



BANABANDHU BENGAL SAFARI NEWS LETTER



Volume: 9 Issue III
Quarterly Newsletter
North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri

EDITORIAL BOARD

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FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK

On behalf of North Bengal Wild Animals Park, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year! It is my pleasure to share with you the third issue of Banabandhu for the year 2024. And what a year it has been, filled with development, exploration, and celebrations.

From animated inaugurations to distinct celebrations of special days with the spirited school children and diverse strides in research – this particular quarter has been filled with events. Some noteworthy progress in projects were made, and there were some new initiatives to improve animal care and the park's infrastructure.

I appreciate the efforts of my team as well as our supporters, and it is with them that I proudly say these milestones are of great importance regarding our commitment to innovation, education, and conservation. Now as we try to embrace a new year ahead of us, I am excited to share even a lot more stories, achievements, and goals we have accomplished with all of you.

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



GLIMPSE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS AT NBWAP

Celebration of 70th World Wildlife Week 2024

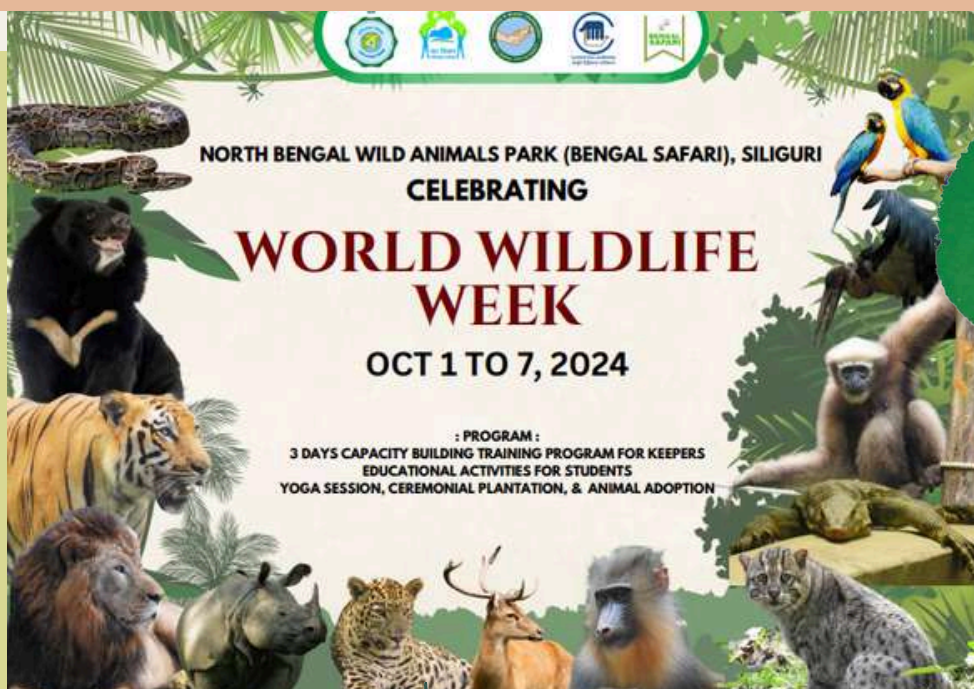
NBWAP celebrated the Wildlife Week from October 1st to 7th engaging zoo staff, animal attendants, and students in an enriching series of educational activities that focused on wildlife conservation and management.

The week began on October 1st with an opening ceremony where Shri. Abhishek Chowdhury, WBFS, Assistant Director, spoke alongside the Range Officer and Assistant Zoo Supervisor on the importance of zookeepers in managing animals in captivity, highlighting the commitment and importance of their work. After the address, Mrs. Upashna Rai, Zoo biologist, presented the insights of the duties and problems faced by zookeepers and explained the theoretical background to animal behavior and care in captivity.

