



BANABANDHU BENGAL SAFARI NEWS LETTER

LAST QUARTER/ APRIL- JUNE/ 2025

Volume: 10 Issue 01
Quarterly Newsletter



**NORTH BENGAL WILD ANIMALS PARK,
SILIGURI**



EDITORIAL BOARD

- Shri. E. Vijayakumar (IFS), Director.
- Shri Abhishek Chowdhury (WBFS), Assistant Director,
- Shri Dwaipayan Rano, FR.
- Mrs. Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist.
- Ms. Prishka Pariyar, Research Assistant.
- Ms. Sangita Basak, Education Assistant
- Mr. Sudeb Sarkar, Research Assistant.

NEWS LETTER ADDRESS

Director, North Bengal Wild Animals
Park, 5th Mile, Sevoke Rd, Salugara,
Siliguri, West Bengal 734008
dirnbwap@gmail.com
eduresearch.bs@gmail.com

IN THIS ISSUE:

01. From the directors Desk.....Pg1
02. NBWAP facilitates biobanking workshop
organised by PNHZ Park.....Pg1

03. Seminar cum Workshop on Modern
approaches towards feeding and health care
management of zoo animals.....Pg 02-06
04. International Day for Biological Diversity
Celebration.....Pg 07-08
05. Sensitization Programme on Preparedness
against Avian Influenza.....Pg 9
06. Annual health checkup 2025.....Pg 10-11
07. World Environment Day
Celebration.....Pg 11-14
08. Womens Cell NBWAP.....Pg 15
09. On going Research Projects at
NBWAP.....Pg 16
10. Developmental works and laboratory
enhancement.....Pg 17
11. Enrichments done in this quarter.....Pg 17-18
12. List of Educational tours of School, College,
University and Intitution.....Pg 19
13. Natality and Mortality Record in this
quarter.....Pg 19
14. Dignitaries' visits at NBWAP in this
quarter.....Pg 20
15. Keepers Corner.....Pg 21



01. FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Greetings from the NBWAP family! It is my pleasure to introduce the latest edition of Banabandhu for the year, highlighting significant progress in research projects, the successful seminar cum workshop organized by WBZA and West Bengal Veterinary Council, annual health check-up of staff, capacity building programmes for the zoo staff, regular enrichment activities, impactful educational tours and programmes. Our efforts continue to focus on conservation animal welfare, instilling awareness among the younger generation, with zoo developmental and miscellaneous works also progressing steadily.

**E. Vijayakumar (IFS),
Director,
North Bengal Wild Animals Park .**



02. NBWAP Facilitates Biobanking Workshop Organised by PNHZ Park (3rd April 2025)

A One Day Workshop on “Sample Collection & Preservation for Biobanking” was organized by Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling on 03.04.2025, with North Bengal Wild Animals Park (NBWAP) serving as the venue.

The workshop was conducted by Dr. Karthikeyan Vasudevan, Chief Scientist from LaCONES, CCMB, Hyderabad, and was attended by more than 70 veterinarians and forest department officials from across the region.

Representing NBWAP, Dr. Nick Doley, Veterinary Officer, Dr Ruhul Amin, Honorary Veterinary Officer, and Mr. Biswajeet Sarkar, Veterinary Assistant, actively participated in the training.



03. Seminar cum Workshop on Modern Approaches Towards Feeding and Health Care Management of Zoo Animals(17th-18th May 2025.

North Bengal Wild Animals Park (NBWAP), Siliguri hosted a two-day collaborative workshop/seminar on "Modern Approaches Towards Feeding and Health Care Management of Zoo Animals" on 17th - 18th May 2025. The programme was organized by the West Bengal Zoo Authority, Kolkata and The West Bengal Veterinary Council, enriching Veterinary Officers, Veterinary Assistants, and other employees of the zoo facilities in the state. The programme was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) Chanchal Guha, Former Vice Chancellor, WBUAFS; Dr. Arnab Sen, Head Regional Centre and Station-in-Charge, IVRI (ERZ), Kolkata and Member at WBVC as the Co-Chairperson of the programme, and Dr. Paresh Nath Chatterjee, Associate Professor, Dept. of Fish Nutrition, WBUAFS as the Rapporteur.

