



Dholes

Why in News?

A new study has reported the **presence of dholes or Asiatic wild dogs** in the high mountains of Central Asia nearly 30 years after their presence was last recorded.

- The animals have been discovered in the Bek-Tosot Conservancy in the Osh region of southern Kyrgyzstan, a few kilometres from the Tajik border. It lies in the **Pamir mountain range of Xinjiang Autonomous Region**, China.



What do we Know About Dholes?

- **About:** Dhole (*Cuon alpinus*) is a wild carnivorous animal and is a member of the family Canidae and the **class Mammalia**.
 - They are also known as **Asian wild dogs**.
- **Habitat:**



- Historically, dholes purportedly occurred throughout **southern Russia, all across central Asia, south Asia and southeast Asia.**
- According to recent research and current distribution maps, they are **restricted to south and southeast Asia**, with the northernmost populations in China.
- **In India**, they are **found in three clusters** across India namely the [Western Ghats](#), [central Indian landscape](#) and [North East India](#).
 - Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh rank high in the conservation of the endangered dhole in India, [according to a study](#) (2020).
- **Ecological role:** Dholes play an important role as apex predators in forest ecosystems.

What is the Conservation Status of Dholes?

- [IUCN List of Threatened Species](#): Endangered
- [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#): Appendix II
- [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#) : Schedule II

Why is their Population Decreasing?

- **Ongoing habitat loss:** Due to deforestation and fragmentation of forest corridors.
- **Depletion of prey base:** Ungulates are the main prey of dholes whose population is rapidly decreasing due to excessive hunting and habitat loss.
- **Persecution due to livestock predation** and disease transfer from domestic and feral dogs.

[Source: DTE](#)

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