



CSPT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 20

THE CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST'S NEWSLETTER

AUG 2026

(Monthly -For Internal Circulation)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN'S DESK :

Dear readers,

In this month's message I wish to highlight the value of snakes beyond their ecological importance.

Conservation of snakes – beyond ecological value:

The recent wildlife protection Act added many snake species under Schedule I species which are commonly seen in human habitation like all cobras, vipers including some non-poisonous snakes like Rat snakes. This schedule I status of these snakes brings their conservation and protection status on par with some of the large schedule I animals like elephants, tigers etc. and punishment for harming these species are equal under Law. However, killing or hunting of snakes are not taken seriously by the public. In other words, any death report of snakes, although they are in Schedule I list, is not seriously investigated for the cause of death like the death of other Schedule I animals like elephants or tigers. Then what is the need for bringing some common animals like Snakes under Schedule-I.

When evaluating conservation priorities, species are granted equal status based on their risk of threats, independent of their natural abundance. If we leave it to Nature, it considers each and every living species is important in a natural ecosystem. That is why many species are surviving over millions of years. If any species does not have any vital role to play in the natural ecosystem, it might have vanished in the evolutionary process. When a species is allowed to survive and to evolve over millions of years, such species might be playing some important role in Nature. Such roles may not be visible or understood by us (humans). With our present advanced knowledge of science, one could find the importance of any species in the natural ecosystem. This will apply to snakes and also to any tiny insects, including Bacteria. But, we, the human being, try to value the importance of any species with reference to the benefits that we are likely to get. The conservation worth of a species hinges on two fundamental criteria: its interdependence and its role in maintaining the balance of nature. Failing to meet either requirement can lead to the species' eventual elimination from the ecosystem.

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It is appropriate to highlight the importances of snakes in interdependence and in keeping the balance of Nature. Snakes are the classical examples to demonstrate the importance in Prey-predator relationship and in the food chain in the natural ecosystem. These two ecological principles are responsible for their existence. But, from people's point of view, many like to know what direct benefits the snakes may offer for the people. During the evolutionary process, every life including plants develop some biochemical molecules for their survival from various threats. Although such chemicals serve some important functions for the particular life forms, such chemicals are having some unknown incidental functions other than their original functions. For this fact, the best examples are venom of snakes and alkaloids of plants. Incidentally such bioproducts are found to be useful as medicines. There are millions of such peptides (proteins) said to be available for the benefit of the people. Such beneficial bioproducts are available both from common species or from rare species. If we take the venoms of snakes, each venom type has so many types of peptides, each has its own biological properties. The human uses of some peptides are discovered while others are yet to be identified. One such very important venom bio product which has potential anti-cancer properties is disintegrins. This product has been extensively studied for use as potential anticancer medicine in addition to other medicinal values. Similarly, peptides of shed skins of snakes are also studied for their antioxidant properties. Use of venom and shed skins of snakes will not affect the animal from a conservation point of view. Such findings will help to educate the public on the importance of conserving snakes beyond their value in the Ecosystem.

We can drive snake conservation forward by shining a light on two key areas: their essential role in balancing nature and their hidden, direct benefits to human life.

Dr. S. Paulraj, IFS (retd.)

Executive Chairman

DR. K RAMALINGAM, RESEARCH SCIENTIST's NOTE:

THERAPEUTIC POTENTIALS OF SNAKE VENOM AND SNAKE SHED SKIN (SSS) IN CANCER TREATMENT.

Snake skin was used in pharmacotherapy long back in history as "snake oil". It was called in the then period as folk medicine myth. Recent investigations and research on snake shed skin revealed the clinical importance of it in cancer. The real functions of its components revealed that, the hexane and aqueous extracts of sss inhibited the cancer cells proliferation and growth of the tumour. The bioactive proteins and peptides within the skin cancer trigger the apoptosis of cancer cells. Research on sss also elucidated that it's extract can suppress tumour specific cytokines Tgf b and increase the pro inflammatory Tnf alpha and IFN gamma both of which fight against abnormal growths like cancer.

The studies reveal it's immunomodulatory functions. Animal resources have been ventured throughout the world for anticancer drug development. Venoms of several animals especially the snakes contain confidential proteins, peptides nonprotein toxins and enzymes with anticancer potentials. Venom proteins can kill cancer cells through apoptosis. The array of snake venom proteins involved in cancer destruction include dis-integrins, phospholipase A2, lectins, metalloproteinases, L AAOs, peptides such as bradykinin potentiators, natriuretic and analgesic peptides etc. These venom components opened up new trends in cancer treatment. The higher cytotoxicity of venom proteins against cancer cells infer their safe clinical applications and in novel cancer drugs development. In this context snake venoms used in cancer treatment were reported in as early as in 1930s is of interest to mention.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT CSPT:

August 15th: Chennai Snake Park celebrated its Independence Day celebration with a Flag Hoist and distributed sweets to the visitors visiting the park.



Flag Hoist :

Shri. R.Rajaratnam, Director of Chennai Snake Park hoisted the Flag at Chennai Snake Park premises on the Independence day 2026.



(The Staffs of Chennai Snake Park during the Independence Day 2026.)

DIRECTOR's NOTE:

During the August 2026, the Park had 27,068 Visitors (21,056 Adult and 6,012 Children).