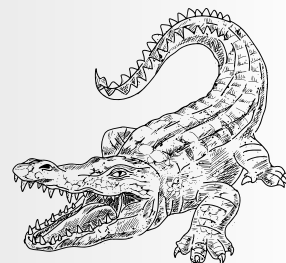
A total of seventy-three (73) people attended the programme from ten (10) different districts, making the workshop successful and insightful. The technical session began after the Live Demonstration Of Feeding Of Zoo Animals At NBWAP, which was coordinated by Dr Sulata Maity, Scientific Officer, WBZA and Dr Nick Doley, Veterinary Officer, NBWAP. The scientific session began with acknowledging the respective dignitaries: Dr. Ashutosh Kr. Biswas, President, WBVC, Dr. Basavaraj Holeyachi, IFS, Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, Shri Arun Kr. Mukhopadhyay, IFS, Director, Zoological Garden Alipore, Sri Asis Kr. Samanta, IFS (Retd.), Technical Consultant, WBZA, Dr. Sovanananda Mahanty, Registrar, WBVC and Dr. Gurucharan Dutta, EC Member of WBVC and VCI, and lighting of the traditional lamp. The Vote of thanks was given by Smt Angela P Bhutia (WBFS), Director NBWAP. This was followed by informative presentations by experts on various subjects as given below:

1. Modern Approaches Towards Feeding of Captive Animals – Dr. Shivaji Bhattacharya, Wildlife Consultant and Former Officer, ARD Dept., WB.
2. Restraining of Wild Animals, Tranquilization Protocol and Gadget Procurement – Dr. Chanchal Dutta, Assistant Director, ARD (HQ).
3. Advances of Wildlife and Captive Management – Dr Basavaraj Holeyachi, IFS, Director, Darjeeling Zoo.
4. Practical Zoo Management and Animal Diet – Sri Asis Kr. Samanta (Retd. IFS), Technical Consultant, WBZA, Kolkata.
5. Feed Management and Health Care Considerations for Wildlife with Special Reference to Elephants, Rhinoceroses, and Leopard at North Bengal – Dr Shweta Mandal, Veterinary Officer, BAHC at Lataguri S/U, Gorumara National Park.
6. Wildlife Health and Welfare – Visual Indicators, Disease Management, Orphan Care and Biosecurity Protocols and Immunization Schedule in Zoo Animals and Aves – Dr. Joy Dey, ADVO, Darjeeling Zoo and,
7. Necropsy of Wild Animals (Postmortem Examination), Reporting Format, and Specimen Collection, Storage and Despatch – Dr. Shivaji Bhattacharya, Wildlife Consultant and Former Officer, ARD Dept., WB.

The sessions were interactive, with tea and lunch served during breaks.

On the second day of the workshop, the participants were taken to the Safari and On-foot Zoo of the park. A hands-on necropsy and chemical immobilization session was conducted by the Veterinary Section of the park. This was followed by the valedictory session, marking the successful conclusion of the two-day programme.









Following recommendations have been put forward by the West Bengal Veterinary Council:

- The future ex-situ & insitu conservation should be focused on Mitochondrial genome & whole genome study.
- The rumen of wild animals harbours a superior microbial niche. This gut metabiome should be studied in depth for optimising health of animals and screening of potential microbiotics strains.
- For rescuing wild animals a quick response team having the members with adequate knowledge about wildlife restraining is crucial. The drugs used for RDS & other operation must be safe to the animals & to the handlers too.
- A strict biosecurity protocol needs to be followed coupled with compliance of prescribed vaccination shedule for ensuring optimum wild animal health & for better protection.
- Hand-rearing/nursing methods can minimise the neonate's death. Balance nutrition & keepers patience/affection is crucial for the survival of offspring.
- The animal keepers & allied workers must be up-skilled about the physiological & anatomy of different wild animals to ensure optimum zoo animal welfare.
- Feed the animal to meet its requirement & supply the suppliment to optimise its health.
- Finally, a concerted work & effort can only maintain good health & management of wild & captive animals.

