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ZOO STORY

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ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK



Z O O N E W S L E T T E R

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Arignar Anna Zoological Park is an institutional member with WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquarium) and the oldest zoo in India since 1855 (Madras Zoo).

The Zoo proves to be a famous destination for people to celebrate the Pongal festival. This year, Zoo management has introduced special attractions during Pongal festival days and the Zoo recorded highest visitors footfall on the day of Kaanum Pongal in the last five years. We have successfully handled the crowd with no incidences reported. The Zoo has successfully undergone Central Zoo Authority (CZA) renewal process and the Zoo will continue to function under CZA . After Otteri lake rejuvenation in Arignar Anna Zoological Park, the lake attracted good number of aquatic birds this season compared to the previous years.

Arignar Anna Zoological Park was closed to visitors from 17th March 2020, as per the direction of the State Government. As the Zoo was recognized under essential service, it is continuing to function with minimum number of staff following SOP directed by State Government and CZA. Hon'ble Forest Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Dindugal. C.Sreenivasan visited the Zoo and inspected the SOP followed in the Zoo.

During lockdown period, the Zoo school continued to engage the students and the public with various virtual contests and events. All the contests have received an overwhelming response. The Zoo will continue to provide education through virtual medium. We encourage volunteers and sponsors to come forward and adopt our zoo animals.

With continuous efforts taken by the Zoo management, I am sure that Arignar Anna Zoological Park will continue to be one of the best Zoos at the world level.

Shri. Yogesh Singh IFS

**Additional Principal Chief
Conservator of Forest & Director**



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KAANUM PONGAL



Vandalur Zoo - A famous Destination to celebrate Pongal Festival

Arignar Anna Zoological Park is one of the famous destinations for people in South India to celebrate the Pongal holidays along with their family and friends. This year, the Zoo management had made several arrangements to cater the needs of the huge inflow of visitors with special attractions during the Pongal holidays. On the day of Kaanum Pongal, the Zoo recorded highest number of visitors footfall in the last 5 years with the count of 56749. During the Pongal holidays, the Zoo had recorded visitors footfall around 1,40,000.

The following were the special arrangements highlighted this year during the Pongal festival. Timing of Zoo was extended from 8am to 6pm. Separate parking facilities for two wheelers, cars and heavy vehicles with free shuttle service from parking area to Zoo were provided. Twenty tickets counters were functional with a special counter for online booking. Three number specials buses were operated by the MTC from in and around Chennai. Children under 5 years were provided with hand tags to avoid child missing cases. Wheel chair service for senior citizens & differently abled were provided. Additional purified drinking water and toilet facilities were arranged. Flying squad for rescue, special help desk and medical aid help desk were setup to cater the needs of the visitors in case of emergency. For the safety of visitors, round the clock CCTV monitoring were done. About 300 police staff and 150 uniform forest staff were deputed on protection duty along with 200 numbers of NCC & NSS volunteers.

As a special attraction, this year during Pongal holidays, the Zoo management had arranged LED display of video show of recently born Tiger cubs, Gaur calves, Nilgai fawn and other unique Zoo animals. The visitors enjoyed watching the special seasonal delicacy, sugarcane, fed to elephants twice a day and elephant shower at 3.00 PM daily. A special exclusive photo point was setup, which attracted large numbers of visitors.





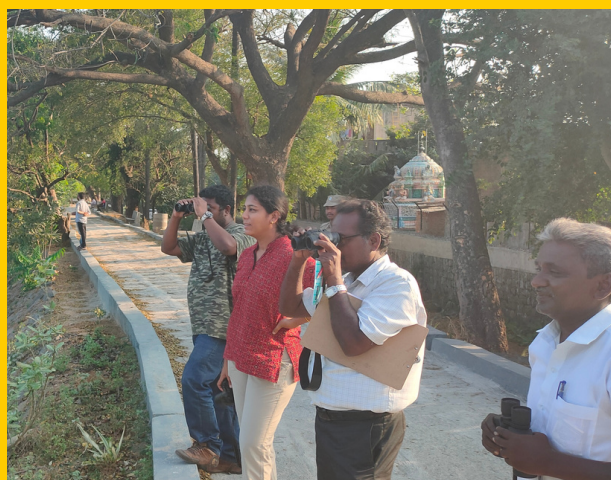
CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY (CZA) INSPECTION

