



First BioBank in a Zoo

[Source: IE](#)

- India's **first wildlife bio-bank at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park** (Darjeeling Zoo) is fully operational.
- Since its establishment in **July 2024**, it has collected DNA and tissue samples from **60 animals of 23 species**, prioritizing endangered species.
- **Biobank: The biobank (frozen zoo)** preserves **genetic material from animals for conservation and research**.
 - This includes cells, tissues, and reproductive samples of endangered and deceased animals.
 - The samples are stored in **cryogenic conditions (-196°C in liquid nitrogen)** to maintain genetic diversity.
 - It is part of a **national conservation plan**, in collaboration with the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)**, under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- In future, biobanks are planned to be set up at **Delhi National Zoo and Nandankanan Zoo (Odisha)**.
- Species like the **American black-footed ferret** and **northern one-horned rhino** have been revived using **preserved DNA and captive breeding**.

Darjeeling Zoo:

- It is **India's largest high-altitude zoo**, specializing in **captive breeding of alpine species** like snow leopards, Himalayan wolves, and red pandas.
- It houses endangered fauna, including **gorals, Siberian tigers, and rare birds**.

Read More: [Darjeeling Zoo's Conservation Breeding Programme for Snow Leopards](#)

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