

Education and Outreach

- 'One Day at Nandankanan' programmes for schools/colleges were organized for 48 batches of students, participating 5500 students
- Zoo Outreach Programs Conducted in 24 schools, participating 2550 students
- Zoo ambassadors got selected from 53 schools across Odisha, Orientation program conducted on 23-06-2024, and successfully used their service in wildlife awareness among school children.
- Ensured the contribution of time and effort from 92 zoo volunteers to support the activities at Nandankanan Zoological Park. 16 interns completed their internship during 2024.
- 52 bird walks, 22 tree walks, 16 moth watching sessions, 16 herping trails, 12 butterfly walks, and 40 nature trails were conducted under the 'Citizen Science Programme'. New citizen science programs such as the "Raja Bird Walk", "Women's Bird Walk", and "Budding Birders" engaged the public in wildlife conservation.
- A zoo keeper's training program for the eastern region was organized from 05-03-2024 to 07-03-2024 in collaboration with the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), New Delhi.
- A workshop on value addition of aquatic weeds was conducted from 15-04-2024 to 19-04-2024, for the staff of Nandankanan, showcasing sustainable practices.
- Supported the Wildlife Organization, Odisha in conducting the international workshop on animal restraining techniques.
- Initiatives like "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" and "Van Mahotsav" engaged visitors and staff in tree plantation activities.
- A "Seed Ball Workshop" was conducted on 05-06-2024 to promote habitat restoration.
- A 15-day cleanliness drive titled 'Swachhata Hi Seva' was held from 15-09-2024 to 01-10-2024, emphasizing cleanliness and environmental responsibility.
- A series of events were carried out during the 70th Wildlife Week to highlight the importance of biodiversity conservation.



Development of State Botanical Garden

- Arboretum & Medicinal plant garden were upgraded with QR based signage.
- Renovated Forest Rest House-II.
- "QR code-based information on the floral diversity of the Arboretum and Medicinal Plant Garden was provided, supported by the SBG website database.
- Master Plan of State Botanical Garden for the year 2024-25 to 2034-35 got approved by PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha.
- 64 awards won in different National and State Level Flower & Garden Shows.



Habitat management

- De-weeding of Kanjia Lake and Kiakani lake were completed to restore the lake ecosystem.
- A 3.1 km drainage outlet for Kanjia Lake is being constructed with support from the Special Relief Commissioner, Odisha, to improve the lake ecosystem and address flooding situations in Nandankanan and nearby areas.



Highlights of Nandankanan Biological Park 2024



Animal collection

- Nandankanan currently has the largest animal collection among Indian zoos, housing 3964 individuals of 173 species as on 31.12.2024.
- "Implemented five animal exchange programmes with various zoos to enhance the collection plan in alignment with the newly approved master plan.
- On 19-03-2024, Gangetic Soft-Shell Turtles (2:2:0), Great White Pelicans (2:2:0), Himalayan Griffon Vultures (2:2:0), and Greater Adjutant Storks (2:2:0) were brought from Assam State Zoo and Botanical Garden, Guwahati.
- On 11-07-2024, Bengal Tigers (0:2:0) (one melanistic and one normal coated), Striped Hyenas (3:1:0), Indian Porcupines (5:5:0), and Nilgais (2:0:0) were brought from Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park, Ranchi.



- On 27-08-2024 and 31-08-2024, Eurasian Spoonbills (1:1:0), Green Iguanas (4:4:0), Water Monitor Lizards (2:4:0), Fishing Cats (1:1:0), and Northern Giraffes (1:1:0) were brought from Alipore Zoological Garden, Kolkata.
- On 10-11-2024, Reticulated Pythons (2:2:0), Wild Dogs (2:2:0), Brahminy Kites (1:1:0), Common Palm Civets (1:2:0), and Large Egrets (0:2:0) were brought from Pilikulla Biological Park, Mangaluru.
- On 26-11-2024, Hog Deer (1:1:0), Mouse Deer (2:2:0), Bonnet Macaques (2:0:0), Sarus Cranes (1:1:0), Eurasian Spoonbills (1:1:0), Grey Junglefowl (1:1:0), Barbary Doves (2:2:0), Green Iguanas (0:2:0), Red Sand Boas (1:1:0), Common Sand Boas (1:1:0), and Russel's Vipers (1:1:0) were brought from Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.



- Cotton-Top Tamarin (2:2), Siamang (1:1), Common Marmoset (3:2), and Geoffroy's Marmoset (1:3) were brought through the "Patrons of the Nandankanan."

- Introduced 10 new species, paired 9 species, and infused new bloodlines into 15 species through insightful animal exchange & acquisition programmes.