The following day, Miss Prishka Pariyar, Research Assistant, led presentation on techniques used for observing behaviours in captivity. A practical was also carried out in which keepers observed an animal video and fabricated an activity budget. This skill-building focus continued on October 3rd with veterinary presentations from Dr. Ruhul Amin, Honorary Veterinary Officer; Dr. Nick Doley, Veterinary Officer; and Mr. Biswajeet Sarkar, Veterinary Assistant. Areas such as observing animal health, managing medical care safely, and understanding gastrointestinal issues were explained, providing staff with critical knowledge to maintain high animal care standards. Besides this, a presentation on Enrichment activities was delivered by Mr. Sudeb Sarkar, Research Assistant to the Animal Attendants of the park.

On October 4th and 5th, the school and college students actively participated in tree plantation programme within the zoo premises, expert talks, drawing sessions, storytelling, stone painting, and safari tours. These interactive experiences helped foster a deep connection to nature, igniting interest and enthusiasm for wildlife conservation among the youth.

The week concluded on October 7th with an evaluation of the keepers and a recognition ceremony to honour the dedicated efforts of zoo staff.









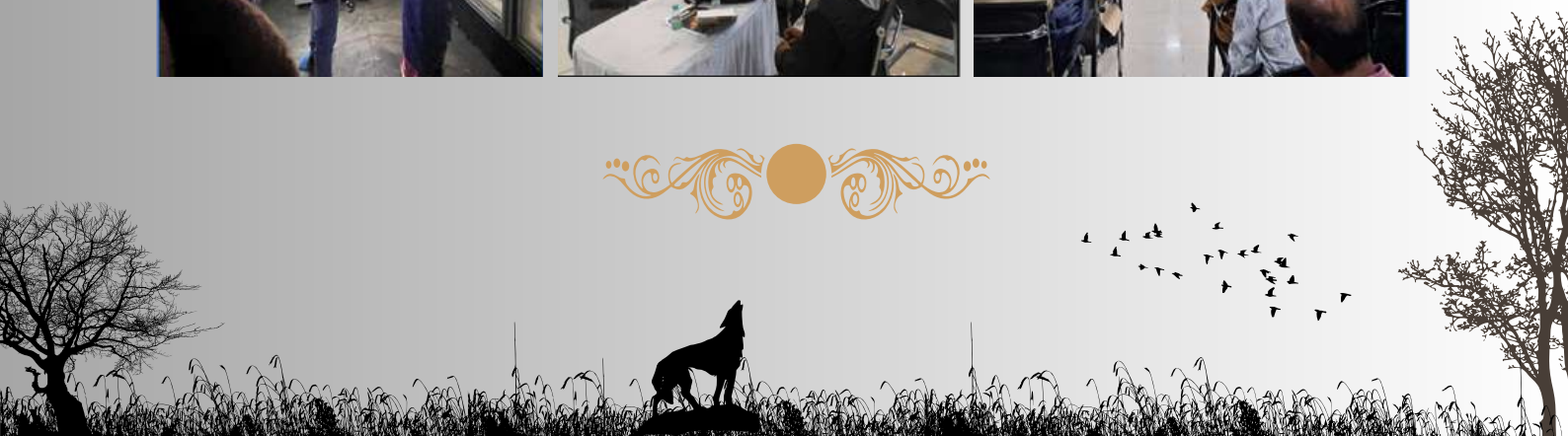
Celebration of Children's Day ON 14th November, 2024 at Bengal Safari.

NBWAP celebrated the Children's Day on 14th November 2024 with young pre-school children of nearby schools and specially-abled children from Smile Group, Bagdogra. Costumes themed on wildlife were beautifully exhibited by the students, and an action song on wild animal conservation was performed with grace. Their enthusiasm added a playful touch to the celebration, enabling them to both play and learn about wildlife in an interactive way. The cake-cutting ceremony marked the day's celebration, followed by an exciting safari tour arranged for the young guests. The safari gave the children a chance to see animals up close and experience their grandeur, leaving them curious and joyful. The event ended with the distribution of gifts and refreshments.



REGIONAL ZOO KEEPERS TRAINING PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY, MoEF&CC, INDIA AT NBWAP.

