BANABANDHU

BENGAL SAFARI NEWS LETTER
LAST QUARTER/ JANURARY-MARCH/
2025











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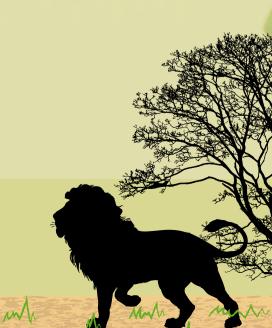
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01. FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Greetings to all the readers from NBWAP family. I am delighted to present the last issue of Banabandhu for this year. This quarter has been dynamic, with significant efforts directed towards managing the seasonal visitor rush and ensuring a seamless experience for all. Besides this, the park has been actively engaged in various activities, including the celebration of 10th Foundation Day of the park, enrichment activities for our captives, research advancements, educational programs and others. Our dedication to wildlife welfare and environmental responsibility continues to propel, enhancing our mission.

We hope you enjoy these updates and accomplishments in this edition.

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





02. New year-1st January 2025

Bengal Safari had an impressive start to the new year, welcoming 6,195 visitors on the first day of the year, generating a record-breaking revenue of Rs. 12,81,390 (unaudited figure). To manage the large influx of visitors during the rush season and ensure a smooth experience for the public, NBWAP took proactive measures.

The park set up three "May I Help You" desks at strategic locations like the entry gate, pickup point, and near the Hollock gibbon enclosure. These desks provided assistance and support to visitors, addressing their needs promptly and efficiently. The Animal Adoption Scheme of the the zoo was popularized among the visitors and soft copies of the brochure was also shared. This initiative helped manage the crowd effectively and enhanced the overall visitor experience during the busy period.



Staff at NBWAP managing visitor rush in the "May I help you" desk on new year,2025.





03. Foundation Day Celebration on 21st January 2025.

On 21st January 2025, NBWAP celebrated its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of commitment to wildlife conservation. The event was attended by distinguished quests, including Chief & Special Guest Shri C. Sudhakar, Commissioner of Police, Siliguri, along with Shri P.R. Pradhan, IFS, CF, North-West Circle; Shri Akash Verma, IFS, AO, Jaldapara; and Shri Surendra Prasad Sharma, WBFS, DFO, NTFP, among other forest officials. The celebrations began with the ceremonial lighting of the diva and a cake-cutting ceremony, followed by an inspiring address by Shri E. Vijaya Kumar, IFS, Director, NBWAP.

The programme continued with Ganesh Vandana dance performance by Ms. Nabanita Paul (Research Scholar, NBWAP), poetry recitations by Shri. Janardhan Chowdhury (Assistant Animal Supervisor, NBWAP) & Bhairab Kumar Singha (Research Scholar, NBWAP), followed by a duet by Mr. Subham Singh (Staff at Administrative Office, NBWAP) and Esha Bhattacharya (Research Scholar, NBWAP).

















An inter-school art competition was held with participation from seven schools from Siliguri. The best art work was felicitated. After the competition, students and teachers enjoyed a safari tour followed by refreshments.





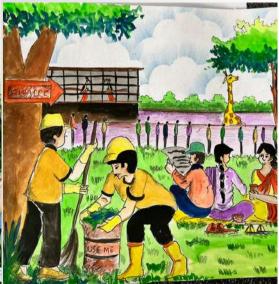












1st Position: Master. Debojit Shah, Siliguri Boys High School

2nd Position: Ms. Puja Bhakta, Darjeeling Public School

3rd Position: Ms. Chandreyee Sahu, St. Xavier's School, Siliguri



The second half of the celebration included felicitation of staffs & winners in different categories as specified below:

Best Enclosure award:-

Congratulations to the Animal Keepers of Asiatic Lion Shelter for securing 1st position in the Keepers Evaluation Programme conducted by the park on 16th-17th Jan, 2025.





Mr Rajen Oraon

Mr Rohan Rai

Mr. Jogesh Barman Mr. Birbal modak

Congratulations to the Animal Keepers of Asiatic Black Bear for securing 2nd position in the Keepers Evaluation Programme conducted by the park on 16th-17th Jan, 2025.





