



CSPT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 17

THE CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST'S NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

(Monthly -For Internal Circulation)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN'S DESK:

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

This month I want to share our diversified activities, all linking overall conservation of not only Reptiles but also whole biodiversity. Gone are the days in which people were interested in visiting the zoo merely for seeing the wild animals. With so many tourist attractions have developed and are developing for the entertainment of various types of visitors, the choice of visiting the zoos gets only a low priority among the visitors. Although the objectives of the zoos are of national importance, meeting the objectives has become a challenge for any zoo managers amidst decreasing popularity of zoo visits. Such a situation made the zoo management invent various means and methods which are of interest for the public in their entertainment point of view.

During the past 50 years of existence this Trust, its main focus was on the conservation of Reptiles, especially snakes by exhibiting various kinds of Snakes and other reptiles. Mere exhibition of Reptiles is not an economically viable solution to run the zoo. The time has come, unless we diversify our conservation activities in an attractive way for the visitors, the footfall of visitors may be drastically reduced and the income from visitors may seldom be enough to meet the expenditures for running the zoo. The recent effects of the Coronavirus invasion further worsened the financial situation. To recover from the financial crisis, we are forced to initiate diversification of our activities so as to suit the visitor's needs.

CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST, RAJ BHAVAN POST, CHENNAI-600022.

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

SUB EDITOR : Mirdhula Kamaraj, Biologist-CSPT

During the past few years, the focus on zoo management has drastically changed and accordingly, the visitor's interest to see the snakes and other reptiles in this Park has been increasing by diversifying our activities. The following activities and programs are some such attractions and diversifications:

1. Enriching the animals exhibits to suit the animals' needs and visitor's interest.
2. Interactive conservation-oriented activities and games.
3. Educative AR and VR Shows
4. Sale of medicinal plants and Nature products
5. Conducting out-reach activities including Nature Tours including Snake awareness activities.
6. Undertaking field-oriented conservation projects such as sustainable Ecotourism in association with other popular NGOs.
7. Undertaking Research projects in association with universities
8. Coordinating conservation related educational courses in association with TN Open University.
9. Conducting Seminars, Workshops, Training for the public, students, industrial establishments, Government staff etc.
10. Sponsoring short-term research projects and conducting Ph. D programs in conservation Biology.

All the above diversified activities of the Chennai Snake Park Trust make the Trust a pioneer Centre for conservation Education. Readers may visit our website, www.chennaisnakepark.in for any updated and ongoing activities going on in our Trust's organization.

I want to share a detailed account of each of the above diversifications in my forthcoming messages in this section.

Kindly yours

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

- ❖ On 9.04.2026, Telangana Forest Dept. team consist of Smt. Priyanka Varghese, IFS, CCF, Charminar Circle, Shri. K.Srinivas, IFS, DFO, Hyderabad, Shri. Laxman, FRO, Dulapally of Medchel Division and Shri. Avinash, Secretary, Friends of Snake Society, Hyderabad. They had discussion with Dr. S.Paulraj, Executive Chairman, Dr. V.Kalaiarasan, trustee and Research Director about the Modern herpetofauna Management and other legal issues of management of zoo and Rescue centre.



(Group photo of CSPT Officials with the IFS Team.)



(IFS Team exploring inside the park with the officials of Chennai snake park.)



(Executive Chairman Dr. S.Paulraj IFS (Retd.) presenting a talk on Chennai Snake Park Trust to the IFS Team.)

- ❖ On the request of the State Training Centre of Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services Department Dr. V.Kalaiarasan delivered a lecture on the snake of India and treatment for Snake bites on 29.05.26 to station officers.

DR.V.KALAIARASAN, RESEARCH ADVISOR's NOTE:

Origin and genesis of Cobra Bi Annual Journal of Chennai Snake Park Trust

While digitalizing the **Cobra Newsletter/ Journal** I thought of reviewing its Origin and evolution. Dr. R. S. Pillai eminent scientist of Zoological Survey of India and Trustee of Madras Snake Park Trust and Founder Trustee Mr. A. N. Jaganathan Rao, Honorary Secretary initiated a Quarterly Newsletter in the name of "Cobra".in order to encourage Research Scholars of Snake Park to write their observation and findings in printed media

The first (Number 1) **Quarterly Newsletter** was published during the month of July -Sep 1990.and it was continuously edited by Dr. R. S. Pillai till Newsletter Number 14 (Oct to Dec 1993).

Subsequently, Volume 15 (Quarterly Newsletter, Jan - March 1994) to Volume 49 (July – Sep 2002) was edited by Dr. R.J. Ranjit Daniels including Volume 33 as Silver Jubilee souvenir.

Then Volume 50 to 64 was edited by Dr. G. Thirumalai eminent Scientist of Zoological Survey of India. Till then the newsletter was published without Registration from the Registrar office of Newspaper of India. From 2007 onwards

it became **Quarterly Journal** of Chennai Snake Park Trust with Four Volume every year. The Volume I to Volume III (Issue: 3) were edited by Dr. G. Thirumalai.

Volume III of (Issue: 4) for the month Oct – Dec 2009 was edited by Shri. R.Rajaratnam as editor -in-charge.

From the Volume IV (Issue 1) , the quarterly journal has become a **Half Yearly Journal**, edited by Dr. S. Paulraj I.F.S.(Retd) till Volume XI (2)

The **Bi-Annual journal** from the Volume XII (Issue-1) (Jan - June 2018) to Volume XIV(Issue 2) Jan – Dec 2020 was edited by Professor Dr. M. Arumugam, Head of the Zoology Dept. University of Madras, Chennai.