On 6th December 2024, NBWAP commenced a three-day zookeeper training programme organized by the Central Zoo Authority, MoEF&CC, India. Nineteen zoos from four states participated in the programme. Shri E. Vijaya Kumar (IFS), Director, NBWAP welcomed the attendees, while Shri Ashish Kumar Samant IFS (Retd) highlighted the evolving role of zookeepers as conservationists and educators. The technical sessions covered the purpose of training (Shri E. Vijaya Kumar IFS), the transition of zookeepers' roles (Dr. Basavaraj Holeyachi IFS, Director, Darjeeling Zoo), and zoos' contributions to biodiversity conservation (Shri Ashish Kumar Samant IFS (Retd)). In the afternoon, participants explored the zoo, safari, and kitchen, learning about species management, enclosure design, and feed storage. The day concluded with Ms. Shalu Mesaria (Senior Research Fellow, CZA) emphasizing the significance of modern zookeeping.



On 7th December 2024, the second day of the zookeeper training began with a presentation by Miss Ishita Chongder, Conservation Biologist, WBZA on appropriate housing for captive animals, covering enclosure design, ventilation, barriers, and enrichment. This was followed by a session on animal behavior and observation techniques by the park's Zoo Biologist, Mrs. Upashna Rai emphasizing innate and acquired behaviors. Miss Prishka Pariyar, Research Assistant, NBWAP continued with methodologies for behavioral observations, including focal and scan sampling, with a hands-on exercise on activity budget calculation. After a tea break, Shri Abhishek Choudhury (WBFS), Assistant Director, NBWAP discussed environmental enrichment, its purpose, and its impact on captive animals. The Zoo Biologist then explained the importance of record-keeping in zoos, detailing various records and software like ZIMS and Med ZIMS for conservation planning. In the afternoon, participants visited the historic Coronation Bridge.

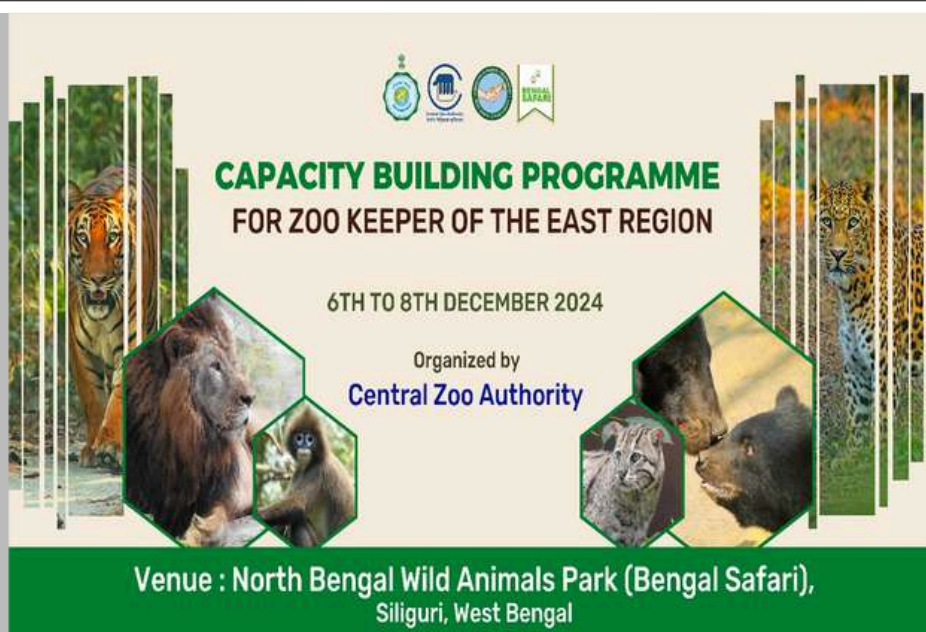


On 8th December 2024, the last day of the zookeeper training started with Dr. Bijoy Kumar Gogoi's presentation on basic zoo animal husbandry, covering housing, enrichment, diet, disinfection, and veterinary care. Dr. Joy Dey, Assistant Director cum Veterinary Officer, Darjeeling Zoo then discussed common diseases in captive animals, their causes, symptoms, and preventive measures, underlining the importance of keepers in daily observation and hygiene maintenance. Dr. Proloy Mondal, Assistant Director, ARD, Kolkata highlighted signs of ill health in zoo animals, urging keepers to report abnormalities promptly. Participants then visited the zoo hospital for hands-on training in tranquilization, drug use, and animal capture. After lunch, Dr. Nick Doley, Veterinary Officer and Dr. Ruhul Amin, Hon. Veterinary Officer presented on feeding strategies in captivity, focusing on food quality, quantity, and feeding structures. The training was concluded with a valedictory session, wherein Shri Rajesh Kumar (IFS), emphasized the importance of the program in increasing zookeeper knowledge and responsibility. The certificates and souvenirs were distributed before Shri E. Vijaya Kumar IFS formally closed the program.