Mr. Bijay Majhi



Mr. Pasang Tamang

Mr. Bappa Barman

Congratulations to the Animal Keepers of Hoolock Gibbon Enclosure for securing 3nd position in the Keepers Evaluation Programme conducted by the park on 16th-17th Jan, 2025.





Mr Rakesh Tamang

Mr Mukesh Bk



Marathon winner: To keep our keepers and staff entertained, a race was conducted on 20/01/2025 with participants running from the Himalayan Black Bear shelter to the Western Hoolock Gibbon shelter. The winners were felicitated.





1st Position: Shri Mangal Mahanto (NBWAP 05)



2nd Position: Shri Ajit Kumar Bhujel (NBWAP 07)



3rd Position: Shri Satish Rai (NBWAP 13)

Recognition of 10 Years of Service & Felicitation of Sanitation staff for their sincere service to the organization.





Service Recognition Award: Shri Sante Subba received felicitation on his retirement. His dedicated service to NBWAP was appreciated and recognized. The event concluded with a hearty lunch, leaving attendees with cherished memories of this milestone celebration







04.76th Republic Day Celebration, 2025.

Bengal Safari commemorated the 76th Republic Day of India on 26th January 2025 with a flag hoisting ceremony, attended by the entire park staff.





05. Annual picnic for the staff of NBWAP

On 10th February 2025, the NBWAP staff gathered for their annual picnic, enjoying a day of camaraderie and enjoyment.





06. Chelonians counting at NBWAP ON 25th -26th February 2025

The headcount of Chelonians was done during the pond cleaning at North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri on the 25th and 26th of February 2025. Species identification and sexing was done for updating the parks animal inventory. From the present survey, following species of Chelonians were recorded:

- Red-eared slider or red-eared terrapin (Trachemys scripta elegans).
- Star Tortoise (Geochelone elegans)
- Indian softshell turtle (Nilssonia gangetica)
- Elongated tortoise (Indotestudo elongata)
- Indian black turtle (Melanochelys trijuga)
- Three-striped roofed turtle (Batagur dhongoka)







07. Celebration of World Wildlife Day 2025

On March 3rd, 2025 Bengal Safari celebrated World Wildlife Day with the theme "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet."

The day was marked by an informative presentation by Shri Abhishek Chowdhury, WBFS, Assistant Director of NBWAP on "Precautionary Measures to Prevent the Ingress of Avian Influenza in Zoos."



This was followed by a session on "Awareness on Avian Influenza: Understanding, Management, and Prevention in Zoos", presented by Dr. Ruhul Amin, Honorary Veterinary Officer, NBWAP, and Dr. Nick Doley, Veterinary Officer, NBWAP. Mrs Upashna Rai, Zoo Biologist, NBWAP provided the insights into the significance of the celebration to the keepers. The programme ended with display of the art and essay work that was submitted by students of near by schools through online portals followed by refreshments.









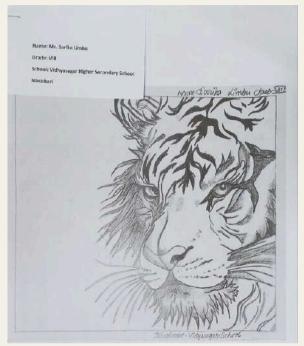




Banabandhu NBWAP NEWSLETTER

World Wildlife Day 2025 Winners Announcement

The winners of the Art and essay competition conducted on the occasion of World Wildlife Day 2025 from 20th February to 3rd March 2025 was announced on this day. Art: Theme: "Celebrate Wildlife, Cherish Nature"

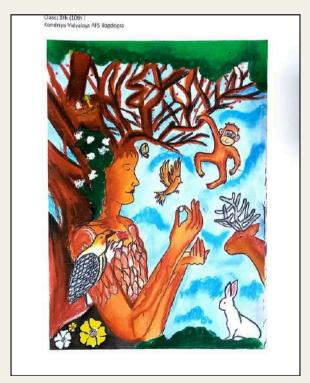








1st: Sarika Limbu, Grade-VIII, Vidyasagar School (H.S), Naxalbari.









