



NORTH BENGAL WILD ANIMALS PARK, SILIGURI

BANABANDHU

BENGAL SAFARI NEWSLETTER

Last Quarter/January - March / 2026



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Mrs. Upashna Rai , Zoo Biologist, NBWAP: Section Head and Chief Editor of Banabandhu.

Ms. Prishka Pariyar, Research Assistant, NBWAP: Content writing, Editing and assistance in the preparation of the newsletter.

Ms. Sangita Basak, Education Assistant, NBWAP: Assistance in the coordination of Educational Activities and designing of the newsletter.

Mr. Sudeb Sarkar, Research Assistant, NBWAP: Assistance in the compilation for Enrichment activities.

NEWS LETTER ADDRESS

Director, North Bengal Wild
Animals Park, 5th Mile, Sevoke Rd,
Salugara, Siliguri, West Bengal
734008

dir.nbwap-wb@bangla.gov.in
eduresearch.bs@gmail.com



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01. From the Directors Desk.

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to present the final issue of Banabandhu for the financial year 2025–26. As we bid adieu to this remarkable year, it is gratifying to reflect on the significant milestones achieved by our zoo. This quarter, the park celebrated its 11th Foundation Day in the presence of esteemed dignitaries. The occasion was marked by the inauguration of a book on Butterfly Diversity of the park, followed by engaging recreational activities and games for staff, breaking routine monotony.

We have continued to strengthen our commitment to conservation education through structured internship programmes, inspiring young minds and nurturing a deeper appreciation for wildlife. In addition, three research projects were successfully completed, contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge and conservation practices. Alongside these achievements, our routine operations have continued with unwavering dedication and professionalism.

As we close this financial year, we remain committed to strengthening our role in conservation, education, and animal care, and look forward to building on these achievements in the coming year.

E. Vijayakumar, IFS
Director
North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri.

02. North Bengal Wild Animals Park extends warm New Year 2026 wishes to all visitors.



Footfall on 1st January 2026 and the 'May I Help You?' desk at the front gate.

On January 1st of the year, we welcomed an impressive 1,200 visitors. For seamless navigation, "May I Help You?" stalls were placed at key locations like the entry gate, NIC hall, and gibbon area. We hope that all the visitors continue to explore and enjoy everything the park has to offer throughout the year.

03. Celebration of the 11th Foundation Day.



NBWAP celebrated its 11 years of establishment on 21st January 2026 through sports meet conducted between 14th-19th of the month, followed by many other events. The winners of the same were declared on the formal programme held on the parks 11th birthday.

On the 21st January, 2026, the Foundation Day celebration held at the NIC hall of the park was honoured by the presence of several distinguished dignitaries:

- Shri P. Kamalakanth, IFS, APCCF and Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority
- Shri C. Sudhakar, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Siliguri Police Commissionerate
- Shri Kumar Vimal, IFS, General Manager (North), WBFDC
- Shri Arun Kumar Mukhopadhyay, IFS, Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park & CCF, North West Circle.
- Smt. Uma Rani N, IFS, DFO, Monitoring North.



Photograph of the Dignitaries

The programme began with the welcoming of the dignitaries through the presentation of souvenirs and khadas, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

Following this, Shir P. Kamalakanth, IFS, Member Secretary, WBZA, spoke about the inspiring journey of Bengal Safari, highlighting its steady growth, major milestones, and its increasing role in wildlife conservation and eco-tourism. His address reflected both the achievements of the past and a clear vision for the future.



Welcoming of the guests by honouring them with traditional khadas and souvenirs.



Lightning of the lamp.



Keynote address by Shri P. Kamalakanth, IFS, Member Secretary, WBZA

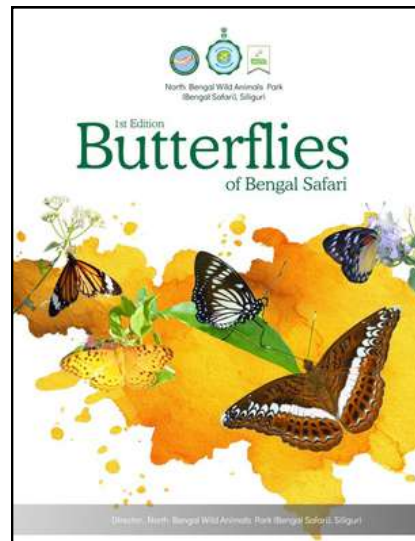


Speech by Shri. C. Sudhakar, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Siliguri Police Commissionerate



Audience watching the NBWAP promotional video at the NIC Hall.

A special promotional video was then screened, showcasing the park's evolution, conservation efforts, and future plans. An inspiring speech by Shri C. Sudhakar, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Siliguri Police Commissionerate, was followed by a cultural dance performance by students of Ektiasal Tileswari Adhikari High School, showcasing Indian culture and tradition.



Inoguration of the book titled Butterflies of Bengal Safari.

One of the most memorable moments of the programme was the release of the book **“Butterflies of Bengal Safari”**, which documents the rich butterfly diversity of the park. The book is the result of dedicated fieldwork, photography, and careful species identification carried out under the guidance of the Director, NBWAP.



Cultural dance performance by students of Ektiasal Tileswari Adhikari High School

Participation of NBWAP staff in the programme.

This was followed by a soulful solo song by Shri Ajit Kumar Bujhal and a poem recitation by Shri Janardhan Choudhary, both staff members of NBWAP. The programme then moved on to the prize distribution ceremony, during which winners from various categories were felicitated for their achievements and contributions.

