What’s that snake?
A photographic guide to the snakes of IISER-TVM

Is that a Snake?
- Body covered with scales
- Has no legs
- No external ears

General fact: Snakes are cold-blooded, which means that their body temperature depends on the external environment. So, snakes have to regularly bask in the sun when it's cold or hide from the sun when it's warm.

If it ain’t got scales, it ain’t no snake!

Venomous Snakes and their lookalikes found in IISER-TVM

- Spectacled Cobra (Naja naja)
  - Has a prominent hood
  - Spectacle markings on the neck
- Common Krait (Bungarus caeruleus)
  - Black with white bands
  - No prominent neck
  - Scales on the back large and hexagonal
- Common Wolf Snake (Lycodon aulicus)
  - Black or brown with white bands
  - Has a prominent neck
  - Small rhomboid scales on the back
- Russell’s Viper (Daboia russelii)
  - Triangular head
  - Three rows of ‘8’ shaped or chain-like markings on the back
- Indian Rock Python (Python molurus)
  - Triangular head
  - Three rows of ‘8’ shaped or chain-like markings on the back
  - Large-bodied snake
  - Irregular dark brown patterns on the back
- Pit Vipers
  - Colour variable from brown to reddish-brown to green
  - Triangular head with small scales
  - Short and stout body

Harmless snakes found in IISER-TVM

- Indian Rat Snake (Ptyas mucosa)
  - No hood
  - Usually has black striations on the tail
  - Has prominent stripes running down the eyes
- Indian Rock Python (Python molurus)
  - Triangular head
  - Three rows of ‘8’ shaped or chain-like markings on the back
  - Large-bodied snake
  - Irregular dark brown patterns on the back

Oh My! What do I do?

Step 1
- Do not panic. Leave the snake alone and it will be on its way

Step 2
- If the snake does not move away, keep a safe distance and enjoy watching the snake

Step 3
- Call the authorities and inform them about the snake.

Content and Design: VPC
Cartoon Design: Freepik

Images: Gopal Murali (GM), Shiva Kumar (SK) and Vivek Philip Cyriac (VPC)