



# CSPT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 14

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

FEB 2026

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN'S DESK:

**Dr. S. Paulraj, IFS (Retd.)**

Dear readers,

**Sub:** Some misconceptions that some visitors and some animal enthusiasts have about the Snakes.

When I inspect the snake park and move with the visitors, I often listen visitors commenting on the immobile and inactive snakes. Some says, “what happened to the snakes ...they are always sleeping and motionless. are they not healthy - are they dead..? !!” It is the expectation of most of the visitors to see the wild animals moving and running and respond to the visitors’ call as in the case of mammals and birds. This type of visitor’s misconception is some time seen among some animal enthusiasts. This is a matter of concern for us because, the visitors may carry a wrong opinion that the Park authorities are not properly taking care of the snakes and as a result the animals are suffering and not at all moving. In one incident one active animal enthusiast went to the extent of complaining to the CZA (Central Zoo Authority) saying that the snakes are suffering and not properly maintained by the Park authorities. Such misconception not only exist with common people but also well-educated persons. This I could observe when I go with some VIPs who often ask why these snakes are always sleepy and motionless. We have to explain them why such behaviours are shown by snakes. Such misconception may not be their fault because they are not aware of various animal behaviours. This is where our information system/ method failed. Of course, we failed to put good and self-explained information boards which may help to clear such misconceptions.



The boy: “ Can you tell me why these snakes are idle and motionless?’

There is another problem of keeping the snakes in bigger enclosures as per the specification of the expert form CZA. The snakes are the habit of hiding and resting in some corners of the enclosures most of the time except during feeding and breeding. This makes the visitors to search for the snakes in order to have a better view. Many times, the visitors move away from the enclosures without locating the animals, saying that there are no animals in the enclosures. Some time we make arrangements to put the animal nearer to the visibility of the visitors. We have to compromise for fulfilling the CZA specification and visitor's interest!

Coming to the issue of why the snakes stay idle inside the enclosures most of the times?

1. Snakes both in wild or in captivity, will be active for feeding and breeding. Once they fed, they go for resting mainly hiding themselves till they are ready for the next feed. So, one cannot expect the snakes to be active most of the times.
2. Snakes tend to avoid human beings and hide themselves; they move when there is no human disturbance. In zoos the snakes show activity during night hours and kept away from human presence.
3. Snakes being cold-blooded animals, they avoid extreme temperatures (both cold / Hot) and tend to hide in a comfortable place to avoid such extremities.
4. As per the snake experts, snakes need enclosures sizes which may be little more than the length of the snakes. This criterion is being followed even in European modern zoos. So, keeping bigger sized enclosures may not be a scientific /behavioural need for the snakes.
5. It may be sufficient to provide Some enrichment works simulating the animals' natural conditions. Such enrichment works will have awareness and educative value.
6. As much as the animals feed and breed inside the enclosure, this will suffice the basic need of the snakes in captivity.
7. This snake Park with its 50 years of management by leading herpetologist, continuously working for the protection, welfare and conservation of Snakes and try to establish this Park as one of the pioneers in the conservation of Snakes.

Like to communicate again in our subsequent issues of this 'Newsletter'.

Yours kindly

Dr. S. Paulraj,

Executive Chairman

## **TRUSTEE & DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S NOTE:**

### **BHARAT HEAVY ELECTRICALS LIMITED (BHEL) PROGRAMME :**

BHEL is India's largest engineering and manufacturing enterprise in the energy and infrastructure sectors. Established in 1964, and a leading power equipment manufacturer globally and one of the earliest and leading contributors towards building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

An awareness programme was conducted for BHEL security and rescue personnel from 25<sup>th</sup> Feb to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. The programme was conducted in two batches each batch consisting of 30 security staff from Thiruvarambur, Thirumayam and Ranipet. Each batch has one class room session about identification of snakes (venomous and Non-venomous) and importance of snakes in the ecosystem. Next day field survey in the BHEL campus. The sessions were handled by Dr.V.Kalaiarasan, Director Research and Dr.C.Arivazhagan, Deputy Director. Mr.N.Mohan, Security officer, BHEL coordinated the programme.



*(Poster invite for Snake Rescue Training Program conducted at BHEL campus.)*



*(Class room session at BHEL Mahatma Gandhi auditorium)*



*(Field survey in the BHEL campus with security personnel)*



*(Group photo with participants and Officials)*

### **ALLISON – TRANSMISSION COMPANY:**

21<sup>st</sup> February an awareness programme was conducted for Allison – Transmission company, Oragadam, staff (security and Gardening), about identification of venomous and Non-Venomous snakes, why to conserve the snakes?