Winners of Bengal Safari Sports Meet 2026

100 meters for men	1st position	Mr. Jogesh Burman
	2 nd position	Mr. Rakesh Tamang
	3 rd position	Mr. Anush Khariya
100 meters for women	1st position	Ms. Jyoti Biswakarma
	2 nd position	Ms. Buniya Barman
	3 rd position	Ms. Nabaita Paul
500 meters for men	1st position	Mr. Anush Khariya
	2 nd position	Mr. Mongal Mahanta
	3 rd position	Mr. Dinesh Majhi





500 meters for women	1st position	Smt. Salma Majhi
	2nd position	Smt. Mukti Roy
	3rd position	Ms. Jyoti Biswakarma
100 meters for women	1st position	Ms. Jyoti Biswakarma
	2nd position	Ms. Buniya Barman
	3rd position	Ms. Nabaita Paul
Chess	1st position	Mr. Biswajeet Sarkar
	2nd position	Mr. Ravi Paswan
Carrom women single	1st position	Ms. Manu Rai
	2nd position	Smt. Salma majhi
Carrom men double	1st position	Mr. Ananta Sarker
		Mr. Dipak Thapa
	2nd position	Mr. Rajesg Lal Saibo
		Mr. Raju Tamang
Badminton men singles	1st position	Shri. Dwaipayan Rano
	2nd position	Mr. Biswajeet Sarkar
Badminton women singles	1st position	Ms. Bandana Subba
	2nd position	Ms. Jyoti Biswakarma
Badminton men doubles	1st position	Shri. Dwaipayan Rano
		Mr. Raju Tamang
	2nd position	Mr. Arpan Biswakarma
		Mr. Malay Ghosh
Cricket	Winning team	Spotted Stealth Elites Team captain: Mr. Pappu Kr. Shah
	Runners-up	Royal Stripe Strikers Team captain: Shri. Dwaipayan Rano
	Best Batsman	Shri. Dwaipayan Rano
	Best Bowler	Mr. Tuhin Nag Biswas
	Best Fielder	Mr. Arpan Biswakarma



100m / 500m Sprint Events for Men and Women



Men's Chess Championship



Carrom Women's Single



Carrom Men's Double



Badminton Tournament for Men and Women



Men's Cricket Match



Besides the sports events, enclosure evaluation was conducted between 16th and 17th January 2026 by a team comprising the Veterinary Officer, Zoo Biologist, and Assistant Zoo Supervisor of the park. The evaluation was done on the basis of various criteria such as hygiene, enclosure management, record keeping, etc. The results were announced on the Foundation Day of the park, and the respective keepers of the winning enclosure or beat were felicitated.



The park appreciates the kind efforts of all the animal attendants for their hard work and enthusiasm. Following this, 10 years of service excellence award was also presented to Ms Manila Thapa, Ticket clerk; Shri. Rajesh Lal Saibo, Security Personnel; and Shri Ravi Paswan, Sanitation Personnel. Their continuous service to the park was acknowledged. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Sir E Vijayakumar, IFS, Director at NBWAP.

PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY OF THE FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION



04. Celebration of the 77th Republic Day.

NBWAP celebrated the 77th Republic Day on 26th January 2026 by hosting the National Flag and singing the National Anthem of our country. The Director of the park addressed the staff on the importance of this day, followed by a few words of appreciation to the protectors of our country by the Assistant Security Supervisor. This was followed by the distribution of refreshments to the staff.



05. NBWAP Research Projects: Presentation to WBZA Scientific Officer.

On 9 February 2026, a presentation on completed research projects and updates on ongoing research work was delivered to Dr. Sulata Maity, Scientific Officer, WBZA. Following the presentation, discussions on research activities were held, after which the Zoo Biologist, Smt Upashna Rai and team escorted Dr. Maity for a visit to the on-foot zoo. The list of presentations delivered during the meeting and the respective presenters are as follows:

Completed Research Projects

- A) Study of Hematological and Biochemical Values of Captive Asiatic Elephants (*Elephas maximus*): presented by Ms. Prishka Pariyar, Research Assistant, NBWAP.
- B) A Comprehensive Waste Management Strategies for Zoological Parks at North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri: presented by Ms. Nabanita Paul, Research Scholar, NBWAP.
- C) Study on Dung/Scat Analysis of Herbivore Animals To Analyse The Presence of Gut Parasites: presented by Ms Prishka Pariyar, Research Assistant, NBWAP.

On-Going Research Projects

- A) Hair Histology of some wild animals in captivity at North Bengal Wild Animals Park: presented by Shri Bhairab Kumar Singha, Research Scholar, NBWAP.
- B) Behavioural Study for the Captive Management of Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) at North Bengal Wild Animals Park: presented by Ms Nabanita Paul, Research Scholar, NBWAP.



The presentations provided an overview of the research activities being carried out at NBWAP. The interaction facilitated constructive discussion and valuable guidance from the Scientific Officer, WBZA, for strengthening future research initiatives at the park.

06. Celebration of the World Wildlife Day.

NBWAP celebrated World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2026 in alignment with the global theme “Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods.” An online Essay Writing Competition was organized to mark the occasion. The competition was announced through an online post on 25 February 2026 and was conducted in three groups.

Group A (Classes V–VIII):

Medicinal Plants in Your Locality.

1st Prize: Aradhya Das

2nd Prize: Samadrita Bose, Arish Biswas

3rd Prize: Sneha Singh

Group B (Classes IX–XII):

Medicinal Plants in Traditional Indian Medicine.

1st Prize: Afia Ara

2nd Prize: Ritika Rawat

3rd Prize: Tanisha Adhya

Group C (Undergraduate Level):

Role of Youth in Conservation of Herbal Heritage.