Arignar Anna Zoological Park is one of the largest Zoos operating with recognition of Central Zoo Authority (CZA). Shri. A.V. Joseph IFS (Retired PCCF - Andhra Pradesh) of CZA was deputed to evaluate the Zoo on 11.2.2020 & 12.2.2020. He inspected the Zoo, had a close view of animal enclosures and evaluated the status of compliance of condition of recognition. He appreciated the facilities at the zoo, educational activities, maintenance of animal houses and also provided valuable inputs.



OTTERI LAKE BIRD CENSUS

Otteri Lake, lying in the foothills of Vandalur hills, witnesses thousands of aquatic and migratory birds every year. It is one of the major attractions of the Vandalur Zoo. This year, the Zoo management has taken several measures for lake renovation and executed it successfully. On the favour of monsoon, the lake had reached its maximum capacity. This year, Otteri lake attracted enormous number of aquatic birds, comparatively higher than the previous years. As a part of lake enrichment more than 10,000 fish seedling were released in the lake, which includes species of Catla, Rogue, Mirgal, Kendai, Rupchanda, etc.



The bird census was carried out by the Zoo expert team in Otteri Lake on 28.2.2020, 29.2.2020, 6.3.2020 and 7.3.2020 from 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm. The Census technique followed by Arignar Anna Zoological Park was the direct method (Total count). For accurate counting of birds optical aids were used to enable correct identification of birds and to collect accurate data. A vantage point was chosen and bird counting was done. A total of 15 species of aquatic birds (1885 Nos) were identified on 28.2.2020 and 29.2.2020. A total of 21 species of aquatic birds (3481 Nos) were identified on 6.3.2020 and 7.3.2020. Otteri Lake attracted thousands of aquatic birds this season. The Otteri Lake is now the enriched breeding ground for thousands of aquatic birds. Aquatic birds mainly chose Barringtonia (fresh water mangrove), Acacia auriculiformis, Terminalia arjuna, Bamboo sps for nesting.



COVID-19 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

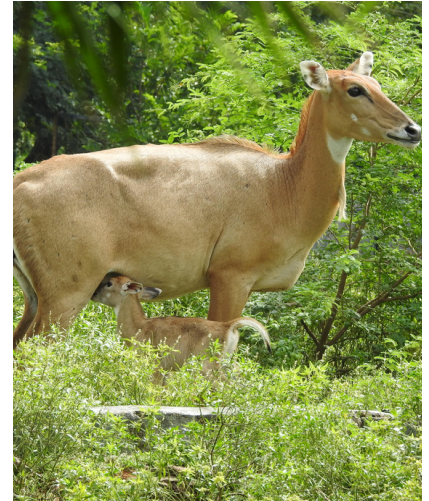
Arignar Anna Zoological Park was closed for public since 17.3.2020, following the directions of the State Government. Based on the guidance from the Central Zoo Authority and State Government, the Zoo management took up various precautionary measures towards COVID 19 and followed the SOP strictly.

- Staff at work were provided with hand gloves, face mask, sanitizer, and hand wash. Social distancing among staff was mandated. The premises was disinfected at regular intervals as per WHO protocols.
- The animal feed like vegetables, fruits and fish were treated with potassium permanganate solution before distributing them to the animals. Meat supplied to carnivorous animals were checked for quality by the Veterinary Doctors.
- Zoo staff, who have symptoms of cold, cough, fever and any other respiratory distress were advised to consult doctors and stay away from work.
- Surface disinfection of meat was attained by treatment with UV-C radiation.

