



# King Cobra

Source: IE

A [king cobra](#) from Karnataka's Pilikula Biological Park, brought to Bhopal's [Van Vihar National Park](#) under an animal exchange programme (2 tigers for 2 cobras) to introduce the species in Madhya Pradesh, has died.

- **About King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*):** It is the **world's longest venomous snake**, with **neurotoxic venom** that causes **muscle paralysis** by blocking nerve signals.
  - **Biological & Behavioral Traits:** It is **oviparous**, the **only snake that builds and guards its nest** until eggs are hatched, and its **venom** is used to produce pain relievers like **Cobroxin** and **Nyloxin**.
    - It is part of the **big four** responsible for **most snakebite deaths** in India (with Russell's viper, saw-scaled viper, common krait).



- **Diet:** It **primarily preys on other snakes** (such as **rat snakes**, **dhamans**, and **cobras**) and is **diurnal**, meaning it is **active during the day**.
- **Habitat:** It is **found in rainforests**, **bamboo thickets**, **mangroves**, **high-altitude grasslands**, and **near rivers**, with a **range spanning India, southern China, and Southeast Asia**.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - [IUCN Red List](#): **Vulnerable**
  - [CITES](#): **Appendix II**
  - [Wildlife Protection Act \(1972\)](#): **Schedule II**
- **About Van Vihar National Park:** **Van Vihar National Park**, located in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), lies next to the **Upper Lake (Bada Talab)**, a Ramsar Site and part of the [Bhoj Wetland](#).
  - It serves as a **rescue centre** for **lions**, **tigers**, **sloth bears**, and other animals saved from circuses and conflict zones.
  - The park is also a **Conservation Breeding Centre** for the **Hard Ground Barasingha** and **Gyps vultures**.

Read More: [Ophiophagus Kaalinga](#)