



Address by the Zoo Biologist and
Education Asst, NBWAP

An awareness-cum-training programme was conducted by NBWAP on 29.09.2026 for security personnel, sanitation staff, JFMC members, and food court personnel on the importance of biosecurity measures, with a total of 29 participants. The importance of maintaining proper cleanliness and hygiene was specifically discussed with the JFMC and food court members managing the canteen, while security personnel were sensitised on the use of protective gear and vector/carrier control, including biosecurity measures related to vehicles. Feedback forms were distributed to the participants at the end of the programme.

Publications in this quarter

- Upashna Rai, Arnav Sharma, Nabanita Paul, Abhishek Chowdhury, Vijayakumar E and Sudeb Sarkar. Daily behavioural activity patterns of western hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*) housed at North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri, India. *International Journal of Fauna and Biological Studies* 2026; 13(4): 11-15

IMPACT: The study, conducted as part of Mr. Arnav Sharma's short-term internship research, provides baseline information on the daily behavioural activity patterns of captive western hoolock gibbons at Bengal Safari. The findings can support behavioural monitoring, welfare assessment, enrichment planning and improved captive management of the species.

- Vijayakumar, E., Pariyar, P., Basak, S. & Rai, U. 2026. Butterfly diversity (Insecta: Lepidoptera) at North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri, West Bengal, India. *Munis Entomology & Zoology*, 21 (suppl.): 3116-3130

The study, initiated through the field efforts of the Director, NBWAP, with support from the Research and Education Section, provides an updated checklist and community profile of butterflies at Bengal Safari. The findings serve as a baseline for biodiversity monitoring, habitat management and future conservation planning within the park.

- Esha Bhattacharya, Upashna Rai, E. Vijayakumar, Abhishek Chowdhury, Prishka Pariyar & Sudeb Sarkar. Influence of Housing Type and Enrichments on Activity Patterns of Captive Asiatic Black Bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) at North Bengal Wild Animals Park. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, Vol 29, 2026, 1-17

IMPACT: This study, led by Research Scholar Esha Bhattacharya as part of the Asiatic Black Bear Behaviour Project, evaluates the influence of housing type and enrichment on the activity patterns of captive bears at Bengal Safari. The findings provide valuable inputs for improving enclosure design, enrichment practices, behavioural welfare and scientific management of Asiatic black bears in the park.

Article Corner

शौर्य पार्क से बंगाल सफारी तक का एक सफ़र (Shorea Park Se Bengal Safari Tak Ka Ek Safar)



मैंने 2014 में बंगाल सफारी जॉइन किया था। उस समय इस पार्क का नाम शौर्य पार्क था। अगले दो वर्षों में बंगाल सफारी परियोजना का काम बहुत तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ा और 2016 में हर्बिवोर सफारी और टाइगर सफारी के साथ बंगाल सफारी की शुरुआत हुई। इसी दौरान हमारा कार्यालय भी पानीटंकी से यहाँ स्थानांतरित हो गया।

तब से लेकर आज तक चिड़ियाघर में बहुत सारे विकास कार्य हुए हैं और आज भी यह लगातार तरक्की कर रहा है। आज हमारे पास विभिन्न प्रकार की सफारियाँ और कई पशु प्रजातियाँ हैं। पार्क के बुनियादी ढाँचे का विकास, अपने कौशल में सुधार और सहकर्मियों के व्यक्तिगत एवं व्यावसायिक विकास को देखकर मन प्रसन्न हो जाता है।

मुझे आशा है कि आने वाले दिनों में यह पार्क और भी तरक्की करेगा और एक उत्कृष्ट मॉडल चिड़ियाघर के रूप में अपनी पहचान बनाएगा।

(I joined Bengal Safari in 2014. At that time, the park was known as Shaurya Park. Over the next two years, the Bengal Safari project progressed rapidly, and in 2016, Bengal Safari was inaugurated with the Herbivore Safari and Tiger Safari. During the same period, our office was also shifted here from Panitanki.

Since then, the zoo has undergone significant development and continues to progress. Today, we have different types of safaris and several animal species. It is heartening to witness the development of the park's infrastructure, the improvement of my own skills, and the personal and professional growth of my colleagues.