2nd:Afiya Ara, Grade-X, Kendriya Vidyalaya AFS, Bagdogra.





3rd: Ayush Saha, Grade-VIII,Don Bosco School, Siliguri

Winners of Essay Writing

1st Position: Ms. Joya Rai, Grade: XII, Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong. Theme: Love Wildlife, Live Sustainably.

I often imagine a world where the air hums with the songs of birds, whose rivers are fined with endless variety of fishes, and whose forests stand tall, home to a ribrant topistry of life. This is the world we all long for, a would whose humans and wildlife world we all long for, a would whose humans and wildlife coerist in harmany. But this harmany is fragile, threatened by the way actions of the species that calls itself "wire" - humans.

The truth is, we are intricately carrected to the notweal world. We breath the same air, drink the same water, and ruly on the same threatened the same are away other creature. Our actions, however small they resources as every other creature. Our actions, however small they may seem, have effects that mach far beyond our own backyards.

Nhen we pallete revers, we haven the fish that depend an them. When we distray forests, we displace the animals that call them hame when we are averlanders resources, we risk deputing them for future grundations.

This is where the prease 66 Love Wildlife, live sustainably ?? takes on its true real meaning. It's not just about appreciating the beauty of a tiger or a whale, its about understanding that awe actions directly impact their swerival. It's about recognizing that aw love for wildlife reals to be translated into actions that protect their habitals and ensure their feture. It is about making conscious choices that minimize harmful impact an the environment. It's about choosing reusable bags over plastic ares, apting for locally grown produce, and reducing over reliance an fossil feels. It's about supporting buisnesses that prioritize environmental responsibility and hading those who pollute ar exploit. By choosing to live in harmany with nature, we not any protect wildlife but also improve our awn eines. Cuan air and water, healthy ecosystems, and a stable climate are all essential for our well—being.

Now, Imagine a world whose our cities are green oases, where our your comes from local farms and whose own energy carnes from renumble sources. Imagine a world whose own future goveration can experience the wonder of a rainforest, the throil of a whale migration, and the jay of a storey night sky untauched by light pallution. This is the world we can create, not by sacrificing our comforts, but by embracing a lifestyle that respects the delicate yet broutiful balance of our place.

Love wildlife, live sustainably. It's not just a phrase.



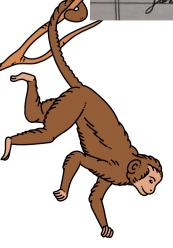
2nd Position: Mr. Sumiran Subba, Grade: XII, Glen Hill Public School, Kurseong. Theme: Wildlife Conservation, A duty, not a choice.







benefit of wildlife



where the





Felicitation of Ms. Joya Rai of Dr. Graham's Homes by the Director NBWAP for securing first position in essay writing completion.



Felicitation of Mr. Sumiran Subba of Glen Hill Public School, Kurseong, by the Director NBWAP for securing second position in essay writing completion.

08. International Women's Day Celebration 2025



The encouraging words from Dr. Sangita Reddy highlighted the strength, resilience, and commitment of women in all professions, particularly women who work day and night for wildlife conservation and management. Traditional Cake cutting ceremony was done thereafter to celebrate the womanhood.

Further, to honour and appreciate the hard working female staff of NBWAP, Shri E. Vijayakumar, IFS, Director of NBWAP, felicitated and motivated them with his kind words & souvenirs.

Bengal Safari celebrated International Women's Day with Dr. Sangita Reddy and Santiniketan NGO on 8th March 2025. The celebration began with the display of a video prepared by the women team of Research and Education Section to pay their due respect to the ethos of womanhood and enriching contributions their towards society, without which, modern women would not have the same level of empowerment as they do today.

















Banabandhu *NBWAP NEWSLETTER*











09. International Day of Forests 2025 🗫



This March 21st, 2025, an informative creative was shared in the social media platform of the park to mark the importance of "International Day of Forests " with the theme "Forests and Food." • Forests are not just the lungs of our planet; they are also a vital source of food for humans and wildlife alike! From fruits and nuts to medicinal plants and edible fungi, forests provide essential nutrition and sustain millions of livelihoods.

