



## SNAKE BITE: ENVIRONMENT

**NEWS:** Snakebite declared 'notifiable disease', Centre to meet WHO target to reduce global deaths by 2030

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

India has declared snakebite a notifiable disease to reduce deaths by 50% by 2030, aligning with WHO goals. Snakebite envenoming, a neglected tropical disease, causes significant mortality, mainly in tropical regions, and is treatable with polyvalent anti-snake venom, though challenges like inadequate healthcare infrastructure remain. The National Action Plan for Snakebite Envenoming (NAPSE) aims to reduce deaths and disabilities by 2030.

### Snakebite Envenoming and NAPSE:

#### Snakebite Envenoming:

- A potentially life-threatening disease caused by the bite of a venomous snake.
- In India, approximately 50,000 deaths occur annually due to 3-4 million snake bites, which account for half of global snakebite deaths.
- The average annual frequency is around 3 lakh cases, with 2,000 deaths.
- 90% of bites are caused by the 'big four' snakes: common krait, Indian cobra, Russell's viper, and saw-scaled viper.
- Polyvalent anti-snake venom (ASV) is effective in 80% of cases, but lack of trained personnel and health facilities is a concern.

#### Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD):

- Snakebite meets all four criteria for being classified as a neglected tropical disease:
  1. Significant mortality and morbidity.
  2. Predominantly occurs in tropical and subtropical regions, especially affecting the poor.
  3. Amenable to treatment and prevention.

#### National Action Plan for Snakebite Envenoming (NAPSE):

- **Vision:** Halve the number of deaths and disabilities due to snakebites by 2030.
- **Mission:** Reduce morbidity, mortality, and complications associated with snakebite.
- **Implementation:** Activities are conducted through State and District Nodal Officers under the National Health Mission.



- **Surveillance:** A key element to identify issues and take timely action.

## SNAKEBITE CAPITAL

INDIA REPORTS NEARLY **50%** of global snakebite deaths

Only about **10%** of snakebite cases are recorded

Country launched the National Action Plan for Snakebite Envenomation on **MARCH 12, 2024**

WHO has set 2030 as deadline to reduce death and disability from snakebite by **50%**

MOST OF THE DEATHS OCCUR AT HOME IN RURAL AREAS



A NATIONAL MORTALITY SURVEY ESTIMATED THAT INDIA HAD **1.2 MN** SNAKEBITE DEATHS (AN AVERAGE OF 58,000 PER YEAR) FROM 2000 TO 2019

