



Sherlocking Prelims



**SPECIES
IN
UPSC**

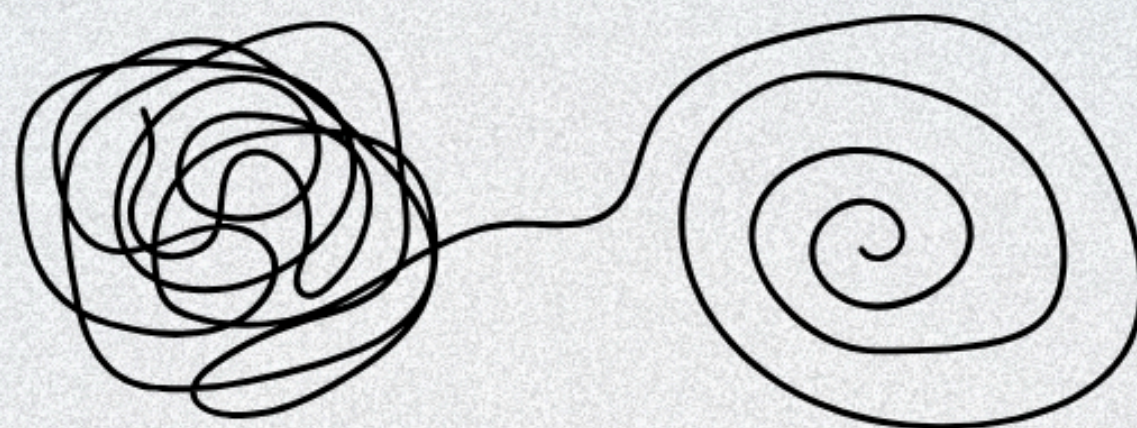
Unlock IAS Presents

Sherlocking Prelims Modules



- PYQs-centered module(s) (2011 onwards for GS, 2018 onwards for CSAT)
- Individual Modules available for – History, Geography, Environment, Science & Tech, Polity, Heuristics, CSAT
- Regular live doubt sessions for all modules.

Done with basics but not able to clear Prelims/apply the knowledge?



The Sherlocking Prelims Module(s) will help you **rewire your approach** – teaching you to **leverage common sense** and foundational knowledge



AIR 14 (2023) on 'Sherlocking'

“ I was unable to clear my first Prelims attempt in CSE 2022. A major change in strategy took place after I came across Neil sir's 2022 Prelims Sherlocking video on YouTube the next year and it taught me how to properly analyze PYQ's the right way and identify themes, patterns and Heuristics. ”



AIR 230 (2023) on 'Sherlocking'

Ricky Lohkar Pradhan

@neilcantbirdwahtch thanks a lot for the Sherlocking course. I really could not have cleared prelims if not for Sherlocking.

11:03 AM



Neil
(Founder, Unlock IAS)
HCS (2021, Rank 93)

Join t.me/UPSCneil to get FREE UPSC guidance and get answers to your academic doubts!

FREE!



Species In UPSC

Indian Flying Fox



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed in any Schedule**
- 3. Key Characteristic: One of the largest bats globally, with a wingspan up to 1.5 meters; primarily frugivorous, especially fond of figs and mangoes.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Nocturnal and highly social; roosts in large colonies on trees during the day, and forages at night using vision and smell.**



Species In UPSC

Froghopper



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Arthropoda; Class – Insecta**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Not Evaluated; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed in any Schedule**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Known for their incredible jumping ability—can leap over 100 times their body length; nymphs produce frothy “cuckoo spit” for protection.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Nymphs live inside spittle masses on plant stems, feeding on sap; adults are agile jumpers and feed on plant fluids using piercing-sucking mouthparts.**



Species In UPSC

Indri



1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia

2. Protection Status: IUCN – Critically Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Not listed

3. Key Characteristics:

- **Endemism: Endemic to Madagascar's eastern rainforests.**
- **Size: Largest living lemur species.**
- **Tail: Notable for its rudimentary tail, distinguishing it from other lemurs.**
- **Vocalization: Emits loud, haunting calls for communication and territorial purposes.**

4. Key Behavior:

- **Social Structure: Lives in small family groups, typically monogamous pairs with offspring.**
- **Locomotion: Exhibits vertical clinging and leaping between trees.**
- **Diet: Primarily folivorous, feeding mainly on leaves**



Species In UPSC

Pond Skater



1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Arthropoda; Class – Insecta

2. Protection Status: IUCN – Not Evaluated; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed in any Schedule

3. Key Characteristic: Possesses hydrophobic legs and surface-tension-based locomotion, allowing it to “walk on water” effortlessly.

4. Key Behavior: Predatory insect; uses sensitive leg hairs to detect water ripples made by prey and swiftly skates over the water to capture it.