An ecological role of snakes in the ecosystem classes was taken by Dr. V. Kalaiarasan, Research Director and Dr. C. Arivazhagan, Deputy Director handled the session. In total 30 people attended the programme. After the class room session, field surveys were conducted throughout the entire factory premises.



*(Class room session with Allison security staffs)*



*(Group photo with Allison security staffs)*

### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE :**

During the month of february,2026, the Park had 26,974 Visitors (17,315 Adult and 9,659 Children).

### **Feedbacks from Visitors :**

The visitors of the Chennai Snake Park who visited during February 2026 has given feedback in Google Business. Total 61 visitors reviewed and given comments. Out of 61 visitors, 30 visitors have given 5star (49.18 %), 16 visitors have given 4star (26.22%), 10 visitors have given 3star (16.39 %), and 2 visitors have given 2 star (3.28 %) and 3 visitors have given one star 4.92%). Few feedbacks are pertaining to adjacent Children's Nature Park.

## **BIOLOGIST'S NOTE :**

- ❖ **BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY:** On 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026, as part of South India visit, 33 veterinary students from Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh, India visited Chennai Snake Park Trust. Biologist Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj delivered a talk to the students on the reptiles of the park and also added on the precautionary steps to avoid snake encounters. The session was completely a lively interactive session. The students and faculties shared the experience about the session and their visit to Chennai Snake Park Trust. They also honoured the Director of Chennai Snake Park Shree. R. Rajarathinam and the Biologist Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj with a Memento.



*(Presentation delivered by the Biologist Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj for the students of Banaras Hindu University,U.P.)*



*(Honoured the Director of Chennai Snake Park, Shree. R. Rajarathinam and the Biologist Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj with a Memento)*



*(Group photo: Students of Banaras Hindu University,Uttar Pradesh with the Director and Biologist of CSPT.)*

- ❖ **NANDANAM ARTS COLLEGE-** On 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026, the students from Nandanam Arts College pursuing final year Master degree (M.Sc. Zoology-13 students) visited to Chennai Snake Park Trust along with the faculty - Dr. Jyothi. Biologist gave a detailed talk on the reptiles of the park and sparked the enthusiasm of students with a better way of observing the animals. The student felt happy in visiting the park.



*(Explanation given by the Biologist of CSPT for the M.Sc.students of Nandanam Arts College.)*



*(Group Photo of the students and faculty with the Director Shree. R. Rajarathinam , Biologist Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj, and Dr.J.Subramanean, Project Scientist of CSPT.)*

❖ **NEHRU MEMORIAL COLLEGE :**

As part of educational trip, the students of Nehru Memorial College, Tiruchirapalli visited to Chennai Snake Park on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026. Total 46 students and 3 faculties visited and headed by Dr.P. Neelananarayanan. A live interactive class was taken by the Biologist Ms.Mirdhula Kamaraj on various species of Venomous and Non-Venomous snakes and also highlighted on the precautionary steps for avoiding the snake contact.



*(Presentation delivered by the Biologist Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj for the students of Nehru Memorial College, Tiruchirapalli.)*

**GROUP PHOTO:** Students of Nehru Memorial College and their faculties with the Director of CSPT Shree. R. Rajarathinam and Biologist Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj.



❖ **Recent Public Review about Chennai Snake Park appeared in the Google Business Profile:**



[Raghav Muthuraman](#)

Local Guide • 24 reviews • 28 photos

\*\*\*\*\* 7 days ago New

Good place but snake but on Tuesday is holiday for park [View full review](#)

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[Nishanth Sekar](#)

Local Guide • 10 reviews • 5 photos

\*\*\*\*\* 1 week ago New

Good but there no snakes are active all are always sleeping you can see variety of snakes.

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[Shan Shan Rs](#)

Local Guide • 18 reviews • 10 photos

\*\*\*\*\*1 week ago New

Good but not have big snake. [View full review](#)



[Kiran Surasi](#)

5 reviews • 0 photos

\*\*\*\*\* 2 weeks ago New

Nice to visit

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[Priya Madhan Raj](#)

Local Guide • 142 reviews • 361 photos

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

Well maintained. Neat and clean [View full review](#)

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[jayaprakash sriranga](#)

Local Guide • 56 reviews • 35 photos

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

Chennai Snake Park

Different types of snakes and ... [View full review](#)

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[Sharmi SSS](#)

Local Guide • 7 reviews • 32 photos

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

Jolly day for kutties

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