Prof Dr Chanchal Guha
Former Vice-chancellor, WBUAFS &
Chairperson, Technical Session
Seminar cum workshop, NBWAP, Siliguri.



04. International Day for Biological Diversity Celebration on 22nd May 2025.



NBWAP marked International Day for Biological Diversity 2025—the theme for this year being "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development" with enthusiastic pupils from Darjeeling Public School, Fulbari, and "Bibek Vaskar" students from Ramakrishna Mission, Narendrapur.

The event began with a keynote speech by the Assistant Director, NBWAP followed by an interesting presentation on the topic by the Education Assistant of the park.

The eco-games & learning activities consisted of a Keeper's Talk, educational interactions & a guided zoo tour with refreshments inbetween. Certificates were awarded to all the participants by the Director & Assistant Director, NBWAP, followed by the vote of thanks by the Zoobiologist.



Presentation, interactive session and guided onfoot zoo visit for the students.



Refreshments, Educational activities, and Keepers Talk (Mr Rohan Rai, Animal Attendant, NBWAP representing big cats i.e., Asiatic Lion & Mr Bibek Roy, Animal Attendant NBWAP representing Lesser cats)

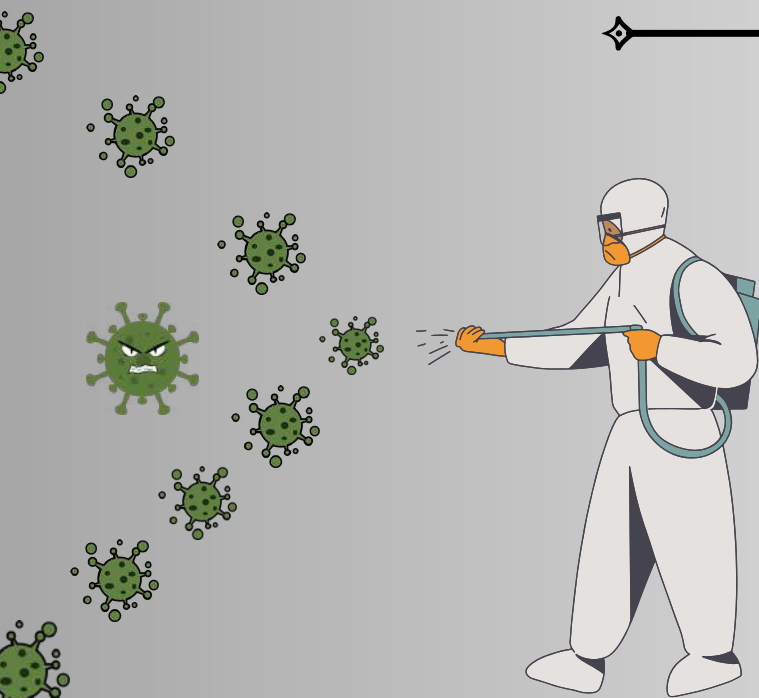


Guided safari tour, Interaction with the Director, NBWAP & Certificate distribution.



05. Sensitization Programme on “Preparedness against Avian Influenza”

On 24th May 2025 the Veterinary Section of the park conducted a capacity building programme focusing on the biosecurity measures on Avian Influenza and infection prevention. A presentation on this topic covering disinfection procedures, personal cleanliness, restricted movement of enclosures, cleanliness and dryness of shelters, prevention of maggot infestation in summers, handling of feed properly, reporting sick or dead animals immediately were emphasized as a special feature. A total of 38 staff attended the programme.



