



Indian Grey Wolf

[Source: DTE](#)

Indian grey wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) was sighted near the Yamuna floodplains in Delhi, marking the rare & first sighting in Delhi since the 1940s.

Indian Grey Wolf:

- **About:** The **Indian Grey Wolf** is a **subspecies** of the **Grey Wolf** native to the **Indian subcontinent** and **Southwest Asia**.
 - It is **nocturnal** and **apex predator** that hunts in **small packs** and is **less vocal** compared to other wolf subspecies.
- **Appearance:** A **carnivore** of the **Canidae family**, the Indian Grey Wolf is **intermediate in size** between the **Tibetan** and **Arabian wolves** and **lacks a thick winter coat**, adapting to warmer climates.
- **Habitat & Distribution:** From **Israel in the west to the Indian subcontinent in the east**, inhabiting **scrublands, grasslands, pastoral agro-ecosystems** and [semi-arid agro-ecosystems](#) in warmer regions.
- **Protection Status:**
 - [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): **Schedule I**.
- **Threats:** The species faces several threats, including the **loss of grasslands due to agricultural and industrial expansion, habitat modification, depletion of natural prey**, and the **spread of diseases from feral dogs**.

GROUPS

- Social animals, live in packs of 6-8
- Group consists of a breeding male and female
- A group can range over as much as 200 sq km

HUNT

- Can cooperatively hunt large prey such as black bucks
- Capable of chasing prey over long distances

EAT

Small- to medium-sized animals. Livestock is a major part of their diet where there is little natural prey

PROTECTION STATUS AND POPULATION

Grey wolves (*Canis lupus*) of which these are a subspecies are listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List. However, only **2,000-3,000** Indian wolves (*Canis lupus pallipes*) are left in the wild



INDIAN

LIFESPAN 5-13 YEARS

WOLF

(CANIS LUPUS PALLIPES)
WEIGHT 17-25 KG

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE: Indian subcontinent (Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal) up to southwest Asia



HABITAT: Grasslands, scrub forest, thorn and dry deciduous forest; Often share space with agro-pastoral communities

THREATS

- **Retaliatory killing** due to its depredation of livestock
- Long regarded as **vermin** with a bounty placed on them
- **Habitat loss** and change
- Mostly live outside the network of "**Protected Areas**" leaving them vulnerable to hunting
- Most wolf **habitats are not protected**, and often categorised as "wastelands"
- Susceptible to **diseases** like canine distemper and canine parvovirus transmitted by domestic dogs

PHOTO: RUDRAKSHA CHOUDHARI/CREATIVE COMMONS, TEXT: NISARG PRAKASH, DESIGN: DIVYA MEHRA

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