

Zoo Newsletter

ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Due to the COVID pandemic, second-wave Arignar Anna Zoological Park was closed to the public and continued to grapple along with the rest of the world with the challenge posed by the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. As a sustainable practice, Zoo management has taken initiative to remove the 20 tonnes waste dump in zoo premises for more than 35 years with the support of the corporation.

Adding value to the sustainable practices, the zoo has re-established a nursery inside the zoo by periodic cultivation of saplings and planting them in and around the zoo campus will enhance the green cover area. The new animal adoption module has been revamped has got good feedback and response from the online users. To address the question of visitors and online viewers Gaja Zoo Bot was launched on the webpage and mobile application with 90% efficiency. Proper veterinary care and welfare of zoo animals are ensured at the Park. Various treatments were been practiced to cure animal illness.

AAZP takes conservation education to the public, professionals and public. To train the frontline staff and forest staff about the bird flu disease monitoring a training session was conducted along with AIWC. Training for zoo staff was initiated, a zoo outreach programme was conducted connecting students from various districts. A zookeeper's training session, zoo education for special children were also organized.

As the Zoo was closed due to prevailing pandemic conduction, AAZP was looking to fund support through CSR partnership. Call for CSR partnership action was initiated and Renault Nissan has supported the action of conservation by contributing 20 thachment sheds in the animal enclosures and two 14 seater vehicle was contributed by the company. With sustainable support and care, AAZP will ensure to upgrade zoo practices with well being of zoo animals and continuous up-gradation of conservation education programs.

Debasis Jana IFS

Additional Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests & Director



In t h i s i s s u e

- International day of Forests
- Synchronized bird census
- Women day celebration
- Step to reduce carbon footprinting
- Establishing a nursery inside the zoo
- Hedge plantation
- Animal Adoption - new module
- Gaja Zoo Bot
- Staff training
- COVID pandemic trembles to zoo closure

Veterinary care

- Revival of the queens tail
- Laminitis with foot abscess in Asiatic wild ass
- Traumatically Epilated Emu

Zoo school

- Training on Bird Flu monitoring
- World Wetland Day
- Zoo outreach program
- Reptile keeper - training
- Zoo education for special children
- Renault Nissan - CSR sponsorship

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International Day of Forest

The Park celebrated the International Day of Forests on 21 March in a befitting way. To mark this special occasion, a tree planting activity was carried out at various points inside the zoo.



A Poster making contest was organized on the eve of the day for the students of class VI and above. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director and Deputy Director distributed the prizes to the winners and addressed the event. During this event, Forest Range officers, Foresters, Zoo staff, CSR partners, and the visiting public were present.



Senior managerial personnel of Renault Nissan Technology and Business Centre India Private limited which is planning to undertake various initiatives like Solar Lighting in the zoo premises, installing Atmospheric Water Generator under its Corporate Social Responsibility program in association with AAZP, also participated in the event as guests of honour



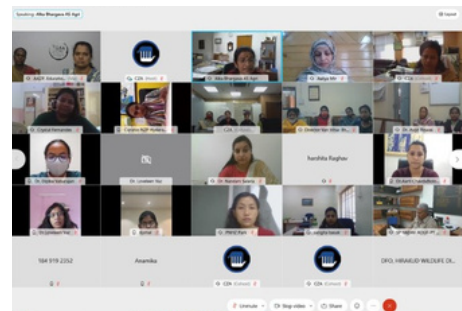
Synchronized bird census



Arignar Anna Zoological Park conducted a synchronized bird census on 17.2.2021 and 18.2.2021 from 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm in the Otteri Lake. As part of lake enrichment, more than 10,000 fish seedlings were left in the lake which includes species of Catla, Rogue, Mirgal, Kendai, Rupchanda..etc 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 the correct identification of birds and to collect accurate data. A vantage point was chosen and bird counting was done. A total of 25 species of aquatic birds (2427Nos) were identified.

