



CSPT NEWSLETTER

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THE CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST'S NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026
(Monthly -For Internal Circulation)

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN'S DESK:

Dr. S. Paulraj, IFS (retd.)
Executive Chairman

Dear readers,

This month in my message I wish to bring out a recent initiative taken by the TN forest department for the conservation of Snakes.

Release of Naagam App and the SOP for the safe Rescue of Snakes.

It is really a highly appreciable achievement for the Tamil Nadu forest Department to come with an exclusive App, "Naagam" for the conservation of Snakes using the latest development in IT. For this achievement, the Chennai Snake Park Trust is indebted to the Government of Tamil Nadu and TN forest department and ready to cooperate for every success of the novel programme. Although some difficulties may likely be encountered while implementing this programme initially, the effective Wildlife wing of the forest department may be able to solve them while the programme is going on. In this respect the Snake Park Trust with its wide knowledge and experience in Snake Conservation will be ready to address any issue faced while implementing the programme.

The elaborate and well-planned SOP covering every aspect issued by the Chief Wildlife Warden deserves appreciation. The necessity for a collaborative approach with subject experts, recognized organizations in implementing this programme is also highlighted in the SOP in Section 7 para 8. In this respect, the Chennai Snake Park Trust will be delighted to collaborate by all possible means in all conservation activities connected with Snakes.

It is also the duty of this Trust to bring out one or two difficult provisions in the SOP in favour of finding suitable solutions. Under section 2, Purpose of the SOP, guideline number 5, it is stated that, "*the certified snake handlers shall function strictly on a voluntary basis*". There may be some impracticality in expecting the certified snake rescuers to be available for this essential service on any time on a voluntary basis. Unlike the government fire and rescue service personnel, the snake

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rescue volunteers may not have necessary immediate transport facilities to attend the rescue calls. Under such circumstances, if they don't attend the rescue operation, the very purpose of the programme will be defeated. So, the Department may think of providing some incentives to compensate the volunteer's expenditure while performing their duty. Suitable fund provision may be made under any wildlife schemes. As much as the government forest department has initiated and implemented many novel plans for some specified wild animals like Nilgiri Tahr, Slender loris etc., it may not be difficult for initiating special plans for the conservation of the threatened snake species. We hope that the Government may consider this suggestion in order to ensure effective implementation of this programme.

Once again, we thank the forest department for starting this novel 'Naagam' programme and wish all success in this imitative.

Dr. S. Paulraj, IFS (Retd.)

Executive Chairman, CSPT.

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FIRE AND RESCUE DEPT. PERSONNEL:

On March 12, Snake and their rescue techniques training programme for Fire and rescue services department personnel was held at Chennai Snake Park. The programme included 38 Fire personnel. Executive Chairman Dr.S.Paulraj delivered a session on Snake rescue and SOP.



(Executive Chairman Dr. S.Paulraj interacting with the Fire Personnel during the training programme.)

BOARD MEETING :

The Board of Trustees of Chennai Snake Park Trust held on 30.03.2026 at 3.30 p.m.

Seven Trustees were present in the Meeting Dr.S.Paulraj presided over the Board meeting and discussed the regular agendas during the meeting. The list of Trustees present in the meeting are Dr.S. Paulraj (IFS Retd.), Dr.C.Arulvasu, Dr.V.Kalaiarasan, Mr.K.Sivagnanam, Dr.T.Sundaramoorthy, Ms.V.Thenmozhi, IFS and Dr.Vijay Venkatesh .

SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PAPER:

A research paper entitled 'First successful record of rearing captive born Russel's Viper babies in Chennai Snake Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.' was sent for Zoo YearBook 2026 published by the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi. This paper was authored by Dr.S. Paulraj, Executive Chairman IFS (reted.), Dr.C.Arivazhagan, Dy. Director (Research), K.Mirdhula, Biologist and Dr.V.Kalaiarasan, Trustee.

WRITEUP ABOUT SCANNING COBRA JOURNAL VOLUMES :

MY VIEW OF THE COBRA JOURNAL FROM CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST

Writeup Completed by : Ramaswamy Narayanaswamy, son of Narayanaswamy Ramaswamy
My work with the Chennai Snake Park Trust covered scanning of the institution's premier scientific publications, included in the Cobra Journal Volumes from 1990 to 2024. The process of scanning all the journals from start to finish took 2 months. The journal volumes contained articles of various herpetological interests such as on reptile surveys across India, general behavioral observations and captive husbandry. Volumes that caught my attention include Volume XV (2021) which covered articles on crocodylians, particularly gharials, as well as later issues such as Volume XVII 2, that included material about venoms in snakes and associated consequences. Scanning the volumes gave me a thorough understanding of not just how the field of herpetology developed in India, but also as to how the Park itself advanced. Challenges in scanning were mostly centered on the fact of balancing quality of scans per page with the least damage possible. Nevertheless, I would be more than happy to contribute to future journals if possible and am immensely grateful to Dr V. Kalaiarasan and Mr R. Rajarathinam, as well as CSPT for giving me access to these valuable scientific documents/artefacts.

