



STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION WEST BENGAL



**SEPTEMBER
2025**



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641, Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

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Bengal Maps India's First Wolf Corridors

Why in News?

West Bengal has recently made a remarkable stride in wildlife conservation with the successful mapping of two wolf corridors near the industrial town of Durgapur.

30 URBAN WOLVES IN 4 PACKS

- Two wolf corridors in S Bengal
- One an intra-district corridor in West Burdwan, the other connects forests of W Burdwan with those in E Burdwan

➤ **Intra-district corridor**
Madhaiganj-Kantaberia to Garh Jungle of West Burdwan

➤ **Inter-district corridor** | Forests under Ukhra and Durgapur ranges of West Burdwan to those under Panagarh, Guskara ranges in East Burdwan

- Presence of at least 30 wolves in four packs in these corridors



A wolf captured in camera traps in one of the study areas

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The pioneering initiative marks a **first-of-its-kind initiative** in India and contributes to the broader **Indian Grey Wolf** Conservation Project in West Burdwan.
 - ✦ The corridors, located in the **West and East Burdwan regions**, span a combined area of approximately 20 kilometers and represent a crucial movement space for the Indian grey wolves.
 - ✦ With the help of local experts and organizations like the Wildlife Information and Nature Guide Society (WINGS) and **WWF-India**, this corridor mapping seeks to understand and protect the movement patterns of urban wolves.
- 💡 **Corridor Mapping:** The mapping identifies **two key corridors**:
 - ✦ **Intra-District Corridor:** Linking the forests of Madhaiganj-Kantaberia to Garh Jungle in West Burdwan.
 - ✦ **Inter-District Corridor:** Connecting the forests under the Ukhra and Durgapur ranges of West Burdwan to those in East Burdwan (Panagarh, Durgapur, Guskara ranges).
- 💡 **Findings on Wolf Population:** Approximately 30 wolves have been recorded in the area, organized into four packs. The presence of at least **15-24 Indian wolves** was also noted in a **2024 study** conducted near Durgapur.
- 💡 **Ecological Insights:** These corridors are vital habitats for the species, with evidence pointing to the **highest abundance of wolves found** within the corridors over the last one and a half years. The study has also identified key breeding habitats and rendezvous sites, critical for the wolves' lifecycle.

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- 💡 **Dietary Habits:** Through scat analysis, researchers have identified that the **wolves' diet is primarily livestock-based** (goats and sheep) but also includes scavenged cow, buffalo, rodent, and bird remains, which is essential for understanding the species' ecological role.
- 💡 **Deterrent Measures:** Fladry deterrent flags—brightly colored flags that create moving barriers—have been installed in conflict-prone areas to minimize human-wolf conflict.

Indian Grey Wolf

- 💡 **About:** The Indian grey wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) is a subspecies of grey wolf found across Southwest Asia and the Indian subcontinent.
 - ✦ It lives in smaller packs and is less vocal compared to other wolf subspecies.
 - ✦ It is primarily nocturnal, hunting from dusk to dawn.
- 💡 **Habitat:** It is an apex predator in India's scrublands, grasslands, and **semi-arid agro-ecosystems**. Thrives in regions with warmer temperatures.
- 💡 **Conservation Status:**
 - ✦ **IUCN:** Endangered (population in India: 2,000 - 3,000 individuals).
 - ✦ **CITES:** Appendix I.
 - ✦ **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I.

Kolkata Floods 2025

Why in News?

Kolkata and its suburbs recorded the **third-highest September rainfall since 1978**, receiving **251.4 mm in 24 hours**. The **peak hourly rainfall of 98 mm**, just below the **100 mm cloudburst** threshold, led to **urban flooding**.

What is Urban Flooding?

- 💡 **About:** Urban flooding is the waterlogging of densely populated areas caused by **heavy rain**,

overflowing rivers, or poor drainage, disrupting transport, damaging infrastructure, and posing **health risks**.

Causes of Urban Flooding:

✦ Natural:

- 📎 **Heavy Monsoon Rainfall:** Intense rains in regions like the **Western Ghats** and **northeast India** often overwhelm urban drainage (**2015 Chennai floods**).
- 📎 **Topography:** Cities in **floodplains or low-lying areas** (Mumbai, Kolkata) or with poor natural drainage (Bengaluru) face higher flood risk.
- 📎 **Climate Change:** Increasing **rainfall intensity and frequency** causes flash floods (**2023 Delhi floods**).

