



NEWSLETTER, ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, ALIPORE, HALF YEARLY, OCTOBER' 2018 TO MARCH' 2019

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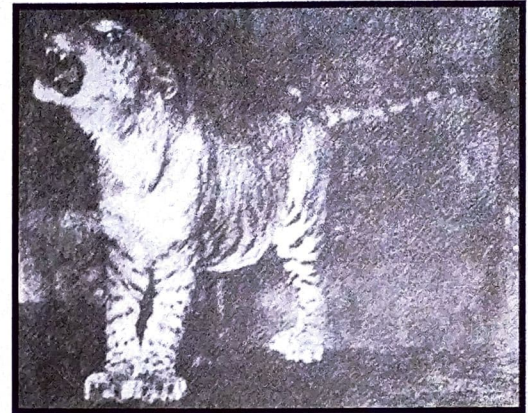
From The Director's Desk:

We are happily presenting the fifth edition of Zoo Newsletter, covering zoo news from October, 2018 to March, 2019 of Zoological Garden, Alipore. In this period we have achieved great success on captive breeding, educational activities and adoption. We hope everyone who will get this can enjoy at their fullest.



Asis Kumar Samanta, IFS
Director

Zoological Garden, Alipore



The Litigon Cubanacan

Animal Hybridization is an interesting and fascinating concept of breeding in captivity. Although the animal hybrid has little or no scientific value, it has tremendous exhibit value. The experimental production of the Litigon in this Zoo is the first of its kind in the world. The tigon was produced experimentally by pairing a Bengal Tiger 'Munna' and a female African Lioness 'Munni'. The experiment began here in 1964, but the first successful birth was in 1974. At birth, the Tigon resembles a tiger. On attaining maturity the stripes become faint and the body colour becomes tawny like the lions. It roars like a lion but for a shorter duration.

The offspring of a lion and a female tigon is called a litigon. The first litigon was produced by crossing Tigon 'Rudrani' with 'Debabrata', an Indian Lion, on March 7, 1979. The animal was named 'Cubanacan' by His Excellency Jose Lopez Sanchez, The Ambassador of Cuba in India on March 8, 1980. Cubanacan, on attaining maturity was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records (1985) as the largest Feline in the World. The litigon too resembles a tiger at birth but later the colour becomes tawny with black spots and very faint stripes. The male litigon has a scanty mane.

New Borns:

A number of new members joined the Zoo Family during the period of October, 2018 to March, 2019. A few of those are mentioned below.

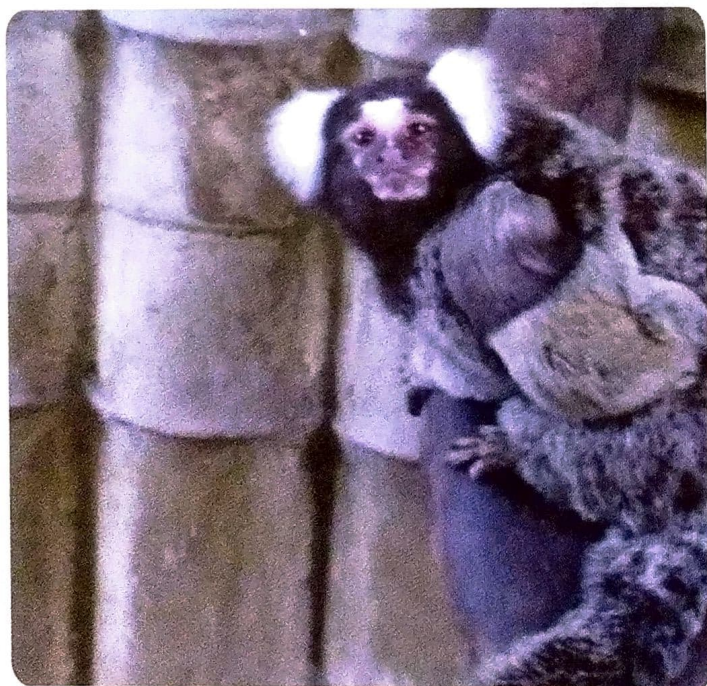
- In January, a new spotted deer fawn was born on 30.01.2019.
- In February a number of newborns were added. First, there was a mousedeer fawn born on 02.02.2019 then another one was born on 10.02.2019. On the same day, another spotted deer fawn was born.
- In March, 2019, a marmoset was born. In the same month, towards the end, 2nos of Chinese Silver Pheasant and 1no of Kalij Pheasant were also born.