From Volume XV (Issue 1) (Jan – June 2021) to Volume XVI (Issue 2) (July – Dec 2022) was edited by Dr. S. Paulraj IFS (Retd). Dr. V. Kalaivasan, Herpetologist became the editor for the Cobra Biannual Journal from the Volume XVII (Issue:1) Jan-June 2023) to till Volume XVIII, Issue: 2 (Jan – Dec 2024).

DR. K. RAMALINGAM, RESEARCH SCIENTIST's NOTE :

VENOM NEUTRALIZING MANNOSE: A PROTEINACEOUS BRAKE AGAINST SNAKE VENOM TOXICITY – A REVIEW

Dr. K.Ramalingam¹ and Dr.P.Karnan²

1. Mediclone Research Centre, Mediclone Company, Chennai.
2. Lecturer and Programme Coordinator, St Teresa International University, Thailand.

Snakebite envenomation remains a major neglected tropical health problem affecting millions of people annually, particularly in developing countries. Venom consists of a complex mixture of toxic proteins, enzymes, peptides, and biologically active molecules that induce neurotoxic, hemotoxic, cytotoxic, and cardiotoxic effects in victims. Conventional antivenom therapy remains the primary clinical treatment; however, limitations such as hypersensitivity reactions, limited accessibility, high cost, and reduced efficacy against local tissue damage necessitate the search for alternative therapeutic

approaches. Recent research has focused on natural inhibitors and carbohydrate-mediated neutralization mechanisms against venom toxins. Among these, D-mannose and mannose-containing compounds have attracted attention due to their ability to interact with venom proteins and inhibit toxic enzymatic activities. Mannose receptors expressed on macrophages and immune cells may facilitate the clearance of venom components such as phospholipase A2 (PLA2), thereby contributing to innate immune defense.

Ethnobotanical studies have also demonstrated that several medicinal plants rich in mannose-associated phytochemicals exhibit venom-neutralizing properties. Root extracts of plants such as *Ophiorrhiza mungos* have shown protective effects against lethal venom actions.

This review summarizes the composition of snake venom, mechanisms of venom toxicity, limitations of conventional antivenom therapy, the biological significance of mannose and mannose receptors, and recent advances in mannose-mediated venom neutralization strategies. The review further discusses the potential of mannose-based therapeutics as adjuncts or alternatives to antivenom therapy in future snakebite management.

❖ **ACCEPT ACTIVITIES:**

SUMMER PROGRAM

Advanced Centre for Conservation Education Planning & Training, Chennai Snake Park has conducted a trekking program at Nanmangalam Reserved Forest, Tamil Nadu on 9th, 16th and 23rd May. Participants registered actively and joined for the trekking program during the morning hours. The program was coordinated by Dr. C.Arivazhagan, Deputy Director of CSPT and Ms. Mirdhula.K, Biologist of CSPT .

Trekking Program photos on 9th May:



(Trekking at Nanmangalam Reserved Forest)



(Mr. Preston Ahimaz, Forest Consultant was invited as the Honourable guest for the trekking program.)

• Trekking Program photos on 16th May:



Trekking Program photos on 23rd May:

On 23rd May, Executive Chairman of CSPT, Dr. S. Paulraj IFS (Retd.) and Mr. Oppili.P, Environmental writer- “The Times of India” arrived as the Honourable Guests for the program. During the Trekking program Dr. S.Paulraj gathered the participants exploring the plant species found at Nanmangalam forest. The participants explored the forest with the Forest officials and staffs.



*(Executive Chairman Dr.S.Paulraj IFS (Retd.) addressing the participants (left picture).
Dr.C.Arivazhagan interacting with the participants. (Right picture)*



(Participants exploring the plant species and other species along with the forest officials and Chennai Snake park Trust officials.)

DIRECTOR 'S NOTE:

During the May 2026, the Park had 45,963 Visitors (34,592 Adult and 11,371 Children).

Feedbacks from Visitors:

The visitors of the Chennai Snake Park who visited during May 2026 has given feedback in Google Business. Total 66 visitors reviewed and given comments. Out of 66 visitors, 36 visitors have given 5 star (54.54 %), 22 visitors have given 4 star (33.33%), 3 visitors have given 3 star (9.09 %), and 2 visitors have given 2 star (3.03 %) and 3 visitors have given one star (4.54%). Few feedbacks are pertaining to adjacent Children's Nature Park.

BIOLOGIST'S NOTE:

As to tackle the summer heat of May month the staffs are instructed to care their reptile enclosures with adequate spraying of water and providing a cool environment to the animal housed. Chameleons, Crocodiles and Snake species and all other reptiles enclosed are provided with adequate water spraying with intervals.



(Summer Arrangements: Water spraying inside the Reptile Enclosures in CSPT.)

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



[Paradise](#)*****

Amazing experience



[Santosh Garg](#)*****

More species of snakes may be added.



[Naihrit Halder](#)*****

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



[Sivaranjani Mca](#)*****

Some animals cannot visible in the Cage..



[BooSho](#)*****

நான் எனது குடும்பத்துடன் ஒரு வார நாளில் சென்னை பாம்பு பூங்காவிற்குச் சென்றிருந்தேன். உங்கள் குழந்தைகளை பல்வேறு வகையான...



[syed ali](#)*****

Good place for children. Then Special place to visit your loveable