

PRESS RELEASE**Tamil Nadu Forest Department successfully reunites an orphaned Elephant Calf with Elephant Herd in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve**

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department officials at Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve received an information on 03rd March about a female elephant found lying in a distressed condition. It was reported that her two calves, one sub-adult male calf and another two months old female calf, were found to be roaming around her, traumatized and scared. The Department team immediately rushed to the spot and rushed a team of Veterinary Doctors to treat the ailing elephant. The female elephant was treated with IV fluids, antibiotics, analgesics and necessary medication. Thermal imaging and blood tests were also conducted. The team of Veterinary Doctors Dr.A.Sukumar FVO Coimbatore, Dr.N.Kalaivanan from Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Dr.E.Vijayaraghavan from Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Dr.Sadhasivam from Sathymangalam Tiger Reserve , Dr.K.Rajesh Kumar from Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Dr.K.Kumar, Research Scientist from All India Wildlife Council tried their best to revive the female elephant.

The sub-adult male elephant was successfully guided by the team to join the elephant herd. However, the two months old female baby elephant was traumatized and started running uncontrollably. The forest team immediately deployed the expert team of elephant men from the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, including elephant trackers from Anamalai Tiger Reserve, led by Forest Range Officers, Foresters and Forest Guards. The team also requisitioned the services of drones and thermal cameras to assist in the operation.

Inspite of the best efforts of the Forest Department, the mother elephant succumbed to her ailments. However, in this hour of darkness also the team did not lose hope and made sincere efforts to unite the calf with her native herd. With the help of drones and thermal cameras the team monitored the movement of the native herd and after tracking the location of the herd and confirming that the young calf's sibling was there in the same herd, the team successfully united the herd in the wee hours of 05th March 2024. Further trackings have confirmed that the calf has been moving with her native herd under the care and protection of another lactating mother in the herd.

This is the 2nd successful attempt in the year 2024 by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department in ensuring that the orphaned or lost elephant calves are united with their native herds. Government of Tamil Nadu is also the first state in the country to have brought out a Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for taking care of young/juvenile elephant calves. The SOP details the steps to be taken for reuniting orphaned/lost calves. Officers who lead the event included Dr.Rajkumar, Field Director-Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Dr.Venkatesh, Field Director-Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Dr Ramasubramaniam, Field Director-Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Deputy Director, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve Thiru Sudhagar, Mahout Kirumaaran and team from Mudumalai, Forest Range Officers Mr.Pugazendhi, Mr.Manikandan, Elephant care takers Mr.Marban and Mr.Srikanth and Mr.Ganesh Pandian, Anti poaching watchers and other forest Department Staff.

Additional Chief Secretary to Government
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