



CSPT NEWS LETTER

ISSUE:8

THE CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST'S NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025
(Monthly -For Internal Circulation)

On 23rd August, Madras Naturalist's Society conducted a program on Falcons of Chennai in connection with the Madras Day Celebration at Chennai Snake Park Trust. For the first time an exciting Audio- Visual talk on Chennai's urban Falcons was conducted by the Madras Naturalist's Society. An enthusiastic group of audience were observed during the program.



(Representatives from MNS: Mr. G.K. Bharathi and Bharath during the program.)



(An important guest Mr. K.V. Sudhakar, Hony. Secretary, Madras Naturalist's Society witnessed the program. Participants interacting with the speaker with their views.)

CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST, RAJ BHAVAN POST, CHENNAI-600022.

EDITOR : Dr. C. Arivazhagan, Dy. Director - CSPT

SUB EDITOR : Mirdhula Kamaraj, Biologist-CSPT

BOARD MEETING

The Chennai Snake Park Trust's Board meeting was held on 28.8.2025, Dr.S.Paulraj, Executive Chairman and Trustees, Dr.C.Arulvasu, Dr.V.Kalaiarasan, Dr.K.Senthilkumar, Mr.K.Sivagnanam, Dr.K.A.Subramanian, Mr.Vidyadhar IFS and Ms.V.Thenmozhi IFS were present in the meeting.

The Executive Chairman explained the various activities carried out in Snake Park to the Trustees. During the meeting, Dr.T.Sundaramoorthy, Trustee was re-elected as a Trustee for a further term of three years. During the meeting Audit report for the year 2024-2025 and Annual report for the year 2024-2025 were approved by the Board.

Research Scientist Note: Dr. K. Ramalingam, DSc

Another Milestone in Envenomation Therapy

The snake venom is unique in having more than three hundred compounds in the form of enzymes, non-enzymes, peptides, proteins, etc. The antigenic principles in the snake venom are discernible in enzymes. When one considers that snake bite envenomation as a disease outcome it may be due to the differentiation of its various components and also the antigenic principles. The differentiation could have taken some thousands of years to evolve in vivo.

Viral immunological studies have disclosed the fact that viral genome may cause lethal cellular damage. The toxicity of snake venom may be due to the synergistic macromolecules of viruses and that of the reptiles' venom itself. Literature has revealed that snake-infecting viruses are known to cause respiratory problems, neurological symptoms, and haematological disorders.

In humans, certain viruses infect the secretory cells that make insulin, thyroxine and growth hormone; also the cells of the immune system viz., thymus cells, B cells, T-lymphocytes, macrophages and the nerve cells and oligodendrocytes.

Based on this fact, viral vaccines against cervical cancers (HPV); Hepatitis B vaccine against liver cancers; BCG vaccine against bladder cancer have been successfully developed. Since cancer becomes incurable at terminal phases, scientists thought of combination therapies with prophylactic viral/bacterial vaccines as one component alongside conventional therapies.

A similar line of thinking in envenomation therapy would be prudent to save millions of lives through prophylactic viral vaccines. In this context, it is interesting to note that snakes are endowed with endogenous HEPADNA viruses, BORNA Viruses and CIRCO viruses.

About nineteen different viruses have been enlisted in snakes. How far viral antigens or the viral antibodies produced by prophylactics vaccines in human or the polyvenam proteins react with venom antigens is pertinent to understand the mechanisms of neutralisation and deactivation or attenuation of snake venom.

This will also open up new avenues to understand better the snake venom toxicity and its antigenic cross-reactivity. Viruses integrated into the human genome functioned as master mutators and genetic creators. Wildlife and snakes are no exception.

To conclude – In snake envenomation therapy, poly-venom is the first milestone and breakthrough, repurposed drugs for attenuation of venom reactions and toxicity is another milestone, while research of its present and future task of herpetologists on prophylactic viral vaccine may be yet another milestone and prudent approach against the subtle and insidious venom toxicity to come.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

During the August.2025, the Park had 27,299 Visitors (20,359 Adult and 6,940 Children).

Feedbacks from Visitors:

The visitors of the Chennai Snake Park who visited during August 2025 have given feedback in Google Business. Total 103 visitors reviewed and given comments. Out of 103 visitors, 60 visitors have given 5star (58.25%), 23 visitors have given 4star (22.33%), 15 visitors have given 3star (14.56%), 3 visitors have given 2 star (2.91%) and 2 visitors have given 1star (1.94%). And few feedback pertains to the adjacent Children's Nature Park.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S NOTE :

Awareness Programme conducted by Dr. C.Arivazhagan.

