

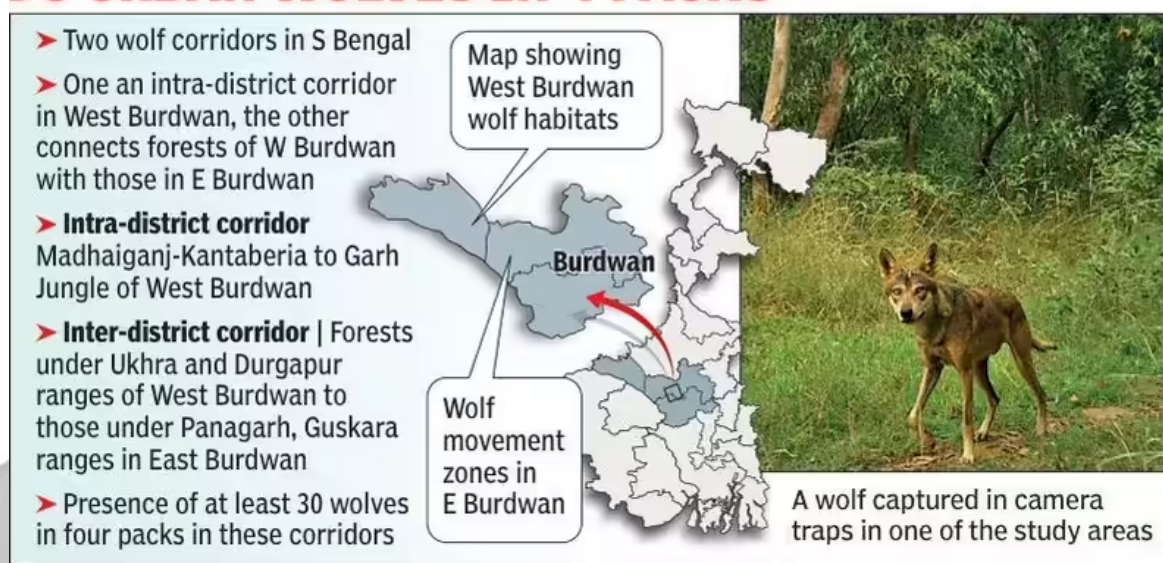


Bengal Maps India's First Wolf Corridors

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



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.

- **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.

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