

## Indian wolf

*Prelims : Current events of national and international importance | Conservation*

### Why in News?

*The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has for the first time evaluated the Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) separately, suggesting that it may be classified as a distinct species within the *Canis* genus.*

*According to IUCN's global panel of canid experts, the Indian wolf population is estimated to be around 3,093 left (2,877-3,310) across India and Pakistan, putting it in the "vulnerable" category on the Red List.*

- **Commonly known as** - Gray wolf.
- **Scientific Name** - *Canis lupus pallipes*.
  - The 'genus' currently has seven species recognized by the IUCN.

*The other 7 species of *Canis* genus are namely *Canis lupus* (wolf), *Canis latrans* (coyote), *Canis aureus* (Golden Jackal), *Canis simensis* (Ethiopian wolf), *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog), *Canis rufus* (red wolf) and *Canis lupaster* (African wolf).*

- This species is relatively less vocal and have rarely been known to howl.
- Indian wolves are territorial and hunt during the night. One wolf usually is acting as a decoy while the other attacks from behind.
- **Habitat** - Lives in semi-arid and arid areas.
- **Size** - The Indian wolf is intermediate in size between the Arabian and Himalayan wolves.
- It lacks the Himalayan wolf's thick winter coat because it lives in warmer conditions.
- **Appearance** - The hair on their back is longer, which may protect them

from solar radiation.

- Their coat is generally a grizzled, grayish-red or reddish-white.
- A dark, V-shaped patch of black-tipped hair is noticeable on their shoulders and back. Their limbs are paler than the rest of their body, and their underparts are almost entirely white.
- **Distribution** - This wolf's range is almost entirely restricted to India, with Pakistan having just about 10 to 20 lefts.
- **Diet** - Indian wolves are carnivores and prey mainly on antelopes, rodents, hares, and raccoons.
- Indian wolves are monogamous and mate for life.
- **Conservation status**
  - **Wildlife Protection Act of 1972** - Schedule I.
  - **IUCN** - Endangered.
  - **Threats** - Habitat loss, unregulated hunting, and loss of prey.
- **Threats** - Habitat loss and persecution.



## Reference

[Times of India | Indian Wolf](#)