On 7th Aug 2025, An Awareness Programme was conducted for Guardian International School, Chengalpattu. In total 25 students and 5 teachers participated, we played a cartoon movie for the students. Students were asking many questions about the reptiles and its behaviour, over-all an interactive session.



BIOLOGIST'S NOTE :

A number of school students visited the park and various interactive sessions were conducted by Biologist Mirdhula kamaraj of CSPT and many awareness session conducted for the students. An Awareness Cartoon film was projected to students to inculcate the knowledge on Snakes. Enthusiastic students had a very fun and interactive session.

Indian Public School, Ambattur 14 Aug 2025 -46 children participated.



A much interesting AR SHOW witnessed by the school students of Indian Public School.



On 2nd Aug 2025, Kolaperumal School, Arumbakam and Sri Ramakrishna Hr. Sec. Thiruvottriyur (more 50 students from each school) visited and had an interactive session and witnessed the AR Show.



16th August 2025, Raashidh Nursery and Primary School (RNPS) - 80 students



(An interactive session conducted and an Awareness Cartoon film projected for the students)



(Students enjoying the AR Show)

On 22nd Aug 2025- Sirorthi Manurpet School, Padi visited with 134 students explored the park .



Sree K.C Toshniwal Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Mattur,(101 students) on 22nd Aug 2025.



(Students enjoying the Awareness Cartoon film and the interactive session held at CSPT by the Biologist.)

On 25th Aug 2025, 60 students from Aachi Global School, Anna Nagar Conducted an Interactive sessions and Awareness cartoon film displayed and AR Show witnessed by the students.



Vyasa Vidhyalaya, Pulidhivaakam, Chennai visiting the park on 25th Aug 2025:



**Awareness Cartoon Film on Snakes: J.B.A.S School, Teynampet (2nd – 5th std students)-
28th Aug 2025.**



On 29th Aug 2025: St John's school KG Students



64 students of Cocomelon School, Sowkharpet LKG students visited the park on 30th Aug



Interactive Session held by Biologist for the students of Kalvi Poonga Matric Hr. Sec. School, Minjur School -22 Primary students Visited on 30th Aug 2025.



TIDBITS

4th Aug 2025: The Times of India -

Three baby gharials turn heads at snake park

Oppili.P@timesofindia.com

Chennai: After a five-year gap, the Chennai Snake Park successfully bred gharials, with three hatchlings marking a fresh chapter in its effort to revive the endangered species through captive breeding.

The breakthrough followed the arrival of a male gharial from Vandalur Zoo, loaned under a Central Zoo Authority-approved agreement that mandates sharing half the hatchlings with the zoo. "This is the first successful breeding batch since the male's arrival," confirmed S Paulraj, executive chairman of the park.

Gharials, distinguished by their long, slender snouts, are notoriously difficult to breed in captivity. Five years ago, the



BREAKTHROUGH: Gharials, distinguished by their long, slender snouts, are notoriously difficult to breed in captivity

park witnessed the successful hatching of 23 of 24 eggs from its original male and five females. But the death of the lone male soon after left the females without a mate, halting breeding efforts.

The new male, released cautiously into the enclosure with existing females, was initially separated by a bamboo barrier to assess compatibility. "Over time, the male bonded with one of the females, who went on to lay more than two dozen eggs," Paulraj said.

Despite the promising signs, only four eggs hatched, and one hatchling died two days later. The three baby gharials are now safely kept in isolation, away from adult animals. Park veterinarians are closely monitoring their development, and early signs point to healthy growth.

The presence of eggs came to light unexpectedly when an animal keeper was aggressively chased by the protective female. A subsequent inspection of the enclosure revealed four viable eggs and a clutch of infertile ones. The park has now begun feeding the surviving hatchlings with live freshwater fingerlings and is conducting an internal analysis to understand the high rate of infertility.

C M Y K

5th Aug 2025: The Indian Express-



TWO TO TANGO

Gharial hatchlings bask at the Chennai Snake Park in Guindy, marking a successful breeding of the endangered species at the park after a five-year gap | MARTIN LOUIS

Tue, 05 August 2025
<https://epaper.newindianexpress.com/c/77894690>



VISITORS REVIEWS:



[Karthika Sekaran](#)

3 reviews • 2 photos

***** 3 weeks ago **New**

It's nice place... Wonderful experience..



[Ravinder Sondhi](#)

Local Guide • 199 reviews • 4333 photos

***** 3 weeks ago **New**

Nice well maintained park..lot's of snake variety and crocodiles.had fun..watched AR and VR shows also amazingly made..please do visit with family and friends..



