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# BENGAL SAFARI NEWS

TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH



**THE BENGAL SAFARI IS  
FLOURISHING WITH THE  
MAJESTIC ROAR OF  
ASIATIC LIONS.**



The Bengal Safari is thriving with the majestic roars of Asiatic lions (*Panthera leo*). In an exciting development on February 12, 2024, a pair of Asiatic lions (1:1) made their way from the Sepahijala Zoological Park in Tripura to the North Bengal Wild Animals Park in Siliguri. The lions were safely transported in a specialized animal ambulance, escorted by a security vehicle, adhering to all regulations outlined by the Central Zoo Authority. Additionally, a vast 20-hectare section has been allocated for the Lion Safari, featuring night shelters, display kraal, and enrichments for the lions.

The lions are currently undergoing quarantine for a few weeks before being introduced to the display kraal with natural enrichments. Once they acclimate to their new habitat and surroundings, they will be released into the safari area.

The arrival of these majestic creatures marked a significant milestone for the Bengal Safari, adding to the diversity and beauty of the wildlife park. The Veterinary team, animal attendants and park staff ensured that they received the best care and attention, providing them with a safe and comfortable environment to thrive in. The lions' presence not only enriched the safari experience for visitors but also contributed to the conservation efforts aimed at protecting these endangered species.

## AQUISITION OF ANIMALS IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2024



Spectacled Langur in the enclosure at NBWAP, Siliguri



The following animals were acquired by the North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri from the Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura on 8th February 2024.

Species	Ratio	Total
1. Asiatic Lion ( <i>Panthera leo</i> )	1:1	2
2. Spectacled Langur ( <i>Trachypithecus obscurus</i> )	1:1	2
3. Leopard Cat ( <i>Felis bengalensis</i> )	1:1	2
4. Black Buck ( <i>Antelope cervicapra</i> )	2:2	4

On February 25th, 2024, approximately 55 trainees from the States Forest Training Institute, Hijli 71st batch of Forest Guards visited the Bengal Safari during their educational excursion. They were able to enjoy both a guided foot tour of the zoo and all the safaris.

The guided foot tour offered an up-close encounter with various indigenous and exotic species, emphasizing the significance of conservation efforts. The trainees expressed their admiration for Bengal Safari's breeding programs and habitat restoration initiatives.

The safari was a highlight of the trip, providing a chance to observe the animals in their natural habitats. The trainees were introduced to a diverse range of species, which left them awestruck.

Overall, the field trip proved to be an enriching and unifying experience for the trainees, fostering an appreciation for nature and highlighting the crucial importance of wildlife conservation. It also emphasized the role of zoos in such efforts.



## EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION FOR THE 71ST FOREST GUARD BATCH AT BENGAL SAFARI

## FEBRUARY 2024, VISITOR NUMBERS AND REVENUE



During February, Bengal Safari experienced remarkable success, with 31,677 individuals exploring its wildlife and natural splendour. The park also achieved an impressive revenue of Rs 63,18,333 during this period, demonstrating its popularity and appeal as a delightful destination.



# ENHANCING ANIMAL WELFARE: IMPLEMENTING FEED & STRUCTURAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS AT BENGAL SAFARI



To improve the well-being of animals kept in zoos, feed & structural enrichment is essential. It offers cognitive stimulation, motivates physical activity, and fosters behavioural diversity by imitating natural foraging behaviours. Boredom, stereotypical behaviours, and related health problems are avoided with this proactive approach. Differentiating stimuli enhances the overall welfare of zoo animals by fostering a more dynamic and engaging living environment, which is the general idea behind enrichment programs at zoos. Considering these facts, various feed & structural enrichments were incorporated into the enclosures at the various animal sections at North Bengal Wild Animals Park (NBWAP) in the month of February 2024.



Feeding and structural enrichment in Great Argus enclosure.



Habitat enrichment in Spectacled Langur enclosure.



Feeding enrichment in Leopard section.



The keepers carefully scattered the meat in various spots around the Leopard section, hidden from plain view. This encouraged the leopards to use their natural instincts and problem-solving skills to locate their food, providing mental stimulation and enhancing their cognitive abilities. As the majestic big cats prowled and searched for their meals, they not only satisfied their hunger but also engaged in a fun and challenging activity that enriched their lives in captivity.

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

- The Research Assistant (Ms Prishka Pariyar) is working on the compilation of the final report. Chapter 2 on annotation notes and the study area was completed. Data compilation and further analysis are in progress.

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

- Statistical analysis for the interim report has been completed. The Research Assistant (Ms Prishka Pariyar) is presently compiling the interim report. Further, blood samples from our in-house elephants (Laxmi and Urmila) were collected and analysed for hematobiochemical parameters.

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

- The research scholar (Ms Karabi Roy Pramanik) is presently compiling data of behavioural observations for further analysis. Observations of the captive tigers along with manuscript writing are in progress.



# WORK PROGRESS OF RESEARCH PROJECTS AS OF FEBRUARY 2024



The Veterinary Assistant is collecting the blood samples for the analysis of hematobiochemical parameters.

## SUCCESSFUL RESCUE AND TREATMENT OF A MALAYAN TAPIR IN FEBRUARY AT BENGAL SAFARI.



On February 16, 2024, a male Malayan Tapir was rescued by the Ramsai Range team from the Jalpaiguri Forest Division. The tapir was then taken to the Bengal Safari veterinary hospital for medical care. After making a full recovery, it was moved to the Alipur Zoological Garden in Kolkata.



While observing the rescued Malayan Tapir at the Bengal Safari Veterinary Hospital, the veterinary team was closely monitoring its condition.

# EDUCATIONAL VISITS IN FEBRUARY

In February, Bengal Safari welcomed multiple educational institutions for academic visits. Ummeed Public School from Dimrulla, Islampur, brought 56 students for an educational excursion. Additionally, Seemanehal English School from Baisi Purnea also visited the park with 56 students for educational tour purposes.



# DEGNITARY VISITS IN FEBRUARY



**Shri Anupam Kumar Raha**, Public Relations Officer at the President's Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi, visited Bengal Safari on February 17th, 2024. During the visit, he commended the staff for their dedication to conservation and praised the park's efforts in preserving endangered species. (Fig- Shri Anupam Raha with Director and Assistant Director of North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri)



**Shri Sanjay Mukherjee, IPS**, Director General Of Police, West Bengal, praised Bengal Safari during his visit for its conservation efforts, unique wildlife experiences, and dedication to animal welfare. His visit emphasized the importance of wildlife conservation and ecotourism, highlighting Bengal Safari as a top destination for nature lovers. (Fig-Shri Sanjay Mukherjee, IPS with Assistant Director of North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri )

# ANIMAL ADOPTION IN FEBRUARY

 **Adopt an animal** 



**ADOPTER**  
**JUNA GURUNG**  
adopted  
**INDIAN PEAFOWL**

For The Period Of 1 Year  
From  
**29.02.2024 to 28.02.2025**  
Address :  
Demadema, Siligara,  
Jalpaiguri, 734008

**BENGAL SAFARI**  
SILIGURI

