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News: National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE)

- Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE), under the ‘One Health’ approach.

National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE)

- The National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE) provides a broad framework for management, prevention and control of Snakebite envenoming in India.
- This NAP-SE echoes the global voice of reducing the deaths due to snakebite envenoming by half and envisages all strategic components, roles and responsibilities of concerned stakeholders.
- The NAP-SE is a guidance document for the states/UTs and stakeholders to develop their own action plan, specific to their needs and aims at systematic reduction of snakebite envenoming risk through sustained availability of anti-snake venom, capacity building, referral mechanism and public education.

Aim

- To prevent and control snakebite envenoming in order to halve the numbers of deaths and cases of disability that it causes by 2030.
- To progressively reduce the morbidity, mortality and its associated complications in humans due to Snake bite.

Strategic Actions

- **Human Health:** The strategic action for human health component includes ensuring provision of anti–snake venom at all health facilities, strengthening surveillance of snakebite cases and deaths in humans.
- Strengthening of emergency care services at District Hospitals/ CHCs including services for ambulances, institutionalisation of Regional Venom Centre’s and inter-sectoral coordination.
- **Wildlife Health:** The strategic action for wildlife health component includes education awareness, anti–venom distribution, strengthening of the key stakeholders, systematic research and monitoring and snake venom collection and snake relocation.
- **Animal and Agriculture Component:** The strategic action for animal and agriculture component includes prevention of snakebites in livestock, community engagement etc.

Snakebite Envenoming (SE)

- Snakebite Envenoming (SE) is a **potentially life threatening disease** that typically **results from the injection of a mixture of different toxins** (venom) **following the bite of a Venomous Snake** and can also be because by **having venom sprayed into the eyes by certain species of snakes** that have the ability to spit venom as a defence measure.
- It is a particularly important public health problem in **rural areas of tropical and subtropical countries situated in Africa, the Middle-East, Asia, Oceania and Latin America.**
- In these regions the **risk of snakebite is a daily concern, especially for rural and peri-urban communities** where hundreds of millions of people depend on agriculture or subsistence hunting and gathering in order to survive.
- Snakebite Envenoming (SE) is classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a High-Priority **Neglected Tropical Disease** (NTD).
- Many snakebite victims, mostly in developing countries, **suffer from long-term complications such as deformities, contractures, amputations, visual impairment, renal complications and psychological distress.**
- About **5.4 million snake bites occur globally each year**, resulting in 1.8 to 2.7 million cases of envenoming.

- There are between 81,410 and 1,37,880 deaths and around three times as many amputations and other permanent disabilities each year, caused by snakebites.
- India has seen an estimated 1.2 million snakebite deaths from 2000 to 2019, an average of 58,000 per year.
- According to a new study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India has the highest number of snakebite cases in the world, accounting for nearly 50% of the global snakebite deaths.

WHO's Roadmap for Snakebite Envenoming (SE)

- WHO launched its roadmap with an aim to halve death and disability from snakebite by 2030.
- In order to create a sustainable market for antivenoms there is a need for a 25% increase in the number of competent manufacturers by 2030.
- WHO has planned a pilot project to create a global antivenom stockpile.
- Integrating snakebite treatment and response into national health plans in affected countries, including better training of health personnel and educating communities.

Indian Initiatives in SE

- Much before the WHO roadmap was launched, **researchers from ICMR started community awareness and health system capacity building from the year 2013.**
- They are continuing their work through a national study funded by the National Task Force on snakebite, ICMR.