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# BENGAL SAFARI NEWS

TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH



**EXCITING LAUNCH OF  
BENGAL SAFARI'S  
NEWEST ATTRACTIONS  
BY HONORABLE MINISTER  
SMT. BIRBAHA HANSDA:  
COMBINING  
CONSERVATION WITH  
ADVENTURE!**



On December 17, 2023, Bengal Safari proudly presented its new attractions to the public. **The Western Hoolock Gibbon enclosure, a Pay & Use Toilet block, and E-cycling activities** were inaugurated by **Smt. Birbaha Hansda, Hon'ble Minister of State, Forests, Govt. of West Bengal.**

The ceremony was attended by esteemed guests, including Shri Saurabh Chaudhuri, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority; Shri P.R Pradhan, IFS, General Manager, West Bengal Forest Development Corporation; Shri Bhaskar J.V., IFS, Conservator of Forests & Chief Conservator of Forests Wildlife (North), Shri S. Gajmer, IFS, CCF, Hills, Shri T T Bhutia, IFS, CF, North West Circle, as well as other senior officials from the Directorate of Forests, Govt. Of West Bengal.



Gibbon enclosure, Toilet block, and E-cycling was Inaugurated by Honorable Minister of State for Forests, Government of West Bengal.



The inaugurated **Gibbon enclosure** is spread over an approximately 1100 square metered area with a night shelter. This enclosure has been designed to provide a safe and comfortable living space for the Gibbons. The enclosure is spacious with plenty of room for the Gibbons to move around and explore. The night shelter provides a cozy space for the Gibbons to rest and sleep in peace. The enclosure has been fitted with various enrichment features to keep the Gibbons engaged and stimulated. These features include swinging ropes, climbing structures, and platforms that offer various vantage points. The Gibbons will be able to enjoy a diverse diet consisting of fruits, vegetables, and other foods that are appropriate for their needs. The Gibbon enclosure has been constructed with the utmost care and attention to detail, ensuring that the Gibbons will be able to live happily and healthily in this new home.



New Visitor's Toilet Block Inaugurated with Additional Amenities includes a changing room, wash basin, electric hand dryer, 15 additional latrines, and urinary chambers to provide a more comfortable experience.



Newly build Gibbon enclosure

### Introducing the New E-Cycling Activity!

The recently launched E-cycling activity features a 212-meter-long rope way at a height of 13 feet. All visitors weighing under 70 kg can enjoy this sport for just Rs. 150.

The E-cycling activity is a unique way to explore the beautiful surroundings of our destination while getting some exercise and having fun. The rope way takes you through a scenic route, offering breath-taking views of the surrounding landscape. Safety measures are taken seriously, and all participants are provided with safety gear before embarking on the activity.



During the recent event, the **Honourable Minister inaugurated the Nature Interpretation Centre's museum** at Bengal Safari. About 200 specimens were obtained from Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park in Darjeeling for educational purposes.



The Nature Interpretation Centre's museum is a great addition to Bengal Safari. It will provide visitors with a unique opportunity to learn about the diverse flora and fauna of the region. The specimens obtained from Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park in Darjeeling are sure to be a highlight of the museum's educational exhibits. With the Honourable Minister's inauguration, the museum is now open to the public and ready to welcome visitors of all ages. It's a wonderful way to promote awareness and appreciation of the natural world, and we hope that it will inspire many visitors to become more involved in conservation efforts.



# "CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA AT BENGAL SAFARI: MANDRILL UNVEILING"



Bengal Safari celebrated Christmas by unveiling a special pair of Mandrills for visitors. The staff dressed up as Santa Claus and distributed Santa caps and chocolates to children, with the Director and Assistant Director also joining in the festivities. The zoo was decorated with banners, and visitors were wished a Merry Christmas.

The Mandrills were a big hit, as visitors were delighted to see the colourful and playful primates. The animal attendants had prepared special treats for the animals, which added to the festive atmosphere.