10. Inauguration of Combo Safari Gate at North Bengal Wild Animals Park by Smt. Birbaha Hansda, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), Department of Forests and Department of SHG & SE, Government of West Bengal.

Smt. Birbaha Hansda, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), Departments of Forests and SHG & SE, Government of West Bengal, visited North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri on 27th March 2025. She met with staff welfare and future development proposals, reiterating the government's focus on conservation and sustainable development. A major highlight was the opening of the new Combo Safari Gate with the intent to enhance visitor experience and wildlife management. The occasion was graced by Shri Rajesh Kumar, IFS, APCCF, North Bengal; Shri Saurabh Chaudhuri, IFS, APCCF & Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority; Shri J. B. Bhaskar, IFS, CCF Wildlife; and other forest officials. This achievement is testimony to the park's commitment to conservation, eco-tourism, and upgraded visitor interaction.



11. Research Projects At NBWAP

Project 1: Study on Dung/Scat Analysis of Herbivore Animals To Analyse The Presence of Gut Parasites: Manuscript preparation by Ms. Prishka Pariyar, RA, NBWAP for publication consideration in scientific journal is in progress.

Project 2: Captive Breeding & Management of Bengal Tiger: The final draft of the project report was submitted by Mr. Sudeb Sarkar, RA, NBWAP. Manuscript preparation for publication in scientific journal is in progress.

Project 3: The Study of Haematological and Biochemical values of Captive Asiatic Elephant: The second phase of field work was initiated. Blood samples from thirty two healthy individuals from Jaldapara National Park was collected on 5th to 7th February 2025 under the leadership of Dr. Nick Doley, VO, NBWAP assisted by Ms. Prishka Pariyar, RA, NBWAP and team. The samples are being analysed at the Veterinary Laboratory of the park. Data generated are being entered in excel sheet and a master data sheet is being prepared for data analysis.



Project 4: Hair Histology of some wild animals in captivity at North Bengal Wild Animals Park: A dataset was created for hair histological analysis, incorporating literature review, hair profiles, macroscopic and microscopic examinations, and observations. Hair samples were collected from 16 species at NBWAP using non-invasive and minimally invasive methods, with proper labelling and storage.

Measurements of hair length, diameter, and color variations were recorded, along with descriptive statistics. Data compilation is ongoing. Slide preparation for cuticular scale pattern observation using the Cast and Imprint method is in progress, with microscopic examination, microphotography, medulla, and pigmentation analysis to follow. Quarterly report and presentation has been given by the Research Scholar.



Project 5: **Behavioral Study for** Conservation Breeding of Asiatic Black Bear (Ursus thibetanus) at North Bengal Wild Animals Park: An ad-libitum study was conducted to develop a final ethogram for the behavioral analysis of the in-house captive Asiatic Black Bear at NBWAP. The Instantaneous Scan Sampling Method (Altman, 1974) was selected, with a 5-minute sampling time and a standardized observation schedule of three days per week for six hours. Observations were conducted in morning, afternoon, and evening shifts. A survey on captive management was sent to 24 zoos, with responses received from Darjeeling and Nagaland Zoos. Sections of the project report have been completed and submitted for review. Winter activity and preenrichment data for the three bears were recorded in January and February, along with activity observations in different captive areas from December to February.Quarterly report and presentation has been given by the Research Scholar.





Project 6: A comprehensive waste management strategies for zoological Parks at North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri

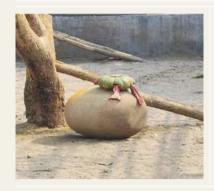
The research scholar trained vermicomposting at COFAM, University North Bengal. Ongoing includes refining composting methods, optimizing waste disposal, assessing compost quality. Awareness community programs and planned. engagement are standardized organic waste disposal protocol is in place, with ongoing experiments and survey data aiding further improvements for sustainable waste management at NBWAP.



12. Scientific publication in this quarter

Doley N, Pariyar P, Kumar EV, Chowdhary A, Sarkar S, Chongder I, Das I. Successful hand-rearing of a newly born orphaned wild common leopard cub (Panthera pardus fusa Linnaeus, 1758) at north Bengal wild animals park, West Bengal: A case study. *International Journal of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry*. 2025;10(3):156-160.