PARTICIPANTS LIST

SL.NO	NAME OF THE PARTICIPANT	NAME OF THE ZOO	STATE
1	Mr.Firoj Kamal	Adina Deer Park, Malda.	West Bengal
2	Mr. Rabindranath Pal	Bardhaman Zoological Park.	West Bengal
3	Mr. Jaganath Jani	Taptapani Mini Zoo	Odisha
4	Mr. Bhaskar Samal	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Odisha
5	Mr. Trilochan Samal	Nandankanan Zoological Park	Odisha
6	Mr. Dipankar Sarkar	Rasikbeel Mini Zoo	West Bengal
7	Susonta Kr Dhaunlia	Wild Animal Conservation Centre	Odisha
8	MD. Ramjan	Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park	Bihar
9	Ausbin Gurung	Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park	West Bengal
10	Dewvrath Varma	Nandanvan Jungle Safari	Odisha
11	Mahesh Sahu	Nandanvan Jungle Safari	Odisha
12	Aloke Paul	Harinalaya, Newtown, Kolkata	West Bengal
13	Mr. Partha Sarathi Sinha	South Khairbari Mini Zoo	West Bengal
14	Dubraj Mandi	Tata Steel Zoological Garden	Jharkhand
15	Ganesh Rajwar	Surulia Mini Zoo	West Bengal
16	Sahebram Murmu	Junglemahal Zoological Park	West Bengal
17	Ritesh Kumar Ram	Jhargram Division	West Bengal
18	Mr. Ranjit Manna	Garchumuk Zoological Park	West Bengal
19	Rakesh Tamang	North Bengal Wild Animals Park	West Bengal
20	Bijay Majhi	North Bengal Wild Animals Park	West Bengal
21	Mr. Mukesh Kaushik	Kanan Pendari Zoological Garden	Chhattisgarh
22	Mr. Kalesh Sahu	Kanan Pendari Zoological Garden	Chhattisgarh
23	Pijush Barhai	Sundarban Wild Animal Park	West Bengal



The poster features a central title 'CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR ZOO KEEPER OF THE EAST REGION' in bold green and black text. Below the title, the dates '6TH TO 8TH DECEMBER 2024' are displayed. The organizing body, 'Central Zoo Authority', is mentioned below the dates. The venue, 'North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari), Siliguri, West Bengal', is listed at the bottom. The poster is decorated with images of various animals: a tiger, a lion, a monkey, a bear, and a leopard. At the top, there are logos of the Central Zoo Authority and other related organizations.

**CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME
FOR ZOO KEEPER OF THE EAST REGION**

6TH TO 8TH DECEMBER 2024

Organized by
Central Zoo Authority

**Venue : North Bengal Wild Animals Park (Bengal Safari),
Siliguri, West Bengal**



VISIT OF HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, WB, SMT. BIRBAHA HANSDA.

On 12th November 2024, Smt. Birbaha Hansda, Hon'ble Minister of State (IC), Department of Forests and Department of SHG & SE, Government of West Bengal, inaugurated the Kids Adventure Park, Porcupine Shelter, and Small Water Bird Aviary at North Bengal Wild Animals Park.

The occasion was blessed with the presence of dignitaries, 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 (N); Shri S K Moley, IFS, CCF Northern Circle; Shri Samir Gajmer, IFS, CCF Hill Circle; Shri Apurba Sen, IFS, CCF & FD BTR; Shri SSSS Sherpa, IFS, CF Research, and many other forest officers.

A Manual Enrichment Handbook for North Bengal Wild Animals Park was officially published on this day.



