

## Only rhino at Nehru Zoo Park suffering from cancer



Painful life: The cancer-struck rhino at the Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad on Tuesday

*Zoo officials looking for another rhino to be brought here  
There is no giraffe or zebra in the zoo for years*

HYDERABAD: With the last of its rhinoceros ailing from cancer, the Nehru Zoological Park has started efforts to acquire one from other zoos of the country. The zoological parks at Patna and Kanpur are being approached for the purpose.

The rhino at the zoo here has been down with cancer of jaw for the last few months and a surgery undertaken by the veterinarians while removing a tumour has failed in completely containing the cancer.

Mohit, the 20-year-old rhino, is the only one here and cynosure of all eyes after its mother passed away a few years ago at the age of 39.

According to the zoo officials, the cancerous growth has been malignant and services of specialists were roped in from even the Madras Veterinary College and the Bareilly-based Indian Veterinary Research Institute.

### **Tumour growing**

“However, the tumour is getting large and it is felt that the cancerous growth cannot be treated,” the official said while refusing to comment on the chances of its survival.

The lifespan of a rhino is around four decades. It is felt that Mohit got the ailment at a rather unexpected age.

With its survival chance, at least healthy living, diminishing, the zoo has started scouting for another rhino to be brought here. “We are looking at the zoos of Kanpur and Patna and are working towards getting the rhinos at the earliest,” the official said.

The zoo, a popular rendezvous for not only the locals but also visitors from outside the State, already feel the absence of a giraffe and zebra and for years has been making efforts to bring them here.