

# Wuthering Wild

ENVIS-RP Newsletter on Biodiversity & Traditional Knowledge



**SCENARIO OF SNAKE RESCUE, THEIR SIGHTING IN LUCKNOW  
AND THE BEHAVIOR OF PEOPLE TOWARD THEM**

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## From the Coordinator's Desk



It is with pleasure that I present the 'October to December 2021' issue of *WUTHERING WILD* newsletter for the third quarter of the financial year 2021-2022, covering snapshot of the various activities and advancements of the center.

In this quarter, **Wildlife Week 2021** from 1-7 October, in this wildlife week-2020, ENVIS-RP, IWS organized an online 7 days online workshop on Biodiversity and its conservation and eminent speakers

delivered their talk on different topics like as vultures conservation, Tuttle, Bats diversity, Wetlands conservation, Amphibians Research and Conservation, Reptiles Research and Conservation, Human and Animal conflict, Restoring Biodiversity for Environmental Sustainability, mammals and wildlife corridors and Understanding wildlife: Concepts. On the occasion of Birth celebration of Mahatama Gandhi ENVIS-RP, IWS, University of Lucknow Organized Lecture on **Remembering Bapu**. Lecture was delivered by Dr. Amrita Dass. On 3<sup>rd</sup> December Organized Lecture on Cyber Scurity Best Practises, which was delivered by Aditya Balapure, is an Information Security Specialist. From 17-23 December ENVIS-RP celebrated Nadi Utsav and organized Nature Walk, Biodiversity Conservation Oath, Plantation along the Gomati river.

Additionally, for this issue, Mr. Shaariq Ashar, Agriculture Sciences, Integral University Lucknow have contributed some interesting work on Snake Rescue and Behaviour. The article has been titled as Scenario of Snake Rescue, their sighting in Lucknow and the Behavior of people toward them involves the rescue of various snake species around the city of Lucknow, their nature of sighting and behavior of people. After rescuing the various species, the people are educated on snakes and then the rescued specie is released in protected areas by the authorities. Rescue & Awareness creates a positive environment between snakes and humans in the city instead of conflict, which leads to declining population of snakes. depending upon the demographic data or the type of settlements in a particular area one can define the presence of a snake as in if a particular locality has more vegetation then more snakes can be found there it was noticed that snakes were even rescued from localities having little to no vegetation. Furthermore, it can be illustrated that people cooperated with the authorities and the rescuer to prevent any conflict situation and were aiding and helping towards the rescuers.

**Prof. Amita Kanaujia**  
Coordinator

# Scenario of Snake Rescue, their Sighting in Lucknow and The Behavior of People Toward Them

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## ABSTRACT

Snakes are approaching towards the brink of extinction due to the activities of humans and their interference in the nature. Many species of snakes found in the city areas are categorized as Threatened by IUCN (IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) Therefore, it is necessary to change the perspective of people towards them to encourage a positive coexistence. This study involves the rescue of various snake species around the city of Lucknow, from (October-2019 to February-2020) their nature of sighting and behavior of people. After rescuing the various species the people are educated on snakes and then the rescued specie is released in protected areas by the authorities. Rescue & Awareness creates a positive environment between snakes and humans in the city instead of conflict, which leads to declining population of snakes.

**Key words:** Rescue, Awareness

## INTRODUCTION

Wildlife rescue can be defined as save someone from a dangerous or difficult situation (Oxford dictionary). Snake population currently faces the risk of extinction due to multiple factors. They come in contact with humans due to interference in their natural habitat or when they come into human settlements in search of food. Superstitious beliefs are also a contributing factor towards the declining population. High commercial importance is another factor, their skin is at demand in fashion industry and also the practice of snake charming plays a significant role in Snake-Human Conflict besides habitat loss and food scarcity also plays a very important role in their declining population as well

All these factors play a vital role in the declining population. Thus, effective measures are implemented to ensure their conservation. Mainly practiced conservation strategy is snake rescue, reclamation of injured, harmed or venomous snakes and their release in safe areas. At present people volunteer willingly to play their part in wildlife conservation.

## Distribution

It was observed that there was no boundary or limits to snake sightings in Lucknow, the different species Venomous Snakes (Fig1.0) and Non-Venomous Snakes

(Fig1.1) appeared in the whole city and as such no singular type of settlement defined their presence from forest areas to urban and rural settlements to slum areas they appeared everywhere. However some factors were common at the places of their appearance.



Figure 1.0\*:Common Venomous snakes found in Lucknow \*image source S.H.A.N Foundation



Figure 1.1\*: Common Non Venomous snakes found in Lucknow. \*Image source S.H.A.N Foundation

## Habitat

Snakes are one of the most wide spread reptiles on the globe, in terms of diversity. The snakes are distributed in various kinds of habitats that Include grasslands, wetlands, forests, agriculture fields, around the residential areas, scrublands, deserts and sea. (Pavan Laxmanrao Jadhav, Shivaji P Chavan and Harshad Sudarshan Trimukhe,2018).

