

Press Release

Update on wild Elephant “ARIKOMBAN”

“Arikomban” the wild tusker translocated by the Kerala Forest department in the Periyar Tiger Reserve on 29.04.2023, entered Tamil Nadu Forest area on 30.04.2023. In continuation of the efforts taken by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department in monitoring the movement of “Arikomban”, apart from ensuring safety of the public and of the elephant, the Forest department has managed to support the movement of the elephant in the forest area of Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve. The tusker is currently foraging in the forest area.

Tmt.Supriya Sahu,I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forests and Climate Change department accompanied by Thiru.Srinivas R.Reddy,IFS., Chief Wildlife Warden visited forest team. They along with, Tmt.R.V.Shajeevana, IAS., Collector, Theni held meetings with experts and veterinary Doctors on 01.06.2023 and reviewed the preparedness of the field team. They also interacted with Anti-poching watchers, mahouts and cavadies who have come from Anamalai Tiger Reserve & Mudhumalai Tiger Reserve to support the ground team.

A team of 4 veterinary doctors are monitoring the movement of the elephant and his health. Four teams of 68 forest frontline personnel led by the Field Director, Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) along with Deputy Director, Megamalai Division, Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR) and the District Forest Officer, Theni are monitoring the movement of the elephant. A team of 85 forest personnel are engaged in various activities to handle the situation.

The Forest Department is taking all steps in close coordination with the District administration to ensure the safety of public and of the elephant.

**Additional Chief Secretary,
Environment, Climate Change
& Forest Department.**

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