06. Annual Health Check Up 2025

On 24th May 2025, the Annual Health Check-up for staff was conducted at North Bengal Wild Animals Park. A total of 50 staff members underwent screening as part of the park's ongoing commitment to employee well-being. The health assessment included basic clinical evaluations, and the results are currently awaited. Regular health check-ups ensure early detection of potential health issues and promote a healthier and more efficient workforce.



Annual health check-up: List of staff

S.No	Name	Designation	Sex	S.No	Name	Designation	Sex
1	Dr Ruhul Amin	Hon. Veterinary Officer	M	26	Birbal Modak	Animal Attendent	M
2	Dr Nick Doley	Veterinary Officer	M	27	Sangam Majhi	Animal Attendent	M
3	Upashna Rai	Zoobiologist	F	28	Mangal Mahanta	Animal Attendent	M
4	Janardan Chowdhury	Assistant Zoo Supervisor	M	29	Barka Majhi	Animal Attendent	M
5	Prishka Pariyar	Research Assistant	F	30	Milan Tamang	Security Personnel	M
6	Sangita Basak	Education Assistant	F	31	Rakesh Majhi	Security Personnel	M
7	Biswajeet Sarkar	Veterinary Assistant	M	32	Mukesh Biswakarma	Security Personnel	M
8	Sudeb Sarkar	Research Assistant	M	33	Lok Bahadur Lama	Security Personnel	M
9	Krishna Adhikari	Animal Attendent	M	34	Subhash Sharma Koirala	Security Personnel	M
10	Dipu Urow	Animal Attendent	M	35	Pasang Tamang	Security Personnel	M
11	Aminur Rahaman	Animal Attendent	M	36	Udai Chettri	Security Personnel	M
12	Ramesh Mardi	Animal Attendent	M	37	Kajee Thakuri	Security Personnel	M
13	Bappa Barman	Animal Attendent	M	38	Parimal Tamang	Security Personnel	M
14	Prasenjit Barman	Animal Attendent	M	39	Kalu Rai	Security Personnel	M
15	Rafikul Islam	Animal Attendent	M	40	Subal Roy	Security Personnel	M
16	Bijay Uraon	Animal Attendent	M	41	Sagar Rai	Security Personnel	M
17	Rajen Oraon	Animal Attendent	M	42	Satish Rai	Security Personnel	M
18	Bibek Roy	Animal Attendent	M	43	Raj Saibo	Security Personnel	M
19	Karan Marandi	Animal Attendent	M	44	Arpan Bk	Security Personnel	M
20	Rakesh Tamang	Animal Attendent	M	45	Mukesh Rai	Security Personnel	M
21	Bijay Majhi	Animal Attendent	M	46	Sunil Urao	Security Personnel	M
22	Gopal Bk	Animal Attendent	M	47	Ratan Saibo	Security Personnel	M
23	Nabo Kumar Roy	Animal Attendent	M	48	Unish Saibo	Cook	M
24	Jogesh Barman	Animal Attendent	M	49	Kamal Roy	Patawala	M
25	Dibakar Sharma	Animal Attendent	M	50	Rajni Devi Paswan	Sanitation staff	F

07. World Environment Day Celebration on 5th June 2025.

NBWAP celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June 2025 on the theme “Ending Plastic Pollution Globally”, with enthusiastic participation from students of Salugara High School and Indramaya Primary School, Singijhora, along with visitors, and staff.

The event began with a plantation drive, followed by an inspiring keynote by the Assistant Director, urging eco-conscious living. Following engaging activities were done to sensitize the students on plastic waste and eco-friendly life choices:

- Plantation drive in the zoo premises.
- Vermicomposting session on sustainable waste management,
- Tyre beautification showcasing creative upcycling,
- Plastic reuse demo to encourage alternative life choices,
- Slogan writing, poster making, and procession,
- Visitor awareness campaign by the students.

The event ended with a vote of thanks by the ZooBiologist followed by certificate distribution and refreshments.



Plantation programme with school students and NBWAP officials and staff.





Key note address by the Assistant Director, NBWAP; Presentation by the Education Asst and a session on vermicomposting for the school students led by the Research Scholar of the park.