Spotted Deer



Mousedeer fawn



Marmoset with the baby



Chinese Silver Pheasant chick



Inauguration of the Zoo Festival, 2018 by lighting lamp



Inaugural speech by Janab Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Minister In Charge, Urban Development, Govt. of West Bengal



Sri Binoy Krishna Barman, Hon'ble Minister In Charge, Forests, Govt. of West Bengal addressing the audience

Zoo Festival, 2018:

Zoological Garden, Alipore hosted a five day long celebration of the Zoo Festival for the 2nd consecutive year. The 2nd Zoo Festival started on 14th November, on the joyous occasion of Children's day and ended on 18th November. The Festival was inaugurated by Janab Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Minister In Charge, Urban Development, Govt. of West Bengal, and Sri Binoy Krishna Barman, Hon'ble Minister In Charge, Forests, Govt. of West Bengal, Sri. N.K. Pandey; IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Govt. of West Bengal, Sri V.K. Yadav, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority, Govt. of West Bengal, Smt. Alka Yadav, Sri Arunava Roy, Director, Doordarshan, Sri Soumindranath Majumder, Professor of Art College. The Inauguration programme was held at the Nature Information Centre Auditorium within the Zoo premises, in the presence of esteemed members of Zoo Authority and other officials and dignitaries.

14.11.2018: Inauguration and Painting Competition:

The First day of the event was marked by a painting competition involving several school students accompanied by their nominated teachers, who participated in the event. The students were divided into three groups according to their Classes. Group A consisted of students belonging to classes V to VII, Group B classes VIII to X and Group C Classes XI and XII. A total number of 180 students from 50 different schools participated in the competition on the first day. The competition was judged by respected judges Smt. Alka Yadav and renowned artists Sri Gopal Das and Sri Soumindranath Majumder. The warm presence of Sri Arunava Roy, Director, Doordarshan made the event spectacular.



Participants during the painting competition



Painting of a student during the competition



Workshop carried out by trainer Sri Ayan Banerjee



A participant making a model



Judges during the competition

15.11.2018: Clay Modelling Competition:

The 2nd day's event was 'Clay Modelling' For School students. There were three groups for School students. Group A for classes V – VII, Group B For classes VIII - X and Group C For Classes XI & XII. The day was enlightened by the warm presence of esteemed judges Smt. Alka Yadav, Sri Soumindranath Majumder, Professor of Art College, Sujit Ghosh, Artist, Sri Bimal Kundu, Sculpturist and Smt Sumita Ghatak, Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Planning and Research Circle, West Bengal. The trainers for the clay modelling event were Sri Ayan Banerjee, Sri Sanjit Biswas and Smt. Tania Halder. Today around 90 students from 29 schools participated in the event. With the students around 32 teachers came from the schools. The day was full of creativity and all the participants worked enthusiastically for the competition.

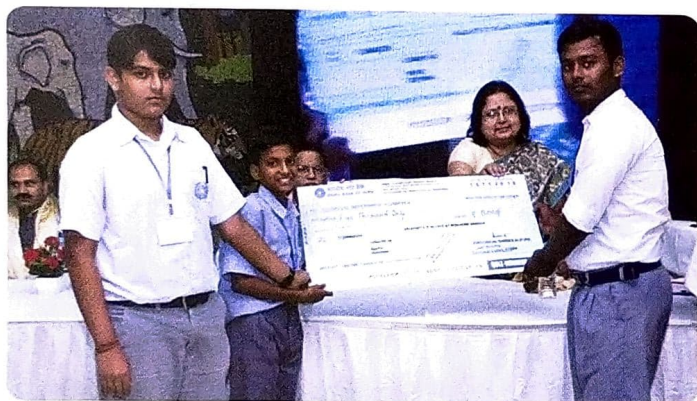
Zoo Educational & Training activities:

16.11.2018: 3rd day of 2nd Zoo Festival: Quiz Competition:

On 16th November, the 3rd day of the 2nd Zoo Festival, many schools and colleges participated in the Quiz Competition. The day was enlightened by the presence of esteemed guests Sri Prasanta Saha; Chairman and Smt. Saswati Sen; State Director of WWF.