Animal housing and new enclosures



- Constructed a 13,665.20 sq. ft. exotic primate complex, featuring seven enclosures, 18 feeding chambers, and 10 back kraals.
- Upgraded the existing Himalayan black bear enclosure with natural & behavioural enrichment features.
- Constructed a state-of-the-art bird quarantine facility with keeper rooms, 10 kraal units, water pools, and CCTV surveillance.
- Constructed a 142.70 sq. m. feeding cell with two feeding units and a 47.77 sq. m. back kraal has been constructed in the lion safari complex.
- The existing aquarium has been upgraded with new thematic display tanks and upgrading the collection to 117 fish species.

Health and Veterinary care

- Renovated the veterinary hospital complex.
- Automatic blood biochemistry analyser, Auto-ion analyser, Ophthalmoscope, V-top Veterinary operation table, Deep penetrating metal detectors Suction machine, Portable oxygen cylinders with carry bag, weighing scale of 1000kg capacity and animal transportation trolleys were procured for zoo veterinary hospital.
- Conducted 86 veterinary support camps in fringe villages, and addressed 29 rescue cases in neighbouring Forest Divisions.
- During the year, several notable healthcare achievements were recorded, the most significant being the recuperation of Asha, an elephant calf with a severe incised wound almost severing its right forelimb.
- Two veterinary doctors were additionally engaged.
- Supported Odisha Wildlife Organization to conduct the International workshop on "Human-Wildlife Conflict & Chemical Restraint Techniques for Mitigation" from 26th to 31st July, 2024 in collaboration with Wildlife Pharmaceuticals, South Africa and WII, Dehradun.



Rescue and Rehabilitation



- Provided treatment to 119 rescued animals received from different parts of Odisha and 49 cases were attended by the Nandankanan team in the wild.
- Supported 49 rescue operations in different parts of the state.
- 25 Blackbucks (12:13), 332 Spotted Deer (113:219), 5 nos. of Common Palm Civets (3:2) and 24 Barking Deer (9:15) were released to different protected areas of the State.
- A 10-member Rapid Response Team (RRT) has been formed, equipped with advanced technology and a state-of-the-art vehicle to manage rescue and rehabilitation situations.
- A Quick Response Team has been formed as part of the project "Species Recovery of Gharial in River Mahanadi" to ensure swift action in any emergency situation
- Procured one Hydra vehicle to strengthen infrastructure for lifting and transporting heavy animal cages and other equipment.



Visitor footfall and enhancement of amenities



- During the year, the Zoo attracted 37,99,632 visitors (from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024).
- Total revenue collected is Rs. 21,81,01,777/- (from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024).
- Revenue collected from Adopt-an-Animal & Patrons of Nandankanan is Rs 76,39,360 (from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024)
- Upgraded the frontage of all 4 Safari entry gates.
- Drinking water fountains were installed at key locations.
- Upgraded the library to a 'Zoo Library & Digital Hub'
- Visitor path leading to the Exotic Primate Complex, over 200m, was upgraded.
- Landscaping and beautification of the Exotic Primate Complex.
- Constructed a new toilet block at Giraffe Square.
- Installed new educational and navigational signage at key locations.



Human Resources, Capacity building and staff welfare



- Assistant Biologist and Assistant Education Officer (SBG) were engaged to support educational and research activities.
- 9 number of staff attended in 6 different workshops/ training programmes outside the state.
- 4 numbers of Staff has been sent to Dubai Safari Park for an exposure visit.
- Conducted three batches of Circle-level Rapid Response Team training on wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and first aid.
- "The Nandankanan Sports Meet was organized on 08.01.2024, with 228 staff members participating.
- A two-day health camp on zoonotic disease screening was held at Nandankanan in collaboration with the CDMO, Khurda, benefiting 397 staff members



Safety & Security



- Strengthened the boundary wall over 400 meters in coordination with R&B, Division III, Bhubaneswar.
- Inducted OISF for zoo security, deploying a platoon of 35 officers.
- Inducted professional ex-army personnel into the security team
- Constructed "Zoo Security Staff Residential complex."

Conservation breeding and Research



- Birth of four Royal Bengal Tigers and two Mouse Deers in conservation breeding programmes.
- A radio-tagged Indian Pangolin was released into Similipal Tiger Reserve in 2024-25, with ongoing monitoring to study its habitat use and dispersion.
- The Gharial species recovery project in the River Mahanadi, initiated in 2019, continued with improved protection, community awareness, and alternate habitat surveys at Chourasimal.
- A workshop on rescue operations and community awareness for field staff and "Kumbhira Bandhu" was held on 24-01-2024.
- 16 individuals (representing 8 species) of endangered species were born during the year.

