

Suggested Post Language

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Snakes inspire strong reactions in people—from fascination to terror. But it doesn't have to be one or the other.

In India, 58,000 souls lose their lives each year and well over 100,000 more lose limbs, are disfigured and suffer mental health trauma. The global toll of death and disability throughout sub-Saharan Africa, south and southeast Asia, Latin America and Oceania is around 550,000 people annually.

This often happens because humans don't know where they might encounter snakes or how to engage safely if they do. King cobras sometimes wander into people's farms and even their houses, searching for their prey.

Rom Whitaker and the team at the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust gently relocate these giants to the nearby forest to keep everyone (including the snakes) safe.

But more work is needed to keep humans and snakes safe. The solutions to turn the tide are not complicated. Snakebite is preventable and treatable. Join me, GSI, and the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, as we do our part to bring decades of combined expertise to fill critical gaps by implementing tangible, life-saving education programs across 12 states in India.

Contribute to my Snakebite Awareness Day campaign to save lives and limbs:
<https://givebutter.com/2023snakebiteawareness>



Rom Whitaker and the Madras Crocodile Bank work with the Irula tribal group in India to supply venom for antivenom production, saving millions of lives.

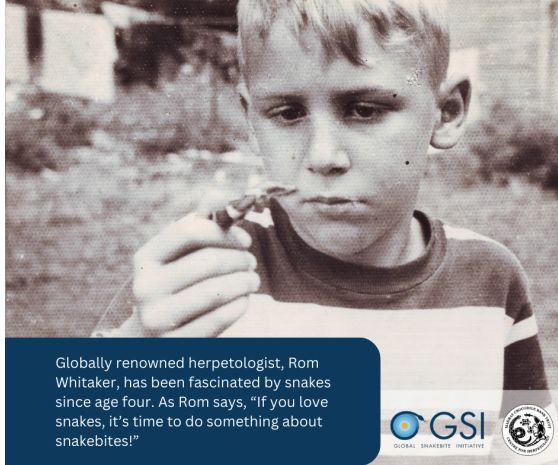
Rom Whitaker, known as “India’s Snakeman,” is a world-renowned herpetologist. He’s been fighting for decades to keep people safe from deadly snakebites.

Back in the late 1960s, he and his team began collaborating with the Irula tribal groups in India—learning and collaborating with them to learn more about wild snakes. Today, the Irulas supply the majority of venom needed for antivenom production, saving millions of lives in India every year.

In India, 58,000 people die every year due to snakebite. The way to prevent these deaths is community education—it’s simple, it’s cost effective, and it’s impactful. Unfortunately, there is little to no funding going into countries, like India, to carry out these programs.

Will you join me in supporting the Global Snakebite Initiative and the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust in changing that today? Make a donation in honor of Snakebite Awareness Day here:
<https://givebutter.com/2023snakebiteawareness>

Your donation today will begin saving lives immediately. Please give now!



Rom Whitaker, known as "India's Snakeman," is a world-renowned herpetologist. He's been fighting for decades to keep people safe from deadly snakebites.

As Rom says "I was very lucky that my mother, Doris, didn't chuck me out of the house when I'd bring snakes home. Her encouragement set me up for a life that continues to be the most exciting imaginable."

But this lifelong champion of snakes and snakebite has a dire appeal: "If you love snakes, it's time to do something about snakebites."

Every year, 138,000 die and as many as 400,000 are disfigured or disabled from snakebites. This little known global crisis creates knock-on effects for families and communities for generations.

Rom and his team are educating communities on prevention of snakebite and critical health-seeking behaviors following a bite in order to turn this tide and reduce the devastation families face.

As a snake lover myself, I have great respect for what Rom has committed his life to doing, and today I'm showing that respect by asking you to donate to the Global Snakebite Initiative so that Rom and his team can launch the largest-ever community education program in India.

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“Touching a snake is a life-changing experience.”
~ Rom Whitaker



Rom Whitaker, known as “India’s Snakeman,” is a world-renowned herpetologist.

He explains why he likes to focus on educating children about snakes, safety around snakes, and snakebite prevention, “Children are just naturally fascinated by snakes, and no wonder, these are the most graceful and beautifully colored and patterned animals on earth. Our education programs, aimed at kids, spill over to their parents too!”

