

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Celebration of 59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Nandankanan Zoological Park 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

The 59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Nandankanan Zoological Park was celebrated inside the park on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 at 11.30 AM. Shri Bijayshree Routray Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr Sandeep Tripathy, IFS, PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha presided over the meeting. Sri Priyadarshi Mishra Hon'ble MLA Bhubaneswar (North) addressed the meeting. Dr H.S. Upadhyay, IFS, Director Nandankanan Biological Park had given the key note address and Shri Jayant Kumar Das, Deputy Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park had given the introductory address. Finally the vote of thanks was given by Sri Girish Kumar Sathpathy ACF- (SBG). The celebration was attended by the Ex-Directors of Nandankanan Zoological Park, Senior Forest Officers of the State, NGOs & eminent personalities of the State, Researchers and academicians, Members of Technical Committee, Health Committee of Nandankanan Zoological Park, Representatives from Print & Electronic media, school children of the locality, local peoples representatives & staff of the park.

On the eve of 59<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of Nandankanan Zoological Park, the newly constructed Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre was inaugurated by the Chief Guest.

#### **Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Nandankanan:**

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has taken initiative in establishing five vulture conservation breeding centres in the zoos at Junagadh, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Bhubhaneswar in 2007 and at Ranchi in 2009. Following which a Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre has been constructed in an off-exhibit area of Nandankanan Biological Park, Bhubaneswar during the year 2011-12 in an area of 0.3 acres surrounded by seven acres of undisturbed forested land with financial assistance from CZA. A total of Rs 57.84 lakhs has been utilized to establish the centre.

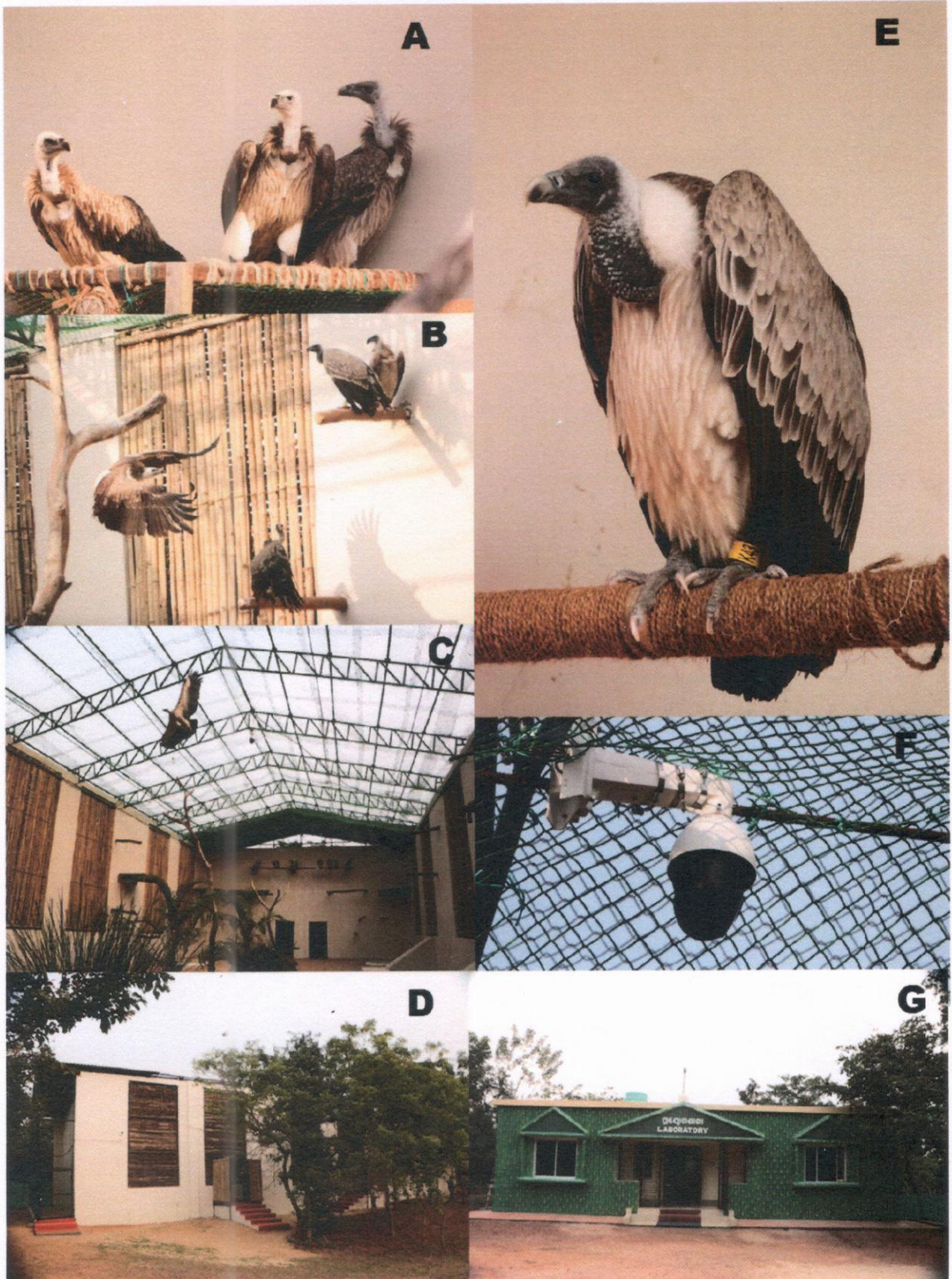
The centre was established with objectives of develop protocol for captive management and breeding of long billed vultures for reintroduction and release in to wild and to generate awareness about the conservation need of the vultures and their role in the ecosystem.

The centre presently has one colony aviary (100'X40'X20'), two nursery aviary (10'X12'X8') and a laboratory complex with observatory room for CCTV monitoring, laboratory for analysis of biological samples, incubation room and biologist chamber. The aviaries are large enough for the vultures to perform wing exercises by flying from one end to another and to feed communally on carcasses, exactly as they do in the wild. There is provision for feed delivery from outside without getting in the aviary through the food hatch, thereby minimizing the human contact with vultures. It

also has species specific enclosure enrichments like naturalistic nesting platforms and nest baskets, adequate perches in vertical and horizontal positions from the walls and water pools. All the perches are wrapped with coir ropes to prevent bumble foot disease. Aviary doors open to galleries which provide double door protection which provides birds form accidental escape. The chain-linked mesh roof is having an inner lay of netlon with one feet gap in between to protect the birds from dashing against the roof.

The colony aviary is housing twelve numbers of long billed vultures brought from Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior on 27.11.2018. The vultures are provided with 2kg of buffalo meat with bone per vulture twice a week. The buffalo is kept in seven days quarantine to avoid diclofenac contamination as the retention time of diclofenac is 7 days in cow and buffalo. All the vultures are marked with leg bands for individual identity. Their activity pattern is being monitored through two fixed angle and one PTZ camera with infrared facility. Mating of two vulture pairs are already recorded though CCTV in the centre.

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Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Nandankanan Biological Park. A) long billed vultures using nesting platform, B) vultures using perches, C) inside view of colony aviary, D) outside view of colony aviary. E) vulture marked with leg band, F)PTZ camera in aviary, G) laboratory complex.