Enrichment Practiced During This Quarter

NBWAP pursued in this quarter a range of enrichments, such as food-based cognitive enrichment, sensory, olfactory, and physical enrichment, following the zoo's usual enrichment calendar.





Research Projects At NBWAP

Project 1: Study on Dung/Scat Analysis of Herbivore Animals To Analyse The Presence of Gut Parasites

The Project Report has been compiled and submitted by the Co-investigators'. Submission to WBZA followed by printing of the report is under progress.

Project 2: Captive Breeding & Management of Bengal Tiger

The report is being finalized by the research investigators.

Project 3: The Study of Haematological and Biochemical values of Captive Asiatic Elephant

The second phase of field work was initiated. Blood samples from sixteen healthy elephants kept at Galdapara National Park were collected on 29th November 2024 and analysed at the Veterinary Laboratory of the park. Data generated were entered in excel sheet and a master data sheet was prepared for final data analysis. Communication for permission for blood sample collection from the captives of Jaldapara National Park is in progress.



Project 4: Hair Histology of some wild animals in captivity at North Bengal Wild Animals Park.

The project has been taken up by the Veterinary Section of the park. Mr. Bhairab Kumar Singha has joined as the Research Scholar on 02/12/2024 in the present research project.

Project 5: Behavioral Study for the Conservation Breeding of Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) at North Bengal Wild Animals Park

The project has been taken up by the Research Section of the park. The Research Scholar Ms. Esha Bhattachary has joined on 02/12/2024.

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

The project has been taken up by the Research Section of the park. The Research Scholar Ms. Nabanita Paul has joined on 15/12/2024.

DEVELOPMENTAL WORK & OTHERS



Vertical extension for existing herbivore fencing for conversion to carnivore boundary fencing (L-1300.00 m at NBWAP)



Extension of Herbivore Enclosure Walls, 750.00 m at NBWP completed on 29/10/2024

Procurement of Urine analyser at the Laboratory of the Veterinary hospital of the park.



SCHOOL/COLLEGE/INSTITUTION VISITS IN THIS QUARTER

S. No	Date	Name of the School/Training Institute/College	Total visitors
1	26/10/2024	Glenhill Public School, Kurseong.	15
2	06/11/2024	Morning Star English School, Khoribari.	94
3	14/11/2024	Orchid Montessori House, Siliguri.	82
4	14/11/2024	Friendship English School, Dudhia.	31
5	14/11/2024	Birla Divya Jyoti School, Matigara.	278
6	14/11/2024	St. Capitanio Girls High School, Jalpaiguri.	115
7	14/11/2024	Netaji High School, Ghayabari	37
8	14/11/2024	Gokhale Memorial Girls School, Kolkata.	120
9	15/11/2024	Lawrance Academy Damdim, Jalpaiguri.	71
10	15/11/2024	Ambiok Primary School, Gorubathan.	24
11	15/11/2024	Himalayan Academy School, Lankapara Tea Garden.	61
12	16/11/2024	National Marigold English School, Nepal.	29
13	22/11/2024	Happy Trails Elementary School, Champasari.	18
14	27/11/2024	Campion International School, Siliguri.	68
15	17/12/2024	Swami Swarupananda Vidyalay, Siliguri.	17
16	17/12/2024	Sewly High School, Barrackpore.	41
17	18/12/2024	Middle Suruk SSK School, Jaldhaka.	10
18	13/12/2024	Anupnagar KFJ Vidya Bhawan, Malda.	74

ADOPTION DURING THIS QUARTER

Congratulations to Ms. Jhuma Baral for adopting a Scarlet Macaw and Dr. Debjani Das for adopting a Hornbill, both for a year. Their contribution towards the management of these captives are highly appreciated.



DIGNITARIES VISITS AT NBWAP

It was very fascinating experience to visit this safari. The Bengal tigers was the best of todays visit. The elephant ride was very enjoyable. A well maintained safari. Appreciation to the Director and his team for maintaining this safari so well.