1st Prize: Suravi Bose

2nd Prize: Megha Basak

3rd Prize: Pallabi Acharjee



Celebrate World Wildlife Day 2026

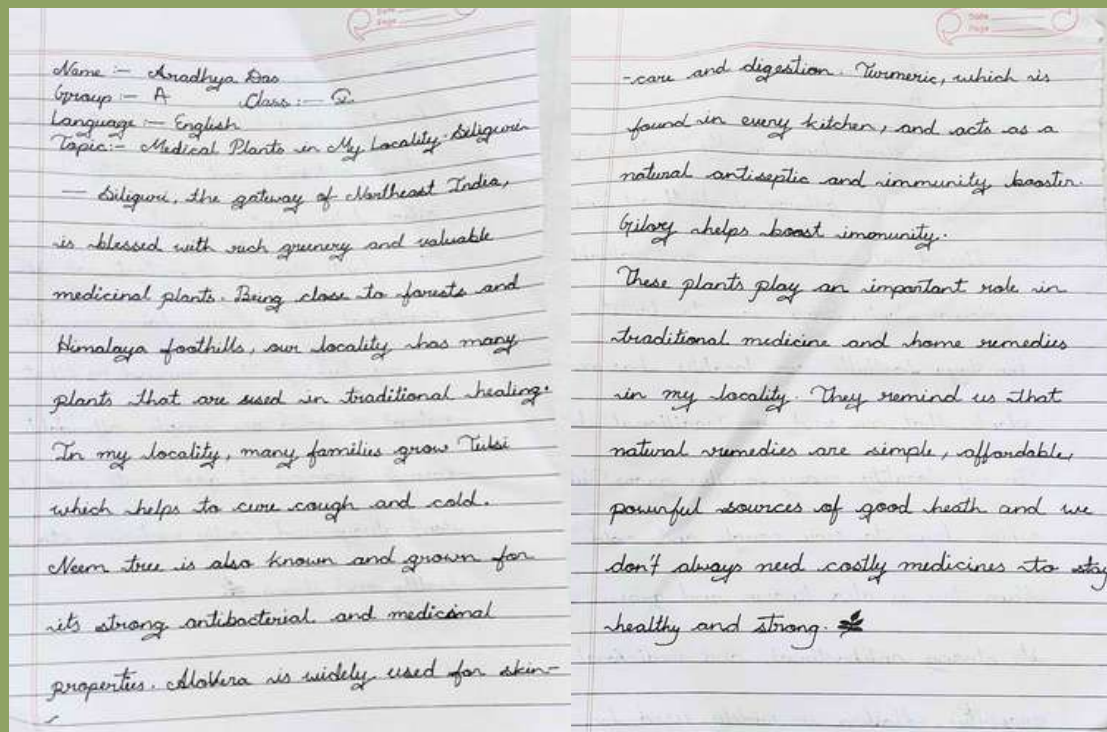
Online Essay Writing Competition

Theme:
“Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods”

Group A (V-VIII)	Group B (IX-XII)	Group C College (UG level)
Topic: Medicinal plants at your locality. (100-150 words)	Topic: Role of medicinal plants in traditional Indian medicine. (150-200 words)	Topic: Role of youth in conservation of Herbal Heritage. (200-250 words)
Language: Bengali/ Hindi/ English/ Nepali	Language: Bengali/ Hindi/ English/ Nepali	Language: Bengali/ Hindi/ English/ Nepali

- ✓ Online submission opening date: 25.02.2026
- ✓ Online submission closing date: 03.03.2026
- ✓ Result Announcement date: 09.03.2026
- ✓ Online submission through email at: eduresearch.bag@gmail.com
- ✓ Certificates: E-certificates for all participants and Appreciation certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd position holders in each category

Organized by:
North Bengal Wild Animals Park
(Bengal Safari), Siliguri



Aradhya Das
Group A: 1st Position

TOPIC: MEDICINAL PLANTS AT MY LOCALITY

The Green Pharmacy in My Backyard

In my locality, medicinal plants are not just greenery; they are a "Living Pharmacy" that our ancestors have relied on for generations. Tulsi (Ocimum sanctum) is commonly used to treat coughs, colds and fever. Neem (Azadirachta indica) helps cure skin diseases and purifies the air. Alovera (Aloe barbadensis Mill) is valued for healing burns and improving skin health.

We also have turmeric (Curcuma longa) and ginger (Zingiber officinale) which help in digestion and ease throat. In our garden, we grow brinjal (Solanum melongena), a valuable medicinal herb that improves memory and supports brain health. Guava leaves (Psidium guajava) are used for stomach problems and mint (Mentha piperita) helps relieve indigestion. Anla (Phyllanthus emblica) is rich in Vitamin C and boosts immunity.

1

Learning about the plants in my locality has taught me that nature holds the key to our well-being. We must protect medicinal species to ensure a healthy future.

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2

অসমতৰ চাৰিওফালৰ চৈধ্য উদ্ভিদ:

অসমতৰ চাৰিওফালৰ চৈধ্য উদ্ভিদ হৈছে অসমতৰ বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলত পোৱা যায়। এই উদ্ভিদসমূহৰ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰি বিভিন্ন ৰোগৰ চিকিৎসা কৰা হয়। এই উদ্ভিদসমূহৰ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা হৈছে অসমতৰ চাৰিওফালৰ চৈধ্য উদ্ভিদ।

3

Samadrita Bose
Group A: 2nd Position

Sneha Singh
Group A: 3rd Position

অসমতৰ চাৰিওফালৰ চৈধ্য উদ্ভিদ:

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4

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7

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8

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9

Arish Biswas
Group A: 2nd Position

THE LIVING PHARMACY: Role of Medicinal Plants in Traditional Indian Medicine

“Plants are Medicine of life” ~ Sushruta Samhita

Long before laboratories and synthetic drugs, India looked to forest, fields and gardens for healing. In traditional Indian medicine like Ayurveda - medicinal plants are not merely ingredients in remedies; they are very foundation of healing philosophy. Rooted in the ancient text Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita, it views health as harmonious balance between body, mind, spirit and nature. Medicinal plants forms the backbone of this system, serving not only as remedies of diseases but also as tool of prevention and holistic well being. For centuries, plants have served as physician, protectors and teachers in the Indian medical tradition.

Ayurveda means “the science of life” developed in Indian over 3000 years ago. Classical scholars documented hundreds of herbs, their properties and therapeutic uses. These texts describes plants according to their taste, potency, post-digestive effect and their impact on the body's three doshas - Vata, Pitta and Kapha. Medicinal plants plays a central role in restoring this balance. Each herb is multifold in terms of its effects. This perspective reflect a deep ecological awareness. Human are seen as part of nature and therefore nature itself provide remedy for diseases. The forest is not separate from health, it is an extension of it.