Families enjoyed the day out, taking pictures with the Mandrills and other animals, and strolling through the zoo's various exhibits. It was heart-warming to see people of all ages come together to celebrate the holidays and appreciate the beauty of nature. Overall, it was a wonderful day at Bengal Safari, and everyone left with memories that they will cherish for a long time.



The pair of mandrills are taking in their new surroundings with great curiosity and excitement.



The joy on the children's faces was contagious as Santa Claus made his way through the crowd, distributing the chocolates with a wide smile.

Bengal Safari experienced a significant increase in revenue and visitors during the month of December 2023 in comparison to the previous year. In December, the park generated approximately Rs. 92,78,000, and the footfall was around 62,600. This growth can be attributed to the rising interest in eco-tourism and sustainable travel, which has led to a demand for experiences that offer a connection with nature and wildlife. Bengal Safari meets this need with its breathtaking natural setting and diverse range of wildlife species.



## ANTICIPATED RECORD REVENUE AND VISITOR NUMBERS AT BENGAL SAFARI IN DECEMBER 2023.



Managing Visitors at the Entrance of Bengal Safari.



Distribution of Santa Caps by Bengal Safari's Director and Assistant Director.



The joy on the children's faces was contagious as Santa Claus made his way through the crowd, distributing the chocolates with a wide smile.



# 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 December 2023.

## 1. Enrichment in the aviary section.



Suspension of fruits with the provision of substratum



Installation of nesting house at flying birds enclosure



Placing corns in different parts of the enclosure at aviary section



New structural enrichment combined with feed enrichment for flying birds



Introduction of a small patch of wheat green in the Silver pheasant enclosure-



Laying out the bamboo tray and dry leaves in Aviary section

## 2. Enrichment in the Lesser cat section.



Suspended bony meat in lesser cat enclosure



Animal attendant hanging the bony meat in lesser cat enclosure



A jungle cat named Don showcasing his hunting skills with the incorporated feed enrichment



### 3. Feed enrichment for Royal Bengal Tigers



The animal attendant securely fastened sacks packed with meat using coconut rope and suspended them from a tree. To further entice the animals, chicken liver smears were applied for olfactory stimulation.



Tigers successfully spot the food in a few minutes and try to grab it with their feet and climb the tree.

### 4. Feed enrichment for Common Leopards



The animal attendant securely fastened sacks packed with meat using coconut rope and suspended them from a tree. To further entice the animals, chicken liver smears were applied for olfactory stimulation.



Common leopard engaged with the enrichment by sniffing and playing.

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

- The analysis of stool samples has been concluded, and the emphasis has shifted to report writing. Chapter 2, which details the field observation and annotation notes from both the research scholar and Zoo Research Assistant (Ms. Pariyar), has been finished and finalized. Currently, Ms. Pariyar is actively engaged in compiling data for the report on the diversity of gastrointestinal parasites among various herbivore species at NBWAP.

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

- Blood analysis has been completed for Asiatic elephants from Jaldapara National Park and Gorumara National Park. Haematological analysis was conducted using automated analyzers, while serum biochemistry employed semi-automated machines. The analyses were performed in triplicates, and mean values were utilized for subsequent analysis.
- The raw data underwent statistical analysis using IBM SPSS. Currently, the Research Assistant, Ms. Pariyar, in collaboration with the Veterinary Officer, is preparing an interim report summarizing the findings of phase 1 of the project. Concurrently, paperwork for blood collection in preparation for phase 2 is underway in the respective national parks.

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

- Blood samples from nine (09) Royal Bengal Tigers were collected and analysed for various haematological and serum biochemical parameters under the technical guidance of Research Assistant (Ms. Pariyar) and overall guidance of the Veterinary Officer. Data analysis using IBM SPSS software was also completed and the baseline reference range was compiled in tabular form.
- Manuscript on Baseline Hemato-biochemical parameters of Royal Bengal Tiger was written by the Research Scholar and is been reviewed.
- Behavioural observation of tigers continues.