D. Anandan (IAS)
Principal Secretary,
Rural Development Dept,
Government of Sikkim.
13/10/2024

It was a real pleasure. The zoo and the safari were well maintained & decorative. We could spot most of the wild animals . The safari has developed well over the few years and will definitely be more attractive in the future.

Manoj Kumar Agrawal (IAS)
Additional Chief Secretary,
WB Dept.
18/11/2024

Wonderful experience visiting safari. Well maintained natural habitat. Nice staff. Best wishes!!

Rajiv Kapoor (IRS Officer)
07/12/2024

Amazing experience and unique experience. Thankyou so much for hosting us. Thankyou!!

Ms. Nisha Gupta (IRS Officer).
07/12/2024

Amazing experience and very well guided tour arrangements. Wishing all the very best for future experience.

Ms. Shrunkhala Kangale (IRS Officer)
07/12/2024

Wonderful experience and goof infrastructure regarding captive tigers.

Shri. Paritosh Kumar Mishra
Deputy Commissioner State Tax (GST)
Uttar Pradesh
07/12/2024

Always soothing to see wildlife in their natural habitat. Thanks for your hospitality.

Shri. Manvendra Singh Parihar,
DCST, Bihar
07/12/2024

Memorable and amazing experience to watch the wild animals. Indeed enjoyed a lot.

Shri. Dev Anand,
Deputy Commissioner,
Bihar.
07/12/2024

Without seeing Bengal tiger, the tour doesn't complete. Excellent & well maintained safari of Bengal. Will visit again.

B. Nagaraja Rao

**Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes,
Bengaluru,
Karnataka.
07/12/2024**

Excellent place for nature education, awareness and nature based entertainment. Park well maintained. Thanks to the Director.

**Shri. Pradeep Vyas (IFS Retd)
Ex CWWLW, WB. Vigilance Commissioner, WB
23/12/24**

A wonderful and unique experience. The guide explained everything very well. The warmth & hospitality of the staff/ officers is commendable. Thankyou so much for this experience.

**Justice Suvra Ghosh
Kolkata High Court
24/12/2024**

Very well organized, systematic, and well maintained setup to give the tourist the perfect excitement towards wildlife. A big thanks to the entire team.

**Shri. Siddhartha Sankar Ray
Indian Musician Kolkata, WB.
19/12/2024**

Visited Bengal Safari Park after a gap of six years. During my posting as APCCFA, NB it was being developed, and now many more items have been added. It is the only tourist spot at Siliguri. Thanks to Mr. EVijaya Kumar (IFS), Director for doing good work here.

**Shri. MR Baloch (IFS)
PCCF (JICA) WB
26/12/2024**



NATALITY RECORD FOR THIS QUARTER

S.NO	Births Recorded	DOB	Sex Identified
1	Sangai Deer (<i>Rucervus eldii eldii</i>)	6 th November 2024	Male
2	Indian Crested Porcupine (<i>Hystrix indica</i>)	19 th November 2024	Unidentified
3	Sangai Deer (<i>Rucervus eldii eldii</i>)	21 st November 2024	Unidentified
4	Sangai Deer (<i>Rucervus eldii eldii</i>)	18 th December 2024	Unidentified
5	Sangai Deer (<i>Rucervus eldii eldii</i>)	28 th December 2024	Unidentified
6	Royal Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>) cub 1	4 th December 2024	Male
7	Royal Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>) cub 2	4 th December 2024	Male
8	Royal Bengal Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>) cub 3	4 th December 2024	Unknown

MORTALITY RECORD FOR THIS QUARTER

S.NO	SPECIES	Sex	DATE OF DEATH
1	Sambar Deer	M	13/10/2024
2	Red Jungle Fowl	F	29/20/2024
3	Grey Parrot	U	01/11/2024
4	Asiatic Elephant (Laxmi)	F	15/11/2024
5	Indian Crested Porcupine	U	21/11/2024
6	Royal Bengal Tiger Cub 1	M	04/12/2024
7	Royal Bengal Tiger Cub 2	M	05/12/2024
8	Royal Bengal Tiger Cub 3	M	05/12/2024
9	Silver Pheasant	M	24/11/2024
10	Asian Plam Civet (Mansingh)	M	01/12/2024