Tyre beautification showcasing creative upcycling.



Refreshment distribution, plastic reuse demonstration and sampling planting, solgan writing and poster making activities for the students.



Proceedings and visitor awareness campiang by the students.



Certificate distribution by the Assistant Director, NBWAP and Zoo Biologist, NBWAP to the students.

08. Womens Cell NBWAP: Quarterly Meeting of the ICC

As mandated by the PoSH Act, 2013, the establishment of an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) is essential in every workplace to address matters related to sexual harassment. At North Bengal Wild Animals Park (NBWAP), the ICC is duly constituted with Mrs. Upashna Rai as the Presiding Officer; Ms. Prishka Pariyar, Ms. Sangita Basak, Ms. Manila Thapa, and Mr. Abhishek Choudhury as members; and Dr. Sangeeta Reddy from a recognised NGO.

In line with this, a quarterly meeting for the female staff was held on 16th June 2025. The session focused on sensitisation regarding sexual harassment, awareness of the PoSH Act, 2013, and the importance of maintaining discipline and professionalism in the workplace.



Mrs Upashna Rai, Presiding Officer



Ms. Prishka Pariyar, Member



Ms. Sangita Basak, Member



Ms. Manila Thapa, Member



Shri Abhishek Chowdhury, Member



Dr Sangeeta Reddy, External NGO/Legal member



On Going Research Projects at NBWAP

Project 1: Study on Dung/Scat Analysis of Herbivore Animals To Analyse The Presence of Gut Parasites: Report has been submitted to WBZA, Kolkata.

Project 2: Captive Breeding & Management of Bengal Tiger: Report has been submitted to WBZA, Kolkata.

Project 3: The Study of Haematological and Biochemical values of Captive Asiatic Elephant: Sample & data analysis is in progress. Report compilation is been done. Finalisation of the project report and manuscript writing for publication consideration will be worked on.

Project 4: Behavioural Study for the Captive Management of Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) at North Bengal Wild Animals Park

The difference between indoor & outdoor activity patterns has been compiled. Pre-enrichment Vs enrichment activity pattern has been compiled. Winter Vs summer activity pattern has been compiled. Statistical analysis for the topics taken up was computed using IBM SPSS vs. 30. The literature review was revised and finalized. Reports of all the chapters were prepared and finalized. Manuscript preparation and submission for publication consideration was done.

Project 5: Study on Hair Histology of some wild mammalian species in captivity at North Bengal Wild Animals Park

Hair length and diameter of selected captive wild mammals at NBWAP have been measured, with descriptive analysis completed. Microscopic slides for cuticular scale patterns, medulla, and root characteristics have been prepared. Photographs of all captive mammal species at NBWAP have been compiled for the project report. Taxonomic classification and brief species accounts have been prepared. A list of captive mammals at a neighbouring zoo has been compiled for future analysis.

Project 6: A Comprehensive Waste Management Strategies for Zoological Parks at North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri.

The first compost batch from the initial experiment has been harvested and sent to UBKV, Pundibari, for physicochemical and microbial analysis. The second batch is underway, expected to be ready by the first week of July. A certified online course on Animal Waste Management (NPTEL-SWAYAM) has been completed. Regular recording of organic, meat, and bone waste generation is maintained, and composting pits are under regular upkeep. A vermiculture demonstration and vermicompost use awareness programme was conducted for students during the Environment Day plantation drive. Literature review continues; remaining report chapters are being drafted, and the Introduction has been finalized.

10. Developmental works and Laboratory enhancemet



The construction of new entry gate at Tiger safari has been completed this quarter.



Maintainence: Painting of Tiger night shelter



Brinsea artifical incubator.

