



ZOO NEWS



NEWSLETTER | ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN | ALIPORE | JULY 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 2024

From the Director's desk:

Starting its journey since 1875, Zoological Garden, Alipore proudly celebrated its 150th birthday on 24th September, 2024. The first scientifically managed zoo of the country has been a pioneer in promoting awareness about the importance of wildlife preservation and research besides being the entertainment hotspot of Kolkata for this long 150 years.

On this historic occasion I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes and sincere thanks to all the members of the Zoological Garden, Alipore family and our patrons and well wishers who have made this memorable journey possible.

Subhankar Sen Gupta, IFS
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Special programme on 150th Birthday on 24th September, 2024

150th establishment day of Alipore Zoo was celebrated on 24th September, 2024. Hon'ble MIC, UD & MA Department Janab Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble MoS (IC) Forest, Smt Birbaha Hansda, Hon'ble MLA & Chairman WBFDC Ltd. Sri Tapan Dasgupta, ACS Forests Sri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, IAS, PCCF, HoFF, Sri Niraj Singhal, IFS, PCCF Wildlife & CWLW, Sri Debal Roy, IFS and many other dignitaries attended the program. Two new gates on Alipore Road and National Library Avenue were inaugurated. One renovated heritage building with enclosure s having mouse deer, four horned antelope and

hog deer and two new enclosures of Bengal fox and leopard cat were also inaugurated on this occasion.

A statue of Rai Bahadur Ram Brahma Sanyal, the first and longest serving Superintendent of Alipore Zoo (1875-1908) was unveiled on this occasion.

A 150-year Memorabilia book "Calcutta Zoo Metamorphosed into Kolkata Zoo" was also published.

Different programs lined up to mark the sesquicentenary spread over coming one year were also announced.

Prizes for different competitions held during the Zoo festival, 2024 were distributed by Hon'ble Forest Minister and senior officers.



Past Directors or their family representatives were felicitated on this occasion. A special cake was cut to mark the 150th anniversary of the zoo.



Celebration of 150th birthday of Zoological Garden, Alipore

Footfall During The Quarter

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, ALIPORE VISITOR COUNT FROM JULY, 2024 TO SEPTEMBER, 2024

MONTH	ADULT	MINOR	STUDENT	OTHERS (PASS)	TOTAL VISITOR
JULY, 24	116233	7267	321	131	123952
AUG, 24	83276	5468	527	126	89397
SEP, 24	69646	5341	1305	1010	77302
Total Visitor	292687	18076	2153	1267	290651



Zoo Educational & Training activities:

*14th July: World Chimpanzee Day and Ban Mahotsav

Zoological Garden Alipore celebrated World Chimpanzee Day and Ban Mahotsav on 14th July, 2024. On this occasion Braille badges were unveiled for the benefit of visually challenged visitors. 20 number of such boards donated by International Eye Foundation have been installed in front of important enclosures in the zoo.

Some interactive gaming session was organized for visitors in front of Chimpanzee enclosure by Zoo staffs as part of Chimpanzee Day.

The program was chaired by Hon'ble MoS (Independent Charge) Forest, Smt Birbaha Hansda. Sri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest, Sri Niraj Singhal, IFS, PCCF (HOFF), Sri Saurabh Chawdhuri, IFS, Member Secretary, WBZA and other dignitaries were present.

The keepers of Chimpanzees shared their experience and a video on Chimpanzees of Alipore Zoo was shown during the program. All participants were presented a sapling. Also, during Ban Mahotsav all items from the zoo souvenir shop were sold at a discount of 10%.

*16th July: World Snake Day

AliporeZoo organized a Keeper's training programme on 'Snake husbandry, Safe handling, Captive management'-on the occasion of World Snake Day- 16th July, 2024.Total 54 nos. of Zoo keepers and staffs were present in the programme.

*29th July: International Tiger Day

A program to celebrate International Tiger Day was held on July 29, 2024, under the chairmanship of ACS Forests, Sri Manoj Kumar Agarwal, IAS, Sri Niraj Singhal, IFS, PCCF (HoFF), Sri Debal Roy, IFS, PCCF WL & CWLW, Sri Sandip Sundriyal, IFS, PCCF General, Dr. Kana Talukder, IFS, PCCF RM&D, Dr. V. K. Sood, IFS, PCCF & MD, WBFDC, Sri Saurabh Chowdhury, IFS, Additional PCCF and Member Secretary of the West Bengal Zoo Authority, and other dignitaries

attended the event. The keynote address on the occasion was delivered by Dr. Pradeep Vyas, IFS(Retd.) Vigilance Commissioner of West Bengal, Ex-PCCF & CWLW, and renowned tiger specialist.

A sit-and-draw competition was organized for school children, with 112 participants. Additionally, a poster-making competition and an open quiz for PG and UG students from colleges and universities saw the participation of 120 students. Students from the multimedia department of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, presented two short films on tiger conservation.