The Pre-lunch session observed the Bengali and English categories of quiz competition for school students. This session was conducted by Dr. Piyali Chatterjee, Deputy Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore and Sri Subrata Palchowdhury, Technical Assistant, Wildlife Wing and Sri Pradeep Kumar Datta, Assistant Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore were the judges in this session. Initially, around 37 teams from 25 different schools participated in the screening round and after that 5 teams each for Bengali and English category were selected for the final rounds.

After lunch, we gathered for the quiz competition of the Colleges. This session was conducted by Sri Subrata Palchowdhury, Technical Assistant, Wildlife Wing and Sri Pradeep Kumar Datta, Assistant Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore and Smt Joyeeta Dutta Hajra were the judges in this session. Initially, around 29 teams from 16 different colleges participated in the screening round and after that 5 teams each for Bengali and English category were selected for the final rounds. Sri Arunava Roy, Director, Doordashan was present for the prize distribution session. The day ended with a positive note and paved the way for the next day's events.



Winner of Quiz competition for School



Winner of Quiz competition for College

Date: 17.11.2018: 4th Day of 2nd Zoo Festival, 2018:

On the 4th day of the Zoo Festival, the event was 'Extempore Speech' For Schools and Colleges. There were two categories for both schools and colleges. The categories were Bengali and English. The day was enlightened by the warm presence of honourable guests Sri V.K. Yadav, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority, Smt. Alka Yadav, Smt. Moupiya Nandi; Journalist at 24 Ghanta news channel, Dr. Sushanto Roychowdhury; Ex-Professor, Wildlife Institute, Dehradun, Sri Debal Roy; IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Project Director West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project, Sri Sumit Sen; famous Ornithologist, Sri. Piar Chand; IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director, Biosphere Reserve West Bengal, Smt. Sharmila Mitra; Chairman, School Service Commission, West Bengal, Sri Joydeep Kundu; Secretary SHER and member of State Wildlife Board.

22 schools participated in the 'Extempore Speech' competition. From these schools, 71 students participated in the event. Out of them 36 students took part in category Bengali and 35 students took part in category English. With the participants total 30 teachers came from 22 schools. 13 colleges participated in the 'Extempore Speech' competition. From these colleges 36 students participated in the event. Out of 36 participants 20 students participated in the category Bengali and 16 students participated in category English and 16 teachers were present from the colleges. The event for schools occurred in pre-lunch session and event for colleges occurred in post-lunch session.



Participants of the Extempore competition



Our esteemed Guests and judges of the day



Smt. Maupiya Nandi, Judge, during a speech



Judges and organisers during the programme

Date: 18.11.2018: 5th Day of 2nd Zoo Festival, 2018:

The 5th day of the 2nd Zoo Festival observed Craft Competition, which had two categories. Those were Mask Making (Group A) and T-shirt Painting (Group B). Both the Mask Making and T-shirt Painting were for schools. And only T-shirt Painting category (Group C) for colleges. The event was glorified by the presence of our honourable guests Sri S. Barari; IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, General, West Bengal, Sri V.K. Yadav; IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, West Bengal Zoo Authority, Smt. Alka Yadav, Sri Sanjit Biswas; Sri Gopal Das; Sri Sabyasachi Chakraborty; Famous Wildlife Photographer and Eminent Actor, Sri Ayan Banerjee; (Trainer), Smt Tania Halder; (Trainer). A total number of 33 Schools participated the event and around 121 students participated. Out of them 44 students participated in the Mask Making and 77 students participated in the T-shirt Painting category. 31 teachers came from the schools. 12 Colleges participated in the T-shirt Painting category. 43 students were participated in the event. 7 teachers came from the colleges. The event for schools occurred in pre-lunch session and event for colleges occurred in post-lunch session.



