

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 18.6.2013 addressed by Selvi J Jayalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Shri Tarun Gogoi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam is reproduced below: -

"I am writing to you both in my capacity as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and also as the Chairperson of the Zoo Authority of Tamil Nadu.

Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, is the largest Zoo in the Country and one of the largest in South-East Asia. More than two million visitors visit the Zoo annually. Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, is categorized as a "Large Zoo" based on species diversity, number of endangered species and area. The Zoo is known for following modern captive animal management principles in its day to day administration.

The Zoo has in its collection, 1400 individual animals consisting of 143 species. The greater one-horned rhinoceros was in our collection from 1985 to 1989. The animal died in 1989 and after that there has been no representative of this magnificent animal in our Zoo. Considering the number of visitors to the Zoo and the popularity of the Indian rhinoceros it would be very fitting if Vandalur Zoo could once again have these animals in our collection. We have sufficient numbers of Indian gaur, which we can give in exchange to the Government of Assam. The Indian gaur is one of our flagship species.

Hence, I request you to spare one pair of greater one-horned rhinoceros in exchange for one pair of Indian gaur."

* * *

Issued by : Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.

Date : 19.6.2013