Medicinal plants have also shaped India's economy and cultural identity. Local communities, tribal doctors and herbal practitioners preserves herbal knowledge passed down through generations. Herbal trade supports livelihoods and contributes to global interest in natural therapies. However this growing demand also brings responsibility; conservation of biodiversity, sustainable harvesting and protection of indigenous knowledge are crucial to ensure that these natural treasures are not lost.

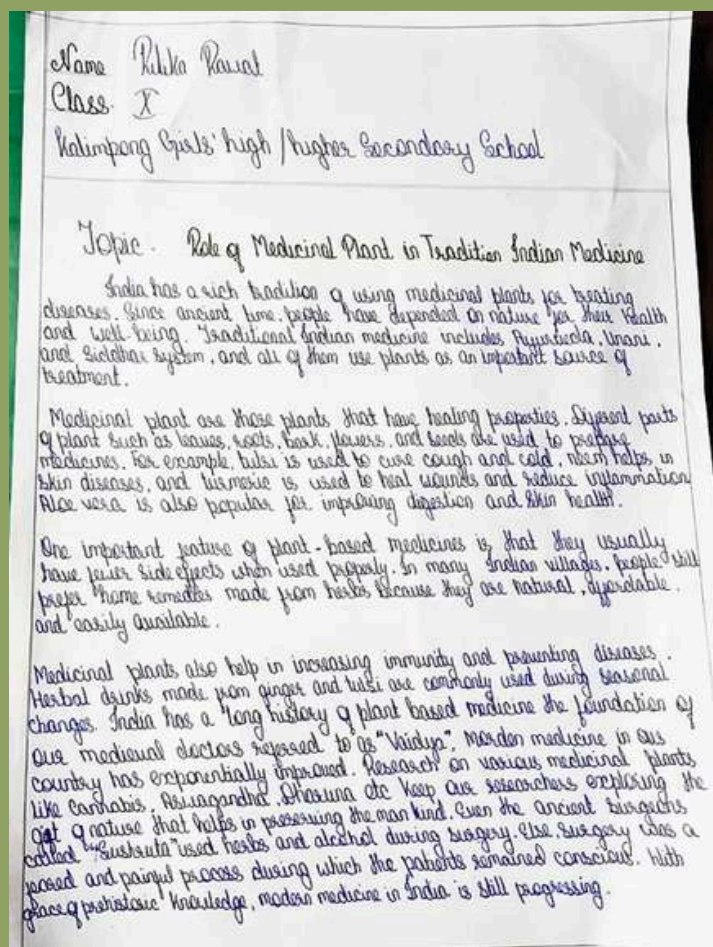
Today scientific research increasingly explores the pharmacological properties of traditional herbs. Compounds in turmeric, ashwagandha and other plants are studied for anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and adaptogenic effects. This growing validation demonstrates that traditional Indian medicine was built on keen observation and empirical experience. This growing demands also bring responsibility, conservation of all; Rather than opposing modern medicine medicinal plant complement it.

Medicinal plants in traditional Indian medicine represents more than remedies; they embody a philosophy of harmony and sustainability and respect for nature. From sacred rituals to clinical treatments, from household kitchen to global market; These plants continue to nurture human health.

In the world seeking natural and holistic solutions, a role of medicinal plants remain as vital as ever. A reminder that some times the most powerful medicine grows quietly at our feet.

Thank You!

Afia Ara
Group B: 1st Position



Ritika Rawat
Group B: 2nd Position

প্রমাণিত ভারতীয় চিকিৎসার ঔষুধি উদ্ভিদ: অস্বীকার নিরাময় ক্ষীণ ক্ষয়

প্রকৃতি হলো আমাদের সবচেয়ে বড় চিকিৎসক, অস্বীকার অঞ্চলে 'ঔষুধি' হলো তরমুস ও কুমড়া, লেটুস, গাজি, কান চন্দক, মায়ুস, লেগুনিয়াস, ও সুন্দাচুড়ন অন্য অনেক ঔষুধি উদ্ভিদ। ওষুধ নিরাময় করে আসছে, ভারত হলো আমূল্যবোধের দেশ। ভারতে চিকিৎসা ব্যবস্থা বিচারে কমেই হাজার বছরের সুস্বাদু মন আফকের রঙে অস্বীকারি ঔষুধি বা বনফা ছিল না তখন এই ঔষুধি জাতি ব্যবহার করেই কীটন বনা আসাধো হলে, এই তরমুস উদ্ভিদ সূর্য রোশ প্রসিদ্ধো রঙে বনফা না, মসীনা ও মনক অল্পে ও প্রসার পাঠে আসাম্য করে, অস্বীকারি চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানের অগ্রগতির স্বার্থে তরমুস চিকিৎসার সূর্য আশ্রয় অস্বীকারি।

■ ঔষুধি জাতি আমাদের সৌন্দর্যের সত্ত্বা স্তরির হোনে প্রকৃতি, প্রকৃতির পর প্রকৃতি করেই এই আমূল্যবোধ চিকিৎসা পদ্ধতি প্রকৃতির পর প্রকৃতি ব্যবহার করে আসছে, গাছ, ফুলের মতোই উদ্ভিদকে থেকে আমূল্যবোধের সত্ত্বা সব প্রমাণিতই এই তরমুস উদ্ভিদের উদ্ভিদিত আমূল্যবোধের অস্বীকারি নিরাময় অস্বীকারি হলে উদ্ভিদে, তার তরমুস উদ্ভিদ অস্বীকারি করা হলে আমূল্যবোধের সৌন্দর্য বন্ধ করা, আমূল্যবোধের সৌন্দর্যে মাঝে অনেক অস্বীকারি জাতির মতোই নীকিতম আছে, অস্বীকারি মন, আমূল্যবোধে ছাড়াই চিকিৎসা মাঝে মানসুধি পাশা, হুন্সী পাশা, সিদ্ধ পাশা, কালরোশ, মাতৃহুন্সী ইত্যাদি উদ্ভিদে সূর্য রোশ আসাম্য না, বনফা মসীনার তরমুস থেকে সত্ত্বা জাগাম। মন ও মসীনার অস্বীকারি বনফা বাহুতে আসাম্য