Students with their work



T-shirt painting for school students



Felicitation of Sri Sabyasachi Chakraborty, Eminent Actor



Prize distribution

Zoo Educational & Training activities:

East India Tour Programme of Range officers from Tamilnadu:

The East India tour programme of Forest Range officers took place on 14th January, 2019 at Zoological Garden, Alipore. Smt. Priyadarshini, IFS, Deputy Director, Tamilnadu Forest Academy coordinated the entire programme. The group of 33 individuals including 2 faculties and 31 trainees, of which 12 were ladies. A brief presentation was given on the activities and management of the Zoological Garden, Alipore. The Zoo Biologist, Zoo Dietician, Zoo Educator and Education Assistant took part in the programme. Sri Pradeep Kumar Datta, Assistant Director of Zoological Garden, Alipore also participated in the guided Zoo visit followed by the presentation.



The group of visiting trainee Range Officers



Guided Zoo Visit



Smt. Priyadarshini, IFS, Deputy Director, Tamilnadu Forest Academy discussion in a with Sri Pradeep Kumar Datta, Assistant Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore

Visit of NCC Cadets:

A group of 90 trainees of NCC Cadets came for a visit to Zoological Garden, Alipore on 20th January, 2019. Sri Pradeep Kumar Datta, Assistant Director of Zoological Garden, Alipore along with other officials and staffs of the Zoo attended the programme. An interactive presentation on the management of Zoological Garden, Alipore was given by the Zoo Educator and Education Assistant. The presentation was followed by a guided visit of the Zoo.

Training of Forest Guards from Kharagpur:

38 Forest Guard trainees came for a visit and training along with their Instructor Sri Mantu Roy from Kharagpur Division. A brief presentation on the activities and management of Zoological Garden, Alipore was presented by Zoo Educator, Zoo Biologist, Zoo Dietician and Education Assistant.



The group of visiting trainee range officers along with the officials of Zoological Garden, Alipore



Zoo Educational & Training activities:



Trainee students from Adamas Law School:

A group of 30 students along with one faculty member came for an excursion to the Zoo to get more knowledge of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and its applicability at the Zoological Garden, Alipore. An interactive presentation on zoo management was given by Zoo Educator and Education Assistant followed by a discussion session with Sri Pradip Kumar Datta, Assistant Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore. The programme ended with a guided zoo visit for the visiting students.

The visiting students from Adamas Law School with the Officials and staff of Zoological Garden, Alipore

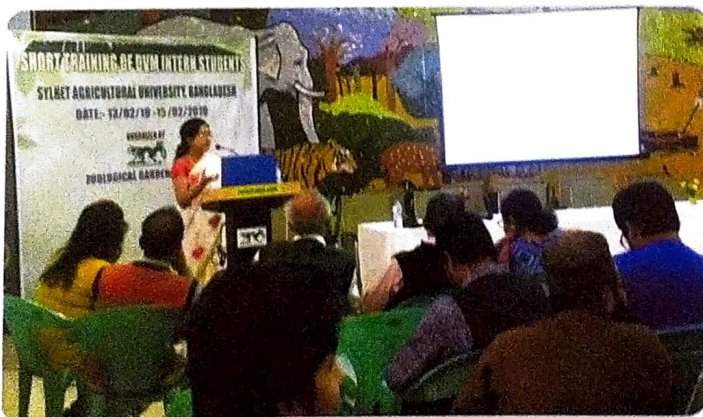
DVM Intern Training:

A short training programme for DVM Interns from Sylhet Agricultural University, Bangladesh was organised by Zoological Garden, Alipore. The programme was held from 13th to 15th February, 2019. The training programme contained lectures and presentations from our experience officials. The Veterinary Officers, Visiting Officials from ARD and WBVAHFS, Zoo Biologist and Zoo Dietician gave speech in the programme. It was followed by practical training of the visiting interns.



