

# Snakebite victims get lifeline in the form of mono-ambulances, portable ventilators

TNN | May 30, 2014, 11.14 PM IST

THANE: During monsoon hundreds of people from hilly, tribal areas or remote villages die due to snakebites. Figures show that almost 50% of global snakebite deaths occur in India. Even in Thane district, everyday 10 people lose their lives due to snakebites.

With the aim of finding a solution to this, a research team toiled hard on a project titled Snakeathon, under Crisys, NGO, from Yeoor and has come up with positive results.

"Most villagers have to travel long distances to find a hospital for snake-bite victims. To help a victim get prompt medical aid, we have developed the mono-wheel ambulance and portable respiratory device," said Glenn Fernandes, founder of Crisys.

"The mono-wheel ambulance is light. Its hood protects the victim from harsh sunlight or rain," said Dr Sarita Parekh, head of the project.

Klara Koeppl, a young volunteer from Germany, designed the ambulance. The portable ventilator provides respiratory support to the victim.

Apoorva Agvan, project head of the Yeoor centre of Crisys Foundation, said, "The focus is not only on cure, but on preventing snakebites. There is a lot of ignorance about this. In many cases villagers end up killing the snake. This upsets the balance of the eco-system and can lead to problems such as increase in the population of rodents, which is a staple food for snakes."

Klistu Fernandes

| PROJECT DETAILS   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; As part of the project, a mono-wheel ambulance to carry victims will be distributed free of cost in remote villages all over India</li><hr/><li>&gt; The ambulance can be fixed to a cycle or lifted by hands (<b>see pic</b>)</li><hr/><li>&gt; Its single-wheel design will enable it to travel on difficult, rocky terrain</li><hr/><li>&gt; Ventilator, first-aid and other accessories are included</li><hr/><li>&gt; Group behind project has set target of reaching 300 villages by June 30</li></ul> |  |