

**NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF A PROJECT RESEARCH ASSISTANT
&
TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT OF PROJECT RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

A. Background

The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling formerly known as Himalayan Zoological Park was established on 14th August 1958. It is located at an altitude of 7000ft IN Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, in 1975, dedicated the Himalayan Zoological Park in memory of late Smt. Padmaja Naidu, Ex-Governor of West Bengal and the park was renamed as Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.

This is the only specialized zoo in the country and is internationally recognized for its conservation breeding programmes of Snow leopard, Red panda and other highly endangered species of eastern Himalaya. The zoo is currently involved in several Conservation breeding projects for the species such as the Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*), Himalayan wolf (*Canis lupus himalayensis*) etc. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park at present is housing four hundred and twenty three (423) animals of forty nine (49) species which includes twenty two (22) species of mammals, seven (7) species of reptiles, ten (10) species of pheasants, nine (9) species of birds and one (1) amphibian.

The Darjeeling Zoo, maintains three centres exclusively for conservation breeding programmes which are off display. The park has taken up the research project titled **“Haematological and Biochemical values of Captive animals”**. The research project is being funded by West Bengal Zoo Authority and aims to catalogue the reference ranges for hematologic testing and serum biochemical analysis in captive healthy animals held at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological (PNHZ) Park, Darjeeling and North Bengal Wild Animal (NBWA) Park, Siliguri.

The Park routinely conducts blood tests to analyse the hematologic and biochemical values in captive animals. Although most animals are found in captivity, available information on normal clinical pathologic finding is minimal. Haematological testing and serum analysis are important in determining the health status of the animals. Interpretation of results is made by comparisons with reference ranges derived from the statistical analysis of multiple samples. However large number of rare and wild animals are not available for testing. As a result, reference ranges for hematologic and serum biochemical values have yet to be determined for many captive animals.

The study of haematological and biochemical parameters is important to evaluate the physiological status in wild animals. In order to carry out conservation studies in captive animals, it is important to know the baseline physiological parameters and how these vary with age, sex and life history events to effectively treat captive animals.

B. Objective:

Through this project, the Park aims to determine baseline haematological and serum biochemical values for captive animals at PNHZ Park and NBWA Park for better treatment of animals by determining reference ranges for hematologic testing and serum biochemical analysis in captive healthy animals housed at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological (PNHZ) Park, Darjeeling and North Bengal Wild Animal (NBWA) Park, Siliguri. Compilation of hematologic and serum biochemical values from past records and ongoing test results will be done and a field handbook will be prepared with the compiled results.

The purpose of engagement of a Project Research Assistant is to carry out the project titled **“Haematological and Biochemical values of Captive animals”** funded by West Bengal Zoo Authority under the supervision of The Director, PNHZ Park and Veterinary Officer, PNHZ Park. The Project research Assistant is being engaged for the smooth execution of the research project and will be required to conduct and participate in the various exercises, analysis etc. for the above project.

C. Scope of work for the Project Research Assistant

1. Reviewing the available literature by referring articles from journals or conferences, books published in scientific series & articles referred to in other articles. Prepare the notes and synopsis of the background studies and the updated progress in various parts of the world related to the current research.
2. Collect the blood samples of various animals in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling; CBC, Dowhill; and CBC, Topkeydara & North Bengal Wild Animal Park, Siliguri, under the guidance of Research Investigators and assist them in this regard. To document the sample collection and prepare necessary reports.
3. Analyse the collected blood samples from captive animals by differential blood count method and blood plasma biochemistry techniques under the guidance of Research Investigators and assist them in this regard. To document blood sample analysis and prepare necessary reports.
4. Prepare project reports, presentations and compile past and current haematological and serum biochemical test results under the guidance of Research Investigators and assist them in this regard.
5. Maintaining all project related files, registers and other related documents as guided by the Research investigators.
6. Periodic visit to other zoos and field in regard to the project.
7. Assist in the capacity building of zoo staff. Explain and sensitize the zoo keepers and animal supervisors regarding the research, its objectives and also enhance their capacity for sample collection, data recording and documentation.
8. Any other duties as assigned by the Director, PNHZ Park.

D. Other details

1. **Duration:** The duration of the project is for twelve (12) months. The appointee will be engaged on probation for one (1) month, engagement may be extended for a further period maximum up to another eleven (11) months. The Park may not extend the engagement after probation period of a month, without assigning any reason. The engagement may be continued for a period maximum up to eleven (11) months after the probation period, in case the Park & West Bengal Zoo Authority decide to continue with the engagement.
2. **Working hours:** 6 days a week from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm with half an hour break for lunch. The candidate may be required on off days and beyond duty hours on the discretion of The Director, PNHZ Park.
3. **Remuneration: Rs 15,000/- p.m.** Remuneration is all inclusive of House Rent Allowance and other benefits. Expenses for travel, food and lodging will be paid by Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park as per the discretion of the Director for project related travels.
4. The Park is under no obligation to continue the engagement and may discontinue the engagement with 15 days' notice without assigning any reason for discontinuation.
5. The Project Research Assistant will not use any data related to and collected for the study for commercial purposes. All scientific papers and reports will be owned by Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and the park should be acknowledged in any publications/ presentation/ research articles made regarding the study.
6. The Project Research Assistant will not disclose any information related to the Park to outside personnel. The engagement is subject to the conditions specified in the agreement to be signed by the selected candidate.

E. Eligibility

1. **Educational Qualification:** The applicant must have M.Sc in Life Sciences/ Zoology/Biochemistry with minimum 60% marks or equivalent CGPA from a recognized University/ (attach a copy of the scorecard).

OR

The applicant must have Bachelor degree in Veterinary sciences from a recognized University/ (attach a copy of the scorecard).

2. **Experience:** Candidates having exposure to haematological studies are encouraged to apply. Freshers may also apply.
3. Be proficient in English communication skills for report writing, presentations etc.
4. Be proficient in computer skills like Microsoft Office.

F. Selection

The selection of the applicant will be based on the qualification, academic performance, experience, exposure and merit of the applicant. The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed on the above criteria and the best suited candidate will be engaged.

G. General Instructions:

1. Interested candidates may send their CV along with signed photocopies of candidate's professional certificates to the following email address latest by 18.07.2019 (5pm).
Email: pnhzp@yahoo.com
2. Only shortlisted candidates will be communicated to appear in the interview and no other communications in this regard will be entertained.
3. No TA/DA will be paid for appearing in the interview.