## Abundance

The appearance of snakes during rescues showed that they were found from one end of the city to another or from areas that were completely opposite to each other this showed that this particular reptilian specie was widely distributed in whole of the city. (Figure 1.2)



Figure 1.2\*: Snakes rescued area wise \*image source-www.mapsofindia.com

### Rescued Species

Out of 11 Common species of snakes the following snake species have been rescued from all over the city during the time period (October 2019- January 2020).

S.No.	Species	No of times rescued
1.	Indian Rat Snake	5
2.	Indian Rock Python	5
3.	Common Wolf Snake	5
4.	Red Sand Boa	2
5.	Russell's Viper	2
6.	Spectacled Cobra	1

### Method and Material Used

A rescuer must always maintain a proper rescue kit with all the necessary material that comes handy during a rescue (Figure 1.4) A rescue should always be conducted after informing the proper authorities. A rescue should be done in a way so as to provide maximum comfort to both the parties. A hook depending upon the size of the snake is used during the rescue(Figure 1.4{a,b}) a hook is necessary to conduct a rescue safely. A big cloth or sheet should be used to cover the face of bigger species like python (Figure 1.4{c}). A head torch is used in dark places in order to see better (Figure 1.4{d}). Three sacks of different size must be used depending upon the length of

the rescued snake (Figure 1.4{e,f,g}). A proper data of every rescue was maintained by the rescuers for future reference and for the purpose of smooth flow of work.



**Figure 1.4\*: Rescue Kit** \*image source\_Self

### Case Study

The following rescue cases have been studied in order to understand the topic of the study thoroughly. These rescues were conducted by skilled and trained rescuers and were conducted after informing the proper authorities.

#### CASE-I

A snake was spotted by the residents of Vijay Nagar, Neelmatha, Sector-B, Lucknow. They informed UPFD and the rescuers were informed of the sighting. The residents were contacted by the rescuers and were asked by them to click the picture of snake from a safe distance and send it to them snake was identified as an Indian Rat Snake (Figure 1.5).

The residents were asked not to panic and not to call any neighbours or so in order to avoid a congested scenario.

The rescuers reached at the location and no other person except for the residents of the house were found. The house was in an urbanized colony. The gates of the residence had a grill at its bottom from which the snake probably entered the house. A vacant plot was there in front of the location. On entering the house it was observed that the house was very unorganised and not very clean. The rescuers were taken to the room where the snake was last seen, After the inspection of the room the rescuers found the snake behind a closet. The closet was made to shift a little in order to make the snake locomate. After the snake was gripped the rescuer climbed upon the bed in order to attain proper space for handling, to prevent injury and to calm the snake down. A second rescuer was made to put a sack on the bed as soon as the sack was placed on the bed the snake escaped into it. Proper bagging was done and the mouth of the sack was tied up.

After the rescue the rescuers checked the house and they spread awareness regarding snakes to the residents and gave them further advice in order to avoid such a scenario again.

After the rescue was done the snake was handed over to the proper authorities thereafter to be released in safer area.



**Figure 1.5\*: Indian Rat Snake** \*image source-Self

#### Case-II

A snake was spotted by the residents of Ganesh Ganj, Lucknow. The area is a marketplace and remains crowded all time. They informed the UPFD and the rescuers were informed of the sighting. The residents were contacted by the rescuers and were asked to send a picture of snake for identification but they were informed that the snake is not visible therefore the rescuer asked the residents to maintain distance and not to disturb the specie and were asked by them not to panic and not to call any neighbours or so in order to avoid a congested scenario.

The rescuer reached the location and it was found that the snake was spotted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the house. The house was very unorganised. The rescuer was informed by the residents of a brown snake in the kitchen's dustbin. The kitchen of the resident's was very dirty and smelly which would have attracted rats therefore snakes. The dustbin was checked cautiously by the rescuer and no snake was found. The rescuer then checked the utensils that were kept upside down adjacent to the dustbin and found the snake in one of the pressure cooker (Figure 1.6). The snake was identified as a baby rat snake it was rescued with gentle handling and was bagged in a pouch. No sign of aggression was shown.

The rescuer checked the whole house and was informed of a sewer that ran down behind the house furthermore there was also a tree hovering above the house many

sign of presence of rats in the house was witnessed by the rescuer. The rescuer gave awareness to the residents and asked them to clean the house properly. After the rescue the snake was handed over to proper authority.



**Figure 1.6\*: The snake was identified as an Indian Rat Snake \*image source-Self**

#### Case-III

A snake was spotted by the residents Sai Vihaar the snake was identified as an Indian Rat Snake (Figure 1.7) by means of the received photograph provided by the residents.

