

ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

# ZOO STORY



## ZOO NEWSLETTER

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[WWW.AAZP.IN](http://WWW.AAZP.IN)



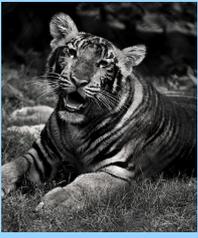
Vandalur Zoo - Arignar Anna  
Zoological Park, Vandalur,  
Chennai



Vandalur Zoo @Arignar Anna  
Zoological Park Chennai



Arignar Anna Zoological  
Park's Zoo School



# DIRECTOR CORNER

Arignar Anna Zoological Park ✨

Arignar Anna Zoological Park has achieved many significant mile stones during this quarter. As a part of world wildlife celebration this year, Arignar Anna Zoological Park has organized a 5K wild run in the zoo premises and recorded the run in Asian book of records as the India's first run conducted by zoo ✨

By the continuous efforts and care taken up by the zoo management, the Otteri Lake inside the zoo premises was completely rejuvenated to welcome the aquatic and migratory birds this season.

Hard work always pays a way, the entire team involved in Rhino exchange programme was appreciated by the Hon'ble Forest Minister Thiru. Dindigul Srinivasan and Fishery Minister Thiru Jeyakumar during the Wildlife week celebration. Arignar Anna Zoological Park is now an institutional member with WAZA ( World Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and the zoo has access to worldwide wildlife conservation forums. Zoo School continues ✨ to conduct various awareness and educational programmes to spread the word of conservation. The Veterinary hospital is equipped with advanced devices with well established infrastructure to address the emergency needs of animals.

With the continuous effort taken by the zoo team, I Am sure that Arignar Anna Zoological Park will continue to be as one of the best zoos at the world level.



## THIRU YOGESH SINGH I.F.S

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF  
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & DIRECTOR

EDITOR - SUDHA RAMEN IFS,  
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# OTTERI LAKE

@ Arignar Anna Zoological Park



## Success Story

### Otteri Lake Rejuvenation

Otteri Lake, lying in the foothills of Vandalur hills located inside the Arignar Anna Zoological park witnesses thousands of aquatic and migratory birds every year. After Vardah cyclone in 2016, followed by consecutive summers of severe drought, the entire lake dried up completely. The Zoo management has taken several action plans for lake renovation and executed it successfully.

Several measures has been carried out by the team. The first task was to clear the natural drainage channels, followed by desiltation. The desilted soil was utilized to raise shallow mounds across the expanse of the lake, which we later afforested with fast-growing plants that attract birds. Trees like Barringtonia (freshwater mangrove), Arjuna, Jamun, Ficus were planted aplenty on these mounds. To our immense surprise, almost all the mounds are submerged by rainwater this season and the plants are at their brightest green. Waterbodies are linked to the nearby pond where excess water gets collected.

After restoration, the lake's storage capacity has increased subsequently. In addition, bunds and weirs have been raised to prevent the lake from drying out. Several percolation ponds and rainwater storage units have also been dug out across the zoo to maintain the groundwater table. These ponds in turn had helped to resolve the water crisis for the zoo animals.

The entire zoo team has made all the incredible effort to make this daunting task successful. As the monsoon favoured this season the lake has reached the maximum water capacity and excess water overflowed to the nearby local lake. On the favour of monsoon the lake had reached the maximum capacity of water and attracted more than 500 water and migratory birds this season. Now the well flourished otteri lake is opened for the visitors to enjoy the bird watching in a natural habitat and make their visit most memorable.



# VANDALAR ZOO'S - WILD RUN

For the first time in the Indian history of marathon run, Arignar Anna Zoological Park organized a special run inside the Zoo premises for a cause to conserve wildlife. Every year wildlife week is celebrated in the first week of October (Oct 2 - Oct 8), the Zoo has organized various events and social media contest. As a first of its kind, Arignar Anna Zoological Park has organised the special awareness run for wildlife conservation named as "Vandalur Zoo's Wild Run" with the motto of "Run to conserve Wildlife" was conducted on 5th October 2019 at 7.00 am.