## WORK PROGRESS OF RESEARCH PROJECTS AS OF DECEMBER 2023

## SUCCESSFUL RESCUE AND TREATMENT OF AN ASIATIC BLACK BEAR DURING DECEMBER MONTH AT BENGAL SAFARI



On December 19, 2023, the Buxa Tiger Reserve (West) rescued an Asiatic Black Bear (male), age approximately 6 years and transported it to the Bengal Safari veterinary hospital for medical attention. After receiving treatment, the bear has made a full recovery. The veterinarians at Bengal Safari have confirmed that the bear is now in good health, and although it remains under veterinary care, it will soon be released into the wild.



## SIKKIM'S ESTEEMED GOVERNOR ADOPTS BENGAL TIGER AT BENGAL SAFARI



The **honourable Governor of Sikkim, Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya**, has demonstrated his support for wildlife conservation by **adopting a Bengal tiger at Bengal Safari** for the upcoming year. In a touching event held on December 4th at the Raj Bhawan of Sikkim, the Governor presented the grant amount to the Assistant Director of Bengal Safari, signifying his unwavering commitment towards safeguarding our natural heritage. This thoughtful action not only exemplifies the Governor's dedication to wildlife conservation but also inspires all of us to take proactive measures in preserving the world's endangered species.



# ACQUIRED ANIMALS AT BENGAL SAFARI IN DECEMBER 2023

| Sl. No. | Name of the species           | Nos | Date       | Acquired from                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----|------------|---|
| 1.      | Chinese Goose                 | 6   | 15.12.2023 | Harinalaya, Newtown, Kolkata                      |
| 2.      | Marabou Stork                 | 1   | 15.12.2023 | Harinalaya, Newtown, Kolkata                      |
| 3.      | Helmeted Curassow             | 1   | 15.12.2023 | Harinalaya, Newtown, Kolkata                      |
| 4.      | Great Curassow                | 1   | 15.12.2023 | Harinalaya, Newtown, Kolkata                      |
| 5.      | Mandrill                      | 3   | 21.12.2023 | Tata Steel Zoological Park, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand |
| 6.      | Black Buck                    | 4   | 21.12.2023 | Tata Steel Zoological Park, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand |
| 7.      | Indian Crested Porcupine      | 2   | 13.12.2023 | Zoological Garden, Alipure, Kolkata               |
| 8.      | Himalayan Crestless Porcupine | 2   | 10.12.2023 | Bardhaman Zoological Park                         |
| 9.      | Western Hoolock Gibbon        | 2   | 17.12.2023 | Harinalaya, Newtown, Kolkata                      |

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS IN DECEMBER

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



# DEGNITARY VISITS IN DECEMBER



Bengal Safari received a visit by **MS Pratibha Raj, IFS, APCCF, HRD** on December 26th. During her visit, she was impressed by the conservation efforts made by Bengal Safari and how well the animals were being taken care of. She appreciated the way the park was designed to provide a natural habitat to the animals. She also commented on the various initiatives taken by Bengal Safari to educate visitors about the importance of wildlife conservation. Ms. Pratibha Raj expressed her satisfaction with the overall experience and recommended Bengal Safari as a must-visit destination for wildlife enthusiasts. The park management and staff were thrilled to receive such positive feedback from a distinguished visitor and were encouraged to continue their efforts towards preserving wildlife and educating the public.

# NEWSPAPER DELIGHTS



উজদের দেখা দেওয়া। অসহযোগের মধ্যে শিলিগুড়ির বেঙ্গল সাফারি। এরা লক্ষ্য কৃষকের বসতি। ছবি: সুলভা

বেঙ্গল সাফারি পার্কে মানসম্পূর্ণরূপে দেখে আসা ম্যানড্রিল। ছবি: সুলভা