13. Enrichment done in this quarter

























Enrichment done in this quarter

























14. Developmental Work & Others



Construction of Lion Safari Gate was completed in this quarter.

Construction of Tiger Safari Gates (03 gates in total) was completed in this quarter.

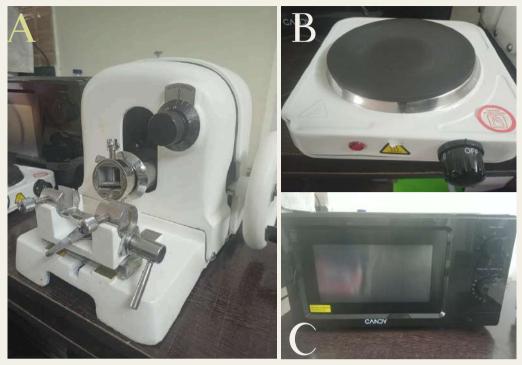


Construction of Herbivore Safari Gate was completed in this quarter.

Construction of rockery, cave-like platform for enrichment at Lion Safari was completed in this quarter.



The Range Officer Quarter construction was completed during this quarter.



Enhancement of Veterinary Laboratory through the procurement of the following lab instruments: (A) Microtome; (B)Hotplate-JX-100A and (C)Oven-Candy:CSM192B.



15. List of Educational Tours of School, College, University, and Institution Students/Trainees

Sl. No	Schools'/colleges'/university's/institution's name	Date	No. Of students /trainees	Incentives given
	SCHOOL'S/ COLL	EGES		50
01	Fatima High School, Demdima	04.02.2025	20	
02	Banwarilal Bhalotia College, Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman	12.02.2025	47	
03	Siliguri reag ministry &, Neemtala, Kawakhali, Siliguri	13.02.2025	20	
04	Nirmala Convent School, Siliguri	14.02.2025	616	
05	Kalimpong Children Association, Kalimpong	15.02.2025	49	
06	Angels' Modern Academy, Karimpur, Chakulia, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal	19.02.2025	76	
07	Mahanadi High School, Kurseong, Darjeeling	22.02.2025	55	Guided tour.
08	St. Joseph's Girl High School (H.S), Chatparua, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur	04.03.2025	74	Guided tour.
09	G. D. Goenka Toddler School, Jalpaiguri	07.03.2025	68	10000
10	Shantiniketan NGO	08/03/2025	28	Guided tour, presentations, refreshments.
	TRAINEES			W
01	Forests Rangers Trainees, Telangana State Forest Academy	30.01.2025	36	Guided tour.
02	Forests Rangers Trainees, Telangana State Forest Academy	05.02.2025	36	Guided tour.
03	15th Batch one-month promotee Forest Guard trainees, West Bengal Forest School, Dow-hill	12.02.2025	10	Guided tour.
04	Forest Range Officers Batch-2 (2023-25), Chandrapur Forest Academy of Administration, Development and Management, Chandrapur.	17.02.2025	40	Guided tour.
05	Forest Guard Batch (2nos), Forester Training School, Saranda Forest Division, Chaibasa	19.03.2025	80	Guided tour.



Tour of Trainees: Forest Guard Batch (2nos), Forester Training School, Saranda Forest Division, Chaibasa on 19.03.2025.



Educational tour of Mahanadi High School, Kurseong, Darjeeling on 22.02.2025.



Educational tour of St. Joseph's Girl High School (H.S), Chatparua, Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur on 04.03.2025.



Educational tour of SG. D. Goenka Toddler School, Jalpaiguri on 07.03.2025.



16. Dignitaries' Visits at NBWAP

Wonderfully maintained with lively animals roaming around. Should visit.

Shri Tirthankar Ghosh Judge, High Court Calcutta. 10.01.2025

AN REC

Its a huge, well maintained safari within natural forest area. Wonderful ride arrangements were made. One of the best safari experience. Officers and staff are highly appreciable.

Shri G. Ganesh. Deputy Secretary, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly 20.02.2025 A Well kept park.

