

## World Wildlife Day celebration in Chennai Snake Park



School children viewing the stall and interacting with our team (Snake Park & ENVIS)

On 3 March, as per the IUCN directive and the suggestion of the Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi the “World Wildlife Day” was celebrated in the Chennai Snake Park. The theme of the programme was “**Snakes – animals under threat**” to suit our zoo. In co-ordination with the ENVIS Centre in the Zoology Department, University of Madras, Guindy campus, a stall displaying contents related to snakes and their conservation was put up.

A pull-out on the Big Four venomous snakes of India including their photographs and pertinent text was prepared for this programme. Multiple copies were printed and added to the stall. This was freely distributed to the visitors who interacted with the stall team. This apart, posters on common snakes of Chennai, picture post cards on common Indian snakes, as well as our books and journals on wildlife were displayed in the stall. Interested visitors procured some of the study materials as well.

Our zoo educator volunteers comprising of zoology students from Stella Maris College, JBAS College and Vivekananda College were also present. Our volunteers gave a guided tour around the zoo to the school children. After this and their interaction with the stall team, quiz programmes were conducted to those children. Nearly 600 students from as

much as 15 schools visited Chennai Snake Park.

Good performers were awarded with prizes (our books on the subject). Prizes were distributed to 25 best performers of each class. The event was well attended with school children being the main beneficiaries.

Apart from school children who came on their own with their family also participated in quiz and interactive sessions.

Our Executive Trustee, S. Paulraj, IFS (Retd.) and our Trustee, V. Kalaiarasan headed the event. R. Rajarathinam, Director and S.R. Ganesh, Dy. Director & Scientist, CSPT as well as ENVIS members G. Karuna Sagarar, Scientist-D, P. Thirumurugan, Information Officer, D. Siva Arun,

Programme Asstt. conducted the event and attended the stall, explaining to the visitors.



**Zoo Educator Volunteers from JBAS College, Chennai explaining about reptiles to school children**

Our thanks to The Executive Chairman and Trustees of Chennai Snake Park Trust for instigating and encouraging this activity. We thank the H.O.D. Zoology Dept. and the Chief Coordinator, and all the staff of ENVIS Centre, Guindy Campus for their kind concurrence for joint programme and their very active cooperation. Thanks are also due to the Zoology Dept. Heads of JBAS College, Stella Maris College and Vivekananda College for deputing their students as Zoo Volunteers and the students for their time and inputs.

**Submitted by: R. Rajarathinam and S.R. Ganesh, Chennai Snake Park, Chennai. Email: cspt1972@gmail.com**