



CSPT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 18

THE CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST'S NEWSLETTER

JUN 2026

(Monthly -For Internal Circulation)

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN'S DESK:

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

Dear Readers,

In this month's message, I want to highlight an important occasion that happened during June, 2026. After the celebration of our Trust's golden Jubilee, we started recognizing the notable contributors for the development of the Park and the Trust activities. As years pass on, many of us tend to forget the contributions of the people which made the organization more popular. This is true to some extent for our Park. When I was going through the feedback of the visitors, nearly 75% of them offered five- and four-star ratings on the management of this Park. But I don't think that visitors think of the people behind such achievements any time. Moreover, those people who were the pillars of this Park, after their demise, are rarely remembered. We from the Trust, made a resolution to celebrate the Founder's Day on every 21st June of every year in order to remember the founders and their contributions. On that day people who excelled in the field of Zoo management and conservation Education are chosen and conferred awards and citation by inviting Renowned conservationist for the function. The Trust created two endowments, one in the name of Late Ms. Sally Walker, a renowned Zoo Educationist and another endowment in the name of founder secretary of the Trust, Late Thiru. A.N.Jagannatha Rao. The two awards, one for people who excelled in Zoo Education and another for a person who excelled in conservation activities are awarded respectively by the endowments. In addition, since last year, another long-serving trustee, late Shri.P. V. Laxminarayana is being remembered and honored by conducting memorial lectures in his name and eminent scientists are invited to deliver special lectures on this occasion. Last month, June 20th, we celebrated Founder's Day. The Two awards respectively for Sally Walker award and A.N.Jagannatha Rao Award were given to Dr.R.Sathishkumar and Sally Walker Award given to Selvi. Ananya Vishwesh respectively. The P.V.Laxminarayana Memorial guest lecture was given by an eminent Botanist Dr. Sanjeeva Nayaka.

We are proud of being one among the very few conservation institutions which celebrate the founders day in the remembrance of the personalities who contributed in building the institutions.

Kindly,

Dr.S.Paulraj

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

SUB EDITOR : Mirdhula Kamaraj, Biologist-CSPT



(Executive Chairman Dr. S. Paulraj IFS Retd. delivering the Keynote Address for the Founders Day Programme.)

CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION AND THE 2ND P. V. LAXMINARAYANA MEMORIAL LECTURE

Chennai Snake Park Trust Founders Day celebration and the 2nd P. V. Laxminarayana memorial lecture event held on 20.6.2026 i.e. one day before 21.06.2026. Dr.V.Kalaiarasan, Research Director Honoured the Guests. Dr. K. Sankar, Former Director of Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore and Mrs. V. Thenmozhi, IFS, Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Southern Region, Chennai and Trustee, Chennai Snake Park Trust are invited as chief guests for the function. During the Founder's day function, Dr.S.Paulraj, Executive Chairman delivered the keynote address. Dr. K. Sankar, Former Director, SACON, distributed the A.N.Jagannatha Rao Endowment Award-2026 to Mr. R.Sathishkumar, Founder& Managing Trustee, Endangered Wildlife and Environmental Trust, Thanjavur and Sally Walker Endowment Award-2026 to Ms.Ananya Vishwesh, Wildlife Conservationist, Palakkad. After the award function, the book titled “எங்கள் வீட்டில் வளர்ந்த பாம்புகள்” (“Snakes that grew up in our house”) in Tamil written by Mrs. Kasturba Johnson was released. Mrs. V. Thenmozhi, IFS, Regional Deputy Director, WCCB, released the book and same was received by Mr. Sarto Rajendran, Correspondent& Managing Trustee, Guardian International School, Chengalpattu. (Book author's brother).



(Honouring the guest Dr. K. Sankar, Former Director, SACON by Executive Chairman Dr.S.Paulraj, IFS Retd.,and Dr.V.Kalaiarasan, Former Trustee and Research Director.)



(Honouring the guest Mrs. V. Thenmozhi, IFS, Regional Deputy Director,(WCCB) by Executive Chairman Dr.S.Paulraj, IFS Retd.,and Dr.V.Kalaiaasan, Former Trustee and Research Director.)



(Sally Walker Endowment Award-2026 to Ms.Ananya Vishwesh, Wildlife Conservationist, Palakkad.)



(A.N.Jagannatha Rao Endowment Award-2026 to Mr. R.Sathishkumar, Founder& Managing Trustee, Endangered Wildlife and Environmental Trust, Thanjavur)



(Book Released: “எங்கள் வீட்டில் வளர்ந்த பாம்புகள்” (“Snakes that grew up in our house”) Book in Tamil written by Mrs. Kasturba Johnson was released and received by Mr. Sarto Rajendran, Correspondent & Managing Trustee, Guardian International School, Chengalpattu.)

The 2nd P. V. Laxminarayana Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Sanjeeva Nayaka, Head of Plant Diversity, Systematics and Herbarium Division, CSIR National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow on “Lichens and their story in the Wilderness”. Dr. C. Arivazhagan, Dy. Director, delivered the Vote of thanks.



(Dr. Sanjeeva Nayaka delivering the lecture on “Lichens and their story in the Wilderness”.)

RESEARCH SCIENTIST’S NOTE: DR. K.RAMALINGAM

SNAKE VENOM, POLYVENOM AND NATURAL NEUTRALIZATION

Snake Venoms are classified into Haemotoxins, Neurotoxins, Myotoxins and further. The predominant components of snake venoms are the proteins, peptides and enzymes which totally

comprise 95 percent. As early as in 1928 it was reported that snake venoms contain more than twelve antigenic diversity among the venoms is not uncommon.