করে, হুন্সী মসীনার তরমুস অস্বীকারি তরমুস করে, নিরাময় বন্ধ নিরামুদ করে, অস্বীকারি সত্ত্বা সত্ত্বা হুন্সী আসাম্য করে, তরমুস উদ্ভিদ অনেক মসীনা - মসীনা ও উদ্ভিদ বনাের প্রকৃতির অস্বীকারি তরমুস।

■ অস্বীকারি মন অস্বীকারি মসীনা ব্যবস্থায় মায়ুস প্রাণ তখন তার আবার সত্ত্বা তরমুসে অস্বীকারি সত্ত্বা, তার ঔষুধি উদ্ভিদ অস্বীকারি সূর্য নিরাময় বনফা কাশ্য করে না, সত্ত্বা আমূল্যবোধের সৌন্দর্য, অস্বীকারি ও উদ্ভিদ প্রকৃতির সুস্বাদু সত্ত্বা গামবন্ধা।

■ অস্বীকারি এই নিরাময় ক্ষীণ আমূল্যবোধ চিকিৎসা অস্বীকারি, মা অস্বীকারি সত্ত্বাের অস্বীকারি সত্ত্বা করে প্রকৃতি নিরাময়ের জন্য আমূল্যবোধে অস্বীকারি সত্ত্বা, "অস্বীকারি সত্ত্বাের তরমুস সূর্য মসীনার মনব জীবন এ হোক আমূল্যবোধ অস্বীকারি",

Tanisha Adhya
Group B: 3rd Position

TOPIC: ROLE OF YOUTH IN CONSERVATION OF HERBAL HERITAGE

Nature's Priceless Pharmacy: A Responsibility of Youth

Growing up in a country where tulsi grows in courtyards and neem shades village paths, I have always felt that from ashwagandha to aloe vera, medicinal plants are more than remedies - they are living symbols of our heritage. India's herbal heritage, rooted in Ayurveda, has healed generations. However, habitat degradation, climate change and overexploitation threaten these valuable resources. In this decisive hour, youth stand as the strongest force for conservation of this living pharmacy.

Young minds combine scientific curiosity with digital connectivity. By leveraging social media, youth can transform niche ethnobotanical knowledge into global conservation initiative. Young scholars can collaborate with local stakeholders, forest authorities and NGOs to promote sustainable harvesting. Documenting indigenous

P.T.O.

1

knowledge from tribal and rural custodians ensures that oral traditional therapeutic systems are preserved.

Youth can create "Arogya Vats" in schools, colleges and urban spaces to preserve local germplasm. Establishing herbal gardens and participating in plantation drives can contribute to ecological stewardship. Modern generations can transform ancient herbalism into ethical herbal industry by choosing organic, plant-based products that drive markets toward eco-conscious legacy. By supporting native herbal farmers, youth strengthen both environmental balance and agrarian livelihoods. Young entrepreneurs can foster the revival of growing "Kitchen Pharmacies" like turmeric and ginger at home. Youth-led social awareness campaigns, research blogs, workshops, exhibitions can create lasting impact.

Ultimately, youth are not just inheritors of herbal heritage; they are "Green Guardians". When youthful energy and technological fluency unite with ancestral wisdom, we

P.T.O.

2

Secure a resilient, healthy future.

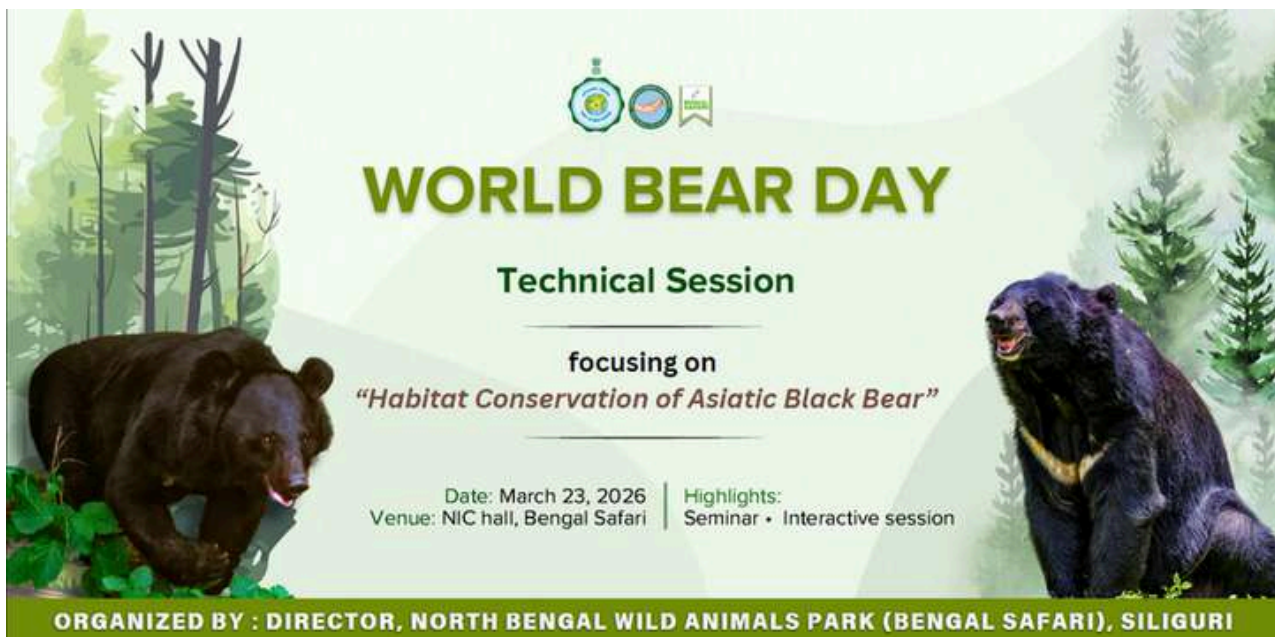
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Suravi Bose
Group C: 1st Position

07. Celebration of World Bear Day on 23/03/2026

North Bengal Wild Animals Park (NBWAP) celebrated World Bear Day on 23rd March 2026 with the students of Siliguri College. The programme began with an opening session by Ms. Prishka Pariyar, Research Assistant (RA), who briefly spoke about the significance of World Bear Day and the importance of bear conservation. This was followed by a guided on-foot zoo tour led by Ms. Sangita Basak, EA, and Ms. Prishka Pariyar, RA, providing students with practical exposure and insights into wildlife management and conservation. A technical session was then held at the Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC), delivered by Ms. Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist (ZB). The session focused on bears across the world, with special emphasis on the Asiatic black bear, including their distribution, habitat, and conservation. Following the presentation, a video on the Asiatic black bear at NBWAP was screened for the students, enhancing their understanding of the species in captivity and its management.