In addition to prizes for the top rankers, all participants were given certificates of participation.

*10th August: World Lion Day

World Lion Day was Celebrated at the Zoological Garden, Alipore, with various programs, including a brief discussion on zoo management and history by the zoo staff.

Students from the Multimedia and Animation Department of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) participated in photography and drawing programs. A spot quiz was organized for visitors, and lozenges and lion masks were distributed to them.

*12th August: World Elephant Day

A one-day training program on 'Elephant Management in Captivity' was organized for zoo keepers and animal attendants to celebrate World Elephant Day.

A total no. of 80 staff members participated in this program.

*19th September -21st September: Zoo Festival

The 6th Zoo Festival was organized between 19th September to 21st September, 2024 with different events. This is a 3 daylong event for school and college students on the theme of Wildlife, its importance and conservation. Different competitions like Sit & Draw, Quiz, Poster Presentation, Extempore speech, Debate were

organized during the event. Around 700 students from different schools and colleges of West Bengal participated in the Zoo Festival. The presence of esteemed judges and guests inspired the young students in conservation of biodiversity and its importance.

***22nd September: World Rhino Day**

The celebration of World Rhino Day on September

22, 2024, at Zoological Garden Alipore was held in association with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Haldia Refinery.

The event included various activities, such as a zoo visit, the felicitation of rhino keepers, the adoption of a rhino by Team IOCL and prize distribution along with associated programs. The program concluded with the message: "Save Rhino, Save Ecosystem."



Celebration of World Chimpanzee Day and Ban Mahotsav



Celebration of World Snake Day



International Tiger Day



Spot quiz for visitors on World Lion Day



One-day training programme on 'Elephant Management in captivity'



Glimpses of 6th Zoo Festival, 2024



Celebration of World Rhino Day

Veterinary Activities

Veterinary Care July, 2024-September, 2024

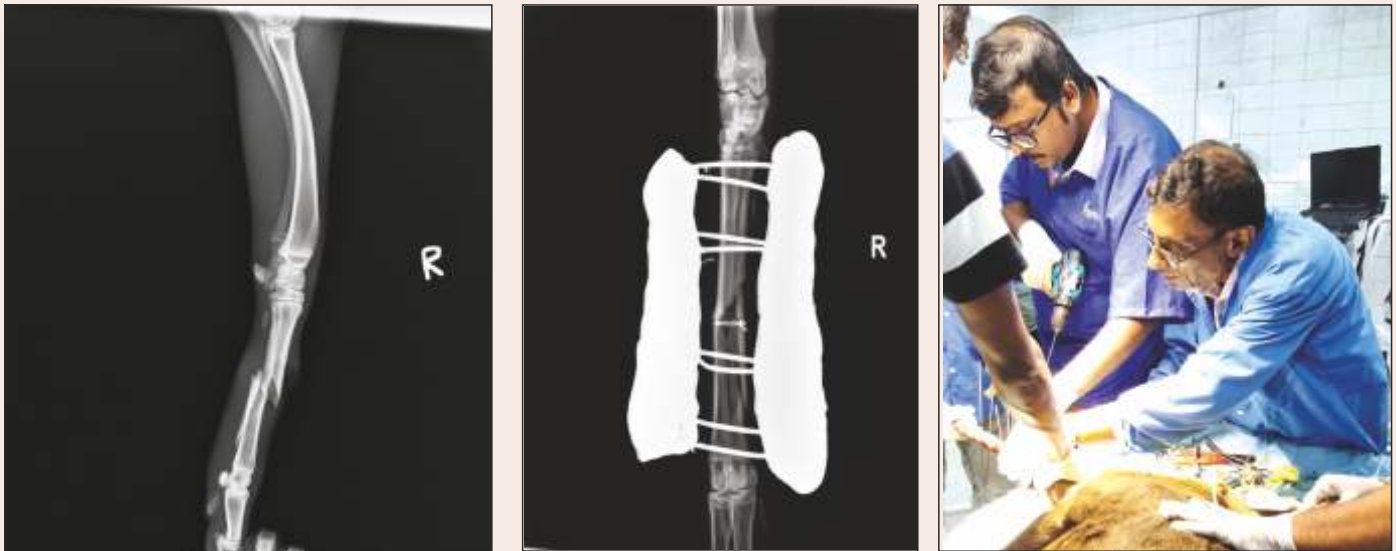
- Hernioplasty surgery with prolene mesh under anesthesia was carried out on a spotted deer.



- Bilateral tusk trimming of a 41-year-old male hippopotamus was done successfully under chemical immobilization but later developed some age related post-operative complications and died.