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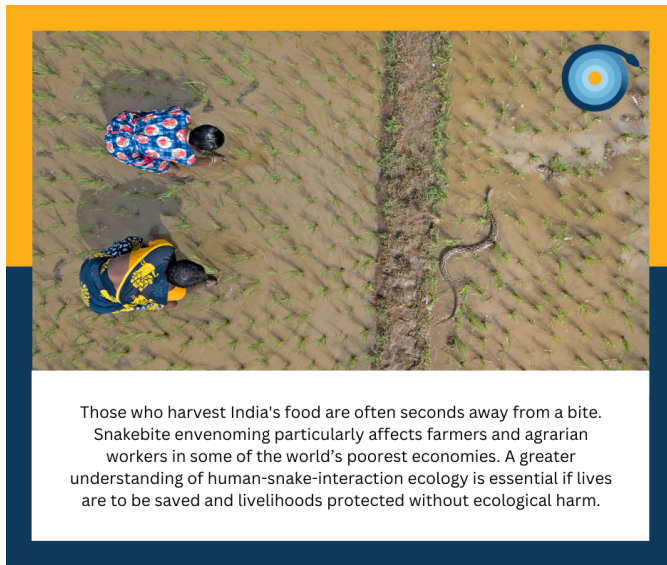


Snakebite is a tragedy on a global scale: 168 tropical and subtropical countries see up to 138,000 deaths and as many as 400,000 are disfigured or disabled each year from snakebites. This little known global crisis mostly affects women and children. Educating communities on prevention and health-seeking behaviors is essential to turning this tide and reducing the financial devastation families face following a bite.

Join me, GSI, and the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, as we do our part to bring decades of combined expertise to fill critical gaps by implementing tangible, life-saving education programs across 12 states in India.

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Those who harvest India's food are often seconds away from a bite. Snakebite envenoming particularly affects farmers and agrarian workers in some of the world's poorest economies. A greater understanding of human-snake-interaction ecology is essential if lives are to be saved and livelihoods protected without ecological harm.

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This often happens because humans don't know where they might encounter snakes or how to engage safely if they do. But snakebite is preventable and treatable, it just needs funding to make a difference.

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58,000 souls are lost to snakebite each year in India. 2-3x that number lose limbs, suffer permanent disfigurement, PTSD or often irreversible financial hardship following the loss or injury of the family breadwinner. **This often avoidable accident can be prevented with simple awareness and changes to habits and daily practices.**

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This is often an avoidable accident that can be prevented with simple awareness and changes to habits and daily practices. The way to prevent these deaths is community education—it's simple, it's cost effective, and it's impactful. Unfortunately, there is little to no funding going into countries, like India, to carry out these programs.

GSI and the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust are teaming up to educate on prevention of snakebite and critical health-seeking behaviors following a bite in order to turn this tide and reduce the devastation families face.

Will you join me in donating to the Global Snakebite Initiative so that this critical program has the funding to save thousands of lives? Every donation to GSI will be matched by Tito's Handmade Vodka—up to \$1 million!

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Wearing gumboots and using a torch while tending crops at night reduces a snakebite.

Help us purchase and disseminate more of our tested and monitored prevention kits across 12 states of India.

These kits along with in-person awareness activities mean farmers can continue to provide for their families without the fear of snakebite.



Wearing gumboots and using a torch at night while tending crops, and sleeping under a well-tucked in mosquito net, reduces a snakebite.

These are simple, affordable solutions that can stop up to 138,000 deaths and as many as 400,000 are disfigurements each year from snakebites!

Unfortunately, there is little to no funding to carry out these programs.

GSI and the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust need your help to purchase and disseminate more of MCBT's tested and monitored prevention kits across 12 states of India. These kits, along with in-person awareness activities, mean farmers can continue to provide for their families and reduce fear of an occupational bite.

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We need your help!



Our trained education team is ready to embark on a snakebite awareness and prevention campaign in 12 states in India...as soon as we get your support.

Educators spend time busting myths and enforcing positive health-seeking behaviors. It's the largest effort for snakebite mitigation in India to date.



With your help, we will be ready!

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Madras Crocodile Bank Trust's trained education team is ready to embark on a 12 state of India snakebite awareness and prevention campaign. 2,500 interactive sessions will be conducted primarily in schools and at community gatherings. Each program includes short prevention film screenings, snake identification, home and workplace prevention tips and correct first-aid actions. Educators spend time busting myths and enforcing positive health-seeking behaviors. It's the largest effort for snakebite mitigation in India to date.

But the only way we can do it is with your support. We have a challenge match from Tito's Handmade Vodka of \$1 million—that we can only unlock with your gift today!

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Our snakebite education campaign includes building capacity of first-responders—forest department staff, snake rescuers, village health workers and teachers! This “train the trainer” program will grow our expert education team to reach more people in more villages over a broader geographical region.



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Rom Whitaker is a household name in India for his TV and Film appearances to promote snake conservation and snakebite awareness. We are passionate about disseminating short educational films. **Please support so we can dub these films into 11 critical languages to reach rural populations.**

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Rom and his team at the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust are passionate about disseminating short educational films for in-person programs, through social media and WhatsApp.

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Please support the Global Snakebite Initiative as we team up with Rom and the MCBT to dub these already made short films into 11 critical languages to reach more rural populations.

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