Feedbacks from Visitors

The visitors of the Chennai Snake Park who visited during August 2026 have given feedback in Google Business. Total 45 visitors reviewed and have given the comments. Out of 45 visitors, 21 visitors have given 5 star (46.66 %), 17 visitors have given 4 star (37.77 %), 6 visitors have given 3 stars (13.33%) and one visitor has given 1star (2.22 %), Few feedbacks are pertaining to adjacent Children's Nature Park.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR's NOTE:

13th August 2026 one day training programmes on Snake Catching and Rescue Techniques were conducted for firefighter staff of Def.Research and Dev. Organisation, Avadi. In total 10 personels attended the programme. Theory session was handled by Dr.V.Kalaiarasan and afternoon session was handled by Dr.C.Arivazhagan field demonstration.



(Programme on Snake catching and Rescue Techniques at Chennai Snake Park.)



BIOLOGIST's NOTE:

An interactive live session was held by the Biologist Ms.Mirdhula kamaraj for the primary students from Jaya Guru Matric. Higher Secondary School, Chromepet on final week of August. The batch of young students witnessed the Augmented Reality (AR) show and Cartoon Movie projected at CSPT.



(An interactive live session for the school students conducted by the Biologist Ms.Mirdhula Kamaraj.)



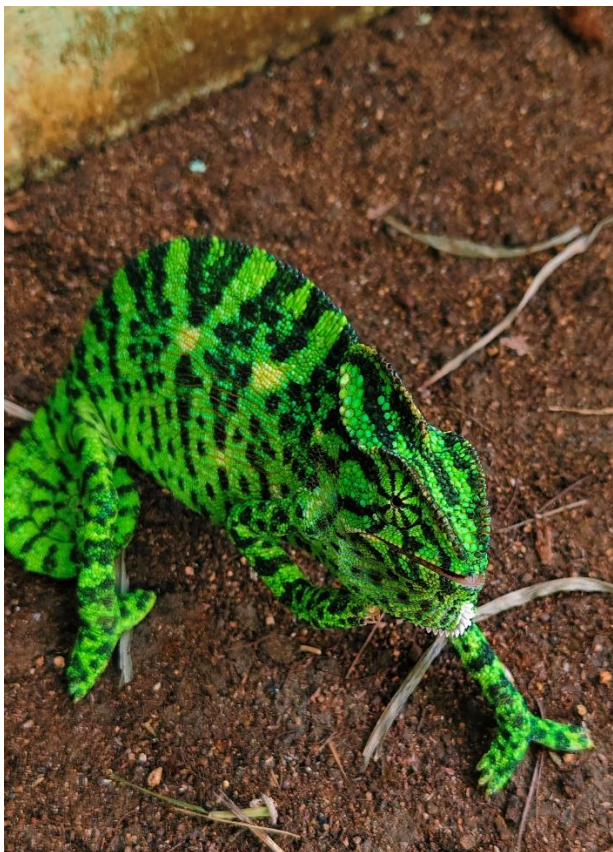
THE HIDDEN BEAUTY:

INDIAN CHAMELEON “*Chamaeleo zeylanicus*”

These intriguing reptiles live mainly in trees and bushes - a lifestyle known as arboreal — though certain species dwell on the ground, making their home in the leaf litter of the forest floor.

Their best-known ability of colour changing, is commonly thought to be just for camouflage. Although chameleons do use their colour to merge with their environment, the shifting shades of their skin also play a vital role in communication, controlling body temperature, and expressing their mood. In addition to their impressive colour-changing skills, chameleons have a range of other extraordinary adaptations — from their turret-like eyes to their lightning-fast, projectile tongues — all of which help them survive in a complex world.

Arguably the most distinctive trait of Chameleons is their eyes. Each eye is capable of moving on its own, rotating like a gun turret, which lets the chameleon watch for both prey and predators at the same time. This gives them a near 360-degree view without turning their head. Once a potential target is spotted, they can bring both eyes together to focus on it, creating sharp binocular vision and accurate depth perception that is essential for hunting.



(Photograph of a Chameleon captured at Chennai Snake Park)

INTERACTIVE PLAY:

Chennai Snake Park not only hold various species of reptiles, it also conducts several learning games for the public visiting the park. “Ring Throw Game” The game contains several cards with different species of Snakes and the public will try recognizing the species picture matching with the cards that they pick. Such game creates a better observation skill and better identification skill. Finally creating a good awareness to the people on different species of Snakes.



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



AMBZ *****

Chennai Snake Park is a place that is mainly suitable for people who are genuinely interested in snakes, reptiles



ABIRAMI ELETRICAL *****

Very good



Sanio Thomsun *****

Nice place well maintained for kids



AMAR N REDDY *****

Good information about the snakes,



RAVI KIRAN THEETLA *****

**Wonderful experience
Kids will love this place**



Siraj Qureshi *****

**You may see live snakes, crocodiles, reptiles,
etc on this park. Very good experience to see
them live.**



Fahad Jamal *****

It's the best park in Chennai to visit.



Rahul Rathod *****

**Chennai Snake Park is a well-maintained and
educational attraction that is definitely
worth visiting.**



Charles *****

**Best place for a simple day out .online ticket
available as well .**



Karthikeyan Mohan *****

**Good one but still they rely on trust.
Because of the children's park, it looks small.
Biggest croc is there.**