- A male hog deer was observed with a compound comminuted fracture of the right metacarpal. The deer underwent surgery under anesthesia for fracture management through epoxy-pin external skeletal fixation methods



- Initiation of rigid endoscopy units for avian and reptiles at zoo veterinary hospital.



- Zoo Veterinarians of the zoo participated in a National workshop for zoo vets organised by Central Zoo Authority at AAZP, Chennai held on 25.09.24-27.09.24. Our Zoo vet secured 3rd place in the poster presentation event conducted during the workshop.



Poster presentation in the national workshop at AAZP, Chennai



Dr Arnab Majie receiving 3rd prize for poster presentation in the national workshop at AAZP, Chennai



Dr Pralay Mondal receiving participation certificate in the national workshop at AAZP

Transfer of animals

Zoo Animal Exchange from July 2024 to September 2024:



The Zoological Garden, Alipore, transferred one male Fishing Cat, one pair of Eurasian Spoonbills, four pairs of Green Iguana, and two male and four female Water Monitor Lizards to Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 27th August 2024 under the zoo animal exchange programme and received one pair of Asiatic Lion, one female Bengal Tiger, two female Himalayan Black Bears, and two pairs of Mouse Deer in exchange from them on 28 August 2024.

Again, on 31st August 2024 the Zoological Garden, Alipore transferred one pair of Northern Giraffe and one female Fishing Cat to Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar, Odisha and on 9th September 2024 the Zoological Garden, Alipore received one pair of Hippopotamus, one pair of Swamp Deer, one pair of Four-horned Antelope, two male and three female Hog Deer in exchange.

Rescued/Seized Wildlife received from July 2024 to September 2024:

The Zoological Garden, Alipore received 24 numbers of Asian Openbill Stork from 24parganas (South) Division, Directorate of Forests West Bengal for better healthcare and management on 26th September 2024.



Animal Adoption during July to September, 2024

SL. No.	Name	Animal	Type	Duration	Amount	Remarks
1.	Lakshmipat Singhania Academy	Tiger	Annual	01.08.24 31.07.25	2,50,000	Fund received during this quarter
2.	Mrs. Priyanka Das	Mexican red-headed amazon Parrot	Annual	22.08.24- 21.08.25	8000	
3.	Indian oil corporation Ltd.	Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros	Annual	22.09.24- 21.09.25	2,50,000	
4.	Smt. Birbaha Hansda	One Malayan Tapir	Half-Yearly	01.10.24- 31.03.25	30000	
5.	Smt. Chunibala Hansda & Smt. Burulukui Hansda	Two Mouse Deer	Half-Yearly	01.10.24- 31.03.25	24000	
6.	Sri Phurgal Hansda and Smt. Shyamosree Kisku	Two Mouse Deer	Half-Yearly	01.10.24- 31.03.25	24000	

New Born

The Zoological Garden, Alipore welcomed a number of new born members to the zoo during this period.

Success story of captive breeding

- On 27th July,2024 two Peachick (White) were observed.
- On 6th September,2024 One baby Victoria Crowned Pigeon was observed.
- On 16th September,2024 One Hog Deer fawn was observed.
- One Sambar Deer fawn was Observed on 19th September,2024.
- On 21st September,2024 one Peachick (White) was observed.
- On 22nd September,2024 one Peachick (White) was observed.
- One Black buck fawn was observed on 28th September,2024.
- On 30th September,2024 one Porcupette was Observed.

Retirement/ Transfer /Addition to our family

- Sri Soumen Mondal, WBFS joined on 1st July,2024(Forenoon) and took over the charge of Assistant Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore.
- Smt. Srijita Jana joined as Forest Range Officer on 1st July, 2024
- The following staff members retired from service on superannuation-
- Sri Surendra Ram, Head Mali on 31st July,2024
- Smt. Khedni Debi, Mazdoor Grade-I on 31st July,2024

Handing over of Adoption Certificates to the Adopters



100 years back

Flashbacked to our 150-year-old heritage constructions: The Buckland House

Today, visitors can experience the gigantic yawn of a Hippopotamus, the so-called “River Horse” of Africa, which often remains submerged under the freshwater of the Buckland House. However, originally this house was constructed to accommodate the rhinoceros. But in 1883, it was first occupied by Tapirs¹.