Subsequently, certificates were presented to the participating students by Shri Abhishek Chowdhury, WBFS, Assistant Director, Shri Dwaipayan Rano, Forest Range Officer (FRO), and Ms. Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Sangita Basak, followed by refreshments for all participants. The event was successful in creating awareness about bear conservation and engaging students in wildlife education.



Guided On-foot Zoo Tour for the Students.



Technical and interactive session.



Distribution of Certificates



Assistant Director felicitating the staff, Siliguri College.

Vote of thanks delivered by the EA, NBWAP.



Group photo

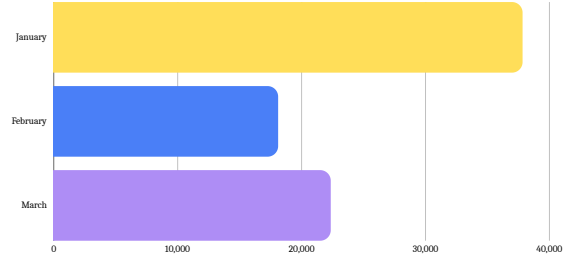
08. Internship Completed This Quarter.

S. No	Name of the student	Affiliated Institution	Topic	Duration of Internship	Deployed Staff For Guidance
1	Mr Rajdeep Das	6 th Semester, Department of Geography, Salesian College, Siliguri.	A Study on Visitor Satisfaction and Experience at North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri, West Bengal, India.	1 month (29 th Dec 2025 - 28 th Jan 2026)	Ms. Upashna Rai, ZB, NBWAP and Ms. Prishka Pariyar, RA, NBWAP.
2	Mr Nischit Sharma	4 th Semester, Department of Zoology, Siliguri College.	A short-term coprological survey for the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasitic infestation in zoo animals.	1 month (13 th Feb 2026 - 13 th Mar 2026)	Ms. Upashna Rai, ZB, NBWAP and Ms. Prishka Pariyar, RA, NBWAP.
3	Ms Suhani Kumari Shah	4 th Semester, Department of Zoology, Siliguri College.	A Retrospective evaluation of feed utilisation in captive wild felids housed at North Bengal Wild Animals Park.	1 month (13 th Feb 2026 - 13 th Mar 2026)	Ms. Upashna Rai, ZB, NBWAP and Ms. Prishka Pariyar, RA, NBWAP.



9. Footfall in this Quarter

Month	Zoo Entry	Grand Safari	Combo Safari
Jan	37832	18646	6837
Feb	18107	9417	3856
Mar	22353	12498	4055



10. Publications in this quarter.

Sarkar S*, Doley D., Rai U., Chowdhury, A., Vijayakumar, E. and Das, I. 2026. Successful Hand-Rearing of a Maternally Abandoned Bengal Tiger Cub (*Panthera tigris tigris* Linnaeus, 1758) at North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri, West Bengal, India. *Journal of Animal Research*.

11. Article Corner

सुवेनिर शप (Souvenir Shop)

तपाईंहरूलाई थाहा नै छ कि उत्तर बंगालमा एउटा चिडियाखाना स्थित छ, जुन बंगाल सफारी भनेर प्रसिद्ध छ। यस चिडियाखानामा धेरै प्रकारका पशु-पन्छी (जनावर)हरू छन्। यहाँ आउने पर्यटकहरूको आकर्षण चिडियाखानामा भएका पशु-पन्छी मात्र होइन, यहाँको सुवेनिर शप पनि हो। सुवेनिर शपले वन्यजन्तु सचेतना (wildlife awareness) बढाउनमा महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाउँछ। जसरी मानिसहरू जंगलमा गएर विभिन्न प्रकारका पशु-पन्छी र वन-जंगलको बारेमा बुझ्छन्, त्यसरी नै सुवेनिर शपले पनि मानिसहरूमा वन्यजन्तुप्रति माया र जिम्मेवारीको भावना जगाउँछ। मानिसहरूलाई वन-जंगल र जीव-जन्तुको महत्व बुझाउन तथा तिनीहरूलाई सुरक्षित राख्नुपर्छ भन्ने सन्देश दिनु पनि सुवेनिर शपको उद्देश्य हो। सुवेनिर शपमा पशुसँग सम्बन्धित विभिन्न वस्तुहरू पाइन्छन्, जस्तै बंगालको प्रसिद्ध जनावर रॉयल बंगाल टाइगरको लेबल पिन, टी-शर्ट, जनावरका मूर्ति, फ्रिज म्याग्नेट, मग, की-रिड आदि। यी वस्तुहरू हेर्दा रमाइलो लाग्छ र पर्यटकहरूलाई पनि मन पर्छ। मैले सुवेनिर शपमा काम गर्दा धेरै पर्यटकहरूसँग कुराकानी गर्ने अवसर पाएको छु। पर्यटकहरू अत्यन्त प्रसन्न भई यी वस्तुहरू किनेर आफ्नो सम्झनाको रूपमा लिएर जान्छन्। कतिपयले आफ्ना बच्चाहरूका लागि पनि किन्ने गर्छन्। उनीहरूसँग कुराकानी गर्दा वन्यजन्तुको बारेमा चासो देख्दा मलाई पनि खुशी लाग्छ। यसरी सुवेनिर शपले वन्यजन्तु सचेतना फैलाउन र पर्यटकहरूलाई सम्झनाको रूपमा वस्तु उपलब्ध गराउन महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निर्वाह गर्दछ।