The snake was found inside a room and was rescued successfully when the residents were educated briefly on snakes the residents asked the rescuer to release the snake near their home only and that they have no problem if it lives among them to which rescuer responded by releasing the snake within a 100 metres of the location.



**Figure 1.7\*: The snake was identified as an India Rat Snake \*image source-Self**

#### Case-IV

A snake was spotted near the metro station by the pedestrians passing across Lucknow University. They informed the guards who contacted UPFD and the rescuers were informed of the sighting. The rescuers contacted one of the policeman who was present at the scene the snake was identified as an Indian Rock Python (Figure 1.8) by rescuers through photograph they received and the policeman was asked by the rescuers to keep public away in order to keep the snake calm and to prevent injury of any sorts.

As soon as the rescuers reached the scene it was observed that the snake has climbed up a fence and was sitting upon it. There were trees and open ground around and just in front was the metro station and the always busy road the snake probably came from within the campus or from the tree that were standing in a row all along the boundary.

After the situation was analyzed one of the rescuer climbed up to the height of the fence with the help of a ladder and the second rescuer along with him for support.

They used a cloth sheet to cover the snake and the python was rescued after which it was transferred into a sack and the mouth of the sack was closed with a string.

No aggression was shown by the python during the rescue and after the rescue the specie was handed over to the designated authority for its release in safer area. Furthermore people that were present on the scene were educated by the rescuers and were told that Indian Rock Python is a Schedule-I and has been provided protection under the Wildlife Act by the government



**Figure 1.8\*: Indian Rock Python \*image source-Self**

### Case V

A snake was spotted by the residents of Alambagh behind Guru Nanak Girls Inter College. They informed the UPFD and the rescuers were informed of the sighting. The residents were contacted by the rescuers and the snake was identified as Common Wolf Snake (Figure 1.9) by means of the photograph that was sent to the rescuers, the rescuer asked the residents not to get in and maintain a distance and not to call any neighbours or so in order to avoid a congested scenario.

The rescuers arrived at the location and it was observed that the a well developed urbanized colony and the snake had entered a doctors clinic and was unable to escape due to its uneasiness of crawling on tiles. The snake was rescued in time.

The snake was handed over to the authorities to be released in safer area.



**Figure 1.9\*: Common Wolf Snake \*image source-Self**

### Case VI

A snake was spotted by the residents of Sadat Ganj, Lucknow. They informed the UPFD and the rescuers were informed of the sighting. The residents were contacted by the rescuers and were asked some basic questions by them the snake was identified as Red Sand Boa (Figure 1.10) by the means of photograph sent to the

rescuers furthermore the rescuers were told that there were three of them. The rescuer asked the resident to keep public away and not to let public disturb or get near them.

The rescuers arrived at the location and it was observed that the snakes were sighted in an open plot among stones. The location was of near a lake or one can say a wetland. There was not much public on the scene and the snakes were completely visible.

All of the three snakes were rescued and were put in a sack the mouth of the sack was closed however it was noticed that the health condition of all the three snakes was not very good they looked like as they were starving there condition was not very healthy and they showed very little movement.

They were handed over to the proper authorities for treatment and then to be released in safer area.



**Figure 1.10\*: The snakes were identified as Red Sand Boa \*image source-Self**

### Case VII

A snake was spotted by the residents of Neelmatha, Lucknow. They informed the UPFD and the rescuers were informed of the sighting. The residents were contacted by the rescuers and were asked some basic questions by them the snake was identified as Russell's Viper (Figure 1.11) by the means of photograph sent to the rescuers and that there were two of them therefore the rescuers asked the residents to maintain distance and not to disturb it and were asked by them not to panic and not to call any neighbours or so in order to avoid a congested scenario.

On arriving at the scene it was found that it was an urbanized area and the snakes were inside a plot which had all sorts of garbage inside it from old tyres to

newspapers and plastic bottles and a lot of vegetation (Figure 1.12). Furthermore one of the man from the crowd claiming to be a snake catcher had already once entered the plot to catch the snake.

The rescue was conducted very cautiously as the situation was very tense and it was almost impossible to see through the vegetation. The plot area was searched for and inspected. On inquiring it was found that there was a lake behind the plot's boundary. The commotion that was caused before the arrival most probably would have pushed the snake back into denser area of the plot. The public present was educated by the rescuers on snakes and was told that no to go near a snake when they see one as it put both the parties in a conflict situation.



**Figure 1.11\*:** The snake was identified as Russells's Viper \*image source-Self



**Figure 1.12\*:** Rescue Location \*image source-Self

**Case VIII**

A snake was spotted by the residents of Aurangabad, Lucknow. They informed the UPFD and the rescuers were informed of the sighting. The residents were contacted by the rescuers and no identification as the snake was not visible therefore the rescuer asked the residents to maintain distance and not to panic and not to call any neighbours or so in order to avoid a congested scenario.