As of now the polyvenom is the only available antibody drug to treat snake bite victims. The polyvenom or polyvalent antivenom is prepared from horses by injecting the minimum threshold concentration of venom derived from Cobras, Kraits, Vipers and Echis. Until now there is no other alternative to polyvenom for envenomation treatment. Despite its efficacy, the polyvenom is also enclosed with side effects which warrant better hospital management.

Natural antivenom compounds from plants and para specific generic drugs may represent the alternative adjunct non-antibody preparations to neutralise the snake venom alongside the conventional treatment to alleviate atleast the side effects.

Towards this end, ethnobotanical research has disclosed the neutralising efficacy of the latex of *Calotropis gigantea*. The latex being proteolytic can hydrolyse the venom and inhibit its spread/ diffusion inside the body.

Calotropis latex can also act against edema, tissue necrosis and haemorrhage consequent to snake bite envenomation.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

During the June.2026, the Park had 22,726 Visitors (19,190 Adult and 3,536 Children).

FEEDBACKS FROM VISITORS:

The visitors of the Chennai Snake Park who visited during June 2026 have given feedback in Google Business. Total 52 visitors have reviewed and given the comments. Out of 52 visitors, 26 visitors have given 5 star (50.00 %), 18 visitors have given 4star (34.61%), 6 visitors have given 3 star (11.54 %), 1 visitor has given 2 star (1.92 %) and 1 visitor has given one star (1.92%). Few feedbacks are pertaining to adjacent Children's Nature Park.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:

On 5.6.2026, as a part of World Environment Day, on the spot quiz programme was conducted for the public more than 50 visitors participated. Ms. K.Mirdhula, Biologist and Dr.J.Subramanean, Project Scientist jointly conducted the programme.



On 6.6.2026, Tree plantation programme was conducted. Dr.V.Kalaiarasan, former Trustee planted the tree saplings inside the Park. Dr. C.Arivazhagan, Deputy Director and Ms. K.Mirdhula, Biologist also planted the tree saplings.



(Tree Plantation at Chennai Snake Park for World Environment Day.)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S NOTE :

Awareness Programme conducted by Dr. C. Arivazhagan :

On 12th June awareness Programme was conducted for Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Ayurveda College, Nazarathpet, Thiruvallur District, in total 80 students and 5 Professor participated in the programme. Dr.C.Arivazhagan delivered a lecture on Snakes of India and Snakebite and mitigating measures were delivered. Big four Snake movies and snakebite and treatment movies were screened.



(Awareness Programme was conducted for Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Ayurveda College, Nazarethpet, Thiruvallur District at CSPT.)

On 25th June Dr.C.Arivazhagan delivered the lecture to the students from Govt. School from Cuddalore, in total 94 students and 14 teachers participated, the group was divided into two groups, talk on Indian Snakes and snakebite and mitigating measures to the students. Snake awareness cartoon movie was screened to the students.



(Dr.C.Arivazhagan Deputy Director of CSPT interacting with the Govt. School students.)

BIOLOGIST'S NOTE:

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:

5th June 2026: The day should hold an impact to the people visiting the park. The park organized On Spot Quiz Programme for the public and students which highlighted the enthusiastic participation. More than 50 participants joined the programme. The programme emphasized on the conservation and importance of the wildlife and environment.



(On Spot Quiz programme conducted on World Environment Day.)

Tree plantation programme conducted at CSPT as part of World Environment Day.



- On 25th June 2026 the park witnessed an enthusiastic group of students (94 students) and 14 teachers from the Govt School, Cuddalore. Biologist, Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj had an interactive lively session with the students and in a group of 2, the students were grouped and taken around the park and interactive session held in various spots inside the park.



(Biologist Ms. Mirdhula Kamaraj interacting with the school students during the guide walk into the park)





(Department of Environment and Climate Change, Cuddalore district with the Govt.School students visiting the Snake park.)

- On 27 June 2026, Director of Lucknow Zoo Mr. Sanjay Biswal visited the park. Shri. R.Rajarithnam, Director of Chennai Snake Park and Biologist of Chennai Snake Park Ms. Mirdhula.K, accompanied for a Guided walk with Mr. Sanjay Biswal.



(Director of Lucknow Zoo Mr. Sanjay Biswal visiting Chennai Snake Park on 27/6/2026 accompanied by Director and Biologist of Chennai Snake Park Trust.)

TIDBITS
TORTOISE IN HINDU MYTHOLOGY



The picture depicts a pillar of sculpture of Koorma Avatharam of Mahavishnu Worshipping Shiva at Thirukalukundram Temple.

Koorma Avatharam is God's second incarnation among the Dasavatharam. Koorma means Turtle or Tortoise.

Rest of the Avatharam depicting animals are Matsya Avatharam (Fish), Varaha Avatharam (Boar) and Narasimha Avatharam (Man-Lion).

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



Ankush Sagar *****

Very nice and big big snakes, nagoba kaka on rocks



Sanjeeva Nayaka*****

Good for short visit and education purpose. Their crocodile collection is good. Good staff.



gokul sai

***** Nice



elango martin *****

One time watch



Pingnagan Pranavam *****

Great experience for kids & a cool day to walk



Navjot Singh *****

The snake park was an interesting and educational place to visit. It houses a wide variety of snakes and reptiles



Threshold *****

An excellent and educational place for both kids and adults! 🐍🐍 Chennai Snake Park is a must-visit



Priya R *****

Children best place to visit and play and learn some animals brief and they are also conducting small games



vaddadi Premkumar *****

It was good experience for kids.



shivakumar N *****

Collection of snake and reptiles