

What are the commonly found venomous snakes in India?



Indian Cobra

- V/U mark on the hood
- Lives in wooden piles, small shrubs and cattle shed
- Immediate pain after bite followed by swelling and darkening of skin
- Can cause blurring of vision, difficulty to speak and breathe, and paralysis

- Hides in small pits, burrows and ditches
- Enters through small door gaps, bathroom pipes in search of prey
- Causes severe abdominal pain, vomiting and weakness
- Can cause blurring of vision, difficulty to speak and breathe and paralysis



Common Krait



Russell's viper

- Makes sound like pressure cooker whistle
- Hides in sugarcane, soybean and cotton fields, tall grass
- Causes big wound at the bite site and bleeding
- Bleeding can also occur through the mouth, urine or feces



Saw Scaled viper

- Small snake that hides and bites when the victim is walking through grass
- The bite usually feels like a thorn prick
- Causes swelling at bite site and bleeding
- Bleeding can also occur through the mouth, urine or feces

What are the commonly found non-venomous snakes in India?



Indian Cat Snake



Common Trinket



Vine Snake



Indian Rat Snake



Wolf Snake



Indian Sand Boa



Buffed Striped Keelback



Checkered Keelback



Indian Rock Python

Where are the snakes generally hiding?



How can you prevent snakebites?



Move a wooden stick before cutting grass



Be alert while swimming



Use a bed net while sleeping



Use a torch at night



Use a stick while walking through grass / forest



Use a torch at night



Keep the house and premises clean



Use gum boots while working

If a snake bites you, slowly move away from the snake and immediately call for help. Do not run or walk fast

When you don't know which snake has bitten, always take the victim to the nearest health facility as early as possible

Some snakes bite like a mosquito and leave no mark. So always stay alert while moving around places where snakes generally hide

Snakebite prevention is easy and cheap. Follow all the measures given in the pictures above

What are the symptoms of snakebite?

The symptoms commonly occur from 15 minutes to 10 hours after snakebite. If a snakebite victim shows any of the following symptoms, take him to a health facility, where a doctor is available, immediately –



Abdominal Pain



Vomiting



Diarrhea



Excessive Sweating



Bleeding from mouth, urine, feces



Swelling of bite site



Difficulty breathing



Unable to open eye lids



Unconscious state

Do not wait for symptoms to appear after a snakebite. Approach a health facility immediately

What should be done immediately after a snakebite?



Move the victim slowly away from snake

Reassure and comfort the victim

Do not let the victim run or walk fast

Do not give anything to drink or eat



Swelling may occur at site of snakebite. So shoes, rings, wrist watch, bracelets or tight clothing must be removed as soon as possible



Make use of a newspaper rolls or a wooden stick or a steel ruler to immobilize the bitten limb

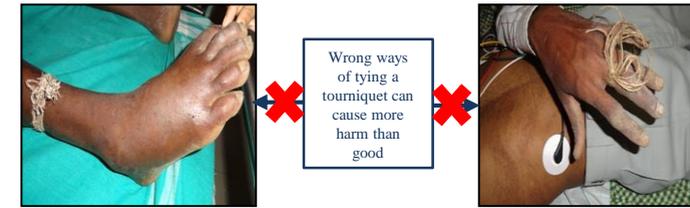
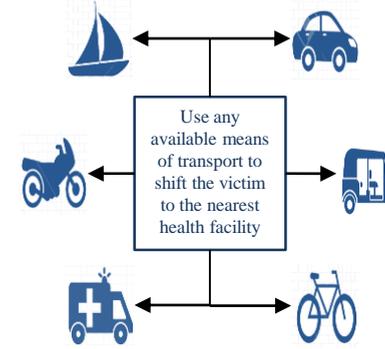


Right way of bandaging the bitten limb

Right way to carry a victim on motorcycle

Not every snake that bites is venomous. So reassurance to calm the victim is very important

What should be done immediately after a snakebite?



Wrong ways of tying a tourniquet can cause more harm than good



Do not waste time in finding or killing the snake



Do not cut the bitten part with a sharp object



Do not try to suck out venom through mouth

Reasons for death after snakebite –

- Non / wrong identification of snake species
- Waiting for symptoms to appear
- Spending time in accessing unproven management and engaging in superstitious non-scientific first aid practices
- Tying a rope or a bandage around the bitten area so tightly that it obstructs the blood flow
- Inability to access ambulance services in time
- Non-availability of doctor / anti-venom at health facilities

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INSP
ICMR National Snakebite Project

Information on Prevention and First Aid of Snakebite



ICMR National Snakebite Project (INSP) on capacity building of health system on prevention and management of snakebite envenomation including its complications.

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