Trainees during the programme

Opening song by Dr. Piyali Chattopadhyay, Deputy Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore, Zoo Biologist, Zoological Garden, Alipore and Education Assistant, Zoological Garden, Alipore



Smt. Runia Ghatak, Zoo Dietician, Zoological Garden, Alipore giving presentation

Felicitation of Sri Asis Kr. Samanta, IFS, Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore by the delegates of Sylhet Agricultural University, Bangladesh

Zoo Educational & Training activities:



Dr. Rudradeb Mukherjea, Veterinary Officer, Zoological Garden, Alipore during his speech



Felicitation of Dr. Piyali Chattopadhyay, Deputy Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore by the delegates of Sylhet Agricultural University, Bangladesh



Felicitation of Sri Pradip Kumar Datta, Assistant Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore by the delegates of Sylhet Agricultural University, Bangladesh

World Wildlife Day:

World Wildlife Day was celebrated in the Zoological Garden, Alipore on 5th March, 2019 in collaboration with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and West Bengal Forest Department. 70 students from Asutosh College and Narsinha Dutt College participated in the programme. 2 faculties from each college also participated. After inaugural speech by Sri Agni Mitra, IFS, Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Board, a guided tour was conducted by Zoo Educator and Education Assistant. After that a quiz competition was held on wildlife by Smt. Niranjita Mitra, DCF, Publicity, Dept. of Forests, West Bengal. This was followed by an interactive presentation by Sri Agni Mitra IFS, Regional Deputy Director, WCCB. Later prize distribution ceremony was held.



World Wildlife Day, 2019



Guided zoo visit by Zoo Educator and Education Assistant



Guided zoo Visit by Zoo Educator and Education Assistant



The entire group who participated in the day's events



Demonstration of equipments used in animal handling



Demonstration of Crocodile Capture procedure



Treatment process demonstration

Training Programme on Capturing of Deer and other Animals:

Zoological Garden, Alipore organized a two day training programme on 28th-29th March, 2019 for the Zoo Keepers and Animal Attendants of different Zoos of West Bengal for the betterment of the Keepers and Animal Attendant and the Zoos. Around 140 trainees participated in the programme. Sri Subrata Pal Chowdhury, Technical Assistant, Wildlife Wing, Govt. of West Bengal conducted and trained the participants. Veterinary officers of Zoological Garden, Alipore were also present at the event. The entire training was quite interesting and interactive. Different aspects were discussed in a very lively and practical way. All the Zoo Keepers and Animal Attendant of Zoological Garden, Alipore participated in the programme. From other Zoos 2 nos. of keepers each participated in this event. The participating Zoos of West Bengal are: Harinalaya Deer Park, Kolkata; Garchumuk Deer Park, Howrah; South Khairbari Rescue Centre, Aliporeduar; Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling; Adina Deer Park, Malda; Burdwan Zoological Park, Burdwan; North Bengal Wild Animals Park, Siliguri; Surulia Mini Zoo, Sundarban Wild Animal Park, Jharkhali; Jungle Mahal Zoological Park, Jhargram; and Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata.

Zoo Educational & Training activities:



Training on Equipment Handling



Display of the net used in Deer Capture

Other Programmes:

Visit from Vishakhapatnam Zoo:

A group of 5 officials- Deputy Director, Zoo Education Officer, Veterinary Officer, and Assistant Curator from Vishakhapatnam Zoo visited Zoological Garden, Alipore from 2nd January to 3rd January, 2019.



The visiting team with staff and officials of Zoological Garden, Alipore



Training session at the Zoo Library



Training session at the Zoo Library



Guided Zoo Visit for the visiting team from Vishakhapatnam Zoo

Transfer of Giraffe:

A male and a female Giraffe were transported to Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad from Zoological Garden, Alipore on 3rd March, 2019. The Giraffes reached Hyderabad on 7th March, 2019.