The run was organised in a grand manner and the participants were provided with customized themed T Shirt, thematic Bib with time tracking chip. Participants collected their T-shirt and bib with chip in advance at the dedicated counters at Guindy National Park and Arignar Anna Zoological Park.



The event started with refreshing warm up session and Zumba dance. It has cherished the participants to a greater extent. Participants of various age group actively participated in the run. The run was presided and flagged off by Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Forests Thiru. Shambu Kallollikar, IAS, in the presence of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) Dr. P. Durairasu, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden Thiru. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director Thiru. Yogesh Singh, IFS, and Government officers.

## INDIA'S FIRST RUN IN THE ZOO

Recorded in Asian Book  
of Records with  
maximum participation

Arignar Anna Zoological Park takes the pride that Vandalur Zoo's Wild Run was recorded in the Asian Book of Records as the largest and first run in the zoo with a record of 1029 maximum number of participants. The run was more significant as it was a silent and low wastage event. The participants felt very happy and said that they feel proud to be a part in India's first wild run inside the Zoo under a green cover zone.

## APPRECIATION FROM DEPARTMENT



The Great Indian one horned Rhinoceros was back at Vandalur Zoo after 3 decades. It was a historic and herculean task of animal exchange programme carried-out by the zoo team.

The Zoo was able to achieve this milestone by the proper planning by the zoo team. Starting from several follow up with zoos to get a pair of Rhino, construction of enriched Rhino enclosure, travel plan for 4000 km of road journey etc. The team has planned the travel in advance and timely care of animals was provided through out the journey.

Tamil Nadu forest Department has recognized the hard work done by the team in this historic animal exchange programme and rewarded the team for the hard and dedicated work.

On October 8th 2019, during the world wildlife celebration event held at Guindy National Park, the team of APCCF & Director Thiru. Yogesh Singh IFS, Tmt. Sudha Ramen IFS Deputy Director, Dr.Sridhar (Veterinary Asst Surgeon), Dr. Manimozhi (Biologist), Thiru. Senthil (Forest Range Officer), Thiru. Ganesan and Thiru. Kumar (Foresters) was rewarded by Thiru. Dindigul C.Sreenivasan, Minister for Forests Department and Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Minister for Fisheries Department.

## "RHINE" - THE FIRST FEMALE RHINO @ AAZP

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu inaugurated the improved Rhino Enclosure on August 10, 2019 and opened it for public to visit the Rhino Ramu which was brought through animal exchange from Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad. Later, a female one horned rhinoceros along with three Gharials were brought from Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park (Patna) through animal exchange programme.

The animals were brought by road travel for about 2500 kms from Patna to Chennai. The Zoo Management has deputed a expert team of Officials (veterinarians, biologist and forest staff) to provide special animal and veterinary care and protection through out the journey. These animals were kept in quarantine under medical supervision following the guidelines of Central Zoo Authority.

The female Great Indian One horned Rhinoceros named "Rhine" aged 2 years was the first female rhinoceros of Vandalur Zoo. As part of World Rhino day celebration on September 22, 2019, the first female rhino "Rhine" enclosure view was opened to the public display. The Zoo now has a pair of the Great Indian One horned Rhinoceros after 3 decades, which keeps attracting the visitors.

The Zoo has extended the live streaming facility to view the Rhino pairs from their exhibit area. Through this facility, the viewers from worldwide can now view the Rhinos through the zoo website [www.aazp.in](http://www.aazp.in) from 26.10.19 at free of cost.

# ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER WITH WAZA - WORLD ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUM-



Arignar Anna Zoological Park, the centre for excellence in education is now recognized as Institutional Member with WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums) on September 8th, 2019. WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums) is a world level organization for the World Zoos and Aquariums community. It is committed to support the vision, mission and interest of the members at International level in terms of wildlife conservation, management and breeding of animals in captivity.