On arriving at the location it was observed that the location was of a rural area and was already under construction on its way to become an urbanized colony. The snake was sighted in a house with a basement the basement had vents which opened at the road furthermore due to monsoon the basement provided good shelter.

The basement was dark with little light after a thorough analysis of the situation the rescuer used a head torch and started inspecting the basement. The basement had cardboards newspaper lying around along with sacs of sand and cement.

The snake was found inside one of the cardboard boxes and was identified as a Spectacled Cobra (Figure 1.13) it was rescued in time a hook was used for the rescue during the complete rescue it showed no aggression but was trying to escape all the time. It was bagged properly.

After the rescue an awareness session was conducted where the residents were educated on snakes. The snake was then handed over to the authority to be released in safer area



**Figure 1.13\*:** Spectacled Cobra \*image source-Self

## Conclusion

### Rescue Scenario

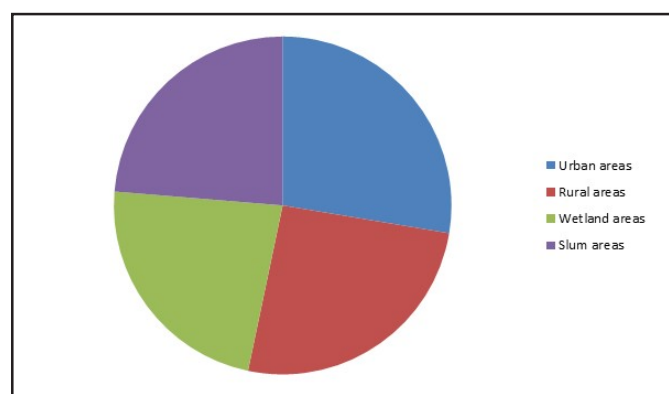
A rescue was done only if it was necessary. Each rescue was followed by an awareness session where people were educated in understanding the animal and its significance in ecosystem and ways to avoid a conflict situation.

### Nature of Sighting

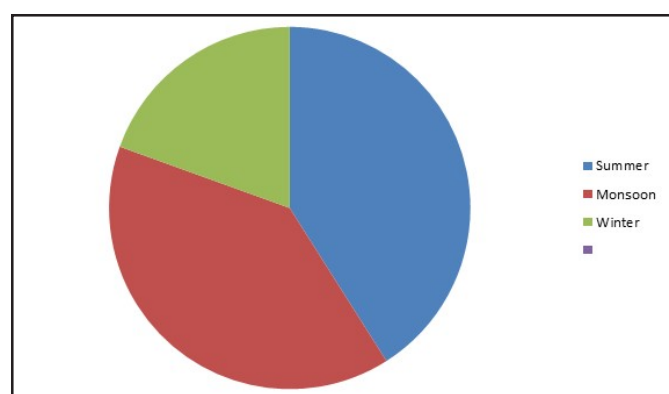
The study of the rescue cases and the nature of sighting shows that snakes could be found all over the city irrespective of the nature of the area or settlement. The snakes at times were rescued from places where no one can think of finding one.

They were equally rescued from busy areas and roads, Urban and Rural settlements, Slum area, Wetland areas and Dry areas (Figure 1.14). It was also seen that equal number of rescues were conducted during the busy hours of the day and the resting hours.

In the time period of study it was also noticed that the sighting of this specie was comparatively lower in winters as compared to Summer and Monsoon (Figure 1.15)



**Figure1.14\*: Area wise sighting. \*image source- Self**



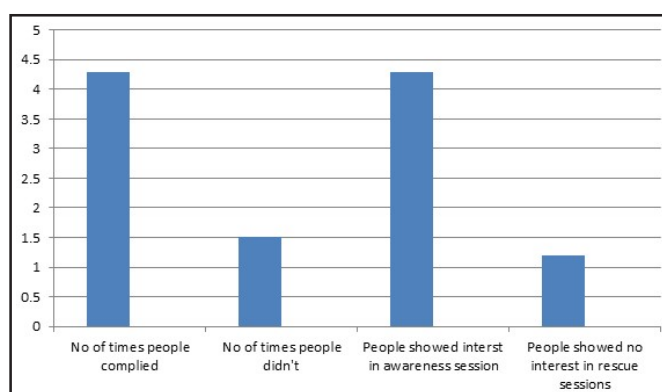
**Figure1.15\*: Seasonal sighting of snakes in the city. \*image source- Self**

### Behavior of People

It was also concluded that maximum number of times during or after the rescue the people complied to the rescuers instruction and did as was told and took interest in awareness sessions conducted after the rescue and cleared there queries (Figure 1.16)

The study also shows that it cannot be claimed that depending upon the demographic data or the type of settlements in a particular area one can define the presence of a snake as in if a particular locality has more vegetation then more snakes can be found there it was noticed that snakes were even rescued from localities having little to no vegetation.

Furthermore it can be illustrated that people cooperated with the authorities and the rescuer to prevent any conflict situation and were aiding and helping towards the rescuers.