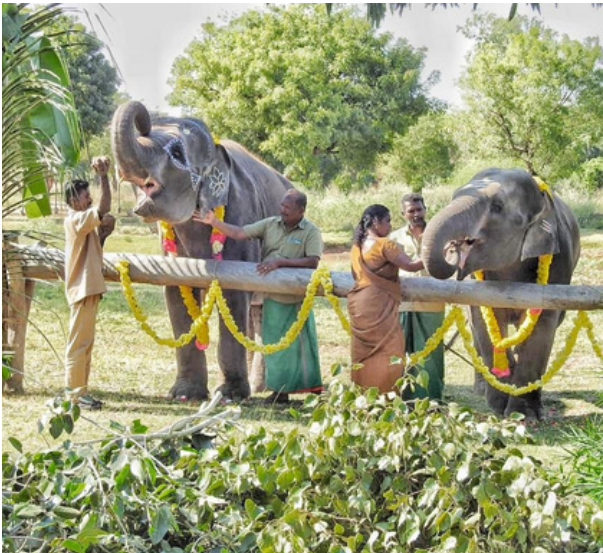
- Most of the animal enclosures in the Zoo is covered with Zoo e-Eye which provides round the clock monitoring facility.
- If the animal shows any probable symptoms related to COVID-19, samples will be collected from those animals in consultation with Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation, Vandalur (AIWC) and Tamilnadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS). Samples will be sent to the Central Government authorized labs like Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) for COVID testing. Such animal will be immediately isolated from other animals.
- All the precautionary measures taken by the Zoo management was inspected by Hon'ble Forest Minister Thiru. Dindugal. C.Sreenivasan on 7.4.2020. Thiru. Shambu Kallollikar IAS, Principal Secretary (Environment & Forest), Thiru. Durairasu IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force, Thiru. Yuvaraj IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wildlife Warden, Thiru. Yogesh Singh IFS, APCCF & Director, AAZP and other forest official were present during the inspection.
- SOP are strictly followed in Zoo and regularly inspected by Monitoring officers and internal squad team.

NEW BORN

- Indian Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) on 5.1.2020 in the sex ratio of 0:1
- Lion Tailed Macaque (*Macaca silenus*) on 23.3.2019 in the sex ratio of 0:0:1
- Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) on 3.3.2020 in the sex ratio 0:0:1
- Painted stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) from January to March in the sex ratio of 0:0:20
- Night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) from January to March in the sex ratio of 0:0:20



ELEPHANT REJUVENATION CAMP



Arignar Anna Zoological Park has inaugurated the Elephant rejuvenation camp for the year 2019-20 under the Government's order from the Government of Tamilnadu. During the camp, Elephants are provided with enriched nutritious feed that is rich in proteins and minerals. Supplements of micro nutrients were also provided apart from the regular feed. In addition to it, elephants are fed with their favorite feed like sugarcane, banana, coconut, Ficus leaves, etc. The camp was scheduled for 48 days from 6.2.2020 to 24.3.2020. Zoo visitors witnessed the elephant shower and rejuvenation camp between 4.00 to 5.00 pm. The Zoo houses two elephants named Rohini and Pragathi.

"Elephants loves reunions. They recognize one another after years and years of seperation, greet each other with wild, boisterous joy. There's bellowing and trumpeting, ear flapping and rubbing.Trunks entwine."

-Jennifer Richard Jacobson

VIP VISITS & TRAININGS



Hon'ble Tamilnadu Forest Minister Thiru. Dindugal. C.Sreenivasan visited AAZP and inspected the precautionary measures of COVID-19 taken up by the Zoo



Thiru. Shambu Kallolika IAS, Principal Secretary of Forest & Environment and Thiru. Yuvaraj IFS, PCCF & CWLW inspected the Otteri lake.



**IFS Probationary officer trainees
Exposure visit**



**Students from Rajiv Gandhi Institute of
Veterinary Education and Research - Exposure
visit.**



**International trainees from Wildlife Institute of India
visited AAZP**



**On Republic Day - Tmt. Sudha Ramen IFS Deputy
Director, AAZP addressed staff and zoo keepers
after the flag hoisting ceremony.**

GLOSSY IBIS IN CRITICAL CARE

Although the principles of critical care are universal in all species, their application can be quite challenging in birds. Usually these patients are provided with a 5-10-minute acclimation period whenever possible to minimize the time spent handling the bird. Supportive care relies upon supplemental heat provided in calm, quiet environment including fluid therapy. A glossy ibis being treated at our Zoo Veterinary Hospital.