[Rekha Kumbhakar](#)

2 reviews • 24 photos

*****3 weeks ago **New**

Very good place . And must try the VR show



[SUN GOLD](#)

1 review • 0 photos

***** 3 weeks ago **New**

Good



[MD Azar](#)

Local Guide • 21 reviews • 9 photos

***** 4 weeks ago **New**

Very clean place relaxing place



[Arun Kumar A](#)

Local Guide • 131 reviews • 357 photos

***** 4 weeks ago **New**

Excellent place to hang out with children
Nice and shady out of Sun...



[Aslam Basha](#)

3 reviews • 0 photos

***** 4 weeks ago **New**

Nice place



[R J sundhar](#)

11 reviews • 6 photos

***** 4 weeks ago **New**

I am best place for children to explore in week ends and spend some time in play



[Wolfy Girl](#)

1 review • 11 photos

***** 4 weeks ago **New**

Highly recommended ☐ ☐



[DHANA CHEZHIYAN](#)

Local Guide • 151 reviews • 80 photos

*****4 weeks ago

My kids are enjoying here ☐



[Ilayaraja Nagarajan](#)

Local Guide • 593 reviews • 1139 photos

***** 5 weeks ago

Good for kids



[Sri suriya Kumar](#)

Local Guide • 13 reviews • 20 photos

***** 5 weeks ago

Nice place, need a security on parking slots. As you may face monkey issues. And also it will be nice if they provide New attractions for kids



[Vivek Kumar Tiwari](#)

Local Guide • 24 reviews • 0 photos

***** 5 weeks ago

Must visit for small children. Well maintained



[ismail abduleh](#)

13 reviews • 1 photo

***** 5 weeks ago

Very nice good place entertainment



[prabakaran Marimuthu](#)

Local Guide • 123 reviews • 1 photo

*****6 weeks ago

Great for weekend trip



[Saroj kumar Biswas](#)

Local Guide • 10 reviews • 48 photos

***** 6 weeks ago

Many types snake and crocodile are there.



[Urban Nexxt](#)

4 reviews • 5 photos

***** 6 weeks ago

Nice



[Jayakumar K](#)

Local Guide • 123 reviews • 13 photos

***** 6 weeks ago

Nice and kids enjoy a lot



[Sreekumar Chirukandoth](#)

Local Guide • 147 reviews • 1310 photos

***** 6 weeks ago

I went there to deliver a lecture on snakes to college students as part of Wildlife Week Celebrations



[kathir kathiresan](#)

7 reviews • 3 photos

***** 6 weeks ago

No rare and large number of snake species



[ASLAM](#)

Local Guide • 375 reviews • 1414 photos

***** 7 weeks ago

Good place to visit to see all types snakes, crocodiles and other reptiles. [View full review](#)



[Mohammed Parvez](#)

Local Guide • 42 reviews • 21 photos

***** 7 weeks ago

Interesting and educational! Good variety of snakes, lizards, and crocodiles. Great place for kids to learn about reptiles. Well-organized and affordable.



[Antony Joseph](#)

8 reviews • 1 photo

***** 7 weeks ago

Awesome



[Harikrishnan Chinnathambi](#)

Local Guide • 10 reviews • 2 photos

***** 7 weeks ago

Perfect place to spend time with kids and people's who love exotic varieties. There are snakes, turtles, tortoise,... [View full review](#)



[Venkat 3samy](#)

Local Guide • 46 reviews • 6 photos

*****7 weeks ago



[Vinod Verma](#)

Local Guide • 29 reviews • 1 photo

*****7 weeks ago

Good collection of snakes and crocodile ☐



[Arpitha Tamilarasi](#)

Local Guide • 6 reviews • 0 photos

*****7 weeks ago Cure and lovely ☐



[Venkat Eashwaran](#)

1 review • 3 photos

*****7 weeks ago

Hgood place



[Anand kumar](#)

Local Guide • 5 reviews • 0 photos

***** 7 weeks ago

Nice place for a family outing

Information is less in front of all animals
Area is clean and Good for kids for..



[Ken Walker](#)

Local Guide • 42 reviews • 118 photos

***** 7 weeks ago

Small snake park, with most of them hiding from sight



[Aditya Prasad](#)

Local Guide • 66 reviews • 140 photos

*****7 weeks ago

I recently visited the Chennai Snake Park, and it turned out to be a truly fascinating and educational experience....



[Has Mukhi Baskar](#)

Local Guide • 118 reviews • 98 photos

***** 7 weeks ago

Place is so good, if looking for a calm place to enjoy with nature, highly recommended.
Park is maintained well.

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