DR.V.KALAIARASAN, TRUSTEE's NOTE :

One day training programme on snakes, snake rescue release was conducted for the newly recruited Station Officers of the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Dept on 24.03.2026 at their Training Centre at Red Hills, Chennai. Dr.V.Kalaiarasan delivered a talk about Snakes of India, Snakebite and treatment and safe rescue techniques. Mr.V.Selvam and S.Prabakaran, Animal keepers demonstrated the same rescue and release techniques. 125 Station officers participated in the training programme.

On March 12, Snake and their rescue techniques training programme for Fire and rescue services department personnel held and Dr. V.Kalaiarasan delivered a session on Snake Bite and another session on “If you see a snake”.



(Dr.V.Kalaiarasan delivering a session for the Fire and Rescue personnel during the Snake and Rescue programme.)



(Outdoor session of Snake Handling and Rescue programme at Chennai Snake Park.)

DIRECTOR's NOTE:

❖ During the March.2026, the Park had 24,123 Visitors (17,604 Adult and 6,519 Children).

During the financial year 2025 -2026, the Park had 3,60,522 Visitors (2,68,291 Adult and 92,231 Children), as against 4,17,946 visitors (3,09,907 Adult and 1,08,057 children), for the corresponding financial year of last year i.e. decrease of 13.74 %.

Feedback from Visitors

The visitors of the Chennai Snake Park who visited during March 2026 have given feedback in Google Business. Total 63 visitors reviewed and given comments. Out of 63 visitors, 36 visitors have given 5star (57.14 %), 13 visitors have given 4star (20.63%), 11 visitors have given 3star (17.46 %), and one visitor has given 2 star (1.59 %) and 2 visitors have given one star (3.17%).

❖ **COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE:**

Chennai Snake Park in collaboration with Agarwal Eye Hospital, conducted free eye check-up camp at Chennai Snake Park on March 28th for the park visitors and staff members.



(Eye Check-up at Chennai Snake Park Trust.)

VETERINARY CORNER:



Veterinarians Treating the injured Reticulated Python at Madras Veterinary Hospital.)

An injured Reticulated python was found with injuries on 13th March and was taken for treatment to Madras Veterinary Hospital, Vepery. The animal was found with injuries all over the body due to animal infightings and treatment with stiches was done and medications are followed up by the Chennai Snake Park team as advised by the veterinarians.

(As directed by the Veterinarians, the Chennai Snake Park Team is following up with the medications for the injured Reticulated python.)



BIOLOGIST's NOTE:

- ❖ On 7th March, Staff Team from P.C.C.F Head office (35 members) visited Chennai Snake Park Trust and Guided walk was led by Ms. Mirdhula kamaraj, Biologist of CSPT.



(Ms.Mirdhula Kamaraj engaging with the Head office P.C.C.F. Staff Team.)



- ❖ On March 12, Snake and their rescue techniques training programme for Fire and rescue services department personnel was held at Chennai Snake Park. The programme included 38 participants. Ms.Mirdhula.K delivered a session about the Chennai Snake Park to the participants.





- ❖ On March 19, A Forest Range officer team from Chandrapur Forest Academy, Maharashtra visited to Chennai Snake Park. Around 38 officers visited. Ms. Mirdhula.K, Biologist interacted with the team and led a guided walk.




(Biologist Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj interacting with the Forest Range Officers from Chandrapur Maharashtra.)




(Biologist and the Forest Rangers at the Chameleon enclosure.)


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




[pranish nair](#) ***** Surely will be a excitement for kids who like reptiles...




[Syed Hasheem](#)***** Good place
no cash only gpay
You can eat inside the park good for
children worth for money
Thank u cm Stalin




[Kovendhan Suresh](#) ***** Small but Nice




[raghu sharma](#)***** Very unique
experience



[Luke Pun](#)***** A gigantic crocodile is
residing here.



[Prasun Nandi](#)***** Very beautiful place.



[Anwar M \(Annu\)](#)***** Good place.
Better to buy tickets online



[APPANNA DT](#)***** Good experience .



SV***** Good place to see snakes and other reptiles up close. Can be done in an hour. Very low entry fees.



Charles Binny Jesu***** Lovely place to visit it's so safe. You can see variety of Snakes, Iguana, Tortoise, Crocodiles.



Sudev Prakash***** Good time for children's. Situated just near to Guindy park. Large parking area is available. Snakes and reptiles can be seen here.



JAI KISHAN SAH***** Good place for children



Balasubramani T***** Super place for seeing all snake types



Ashdeep Bansal***** It is very good place. Highly recommended.



seenu seenu***** GOOD, NICE PLACE, FEELING GOOD, NICELY MAINTAINING.



Supreet Katti***** Is it worth? Yes it is. Verities? Plenty..



Naihrit Halder***** Chennai Snake Park is one of the most interesting and educational places to visit in the city. I really enjoyed my time...



Durga Sindhu***** Went with my students for educational trip. Very pleasant place for kids....



Jatin Sahu***** Good for kids to play.