I hope that in the coming years, the park will continue to grow and establish itself as an outstanding model zoo)

Shri Pappu Kumar Sah
(UDC/OA/TA, NBWAP)

अनुभवबाट चितुवालाई बुझ्ने प्रयास (Understanding the Leopard Through Experience)



चितुवासँग करिब डेढ वर्ष ड्युटी गर्ने क्रममा मैले यसको स्वभावलाई नजिकबाट बुझ्ने अवसर पाएँ। मेरो अनुभवमा चितुवा अत्यन्तै सुन्दर, शान्त र बुद्धिमान जनावर हो। सामान्य अवस्थामा यसले अनावश्यक रूपमा मानिस वा अन्य जनावरमाथि आक्रमण गर्ने स्वभाव देखाउँदैन। बाघजस्तो ठूलो र आक्रामक देखिने जनावरभन्दा चितुवा बढी शान्त, सतर्क र सावधान स्वभावको हुन्छ। तर आफूलाई खतरा महसुस भएको अवस्थामा, विशेषगरी आफ्नो क्षेत्र र बच्चाको सुरक्षाका क्रममा, यसले आक्रामक व्यवहार देखाउन सक्छ। त्यसैले चितुवा जति सुन्दर र शान्त देखिन्छ, त्यति नै यसको स्वभाव र व्यवहारलाई बुझेर धैर्य तथा सावधानीपूर्वक काम गर्नु आवश्यक हुन्छ। करिब डेढ वर्षको अनुभवमा चितुवासँग काम गर्नु चुनौतीपूर्ण भए पनि मेरो लागि अत्यन्तै रमाइलो, ज्ञानवर्धक र अविस्मरणीय अनुभव रह्यो।

(During my nearly one-and-a-half years of working with leopards, I had the opportunity to closely observe and understand their nature and behaviour. In my experience, the leopard is an exceptionally beautiful, calm and intelligent animal. Under normal circumstances, it does not display a tendency to attack humans or other animals unnecessarily. Compared to the tiger, which appears larger and more aggressive, the leopard is generally more calm, alert and cautious. However, when it feels threatened, particularly while protecting its territory or young, it may display aggressive behaviour. Therefore, although the leopard may appear beautiful and peaceful, it is equally important to understand its behaviour and work with patience and caution. My one-and-a-half years of working with leopards has been challenging at times, but it has also been a highly rewarding, educational and unforgettable experience.)

Shri Rakesh Tamang
(Animal Attendent, NAWAP)

Developmental works this quarter



Construction of guest house under progress



Construction of two storied staff quarter under progress



Construction of Assistant Director residence under progress



Extension of Director Residence under progress



Construction of visitor footpath in the snake house section



Plainsheet change in Leopard safari area

Enrichments Done This Quarter



Presentation of feed forms an important component of environmental enrichment. Fresh apples were pinned at different locations across the bushes inside the aviary, while in-house-grown guavas were also offered to the birds. Fruits were placed at different locations behind objects and on the substrate, encouraging the animals to search for and discover the food, thereby making feeding a rewarding activity. Coconuts with the outer husk were provided to the bears, encouraging natural exploratory and foraging behaviour and providing additional sensory and physical stimulation.



Olfactory stimulation was provided to the Indian grey wolf pair using lavender extract. A few drops of the extract were diluted in water by the keepers and the solution was sprinkled at different locations within the enclosure before the wolves were released. On entering the enclosure, the wolves actively investigated the scented areas by sniffing and rolling on the treated spots, indicating strong olfactory interest and exploratory engagement with the novel scent.