रिनु सैबो (Renu Saibu)
सेक्युरिटी पर्सनल

Hidden Passengers of the Wild: A Look into Parasites of Captive Animals

Parasitology is a branch of biological science that studies parasites, their hosts, and the relationships that exist between them. A parasite is an organism that lives either inside or on another organism, known as the host, and obtains nutrients and shelter from it. Unlike predators, parasites usually do not kill their hosts instantly. Instead, many parasites have evolved in such a way that they keep the host alive until their life cycle is completed, allowing them to reproduce and continue their transmission. Despite their small size, parasites possess complex and fascinating life cycles and show remarkable adaptations that help them survive under a wide range of environmental conditions. Many parasitic organisms produce resistant eggs, larvae, or cysts that can tolerate unfavourable situations such as changes in temperature, dryness, and other environmental stresses. These survival strategies enable parasites to persist in soil, water, or enclosure substrates for long periods until they encounter a suitable host. Parasites are often associated with domestic animals and pets, but they are also commonly found in wild animals. Many wild animals act as natural hosts for different parasites. However, in captive environments such as zoological parks, certain conditions may sometimes facilitate the persistence and spread if proper management practices are not followed.

During my academic internship at North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri, I had the opportunity to study gastrointestinal parasites in captive animals and birds through coprological examination. As part of this work, faecal samples were collected from different animal species and analysed in the veterinary laboratory using standard sedimentation and flotation methods. The examination showed the prevalence of *Toxocara* spp., Strongyle-type eggs, *Ascaridia galli*, *Spirometra* spp., *Paragonimus* spp., and Coccidia, but the overall prevalence rate was low. Most parasitic species recorded were geo-helminths because their eggs can remain viable in the soil for an extended period of time, causing re-infection. Despite this, the overall low prevalence rate at NBWAP may reflect the appropriate management practices like maintaining strict hygiene, routine anthelmintic treatments, disinfection strategies and routine faecal screening. Such measures help maintain animal health and prevent the build-up of parasitic infections within zoo environments.

Understanding the occurrence of parasites in captive wildlife is an important aspect of animal health management. Studies like this provide useful information that can help improve veterinary care, strengthen disease control measures, and support the overall welfare and conservation of animals maintained in zoological parks.

Nischit Sharma
Intern

Nature vs. Nurture: Understanding Feed Utilisation in Captive Felidae

Observation of animal behaviour is fundamental in zoological studies, as it helps understand daily activities such as feeding, resting, and movement, which involve complex physiological processes. In captivity, animals are maintained under controlled conditions with restricted movement but provided with care to support normal functioning. This setting allows detailed observation and analysis of behavioural patterns. Feeding ecology is particularly important, as captive conditions differ significantly from the wild, where animals spend substantial time hunting. This study was conducted during an academic internship at North Bengal Wild Animals Park and focuses on the evaluation of feed utilisation in captive wild felids.

Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) are opportunistic predators that primarily feed on ungulates such as deer and wild pigs, but they show considerable dietary flexibility by consuming smaller prey when necessary. Due to their strength, they are capable of hunting large animals such as gaur and buffalo. An adult tiger is estimated to kill around 50–60 large prey annually and can consume approximately 16–50 kg of meat in a single feeding bout (Karanth et al., 2004; Hayward et al., 2012; Miller et al., 2013).

Lions (*Panthera leo*) also primarily feed on ungulates but prefer larger prey such as buffalo and wildebeest. Their preferred prey weight ranges from 190–550 kg, with an optimum around 350 kg. Unlike tigers, lions are social hunters, and cooperative hunting enables them to efficiently capture large prey (Hayward and Kerley, 2005).

Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) exhibit high adaptability and may function as opportunistic feeders depending on prey availability. They typically prefer medium-sized prey weighing 10–40 kg. In the presence of larger competitors, leopards often cache their prey in trees to avoid competition and tend to select hunting areas based on prey catchability rather than abundance (Balme et al., 2006; Hayward et al., 2006).

- Balme, G.A., Slotow, R. and Hunter, L.T.B. 2006. Feeding habitat selection by hunting leopards *Panthera pardus* in a woodland savanna: prey catch ability versus abundance. *Animal Behaviour* 74: 589–598.
- Hayward, M. W., & Kerley, G. I. H. (2005). Prey preferences of the lion (*Panthera leo*). *Journal of Zoology*, 267(3), 309–322. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0952836905007508>
- Hayward, M.W., Henschel, P., O'Brien, J., Hofmeyr, M., Balme, G. and Kerley, G.I. 2006. Prey preferences of the leopard (*Panthera pardus*). *Journal of Zoology* 270: 298–313.
- Hayward, M.W., Jedrzejewski, W. and Jedrzejewska, B. 2012. Prey preferences of the tiger *Panthera tigris*. *Journal of Zoology* 286: 221–231.
- Karanth, K.U., Kumar, N.S., Nichols, J.D., Link, W.A. and Hines, J.E. 2004. Tigers and their prey: Predicting carnivore densities from prey abundance. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 101: 4854–4858.
- Miller, C.S., Hebblewhite, M., Petrunenko, Y.K., Seryodkin, I.V., Decesare, N.J., Goodrich, J.M. and Miquelle, D.G. 2013. Estimating Amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) kill rates and potential consumption rates using global positioning system collars. *Journal of Mammalogy* 94: 845–855.