## Benefits of the Membership: -

The membership will provide a global platform to the Zoo to attract talents and expertise from all around the world in the field of Wildlife and also provides Network with Directors and CEOs of the global zoo and aquarium community.

- Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur will be able to partner in WAZA campaigns that address marine litter, single-use plastic, sustainable palm oil, certified forestry and other key issues.
- WAZA association will link Arignar Anna Zoological Park to IUCN, CITES, CBD, RAMSAR, CMS Network.
- Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur can approach foreign zoos to initiate animal exchange programmes and also provides a platform for knowledge sharing.
- Arignar Anna Zoological Park will have the opportunity to take part in the development of new strategies and policies for future development of zoos and aquarium world wide.
- Arignar Anna Zoological Park may attend special meeting / conferences at global level.



International students Washington State University being trained at our facility



The students from Oklahoma State University were trained on the projectiles and use of remote delivery systems.



Internship Training - Students from Madras Veterinary College were given a exposure visit on the various management protocols related to health care, nutrition and neonatal care.





## ANIMAL RUSHED IN FOR EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL CARE



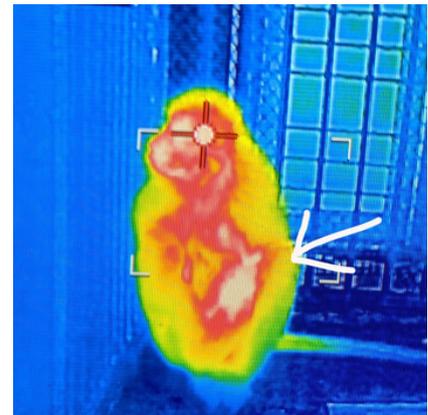
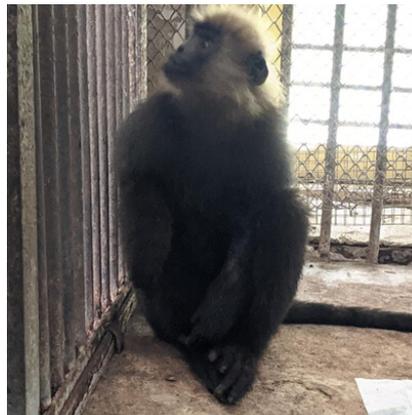
**Reconstruction of a third degree deep lacerated wound of forelimb and its functional recovery in a Nilgiri Langur.**

A male Nilgiri Langur was reported for a bleeding injury of left arm to the zoo veterinarians, due to infight. Infighting was commonly observed in animals that live in group, including primates, especially when a new male attempts to establish a hierarchical dominance. Soon the animal was chemically immobilized and transferred to the Zoo Veterinary Hospital immediately

On clinical examination it is found that the animal had a third grade deep lacerated injury exposing tendon with deep and complete transection of biceps brachii muscle. The victim was stabilized immediately and a reconstructive surgery was performed immediately under general anaesthesia in order to regain the function of the hand. The wound debrided surgically, individual muscle were anatomically anastomosed. Fascial and intradermal sutures were applied, which was further reinforced with skin staples. The animal began using the injured arm from 2nd post-operative day and was completely recovered with full functionality from 10th post-operative day. The skin staples were removed on 12th post-operative day.



