



# Media Scanning & Verification Cell



Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
6397	28.10.2021	28.10.2021	Chennai Tamil Nadu	<a href="http://www.timesofindia.com/English">www.timesofindia.com/English</a> <a href="https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/tamil-nadu-five-ostriches-die-in-vandalur-zoo/articleshowprint/87351533.cms">https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/tamil-nadu-five-ostriches-die-in-vandalur-zoo/articleshowprint/87351533.cms</a>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Five ostriches die in Vandalur Zoo in district Chennai, Tamil Nadu</b>			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Chennai, SSU - Tamil Nadu			

Five common ostriches (*Struthio camelus*) dropped dead in their enclosure at Arignar Anna Zoological Park on Wednesday. According to the forest department, the flightless birds were keeping unwell and were under treatment.

A team from Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University that was present during the treatment, conducted a postmortem on the birds along with the zoo vets.

Preliminary investigations reveal the birds could have died of hemorrhagic enteritis and pneumonia as revealed in the postmortem. They collected samples for bacteriology, virology and toxicology. Swabs were also collected from the carcasses to check for avian influenza. The samples have been sent to National Institute of High Security Animal Disease in Bhopal. The vets also examined blood smear and organ impression smear to rule out fowl cholera.

**Save Water- Save Life, Save a tree- Don't print unless it's really necessary!**

**Disclaimer:- This is a media alert subject to verification.**

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,  
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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This is the first time that these flightless birds are dying in captivity at the Vandalur zoo. At present the zoo houses 34 birds, including the sub adult ones. Before the death of five birds, the zoo had a very good population of ostriches. The poultry and bird research unit of the Animal Husbandry department at Kattuppakkam procured the first pair of ostriches in 2009. Two years later, the birds laid about a dozen eggs in the zoo. The eggs were incubated for about 45 days after which six chicks were born. This was the first ever Indian zoo where ostrich eggs hatched successfully.

A former zoo official said that the near natural condition inside their enclosure helped the breeding and laying of eggs. Since then, the zoo always had ostrich chicks every year.

Just a few days ago, the zoo also recorded the death of a 19-year-old lioness Kavitha who passed away because of old age and senility.

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