Shri P. Arjunan MLA, Tamil Nadu. 20.02.2025

AN REC

Very beautiful park with great sighting at the Safari

Shri S. Stalinkumar, MLA, Tamil Nadu. 20.02.2025

is well maintained overall.

Its a good maintained park. All the staff are sincere. The Food Court and NIC was excellent.

Shri G. V. Markandayan MLA, Tamil Nadu. 20.02.2025

HALLER

Very Nice Park!

Shri Pulak Roy Minister of Public Health Engineering and Panchayat Raj and Rural Development 27.03.2025







Visited the park along with my kids. Excellent facility and well maintained park. The kids were thrilled with the animals, tiger being the main attraction. Thankyou Bengal Safari for coming up with such facilities. Well done and keep it up.

Shri. Lobzang Dorji.
Department of Forest and Park Services,
Thimphu, Bhutan.
21.02.2024

First visit to Bengal Safari was a wonderful experience. We had excellent animal sightings and thoroughly enjoyed observing them in their natural surroundings. All BWWA BSF members had a great time. The staff were very cooperative, and the park

Dr. Prema Gandhi Head BSF Eastern Command Kolkata to North Bengal Frontier. 21.03.2025





17. Natality Record for This Quarter

S.NO	Births Recorded	DOB	Sex Identified	Remarks
1	Grey Parrot	06/02/2025	U	
2	Grey Parrot	07/02/2025	U	
3	Asiatic lion	14/03/2025	U	House name L1 2025
4	Asiatic lion	14/03/2025	U	House name L2 2025
5	Asiatic lion	14/03/2025	U	House name L3 2025
6	Asiatic Black Bear	25/03/2025	U	
7	Red Jungle Fowl	26/03/2025	U	
8	Red Jungle Fowl	26/03/2025	U	
9	Royal Bengal Tiger	31/03/2025	U	
10	Royal Bengal Tiger	31/03/2025	U	

18. Mortality Record for This Quarter

S.NO	SPECIES	Sex	DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH
1	Grey Parrot	U	06/02/2025	III-nursing
2	Grey Parrot	U	07/02/2025	Ill-nursing
3	Water Monitor Lizard	М	01/01/2025	Gastroenteritis.
4	Lady Amherst's Pheasant	М	03/01/2025	Infighting.
5	Spotted deer	М	08/03/2025	Infectious origin
6	Spotted deer	М	24/03/2025	Capture myopathy may be
				due to long transportation.
7	Spotted deer	M	24/03/2025	Capture myopathy may be
				due to long transportation.
8	Spotted deer	M	24/03/2025	Capture myopathy may be
				due to long transportation.
9	Spotted deer	F	24/03/2025	Capture myopathy may be
				due to long transportation.
10	Spotted deer	F	24/03/2025	Capture myopathy may be
				due to long transportation.
11	Spotted deer	F	24/03/2025	Capture myopathy may be
				due to long transportation.
12	Spotted deer	M	26/03/2025	Capture myopathy may be
				due to long transportation.
13	Asiatic Black Bear	U	28/03/2025	Heart blockage due to
				stampede.

19. Acquisition & Disposal Record for This Quarter

S.NO	ANIMAL SPECIES	SEX	PURPOSE	REMARKS
1	Spotted Deer	32 U	Acquired from	
			Adina Deer Park	
			on 24/03/2025	
2	Red-eared slider/ red-	11(4:7:0)	Acquired rescued	Included in the animal
	eared terrapin		Chelonians.	inventory from this
	(Trachemys scripta			quarter (Jan- Mar 2025).
	elegans)			
3	Star Tortoise	1(1:0:0)	Acquired rescued	Included in the animal
	(Geochelone elegans)		Chelonians.	inventory from this
				quarter (Jan- Mar 2025).
4	Elongated tortoise	5(4:1:0)	Acquired rescued	Included in the animal
	(Indotestudo elongata)		Chelonians.	inventory from this
				quarter (Jan- Mar 2025).
5	Three-striped roofed	1(1:0:0)	Acquired rescued	Included in the animal
	turtle (Batagur		Chelonians.	inventory from this
	dhongoka)			quarter (Jan- Mar 2025).