✦ Anthropogenic:

- 📎 **Rapid Urbanization:** Encroachment on wetlands and loss of natural drainage (e.g., **Bengaluru's 80% lakes lost**) increase runoff.
- 📎 **Inadequate Drainage:** Outdated systems (e.g., **Mumbai's British-era drains**) fail during heavy rainfall.
- 📎 **Solid Waste Mismanagement:** Blocked drains worsen flooding (**Himachal Pradesh 2023**).

- 💡 **Causes of Kolkata Floods 2025:** The heavy rainfall over Kolkata was triggered by a **low-pressure area** moving toward **coastal Gangetic West Bengal**, causing strong **moisture convergence** and clouds reaching **5–7 km**.

- ✦ **Disfigured drainage, choked canals, high tide**, and the **decline of waterbodies** due to unchecked urban expansion worsened flooding.
- ✦ The **United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) (2021)** had predicted sharply increasing **short rainfall episodes** in the city.

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Cloudburst

- 💡 **About:** A **cloudburst** is a sudden, intense rainstorm delivering **over 100 mm of rain in under an hour** across a small area (around 10 km²), often accompanied by **hail and thunder**.
 - ✦ Common in **mountainous regions**, especially the **Himalayas**, cloudbursts are **difficult to predict** but can trigger **flash floods** and **landslides** due to their localized, extreme rainfall.
- 💡 **Causes:** A **cloudburst** occurs when **moist air rises over mountains**, cools, and condenses into heavy rainfall. **Strong upward currents** enlarge raindrops, which fall suddenly when the currents weaken.
 - ✦ In India, it often happens when **monsoon clouds** move from the **Bay of Bengal or Arabian Sea** to the **Himalayas**, releasing intense rain.

URBAN FLOODING

MEANING

- ⦿ Flooding of land/property in a built environment, particularly in cities
- ⦿ Caused not just by higher precipitation but also **unplanned urbanisation**

CAUSES OF EXACERBATION

- ⦿ **Encroachments** on drainage channels (Lakes, wetlands, riverbeds)
- ⦿ **Climate change** (increased frequency of short duration heavy rainfall)
- ⦿ Uninformed **release of water from dams** (e.g. Chennai Floods 2015)
- ⦿ **Mining** activities (depletes natural riverbed and water retention capacity)
- ⦿ Urban heat island effect
- ⦿ **Storm surges** affecting coastal cities/ towns

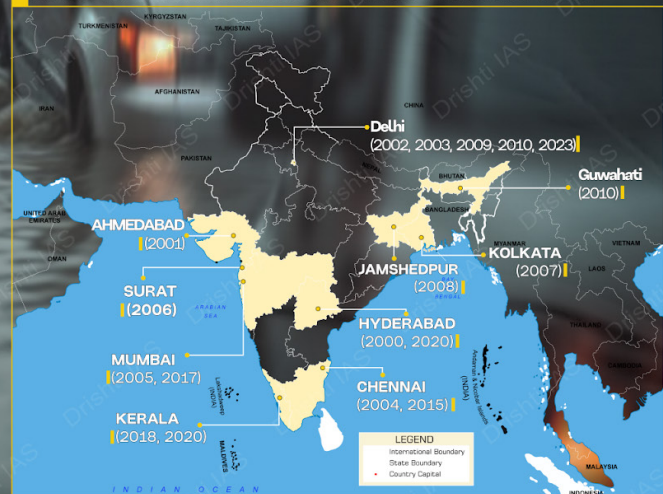
IMPACTS

- ⦿ Loss of life and property
- ⦿ Spread of diseases
- ⦿ Disruptions in supply of power & water and communication
- ⦿ Ecological impacts

SUGGESTIONS TO MITIGATE

- ⦿ Creating a unified **flood control implementing agency**
- ⦿ **Blue-Green Infra** for urban and climatic challenges
 - ✦ Blue - Water bodies such as rivers and tanks
 - ✦ Green - Trees, Parks, and Gardens
- ⦿ Mapping of Flood Vulnerability
- ⦿ Construction of **flood walls, raised platforms** along basins

Some of the Most Notable Urban Floods in India



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Key Points

Details

Summary

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Summary