Year-round awareness programme:

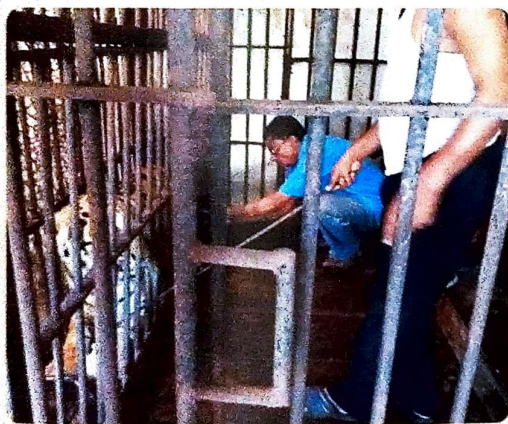
All over the period from October, 2018 to March, 2019 brief awareness programmes on wildlife were organized for the visiting schools and colleges by Zoo Educator and Education Assistant. Some of the schools are: Paharpur Junior High School, Sterling International School, Kalighat Mahakali Pathsala etc.



Veterinary Care:

Besides regular health management, our veterinary section engaged in following works.

- One rescued cassowary chick was suffering from corneal opacity and panophthalmia due to self trauma. The bird was treated with local irrigation of normal saline and metronidazole infusion with topical application of antibiotic drop. The slowly improved and complete recovery was seen after one month. One rescued cockatoo showed symptoms of bacterial enteritis with dehydration. The bird was administered normal saline subcutaneously and parenteral sulphur drug was given for 7 days and the bird was cured.
- A yellow monitor of the zoo was suffering from abscess in right fore paw. Surgical drainage was followed by irrigation of abscess cavity with counter irritant. Thereafter regular dressing of surgical wound with povidone-iodine and Parenteral antibiotic for 5 days & analgesics for 2 days were also administered.
- Early recognition of FMD viral infection in barking deer through clinical signs and hoof lesions of affected barking deers were collected in transport media and sent to IAH&VB, Kolkata. IAH&VB confirmed these cases as "O" Type FMD viral infection. Individual animals were treated with symptomatic treatment and local dressing with 2% KMnO₄ solution and fly repellent spray. All herbivores under risk were given a prophylactic homeopathic medicine (variolinum) for prevention of FMD. Strict bio-security measures like restrictions of persons other than specific keeper and veterinary assistant (they were not allowed in other parts of zoo) in affected area, strict use of personal protection kit within affected area, all daily residual in affected area was destroyed through burning, use of foot bath and virucidal VIRKON-S spraying within all enclosure premises, roads were sprayed with 6% hypochloride solution, and all vehicle entering in zoo were also sprayed with 6% sodium hypochloride. Due to all these measures we had prevented transmission of infection to other herbivores.
- Detection & Management of Mycoplasmosis in tigress (Payel) through blood smear from peripheral blood and sent to IAH & VB, Kolkata. They confirmed the case as hemoplasmosis. We started the treatment with oral choice of drug i.e. doxycycline for 28 days and the animal responded.
- Diagnosis of Canine Distemper in a deceased fishing cat through blood and visceral sampling to IAH&VB, Kolkata and they confirmed it as canine distemper.
- First time Use of canary pox vectored Canine distemper vaccination to felids of this zoo. Initially each animal has to be given three shots of 1ml subcutaneously in 21 days interval thereafter once in a year.



Treatment of tiger



Concluding session of training course on wildlife health management participated by Dr. Majie, V.O.

FMD management and security measures prevention transmission disable

Total Schools and Colleges visited Zoological Garden, Alipore during the said period:

MONTH	TOTAL NO. OF SCHOOLS	TOTAL NO. OF COLLEGES	TOTAL NO. OF SCHOOL STUDENTS	TOTAL NO. OF COLLEGE STUDENTS
October	28	1	1636	6
November	34	2	2077	72
December	52	5	2853	366
January	131	5	8229	295
February	188	7	11601	429
March	63	0	4238	0
TOTAL	496	20	306388	1168

Footfall:

ENTRY MEANS	FOOTFALL
TICKETS	1,155,847
PASS	6,118
TOTAL	1,161,965



MONTH	NO. OF ADULTS	NO. OF CHILDREN	TOTAL NO. OF VISITORS	REVENUE
October	225712	20911	246623	6980470
November	153425	16288	169713	4765630
December	657952	81559	739511	20554150
January	780488	86057	866545	24275210
February	218819	23624	24224	6800810
March	151303	14402	165705	4683110
TOTAL	2187699	242841	2212321	68059380