Women Day celebration

Central Zoo Authority organized a dedicated online session for women staff of the Indian Zoo. Zoo Educator Range staff and animal keepers of AAZP participated in the online event. The session was highly motivational for our staff who participated.



In a first-of-its-kind initiative in its history, the Park organized Women's Day celebration integrating all-women staff of Arignar Anna Zoological Park. AAZP is one of the zoos with a very large number of women staff -105. On this special day, various contests like cooking, handicraft and rangoli were organized. All Women staff actively participated and expressed their talent in the above field.

To encourage teamwork, several team sports activities were conducted. In the afternoon a gathering was arranged in the Zoo school auditorium. Former Deputy Directors of AAZP Tmt. B.C. Archanakalyani IFS and S. Sudha IFS shared their video messages on this special occasion.



Step to reduce carbon footprinting in zoo

In a step towards reducing our carbon / ecological footprints, 300 tonnes of garbage (mainly plastic) that had been dumped inside the zoo premises over the last several decades, were arranged to be removed by Tambaram and Vandalur municipalities to the dump yards at Perungudi and Appur (Maraimalainagar). The remaining 100 tonnes will be cleared this month. Action is underway to put in place green solutions and processes that will facilitate our progress towards 'Zero wastes' scenario.



Establishing nursery inside the zoo

With a view to grow hedges around the enclosures, as recommended by the CZA, cuttings of Kolenji and other non-browsable hedge plants were planted in the mist chambers of the Research wing. A nursery site has been developed to grow hedge and other ornamental plants in the house by vegetative propagation of mother propagules sourced from nurseries



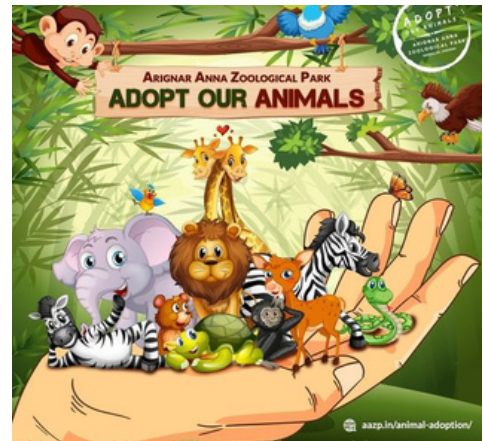
Hedge plantation

Hedge plantations in front of the animal enclosures are dried due to dry weather condition and grazing of free-ranging herbivores. New Hedge creation are made in the space between the moat wall and the barricade was completed in front of the Tiger breeding, Chimpanzee and 6 other enclosures. This builds an aesthetic value and pleasant ambience



Animal adoption – New module

A new animal adoption module was developed making it more attractive and user-friendly. The online animal adoption facility is accessible through the zoo website aazp.in/animal-adoption and Zoo Mobile Application. As a promotion, for amounts above a certain threshold, the adopter's photo can also be displayed on the animal adoption page based on his willingness. The new animal adoption module has received encouraging response.



Gaja-Zoo Bot



On the Tamil New Year, Arignar Anna Zoological Park has taken the Zoo digital experience to the next level by introducing the CHATBOT on the zoo website. Gaja - the zoo bot has been efficiently trained to answer almost 95% of the visitors' queries (Frequently Asked Questions). Current/ same day online booking previously unavailable, is enabled now. Efforts are also on to introduce contactless, QR Code based access control shortly. Arignar Anna Zoological Park is poised to be at the forefront in terms of implementing digital experience.

Staff Training

The training plan for zoo staff was prepared by the Zoo Director, Debasis Jana IFS. The first session of training was held on 30.3.2021. The session was presented by the Zoo Director on motivation and behavioral change at work. All ministerial staff of the Director's office participated in the training session and the training focus on the encouragement and motivation of the staff members to work as a team and enhance their efficiency, and productivity.