**4-year-old female, Prakruthi's foot pad
being trimmed**

ELEPHANT - FOOTPAD TRIMMING

Elephants are the largest living terrestrial mammals. Their feet carry that huge body mass and the wear and tear of the foot pad maintains their functional form in animals in free ranging. In case of captive elephants the foot care is an important measure, which includes trimming of foot pad. In spite of the special care given for the maintenance of foot care it is not uncommon for the foot problems in captive elephants. The thickness of elephant foot pad varies around 5-8mm and increased thickening, uneven and irregular wear and tear of foot pad might predispose the elephants to variety of foot problems, which in turn could affect the quality of life of elephants. Our captive elephants are given frequent foot examination and care.

ULTRA-VIOLET IRRADIATION CHAMBER FOR MEAT DISINFECTION

UV-C rays inactivate all organisms, including viruses on the surface of the meat, rendering them safe without the problem of residual odour or taste, that are side effects of surface disinfection with chlorine or potassium permanganate. The objective of the exercise was to put in place a facility to rapidly surface sterilize the meat procured from vendors as feed for carnivores, to ensure that pathogens acquired during processing and transit of meat were inactivated and safe meat is fed to the animals. At the juncture of COVID-19, this protocol was implemented immediately with the suggestions of experts from TANUVAS, and all meat for carnivores are UV-chamber treated before they are fed.



Meat disinfected in UV chamber

PROPHYLACTIC MEASURES

- WOLF PUPPIES

The Indian wolf is a subspecies of grey wolf that ranges from Southwest Asia to the Indian subcontinent. It is intermediate in size between the Himalayan wolf and the Arabian wolf. The gestation period is 62-75 days and litter size can go upto 14. The wolf puppies born in our captivity are monitored continuously for health and proper nurturing care by mother. They all are dewormed in the second week and polyvalent vaccination is done for prophylaxis of dreadful diseases like Parvo viral hemorrhagic gastroenteritis, parainfluenza, leptospirosis, etc. as per standard protocol. The nutrition is also modified as per their growth, need and requirements constantly.



HEALTH CAMP FOR ZOO STAFF



Screening for blood sugar and BP



Screening for zoonotic disease

Sloth Bears are the only bears that carry young ones on their back.



Sloth Bears have 3 - inch- long ivory white claws

FOREST ELITE FORCE TRAINING

A dedicated training session for forest elite force was scheduled in Arignar Anna Zoological Park from 19.1.2020 to 25.1.2020. 16 trainees from TamilNadu forest department participated in the forest elite force training.

During the training, trainees are trained on various topics like Animal capture operation, Wildlife forensics, Essentials of wildlife for a forest personnel, Human animal conflict- recent trends in conflict mitigation, Rescue case studies in Indian scenario, Wildlife disease management, Animal behavioural approach and safe handling of wild animals, infrastructural management, overview of Zoological Parks, etc.



CELEBRATION OF IMPORTANT DAYS



**Special documentary on Wetlands
screened to the visitors on 2.2.2020 during
World Wetland Day**



**Zoo outreach was conducted in GHSS
Thirukachur on 3.3.2020 during World
Wildlife Day**

ONLINE CONTEST DURING LOCKDOWN

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, various online contests and events were organized in Zoo social media page and in Zoo website. A drawing contest was hosted in the zoo website on the topic " Stay Home Stay Safe". More than 700 students participated and submitted their entries. Based on the class of the participants, categories were divided and 20 prize winners were selected and prizes were sent to the best entries through post. Poster making contest on the theme " Post with Poster " was hosted in Zoo social media page on the topic COVID 19. The best entries of the contest are recognized in this zoo newsletter. We congratulate all the winners and participants of the contest.

BEST ENTRIES





**A nation that destroys its soil destroys itself. Forest
are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and
giving fresh strength to our people.**

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

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