Extensive deep grade 3 lacerated wound



Post Operative - Pain monitoring by Thermal Imaging

## SLOTH BEAR- ANESTHETIC PROTOCOL

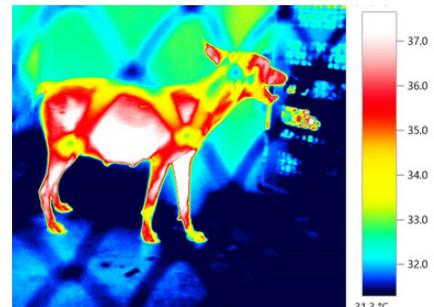
It is important to evaluate health of the captive animals and at times its challenging. Research on health and diseases of captive bear species is at its genesis. Understanding of the health related parameters and evidence of diseases in captive-reared bears will thus significantly contribute towards effective management of this species. Haematological and serum biochemical indices constitute to health assessment. However, for this assessment, immobilization of this species is warranted. Zoo Veterinarians seen at one such immobilization protocol.



A sloth bear at transit after immobilisation.

## THERMOGRAPHY - NON INVASIVENESS AND NUANCES

Observations and studies of wild animals are fraught with many problems due to the unique biological and behavioral traits of different species, such as nocturnal lifestyle, concealed hideouts, protective coloration, and high vigilance levels. Thermal imaging is a technique used to detect injuries, inflammations, infectious diseases to control reproduction (detection of estrus and pregnancy, determination of male fertility) and lactation processes. This is applied to investigate thermoregulation in animals, to analyze the effect of environmental factors on animal behavior, to localize individuals and their habitats, and to determine the size of wildlife populations. Thermography techniques have been used at AAZP at a preliminary level to identify ailments such as wounds, inflammations and to also detect pregnancy in females. The non invasiveness of this technology is the immediate need of the hour and also the its ability to pin point minute differences contribute to a greater level of significance in Wildanimal management.



## BIOMETRICS AND HEALTH EVALUATION OF ANIMALS



Periodic Health evaluation and Biometrics of animals are done by Veterinarians. This procedure helps in obtaining baseline values of growth rate, like intercanine length, tail length etc. These references act as standards which help to estimate age in other animals of unknown age. The zoo acts as a facilitation centre and a database bank. AAZP proves to be yet another pioneer in this field, contributing to enhanced conservation values. Thus the zoo fulfilling its vision of conservation education.

## EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PROTOCOL- ULTRASOUND

Ultrasonographic evaluation of kidneys are useful in the discrete diagnosis of kidney diseases in animals. In tigers, there is a lack of information regarding the ultrasonography measurement data for the kidney size of the tiger. Efforts to standardize this protocol has been initiated by Zoo Veterinarians at AAZP. Routine scans are carried out to understand the renal morphology and to enhance diagnostic attributes in conscious tigers.



# ZOO SCHOOL CORNER

## CERTIFICATE COURSE ON BIRD IDENTIFICATION AND BASIC ORNITHOLOGY

Arignar Anna Zoological Park is one of the largest zoo in Southeast Asia and also recognized as an institutional member with WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquarium). Arignar Anna Zoological Park Zoo School is the centre for excellence in terms of conservation education with the mission to educate the public about the importance of nature and its conservation through various awareness programme.

Certificate course on Bird Identification and Basic Ornithology was conducted by Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Zoo School under the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) in coordination with Department of Environment and sponsored by Ministry of Environment, forest and Climate change for the duration of 160 hours from 11.11.2019 to 6.12.2019. This course provides an opportunity for the school drop outs, graduates to develop their skills and to enhance their knowledge in bird identification and basic ornithology. It is remarkable that Arignar Anna Zoological Park had conducted this training under Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) for the first time.



Topics includes the introduction of birds, evolution, history, classification, adaptation, habitat, behavior, diversity, threats, conservation, bird watching, identification of birds, documentation, basic of instrumentation in birding, tourism, field visits to wetland and forest areas and so on. Senior Professors, Biologist, Veterinarians and expert birders from various division handled the session.

Valedictory programme was conducted at the Zoo school auditorium on 6.12.2019 Tmt K.Geethanjali I.F.S. Additional Director, Department of Environment, Tamilnadu, Tmt Sudha Ramen I.F.S. Deputy Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Thiru.K.Sekar, Assistant Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, presided the programme and distributed the certificates to the participants.