COVID pandemic trembles to zoo closure

Due to the prevailing pandemic condition and spread of COVID second wave as per the announcement made by the Government of Tamilnadu, Arignar Anna Zoological Park will remain closed to the public from 20.4.2021 until further orders. Even though the Park is closed to visitors, the Zoo continuously connects people through virtual platforms. Live streaming of Zoo animals 24 X 7 through the zoo website and Vandalur zoo mobile application. Feasible user-friendly transparent animal adoption, Webinar sessions and events on important forest days. The Park continues to connect through a digital platform until the Zoo reopens.

Veterinary corner

Revival of the Queen's Tail



Team of veterinarians with pre- assigned role



Tail tip with avulsion wound and bone exposure



Post operative protective bandaging



After complete healing and recovery of tuft of hair in the tail tip

The Zoo Veterinary hospital was reported a tail injury in a lioness. On examination, there was an avulsion and laceration wound on the tail tip with exposure to coccygeal vertebrae. Traumatic injury with structures inside the enclosure, infight injury and kind of autoimmune disorder are the differentials that could be accounted. The wound was dressed by covering exposed bone with available soft tissue and course antibiotic started immediately. A decision to surgically correct the wound was made. Team of vets with each assigned with a role, the tail wound was reconstructed under intravenous and epidural anesthesia in such a way that tip of the tail is preserved as the tuft of tail at the tip is very essential for her and she also looks as elegant as her counterparts of the pride. She recovered completely on 8th day and sutures were removed.

Laminitis with foot abscess in an Asiatic Wild Ass

Asiatic Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus*) is an endangered species with decreasing population. Our zoo have successfully bred and two foalings have happened in 3 years interval. One of the female wild ass developed severe non weight bearing lameness which was not responding to the pain killers. Experts of Clinical department from TANUVAS were invited, the animal was chemically immobilized by darts and the ailing hoof was treated. Soon after the treatment, the animal started bare weight on the affected limb and walking. The lameness score improved from 5/5 to 2/5.



Traumatically Epilated Emu



Emus were brought to our Zoological Park through animal exchange program over 2000 km on road. But while unloading the animals in the destination, traumatic loss of feathers was noticed in two emus out of four brought. In that there was an extensive loss of feather and superficial skin layer in one Emu and was also lethargic to move. The stamping of one over the other bird during transportation was attributed as the etiology. Soon after the physical examination oral fluid therapy with electrolytes was done and a course of antibiotic with analgesics and supplementation of multivitamins including Biotin was started from day one. The Emu became active to ambulate on third day and completely recovered with recovery of feathers on 6th week of therapy.



Adopt the zoo animals even at the rate of Rs 100 per day
and contribute for animal welfare



Zooschool

Capacity Building of Field staff on bird Flu monitoring



On 21st January 2021, Arignar Anna Zoological Park along with the Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation jointly conducted a webinar on "Capacity Building of field staff on bird flu monitoring" from 10 am to 12.30 pm for all district DFOs, Forest Range officers, Biologists, Foresters, Field biologist, FGs, FWs, and all other field staff.

World Wetland day

To commemorate World Wetland day 2021, on 1.2.2021 Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Zoo school organized a dedicated awareness event near the point calimere birds' aviary in the Zoo. The Biologist and Zoo educator presented the programme to visitors, info graphical material was presented to them. Visitors of all age groups actively participated in the event and got to know more about wetlands. On the spot, a quiz contest was conducted and prizes were distributed to the winners.



Zoo outreach programme

Arignar Anna Zoological Park conducted Zoo outreach programme @GHSS Kilambakkam dated 5.2.2021. Students of class 10th and 12th participated in the programme. During the session, the students learned the functions and activities of the zoo as an Ex-situ conservation centre and its role in the conservation of biodiversity.