List of School/University/Institutional Visits In This Quarter

S.No	Date of Visit	Institution	No. of participants	No. of Staff
01	03/07/2026	Sarojini Naidu College, Dum Dum, Kolkata	16	2
02	03/07/2026	Grace Academy Mission School, Pranpur, Bihar	50	10
03	21/07/2026	Beat Officer Training from Dowhill	13	2
04	22/07/2026	APC Roy Government College, Matigara, Siliguri	20	2
05	29/07/2026	Techno India Group Public School	37	5
06	29/07/2026	Amar Jyoti International School	18	3
07	29/07/2026	Ektiasal Tileswari Adhikari High School	16	3
08	29/07/2026	Nirmala Convent School	36	2
09	10/08/2026	Kidzee Jyotinagar Shastrinagar	17	7
10	20/08/2026	Bagdogra Chittaranjan High School, Bagdogra		
11	22/08/2026	SBI Dignitaries and guests, Salugara Branch		
12	23/08/2026	Madati High School, Darjeeling	70-80	
13	24/08/2026	St Michael's International School, Kishanganj, Bihar	25	12
14	19/09/2026	SBI Dignitaries and guests, Salugara Branch		
15	27/09/2026	Kidzee Elementary School, Uttar Dinajpur	50	50
16	30/09/2026	Armed Police Force, Nepal and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	10 & 4	12



Group photograph of Forest officials from Beat Officer Training, Dowhill with the Range Officer, NBWAP.

Natality and Mortality In This Quarter

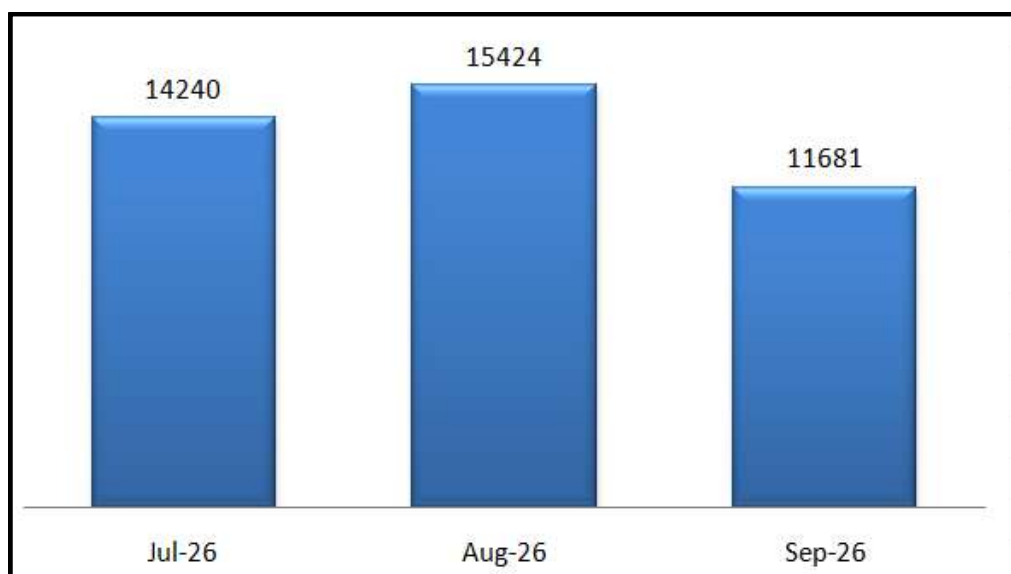
NATALITY: 1ST July - 30TH September 2026

S. No	Species	Date of Birth	Sex	Remarks
01	Black buck	06/07/2026	U	Pinky fawn

MORTALITY: 1ST July - 30TH September 2026

S. No	Species	Date of Death	Sex
01	Black buck	16/07/2026	F
02	Asiatic lion	18/07/2026	M
03	Spectacled langur	18/07/2026	F
04	Wild dog	22/07/2026	M
05	Argus pheasant	27/07/2026	M
06	Himalayan vulture	06/08/2026	M
07	Brow antlered deer	15/08/2026	F

Visitor Footfall In This Quarter



Dignitaries visit in this quarter

Visited the safari with my family today. It was informative and beautifully maintained. Mr Abhishek Choudhary briefed in details. Best wishes to the Bengal Safari team.

Shri RK Singh, IPS
ADG, South Bengal Zone
Kolkata
Date: 04/07/2026

It was a great experience. Thoroughly enjoyed it. We were lucky enough to see all the animals close by. Everyone was very professional. The area was well-maintained. We cant wait to visit again! Thankyou.

Shri Panicker Harishanker, IAS
District Magistrate, Darjeeling
Date: 01/08/2026