**Figure1.16\*: Behavior of people towards rescuers and their interest in awareness sessions. \*image source-Self**

The recorded and analyzed behavior of people from the city showed that not only they are helpful and cooperative in such situations but were also more inclined into saving snakes and furthermore they discouraged there killing. This shows that the level of awareness regarding this reptilian species in Lucknow was good and in time will improve for good.

### Discussion

A lot of factors contribute to the appearance of snake throughout the city but one factor in common was witnessed at large throughout the time of study which was that most of the rescue locations were unclean and had a lot of dirt all around but snakes were also rescued from cleaner places. The people were made aware of the situation by awareness sessions in which they were told that a snake enters their home in search of food i.e. rats, now rats are attracted towards untidy places as it provides them with good feeding ground and it was also brought to peoples notice that snakes follow scent which is why even if they kill the rat and throw away its remains the snake would still come as the excreta of rats lying in the house still gives its scent hence attracting snakes.

People from every location were thankful to the rescuers for rescuing the snakes and most of them asked questions to the rescuers regarding snakes and how to prevent any sort of conflict with them, most of the people all throughout the rescue were cooperative to the rescuers and in some cases they trapped the snake at night and called the authorities in the morning instead of killing it overnight, both these factors show that the people from this city are willing to save them rather than kill them on behalf of superstition or any other reason.

Some people are so much aware on them that at times rescuers got the call and people did say that if the snake was non-venomous than they have no problem in having it around like in Case III. In a village near Chata Mile area people used to kill snakes as soon as they saw them but now they call the rescuers instead of killing them this shows a potential for future co-existence and that to what extent people were willing to contribute.

The rescuers see a rescue call as an opportunity to educate people. It is because of their presence that people know that a conflict situation will be resolved. This results in people calling the forest department rather than killing the snake.

In Case VI the boa's that were found in a starving position strikes the situation as the location where they were found was very good and there was very little chance that a snake living independantly in such an area can starve itself. It can be deduced that all the three boa's could have been released by a snake charmer who after earning sufficient from them left to die. This shows that somewhere there is still a lot more awareness to be given and a lot more of work is to be done.

Furthermore on some locations people asked the rescuers that next time if they spot a snake they can rescue it on their own as they saw how rescuers did it, to which the rescuers said no and explained to the people that they rescue snakes because of one simple reason which was that they understood the behaviour of the snake and that they knew its proper identification and

the told people that trying to handle a snake whom you cant identify properly is dangerous as it gives rise to a life and death situation.

Also this needs to be understand and acknowledged that after a rescue is done and people surround the rescuers asking all sorts of question and praising them the heroic feeling that kicks in at that moment needs to be controlled, a rescuer should maintain his/her control as they know what they are dealing with and if such feelings are not checked than there are a lot of chances that in time the rescuer will start making mistakes which japoridises the whole idea of having rescuers, in such case both the parties loose.

## Refrences

(Pavan Laxmanrao Jadhav, Shivaji P Chavan and Harshad Sudarshan Trimukhe, 2018).

Oxford Dictionary.

[www.mapsofindia.com](http://www.mapsofindia.com)

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

The data provided by this paper is a result of self study and evaluation. The author has helped in above mentioned rescues and a complete data of all the rescue is maintained by him and is in his custody.

Image source S.H.A.N. Foundation.

The author of the article is also a volunteer in S.H.A.N Foundation.

## Abstracts of Some Relevant Research Papers

### **Snake diversity and voluntary rescue practice in the cities of Gujarat State, India: an evaluation**

**Raju Vyas**

505, Krishnadeep Tower, Mission Road, Fatehgunj, Vadodara, Gujarat 390002, India

Within this five-year period (2000-2004), a total of 11,383 snakes have been rescued from five cities (Valsad, Vadodara, Surat, Dahod and Surendranagar) of the state, of which 35% are venomous snakes. The highest number of snakes rescued was in the year 2003 with 2,964 snakes, and the lowest in 2000 with 1,021 snakes from the urban area. Totally 3,949 venomous snakes from five species were rescued with an average of 157.96 snakes per annum. In 2003, the highest number of rescued venomous snakes was 1,167 and in 2000, the lowest of rescued venomous snakes was 275.