# ZOO AMBASSADOR - WINTER CAMP 2019

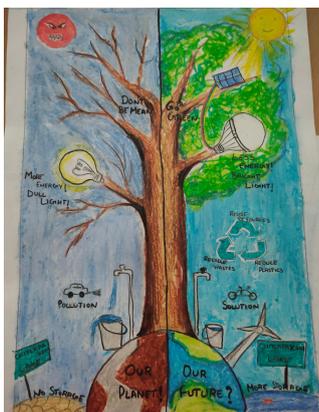
Arignar Anna Zoological Park Zoo School conducted the most prestigious and famous Zoo Ambassador programme winter camp during the month of December 2019. The programme was conducted in four batches, course kit which includes the animal book of Vandular Zoo, activity worksheets and stationery were provided to the participants. Overall 194 students participated in the winter camp and they were titled as " Zoo Ambassadors of Vandular Zoo" with certificate, Zoo ambassador badge and Zoo passport which comprises 10 free visits to the zoo for a period of one year.



## "OUR PLANET, OUR FUTURE" - POSTER MAKING CONTEST

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Zoo School organises several educational awareness programme and competitions to the young aspirants through our the year. To commemorate the International day of climate action on October 24, Zoo School conducted "Poster making contest" on 24 October 2019 at Zoo Interpretation Centre in the theme " Our planet our future". 100 Students from 20 Government schools of Kanchipuram district actively participated.

The contest aims to promote awareness and importance of action plan to be taken by every individual against the effects caused due to climatic changes. The climate change will be a major challenge for the future generation. Students showed their passion of art through the posters. Prize winners were selected by panel of judges and prizes were distributed by Deputy Director Tmt.S.Sudha Ramen IFS. Best and winning posters were recognized in zoo social media page.



1st Prize - K.L.Varun IX std  
SRDF Vivekananda Vidhyalaya-  
chromepet



2nd Prize - R. Pooja IX std  
,GHSS, Sholinganallur



3rd Prize - M.Rajalakshmi X std  
GHSS, Singaperumal koil

## WORLD RHINO DAY - CONTEST

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Zoo School has organized several contest in Zoo and Zoo social media page to commemorate World Rhino Day on September 22, 2019. Content writing contest on the topic "Why rhino is important to India?" and Photography contest on the topic "Rhino! The pride of India" was conducted in social media page. Special awareness campaign to sensitize the importance of Rhino was conducted. Slogan writing and on the spot quiz contest was also conducted for the visitors. More than 1000 visitors actively participated in the contest, winners were selected and prizes was distributed to the contest winners.



## "CLEAN INDIA" SWACHH BHARAT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

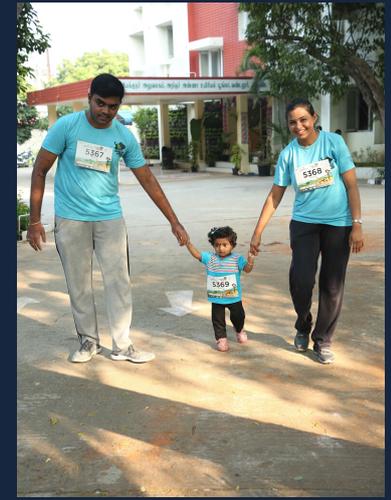
Arignar Anna Zoological park is one of the famous destination for the people around the country. Indian institute of tourism and travel management - Incredible India has conducted Swachh Bharat awareness campaign at the zoo campus. More than 1000 visitors participated in the awareness campaign, visitors were educated on zero use of plastics and encouraged to use ecofriendly bags to dispose the waste. As part of the campaign, paper thrash bags, caps, stickers were distributed to the zoo visitors.



## ZOO CLUB VOLUNTEERING SERVICE ACTIVITIES



500 students from school police cadet cleared the plastics and plant weeds in the zoo premises



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