11. Enrichments done in this quarter





12. List of Educational Tours of School, College, University and Institution



S.no	Institutions/ Organization	Date	No of students/trainees	Accompanying staff/teachers	Incentives given
1	St. Michael's Boarding School for Girls, Sevoke Road, Siliguri, West Bengal	12.04.2025	31	2	Guided tour.
2	SBP Vidya Vihar, Bihar	13.04.2025	83	16	63 students were given 15% discount for safari
3	Holy Cross School, Dalkhola, West Bengal	13.04.2025	38	6	15% discount were given to the team.
4	St. Michael's Boarding School for Girls, Sevoke Road, Siliguri, West Bengal	19.04.2025	25	7	15% discount were given to the team. Guided tour.
5	Central Girls Higher Secondary School, Jalpaiguri	23.04.2025	35	5	15% discount were given to the team.
6	Alipurduar University, Alipurduar	25.04.2025	21	4	15% discount were given to the students.
7	Nathuhat Ashram Government Higher Secondary School, Jalpaiguri...	26.04.2025	76	4	15% discount were given to the team.
8	St. Michael's Boarding School for Girls, Sevoke Road, Siliguri, West Bengal	30.04.2025	98	15	15% discount were given to the team.Guided tour.
9	Darjeeling Public School, Siliguri.	22.05.2025	19	1	Guided tour.
10	Bibek Vaskar, RKM, Narendrapur.	22.05.2025	24	3	Guided tour.
11	Bright Academy School, Gurunanak sarani, Punjab	28.05.2025	19		15% discount were given to the team.
12	Salugara High School, Siliguri	05.06.2025	21	2	Guided tour. Participation in educational programmes.

13. Natality and Mortality Record in this quarter

Natality Record for the Quarter April to June 2025

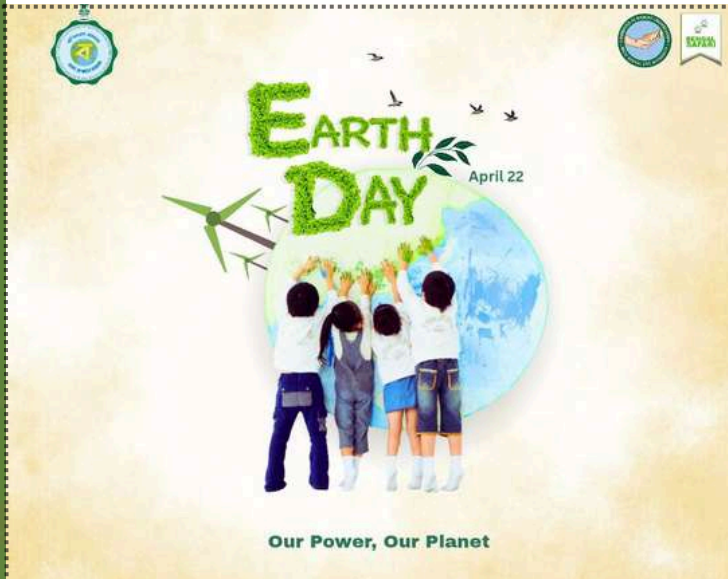
S. No	Species	DOB	Sex	Remarks
1	Leucistic Black Buck	14 th April 2025	U	stillbirth
2	Black Buck	15 th May 2025	U	
3	Mandrill	22 nd June 2025	U	
4	Bengal tiger	25 th June 2025	U	
5	Bengal tiger	25 th June 2025	U	

Mortality Record for the Quarter April to June 2025

S. No	Species	DOD	Sex	Remarks
1	Spotted deer	01 st April 2025	M	Death due to predation at herbivore safari.
2	Spotted deer	9 th April 2025	M	Death due to predation at lion safari.
3	Leucistic Black Buck	14 th April 2025	U	Stillbirth. The whole carcass was sent to ARD, Belgachia.
4	Spotted deer	12 th April 2025	M	Death due to predation at herbivore safari.
5	Swan/Chinese goose	18 th April 2025	F	E.coli infection.
6	Spotted deer	15 th May 2025	M	Death due to predation at herbivore safari.
7	Red Jungle Fowl	7 th June 2025	U	Sample sent to IAH & VB
8	Red Jungle Fowl	7 th June 2025	U	
9	Red-Shanked Douc	18 th June 2025	F	Acute anemia, cardio-respiratory failure due to obstruction of trachea.
10	Spotted Deer	13 th June 2025	F	Predation