### **Promoting co-existence between humans and venomous snakes through increasing the herpetological knowledge base**

**Anita Malhotra Wolfgang Wüster John Benjamin Owens Cameron Wesley Hodges Allwin Jesudasan Gnaneswar Ch Ajay Kartik Peter Christopher Jose Louies HiraNaik Vishal Santrabh Sourish Rajagopalan Kuttalamh Shaleen ttrei Mahmood Sasaj Carlos Bravo-Vegal Kris A. Murray**

Snakebite incidence at least partly depends on the biology of the snakes involved. However, studies of snake biology have been largely neglected in favour of anthropic factors, with the exception of taxonomy, which has been recognised for some decades to affect the design of antivenoms. Despite this, within-species venom variation and the unpredictability of the correlation with antivenom cross-reactivity has continued to be

problematic. Meanwhile, other aspects of snake biology, including behaviour, spatial ecology and activity patterns, distribution, and population demography, which can contribute to snakebite mitigation and prevention, remain underfunded and understudied. Here, we review the literature relevant to these aspects of snakebite and illustrate how demographic, spatial, and behavioural studies can improve our understanding of why snakebites occur and provide evidence for prevention strategies. We identify the large gaps that remain to be filled and urge that, in the future, data and relevant metadata be shared openly via public data repositories so that studies can be properly replicated and data used in future meta-analyses.

### **Prevention is better than cure: snakebite education in India**

**Anatoli Trogridou<sup>1\*</sup>, Stuart. A. Graham<sup>2</sup>, Vishal Santra<sup>3</sup>, John Benjamin Owens<sup>4</sup>, Omesh Bharti<sup>5</sup> and Anita Malhotra<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup>State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Parimahal, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh 171009, India

Snakebite remains one of the most neglected of all tropical 'diseases', only recently getting the attention it deserves from the international health community. After the prolonged period of neglect by medical science, this disinterest in snakebite has resulted in a lack of environmental education and awareness among the communities in rural areas regarding measures to improve their everyday life, work, and healthcare. This is the first project in Himachal Pradesh to provide educational awareness to local risk groups and stakeholders. The geographical size and terrain of Himachal Pradesh makes repeated studies unachievable for a small team operating with limited funds. Additionally, independent work undertaken by different groups results in inconsistencies in education and training delivered, making further or wider research impossible due to lack of comparability. There is an urgent requirement for a collaborative approach between existing and new groups. A multi-component and interdisciplinary approach, involving stakeholders in many different realms, should be implemented

urgently. Keywords: snakebite, India, environmental education, anti venom

### **Prevention is better than cure: snakebite education in India**

**Anatoli; Trogridou, Stuart Graham, Vishal Santra, John Benjamin Owens et al.**

Snakebite remains one of the most neglected of all tropical 'diseases', only recently getting the attention it deserves from the international health community. After the prolonged period of neglect by medical science, this disinterest in snakebite has resulted in a lack of environmental education and awareness among the communities in rural areas regarding measures to improve their everyday life, work, and healthcare. This is the first project in Himachal Pradesh to provide educational awareness to local risk groups and stakeholders. The geographical size and terrain of Himachal Pradesh makes repeated studies unachievable for a small team operating with limited funds. Additionally, independent work undertaken by different groups results in inconsistencies in education and training delivered, making further or wider research impossible due to lack of comparability. There is an urgent requirement for a collaborative approach between existing and new groups. A multi-component and interdisciplinary approach, involving stakeholders in many different realms, should be implemented urgently.

### **Snakes, Snakebites and British Medical-Zoological Engagement in Early Colonial India: Health, Medicine and Ideology\***

**Rahul Bhaumik<sup>1</sup>**

This paper tries to trace the interesting history of Western medical-zoological engagement with venomous Indian snakes within the context of making and consolidation of British health policy in colonial India during the late eighteenth to the mid nineteenth centuries. It shows that while the British colonisers began to exploit flora and fauna of the newly subjugated land for their material benefit, they confronted wild Indian creatures like venomous snakes and anxiously noticed the huge mortality from snake poisoning in India. This threw a direct challenge to the healthy livelihood of the colonisers because of their insufficient knowledge about such a variety of snakes and their envenoming powers. The paper shows how Indian snakes formed a significant part of the British medical-zoological imagination of Oriental/tropical wilderness; a cruel, chaotic and disease-laden condition posing a threat to the life and health of the Europeans and also how the difficulties faced in snake-ridden India were engaged with the idea that India was essentially different from Europe:

environmentally and medically. This paper concludes that Western medical engagement with venomous snakes and the consequential health measures which flourished under the British agency provided the tools to order and control the snake-ridden landscape of India and paved the way for the assertion of an intellectual superiority over the colonised people. In this regard, Western medicine and health policy, not only as practice but also as ideology, served to justify the colonial rule and became a true instrument of the British Indian Empire.

**Key words:** Snake Poisoning, Wild Orient/Tropics, British Health Policy, Colonial/Tropical Medicine, British India.

### **Snake Bite in India: Current Scenario of an Old Problem**

**Yogendra Kumar Gupta\* and Sharda Shah Peshin**

Department of Pharmacology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India

Snake bite is a significant health concern, especially in rural populations of tropical and subtropical countries.