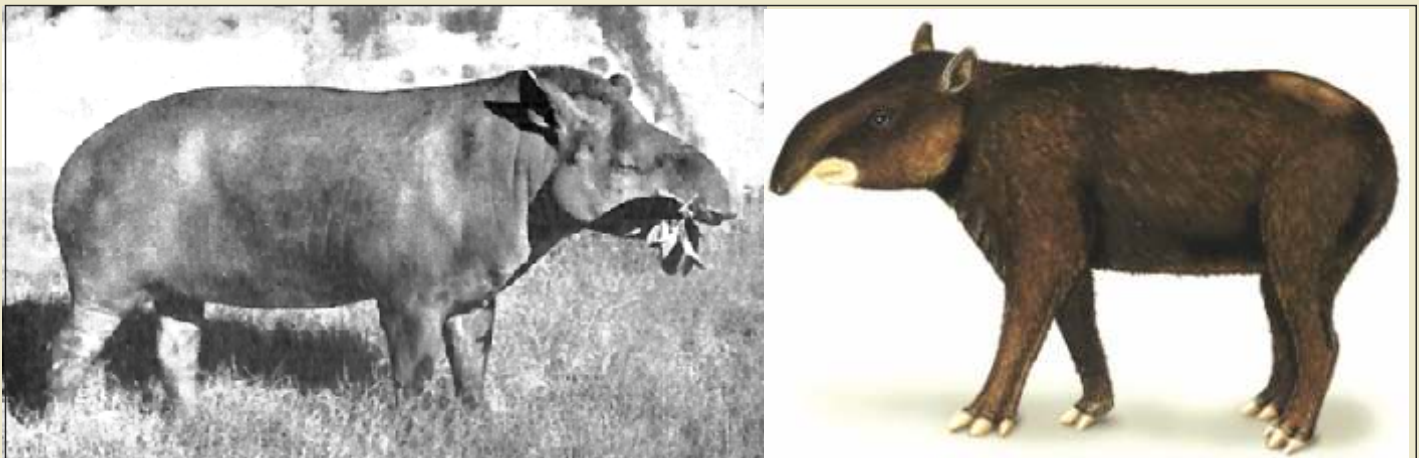
The first one-horned rhinoceros that inhabited this enclosure was presented by the Maharaja of Dumraon. The rhino, which was confined in a small house for almost 45 years, gently walked to the Dumraon railway station, accompanied by the animal-dealer, Mr. Rutledge, settled in a truck and landed at Howrah. It again walked overnight, without any difficulties, and reached our Garden in the early morning¹.

Soon, in 1886, a young Hippo of about three years came to this Calcutta Garden and took charge of this Buckland House. This Hippo came in a box-cage, directly from Zanzibar, Tanzania, East Africa. The steamer put the box at the Calcutta port that let out the largest land artiodactyl to be exhibited in this Garden, for the first time^{1,2}.

With the passing year, when our Garden started to accommodate diversified ungulates, the Buckland House, was found to be too small for the increasing number of hippopotami and tapirs. In 1923-24, this enclosure was remodeled to accommodate both, adjacent to each other³. Though it already had a few trees within this enclosure, some more were replanted to greenify the arena. It also had a tank inside for the use of animals which was “luxuriant with reeds”¹.

Initially, we had the Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) and the Hairy Tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*, formerly *T. roulini*) only². Hairy tapir came far from the Andes where it is popular as the mountain tapir or woolly tapir. Later, around 1975, this Garden exhibited the Brazilian tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*)³.

The newborn Tapir: Fortunately we received a pregnant tapir in January 1877 that gave birth to a newborn in May. It was one of the notable events that our Calcutta Garden witnessed for the first time. Our luck clicked again; we received another one in July 1883 who gave birth in October. Our first Bengali supervisor noticed the newborns' similarities with young wild pigs. They were marked with brownish



spots and stripes that disappeared at their sixth month of age. To date, Alipore Zoo is nurturing

its 150-year-old trend of exhibiting tapir. You can see it now in the Enclosure No. 20.



Fig.1 Left- The Brazilian Tapir in the Garden of Calcutta Zoo, Middle- The sketched image of a Hairy Tapir, Right- Malayan tapir at present time, Zoological Garden, Alipore.

An accident in the Buckland House:

24 April 1939, a young Indian girl, badly wanted to see the hippo in our Garden. She suddenly climbed the boundary fence for a better view and curiously looked for the animal. Unfortunately, she lost her balance and fell inside the enclosure. Considering her a trespasser, the hippo instantly attacked the girl. It happened very fast; the help team reached the spot, by the time the girl was found dead. "Immediate steps were taken to prevent a recurrence of the tragedy by lowering the ground level on the inside of the enclosure and by buttressing the walls."⁴

References:

1. John Anderson (1883). Guide to the Calcutta Zoological Gardens. Printed by order of the Honorary Committee of Management, Calcutta. City Press by Thos. S. Smith. 12, Bentinck Street.
2. Sanyal RB. (1892). A hand-book of the management of animals in captivity in Lower Bengal. The Bengal Secretariat Press, Calcutta.
3. Report of the Honorary Committee for the Management of the Zoological Garden for the year 1923-1924. The Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, Calcutta.
4. 1875-1975: 100 Years of Calcutta Zoo. 30th September 1975. The Centenary Celebration Committee, Zoological Garden, Alipore, Calcutta.

Zoological Garden, Alipore

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