



Madras Naturalists' Society

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PETITION TO RECONSIDER CONSTRUCTING THE PROPOSED 500-BED HOSPITAL IN THE VICINITY OF GUINDY NATIONAL PARK

The Madras Naturalists' Society is a non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisation established in the year 1978 to create environmental awareness and spread the message of nature conservation among members and the general public, especially the youth.

We have seen reports in the press about a proposal to build a 500-bed Hospital in the Raj Bhavan campus, in the vicinity of Guindy National Park. Together, Raj Bhavan and Guindy National Park hold one of the last remnants of the tropical dry evergreen forest, unique to the east coast of India. This Forest is home to over 130 species of birds, 350 species of plants, 60 kinds of butterflies and many mammals, including the endangered Blackbuck. There are very few populations of the Blackbuck left in Tamil Nadu.

We are strongly convinced that the proposed Hospital will vitiate the flora and fauna of this Forest since a hospital means inevitable light, noise, hazardous waste, pollution and diseases. The Hospital will also draw a huge quantity of precious groundwater, which is indispensable to both the fauna and the flora in the Forest.

A Forest like the Guindy National Park in the midst of a metropolitan city is unique and one of its kind in the whole world.

We therefore fervently appeal to you to reconsider putting into effect the construction of the proposed Hospital in the vicinity of the Guindy National Park, and thus save this prestigious heritage that Chennai has and is so proud of.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Members of the Madras Naturalists' Society