



Russell's Viper Snake | Bihar | 18 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a man in Bihar shocked everyone by arriving at a hospital with the venomous snake (**Russell's Viper**) that had bitten him.

Key Points

- **Russell's Viper:**
 - [Russell's Viper](#) is one of India's most dangerous snakes. Its venom is hemotoxic, causing internal bleeding, muscle damage, and renal failure.
 - Bites from this snake can be fatal if untreated, with symptoms including severe pain, swelling, and bleeding.
- **Venom and Antivenom:**
 - **Venom Composition:** The venom of Russell's Viper disrupts blood clotting, leading to internal bleeding.
 - **Antivenom Production:** Venom is extracted from snakes, injected into animals (usually horses), which then produce antibodies. These antibodies are extracted to create antivenom.
- **Legal Protection under WPA, 1972:**
 - The [Wildlife Protection Act \(WPA\), 1972](#) classifies *Russell's Viper* as protected wildlife **under schedule II**.
 - Handling, capturing, or harming these snakes without permission is illegal.

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

- The [Wild Life \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#) provides a legal framework for the protection of various species of wild animals and plants, management of their habitats, regulation, and control of trade in wild animals, plants, and products made from them.
- The act also lists schedules of plants and animals that are afforded varying degrees of protection and monitoring by the government.
- India's entry to the [CITES \(Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora\)](#) was made easier by the Wildlife Act, 1972.
- Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir was not covered by the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. The Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 now applies to J&K as a result of the [reorganisation act](#).