Adopted by	Address	Animal Adopted	Date	Period	Amount (In figures)
Abhijit Bannerjee	D.H.Rd, 576/A/7B, Kol-34, Behala	Sloth Bear (F) Pritha	12.11.2018	12.11.2018 to 11.11.2019	50000.00
Pyaridevi Chabiraj Steels pvt. Ltd.	Jaya Bibi Road 38&39/27, Ghusuri, Howrah-711107	Peafowl (male)	24.11.2018	24.11.2018 to 23.11.2019	25000.00
GEO Met Resources	13/TIG Road, Kolkata-700 008	Elephant (female)	10.01.2019	14.01.2019 to 13.01.2020	200000.00
GEO Met Resources	13/TIG Road, Kolkata-700 008	Monkey (Male)	10.01.2019	14.01.2019 to 13.01.2020	300000.00

Retirement:

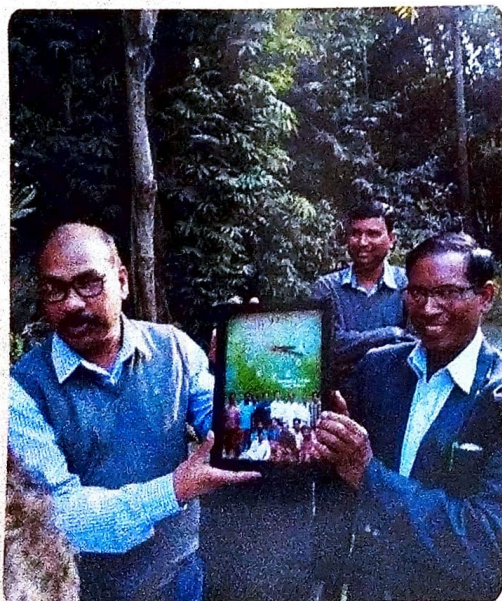
Pravas Samanta, Head Keeper got retired on 30.11.2018. He had earned good will for his dedication and commitment towards his job. He was felicitated by the Alipore Zoo Authority officials. He served at the Zoo for many years.

Madan Mohan Chakraborty, Ticket Clerk, Grade-I got retired on 31.01.2019. He had earned good will for his dedication and commitment towards his job. He was felicitated by the Alipore Zoo Authority officials. on his retirement day.

Rajinder Ram (1), Animal Supervisor got retired on 31.01.2019. His dedication and commitment towards his job made him one of the best keepers of the Zoo. He was felicitated by the Alipore Zoo Authority officials. He served at the Zoo for over 40 years.

Jamuna Sagar Ram, Head Mali got retired on 31.01.2019. He had earned good will for his dedication and commitment towards his job made prime one of the best keepers of the Zoo. He was felicitated by the Alipore Zoo Authority officials. He served at the Zoo for many years.

Ghamandi Ram, Mate Mali, Grade-I got retired on 31.01.2019. He had earned good will for his dedication and commitment towards his job. He was felicitated by the Alipore Zoo Authority officials. He served at the Zoo for many years.



Felicitation of Rajinder Ram (1)



Retirement of Rajinder Ram (1), Jamuna Sagar Ram and Ghamandi Ram



The Buckland Enclosure: This enclosure was built to commemorate the name of Mr. C.T. Buckland, I.C.S. who was the president of Garden for many years and contributed largely to its welfare at the time of its infancy. This enclosure was originally built for the Rhinoceros and is now inhabited by Hippopotamus.



The Mymensing Enclosure: Mymensing enclosure is the most conspicuous improvement carried out in the Burdwan House. The cost was met from the fund provided by the late Maharaja Bahadur Surya Kanta Acharya Chowdhury of Mymensing. The enclosure is named after him as Mymensing enclosure. It is now used as the open enclosure for Lions.



The Sonebursa Enclosure: It is named after the Maharaja of Sonebursa. Initially it was used for keeping different species of deer and antelopes. After many modifications and enrichment, it is converted to a glass enclosure currently it is used for keeping Kangaroos.

Zoological Garden, Alipore

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