In India, snake bites take a heavy toll of human lives, and therefore warrant urgent attention. High mortality is due to poor health services in rural areas and delay in getting the victim to a well-equipped health care facility, where anti snake venom can be administered. However, geographical and species variation, logistic, economic and production issues restrict the use of anti-snake venom. India has a large repository of medicinal herbs, which have been used in folk medicine for treatment of snake bites. Though numerous herbal remedies are scientifically unsubstantiated, yet they cannot be glossed over due to their inherent advantages. They are practiced by diverse social groups for long, offering unconditional benefits. In view of limited presence of modern medical avenues in far flung areas, such a resource needs to be harnessed, as herbals are cheap, acceptable and often at the disposal of victims. Exhaustive ethno botanical studies in different regions of the country can help to undertake well designed scientific studies, for establishing therapeutic efficacy of various herbals for treating snake bites. The present article highlights an assortment of herbal plants used in India for snake bites.

## **Events/Activities**

### **WILDLIFE WEEK - 1-7 OCTOBER, 2021**

ENVIS-RP, IWS, University of Lucknow in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Board organized various competitions like Poem, Poster, Collage, PowerPoint Presentation were also organised. About 250 participants were attend the online workshop. Participation certificates were provided to all the participants and winners of the competitions.



## **WILDLIFE WEEK-2021**



**1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Online Competitions on the occasion of Wildlife Week -2021 are being organised by ENVIS-RP, ONGC-CAS University of Lucknow, Lucknow in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow**

### **Online Competitions**

- **Poem writing Competition on "Hamari Nanhi Gauraiya (Hindi) OR My Little Sparrow (English)"**
- **Poster making Competition on "Human-Animal Conflict"**
- **Collage Competition on "Birds of India"**
- **PPT Competition on "Heritage Sites of India"**



**Competitions: Each Participant Can Participate in all of the Events.**

Group A: 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Class OR Participants between age group: 8-13 years (Any stream/subject)

Group B: 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Class OR Participants between age group: 14-18 years (Any stream/subject)

Group C: Graduates and Post Graduates OR Participants between age group: 19-25 years (Any stream/subject)

• Student should send their own prepared PPT of Max. 10 Slides and also present online on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

• Each student should send their entries with their Name, Class, School's Name, Group and mobile Number clearly.

**Participate and win an e-certificate**

**Certificates for Hindi and English languages Poem will be separate.**

**Entries to be submitted in electronic format latest by 05.10.2021, 5:00 pm on email address [enviswsluko@gmail.com](mailto:enviswsluko@gmail.com)**

**For any query kindly contact us: 9415030061, 9026987174**



MUSKAN KUSHWAHA  
B.Com (Honours) III<sup>rd</sup> Sem  
Shri Gurus Nanak Girls Degree College  
Group C  
9336659955



## 7 DAYS ONLINE WORKSHOP (1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021)

7 days online workshop has been organised on the occasion of Wildlife Week from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 on Zoom Platform for the awareness and conservation of biodiversity by ENVIS-RP, IWS, University of Lucknow in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board. The theme of the workshop was Wildlife Conservation.



## 7 Days Online Workshop on **Wildlife Conservation** on the occasion of Wildlife Week-2021

### OUR SPEAKERS



DR. V. ELANGOAN



DR. SHAIENDRASINGH



MR. PETER METZGER



DR. RAJAT BHARGAVA



DR. K. SINGHANIA



DR. RUFFEYCHAITAN



MR. M. RAJEEV MATHIEW



DR. ARTYAHAVELA



DR. TULIKASINGH



DR. VIVEKSHARMA



MR. AMIT MISHRA



MR. ANKIT RANJAN PATHAK



MR. VITEKANAND KUMAR



DR. SURANIDHEYAN



MS. ARUNIMASINGH



MS. SREEPARNA DUTTA



DR. VENKATESH DUTTA



MR. DEVAN MEHTA

Organizers  
**ENVIS-RP, INSTITUTE OF WILDLIFE SCIENCES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW**  
**UTTAR PRADESH STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD, LUCKNOW**



Date: 1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
Time: 11:00 A.M. onwards  
Venue: Zoom Platform

Last Date of Registration: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

- No Registration Fee
- Prior Registration is mandatory.
- Limited Seats for the workshop- only 50 seats.
- Seven days attendance is mandatory.
- E- Certificate will be provided to candidate who will attend all seven days (18 Lectures).
- For details/ queries please contact on the following  
E-mail: [envishub@iws.org](mailto:envishub@iws.org)  
Mobile No- 9415030061, 9026987174

## LECTURE ON REMEMBERING BAPU (2 October, 2021)

On the occasion of Birth celebration of Mahatama Gandhi ENVIS-RP, IWS, University of Lucknow Organized Lecture on Remembering Bapu. Lecture was delivered by Dr. Amrita Dass.