Arignar Anna Zoological Park extended the Zoo outreach programme as an online session on 19.2.2021 four schools from various districts of Tamilnadu activity participated in the programme. GHSS - Udayamarthandapuram - Thiruvavur District, GHSS- Andipalayam- Pollachi - Coimbatore District, St Joseph Government high school- Thanjavur District, GHSS - Mudhukurukki village - Krishnagiri District. Its highly notable that many schools from other districts are awaited interestly to participate in this programme.



World Wildlife day

As in previous years, this year, March 3rd was celebrated as World Wildlife Day under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet" to increase awareness about the importance of wildlife in balancing the environment. On this special occasion, the Park organized an awareness social media campaign about the day. A special awareness event was conducted in the Zoo school auditorium at 3.00 pm. Documentary describing the importance of wildlife day was also played during the session. Zoo visitors eagerly participated in this special event and they were sensitized to the importance of forests and wildlife and their benefits to all life forms on the planet. A pop-up Quiz contest was conducted and as a token of appreciation for participation, native tree saplings were given to the participants.



Animal keeper – capacity building training

A 3 -day training programme from 15.3.2021 to 17.3.2021 was organized by IGZP, Visakhapatnam in coordination with Central Zoo Authority, India for animal keepers of reptile section. Thiru. Venkatesan and Thiru Palani of the reptile section, AAZP participated in the online training session. Biologists of the Park translated into tamil to the keepers.



Zoo education for special children



Arignar Anna Zoological Park – Zoo School greets a warm welcome to the children with special needs, on 26.2.2021 a group of 20 members along with the parent and caretaker visited the zoo. The children were encouraged to participate in various educational activities of the zoo and showcase their talents. A session was conducted for the Parents and Caretaker on how an exploration of the zoo has changed the life of a child with special needs.

Renault Nissan – CSR sponsorship



New Wild Dog



White Tiger



Wolf



Hog Deer



King Cobra



Manipuri Deer



Nilgai Deer



Ostrich



Sambar



Spotted Deer



Tiger Moat



Hyena



Demoiselle Crane



Hetrozygous Tiger



Sloth Bear



Barking Deer



Black Buck



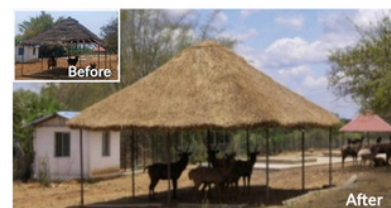
Elephant



Giraffe



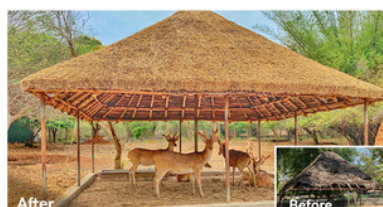
Rhino



Deer Safari



Lion Safari Yard



Swamp Deer



Wild Ass



Vandalur Zoo

TICKETS

ZOO MAP

ANIMAL INFO

4D VIEW

LIVE STREAM

ADOPTION

SELFIE

ZOO EVENTS

CONNECT WITH US

To know more information about animals,
Download Zoo Mobile App

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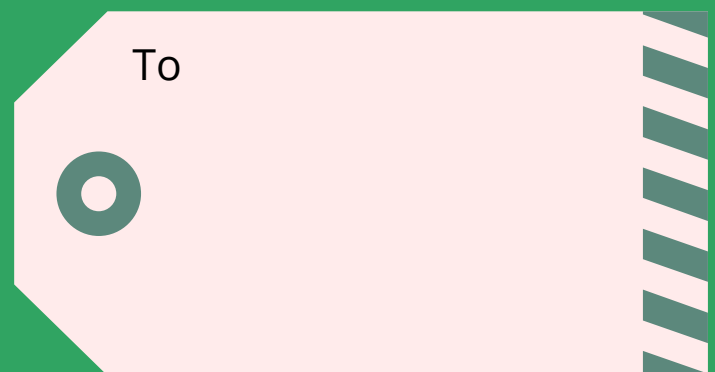
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