Suhani Kumari Shah
Intern
North Bengal Wild Animals Park

12. List of Schools/Colleges/Institutional Visits in This Quarter.

S.no	Institutions/ Organization	Date	No of students/trainee	Accompanying staff/teachers
1	Eastern Air Command Winter Adventure Camp 2025-26	06-01-2026		
2	Khudivita Junior High School, Jalpaiguri	15-01-2026	50	
3	Maynaguri Road High School, Ulladabri	19-01-2026	100	
4	Domohana Elite Welfare Society, Uttar Dinajpur	20-01-2026	90	
5	Morning Star Model School, Alimurduar	27-01-2026	30	10
6	Jermel's Academy, Dabgram-II	29-01-2026	210	14
7	Jermel's Academy, Dabgram-II	30-01-2026	175	12
8	Holy Cross School, Dalkhola, West Bengal	01-02-2026	50	7
		10-02-2026	68	7
		04-02-2026	90	4
9	Siliguri Girls' Primary School, Siliguri	03-02-2026	240	
10	PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya Air Force Station, Bagdogra	15-10-2025	81	11
11	Jawahar Navadaya Vidyalaya, Dinajpur	03-02-2026	84	8
12	Choprajhar Adarsa Bailika Vidyalaya HS, Islampur.	14-02-2026	80	5
13	Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Nagrakata, Jalpaiguri.	25-02-2026	225	2
14	Auxilium Convent School	30-02-2026	170	17
15	Don Bosco School, Katihar, Bihar	08-03-2026	37	5
16	Newton's Academy	14-03-2026	20	8
Total Schools/Colleges/Instudtution Visits: 16				



13.Natality In This Quarter

S. No	Species	Sex	DOB	Remarks
01	Grey Parrot	2U	29/01/2026	The chicks died on the same day due to poor nursing.
02	Fishing Cat	2U	04/02/2026	New Female's Kitten.
03	Fishing Cat	F	04/02/2026	New Female's Kitten.
04	Black Buck	U	28/02/2026	Bhutki Fawn.

14. Mortality In This Quarter

S. No	Species	Sex	DOD
01	Common hill myna	U	07/01/2026
02	Leucistic Black Buck	F	07/01/2026
03	Himalayan Porcupine	F	22/01/2026
04	Grey Parrot	2F	29/01/2026
05	Painted Stork	F	01/01/2026
06	Indian Crested Porcupine	U	12/21/2026
07	Green Iguana	M	15/01/2026
08	Roufous-necked hornbill	M	20/01/2026
09	Green Iguana	U	29/01/2026
10	Fishing Cat	F	08/02/2026
11	Mona Monkey	F	10/02/2026
12	Red Jungle Fowl	M	11/02/2026

15.Developmental Work In This Quarter

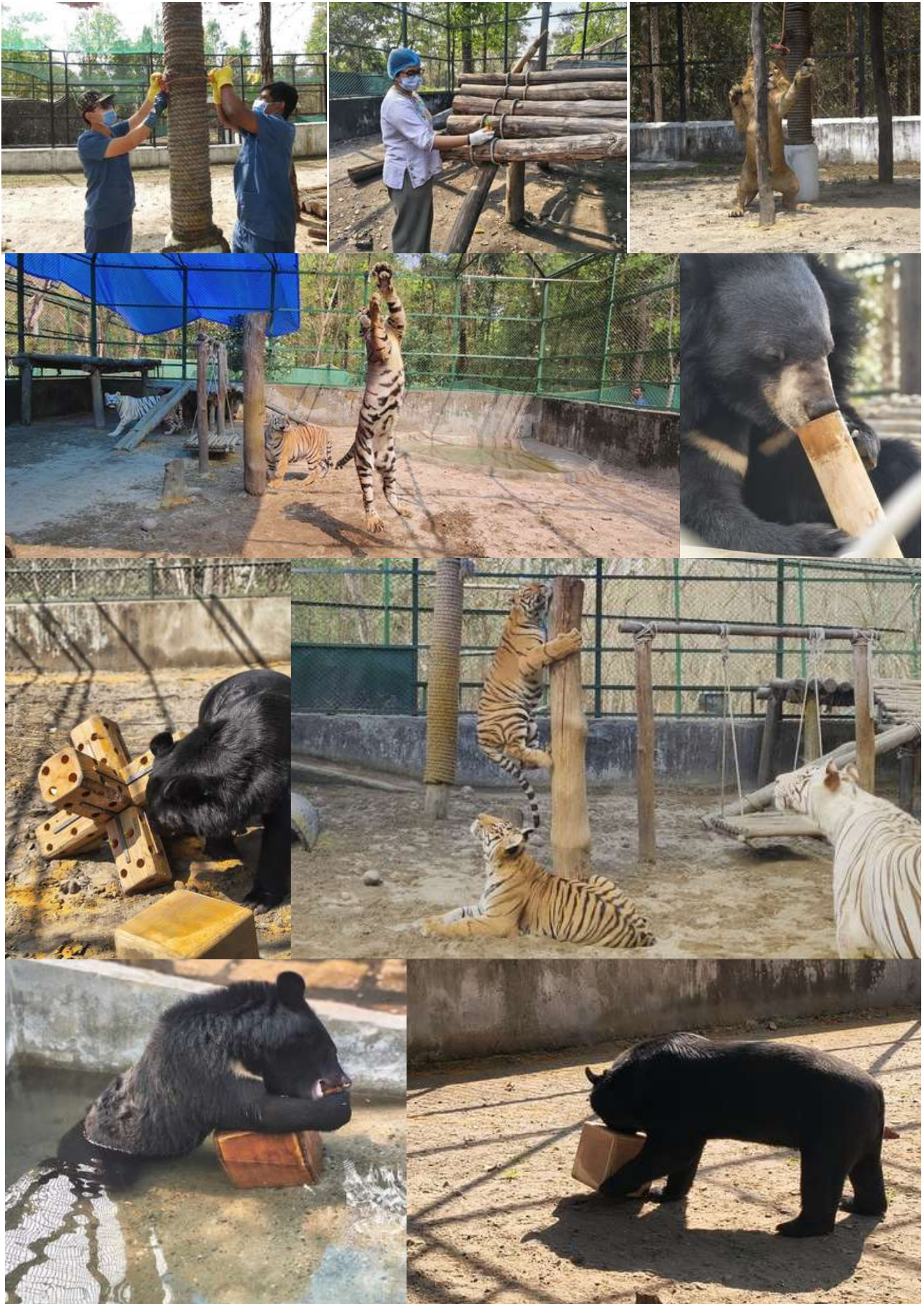


Badminton court as staff amenitie



Volleyball court as staff amenities

16. Enrichment done in this Quarter





NORTH BENGAL WILD ANIMALS PARK (BENGAL SAFARI), WEST BENGAL, INDIA.