

# Big Four (Indian snakes)

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These are the four venomous snake species responsible for causing the most human snake bite cases in the Indian Subcontinent (mostly in India). They are referred to as the **big four**.

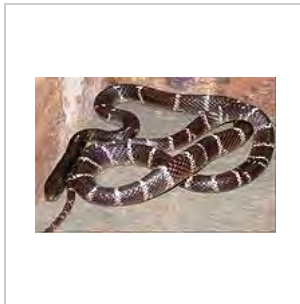
## Snakes

The Big Four:<sup>[1]</sup>

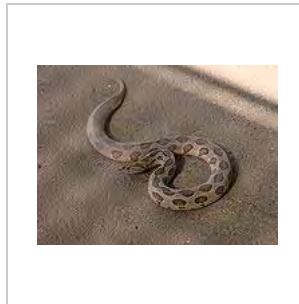
1. Indian cobra, *Naja naja*
2. Common krait, *Bungarus caeruleus*
3. Russell's viper, *Daboia russelii*
4. Saw-scaled viper, *Echis carinatus*



*Naja naja*, the spectacled cobra.



*Bungarus caeruleus*, the common krait.



*Daboia russelii*, Russell's viper.



*Echis carinatus*, the saw-scaled viper.

## Treatment

A polyvalent serum that effectively neutralizes the venom of all of the Big Four snakes is widely available in India and is frequently used to save lives.

## References

1. Whitaker Z. 1990. Snakeman. Penguin Books Ltd. 192 pp. ISBN 0-14-014308-4.

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