**CELEBRATE MAHATAMA GANDHI BIRTH ANNIVERSARY**  
**Remembering Bapu**

2ND OCTOBER  
**GANDHI Jayanti**

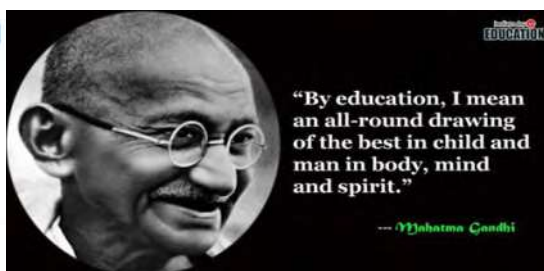
03 October 2021  
Time: 4:00 pm onwards

Meeting ID: 81063261246  
Passcode: 594131

**Patron**  
PROF. ALOK KUMAR RAI  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Lucknow

**Speaker**  
DR. AMRITA DAS  
Fonder Director  
Institute for Career Studies

ENVIS-RP, INSTITUTE OF WILDLIFE SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW



### LECTURE ON CYBER SECURITY: BEST PRACTICES (3 December, 2021)

ENVIS-RP, IWS, University of Lucknow Organized Lecture on Cyber Security Best Practises, which was delivered by Aditya Balapure, is an Information Security Specialist, Author, Speaker and is currently managing Cybersecurity at Amazon Pharmacy. He is also an Adjunct Instructor at New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA. Aditya Balapure told about cyber Security in India and their practises. Here are few glimpse of their presentation.



### AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV - NADI UTSAV (16 December 2021 – 23 December 2021)

The celebrations are being organized under the four chosen themes of Cleanliness, Patriotism, Nature and Ecology, Devotion and Spirituality. The celebrations are under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Campaign, which commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's Independence. For Nadi Utsav 2021, events are being held in over 22 states and more than 170 districts to celebrate 10 major rivers as well as many other rivers in the country. ENVIS-RP, Institute of Wildlife Sciences, University of Lucknow in collaboration with UP State Biodiversity Board organized “Nature walks and Plantation drive at Gomti River Bank” on the occasion of NADI UTSAV celebration under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Campaign.

**Events organized were :** ☐ Oath ceremony to conserve Biodiversity; ☐ Nature Walk; ☐ Plantation in the catchment area of river Gomti; ☐ Awareness drive for Biodiversity conservation.



## ENVIS-RP Query Form

1. Name :
2. Designation:
3. Organization and Address:
4. E-mail:
5. Literature will be used for:
6. Date:
7. Signature:

I would like to search your database in the following areas: (tick appropriate subjects)

### SUBJECT

Biodiversity	Traditional Knowledge
Wildlife	Conservation Biology
Landscape Ecology	Environmental Management
Biodiversity laws and legislation	Biodiversity Management
Threats to Biodiversity and Wildlife	Economic Importance of Traditional Biodiversity
Biodiversity and Wildlife Management	Remote Sensing and GIS
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Socioeconomic Biodiversity
Role of Traditional Biodiversity in Conservation	

## Call for Papers

The ENVIS-RP, Institute of Wildlife Sciences, ONGC Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Lucknow is designated ENVIS-Resource Partner for "Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge issues". Our Quarterly Newsletter "Wuthering Wild" is dedicated to publishing papers on the above. The newsletter is widely circulated at the State, National and International levels.

We are seeking papers for our forthcoming issues and invite contributions in the context of state of Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge of Uttar Pradesh including Biodiversity assessment, Biodiversity index, Environmental factors and Biodiversity, Biodiversity and Ecotourism, Traditional Flora and Fauna, Importance of Traditional Biodiversity, Utility of Traditional Knowledge in Human Welfare, Economic Assessment of Traditional Biodiversity, Biodiversity Legislation and Laws and Regulatory Systems, Biodiversity and Wildlife Education, Awareness & Participation Issues.

The papers in English should Generally contain between 2,500 and 3,000 words and may include charts, tables, diagrams, illustrations or photos of high resolution.

Publication of Papers will be subject to acceptance by the Editor.

Please send hard copies and one soft copy of the manuscript (A4 size, 12 font size, double spaced) to the editor "Wuthering Wild" at Coordinator, ENVIS-RP, Institute of Wildlife Sciences, ONGC Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Lucknow, Lucknow-226007, Uttar Pradesh or email at [envisiwlulko@gmail.com](mailto:envisiwlulko@gmail.com) or [kanaujia.amita@gmail.com](mailto:kanaujia.amita@gmail.com) and indicate "Papers for Newsletter Wuthering Wild" in subject line.

Published by the ENVIS-RP, Institute of Wildlife Sciences, University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

We would appreciate if you send your comments and suggestions to

Coordinator, ENVIS-RP, Institute of Wildlife Sciences

ONGC Centre for Advanced Studies

University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Contact: 9415030061

Email: [envisiwlulko@gmail.com](mailto:envisiwlulko@gmail.com)

**Disclaimer:** The information in this Newsletter has been compiled from various sources and does not necessarily depict the views of the ENVIS-RP, Institute of Wildlife Sciences, University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.