14. Dignitaries' Visits at NBWAP In This Quarter

<p>Well kept. Health of tigers and leopards were good. More training to the drivers as a guide would add value. Best wishes.</p> <p>Mahesh Singh (Retd IFS) 04/04/2025</p>	<p>Incredible experience. Well managed zoo. Thanks a lot to the officers and team who are wonderfully maintaining the forest and the animals. My best wishes.</p> <p>Shri Pankaj Kumar (IPS) DIG, CRPF. 18/04/2025</p>	<p>Amazing experience. The animal health and care is well maintained. The staff and officers are courteous. Best wishes to the team.</p> <p>Shri. Gaya Parsad. Deputy Director General (RH/Admn.), Ministry of Rural Development, New delhi. 20/04/2025</p>
<p>Wonderful experience visiting Bengal Safari. Perfect mix of safari & adventurous activities.</p> <p>Shri Devi Prasad Karanam (IAS) Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, West Bengal. 25/04/2025</p>	<p>Visited Bengal Safari after 15 years. The park is developing into a master piece, one of its kind at North Bengal. A learning and education hub for the future generation, maintained by the forest department.</p> <p>Shri Mahendra N Majhi (Retd IFS) 01/05/2025</p>	<p>The visit to Bengal Safari was excellent. It is well maintained and children enjoyed it fully.</p> <p>Shri Umesh Khandbahale (IPS), Superintendent of Police, Jalpaiguri Dist, West Bengal. 03/05/2025</p>
<p>A wonderful experience. Both, the ambience and staff were good. The park is systematically developed, and gives good experience of wildlife. Thanks to the WB Government & WB Forest Dept.</p> <p>Shri Abdul Nasar B (IAS), Special Secretary to the Government, Government of Kerala. 23/05/2025</p>	<p>It was a good experience. Well done.</p> <p>Justice Devnarayan Mishra, MP. 03/06/2025</p>	<p>It was a great experience under the guidance of the staff. Keep it up.</p> <p>Justice Jitendra Jain, Bombay High Court 06/06/2025</p>
<p>I was guided by Mr Abhishek Chaudhary (WBFS) who was kind to explain the details about the animals. The overall experience has been fantastic. Thanks to all the staff.</p> <p>Justice Gaurang Kanth, Delhi High Court, 12/06/2025</p>	<p>Excellent conservation efforts. The tour was wonderful and the experience was outstanding.</p> <p>Shri. Dushyant NariaLa (IAS) ACS North Bengal Development and Principal Secretary, GTA 22/06/2025</p>	



15. KEEPERS CORNER



मैं चिड़ियाघर में बाघों की देखभाल करता हूँ। बाघ एक शक्तिशाली और सुंदर जानवर है, जिसकी धारियाँ उसे जंगल में छिपने में मदद करती हैं। चिड़ियाघर में उनकी देखभाल करते समय मैं उनके व्यवहार, आहार और स्वास्थ्य का पूरा ध्यान रखता हूँ। उन्हें साफ़ पानी, पर्याप्त जगह और पर्यावरण को समृद्ध करने वाले साधन देना ज़रूरी होता है, जिससे वे स्वस्थ और सक्रिय बने रहें।

धीरे-धीरे बाघों के साथ मेरा एक विशेष संबंध बन गया है। रोज़ उन्हें खाना देना, सफाई करना और शांत ढंग से उनसे बात करना इस रिश्ते को मजबूत बनाता है। जब बाघ मुझे पहचानते हैं और मेरे आस-पास शांत रहते हैं, तो मुझे बहुत संतोष मिलता है। यह न सिर्फ मेरी ड्यूटी है, बल्कि मेरे दिल से जुड़ा काम है।

मिस्टर डिपु उरांव
एनिमल अटेंडेंट, एनबीडब्ल्यूएपी