

## Indian Grey Wolf

### Why in News?

Recently, a female Indian grey wolf has given birth to 8 pups at the Bankapura wolf sanctuary, Karnataka.

- **Indian Grey Wolf** - It is a ***subspecies of grey wolf species***.
- **Scientific Name** - *Canis lupus pallipes*.
- **Habitat** - Open forest, open plain areas, scrub forests, grasslands, arid & semiarid areas, dry- deciduous and degraded planes.
- **Distribution** - *India*, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Israel, Turkey, Iran, and Syria.
  - **India** - Eastern parts of Peninsular India especially in the regions of southern west Bengal and Jharkhand.

[Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary](#) is the **1<sup>st</sup>** ever wolf sanctuary in Karnataka.

- **Morphology** - Medium in size, shorter fur is greyish intermingled with black on the dorsal crest while the underside is buff.
- Hairs are grizzled with black, sports a dark V-shaped patch around the shoulders and limbs are paler than the body.



- **Characteristics** - It's a ***social species*** that lives in a pack of 6-8 animals.
- **Howling** is a key form of long-distance communication for wolves, especially when territories are vast.
- It has an ***excellent sense of smell***, and often sniffs the air to locate prey.
- **Diet** - It is a carnivores animal feed on antelopes, rodents, hares, and raccoons.

- **Threats:**

- Changes in land-use patterns
- Lesser prey animals
- Human development
- Fast encroaching.

- **Conservation Status**

- **IUCN status** - Endangered species.
- **CITES** - Appendix I.
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** - Schedule I.

## References

1. [Down to Earth| Indian Grey Wolf](#)
2. [Zoological Survey| Survey of Indian Grey Wolf](#)