Species In UPSC

Lion



1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia

2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix II; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I

3. Key Characteristics:

- **Breeding: Lions do not have a specific breeding season.**
- **Roaring: Both male and female lions roar.**

4. Key Behavior:

- **Social Structure: Lions are the only big cats that live in social groups called prides, consisting of related females, their offspring, and a few adult males.**
- **Territoriality: They use roaring and scent marking to establish and defend their territory.**



Species In UPSC

Bonobo



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Not listed**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Endemic to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, inhabiting lowland rainforests south of the Congo River.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Exhibits matriarchal social structures and uses sexual behaviors to resolve conflicts and strengthen social bonds.**



Species In UPSC

Marsupials



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: Group category – protection status varies by species; not listed under WPA, 2022 as a group**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Characterized by a pouch (marsupium) where underdeveloped young continue their development after birth. Most species are native to Australia and nearby islands, some in the Americas.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Young crawl into the pouch after birth and latch onto a teat for nourishment and continued growth.**



Species In UPSC

Lion-tailed Macaque



1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia

2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I

3. Key Characteristic: Endemic to the Western Ghats of India; easily recognized by its silver-white mane surrounding a dark face and lion-like tail tuft.

4. Key Behavior: Arboreal and territorial; prefers undisturbed tropical rainforests and avoids human habitation.



Species In UPSC

Malabar civet



1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia

2. Protection Status: IUCN – Critically Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I

3. Key Characteristic: Endemic to the Western Ghats of India; has a long body, short limbs, and distinctive dark markings on a grey coat.

4. Key Behavior: Nocturnal and elusive; inhabits dense vegetation but sightings are extremely rare, possibly functionally extinct in the wild.



Species In UPSC

Sambar deer



1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia

2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix III (India); WPA, 2022 – Schedule III

3. Key Characteristic: Largest deer species in India; known for its coarse dark brown coat and three-tined antlers in males.

4. Key Behavior: Mostly solitary or in small groups; prefers dense forests and is excellent at swimming and remaining still when sensing danger.



Species In UPSC

Indian squirrels



1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia

2. Protection Status: IUCN – Most common species are Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed (common species)

3. Key Characteristic: Small to medium-sized rodents with distinctive dorsal stripes; widely distributed across India in both urban and forested habitats.

4. Key Behavior: Diurnal and arboreal; known for rapid, jerky movements and storing food like nuts and seeds in tree holes or ground caches.



Species In UPSC

Fishing cat



1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia

2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix II; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I

3. Key Characteristic: Semi-aquatic wild cat found near wetlands, mangroves, and marshes; has partially webbed feet aiding in swimming.

4. Key Behavior: Excellent swimmer; primarily hunts fish and other aquatic prey, often diving or pawing into water to catch them.



Species In UPSC

Orangutan



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – All species Critically Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Not listed**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Found only in Indonesia and Malaysia (Sumatra and Borneo); largest arboreal mammals with long arms and reddish-brown hair.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Solitary and tree-dwelling; build sleeping nests in trees and use tools like sticks to extract insects or seeds.**



Species In UPSC

Otter



**1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata;
Class – Mammalia**

**2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I;
WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**

**3. Key Characteristic: Found in wetlands and river systems;
has a smooth, dense coat and partially webbed paws suited
for swimming.**

**4. Key Behavior: Lives in family groups; playful and vocal,
hunts fish and amphibians, and uses latrine sites for scent
marking.**



Species In UPSC

Sloth bear



**1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata;
Class – Mammalia**

**2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I;
WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**

**3. Key Characteristic: Native to the Indian subcontinent;
has a shaggy coat, white chest patch, and long snout used
for sucking insects like termites.**

**4. Key Behavior: Nocturnal and solitary; uses loud snorting
sounds to vacuum up insects and can be aggressive when
threatened.**



Species In UPSC

Blue finned mahseer



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Actinopterygii**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Native to India’s Western Ghats, especially the Mula-Mutha River near Pune; recognized by its bluish fins and large size.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Migrates upstream during monsoon for spawning; thrives in fast-flowing, oxygen-rich streams.**



Species In UPSC

Rusty- spotted Cat



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Near Threatened; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Key Characteristic: One of the smallest wild cat species in the world; found in India and Sri Lanka, with a rusty-grey coat and reddish spots.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Nocturnal and elusive; hunts small vertebrates and insects, often climbs trees but primarily terrestrial.**



Species In UPSC

Golden Mahseer



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Actinopterygii**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed**
- 3. Key Characteristic: One of the largest freshwater fish, reaching up to 2.75 meters in length and 54 kg in weight; native to the Himalayan region, inhabiting rapid streams, riverine pools, and lakes.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Omnivorous, feeding on fish, zooplankton, insect larvae, and plant matter; ascends streams to breed over gravel and stones, returning to perennial ponds after breeding.**



Species In UPSC

Indian Nightjar



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Small nocturnal bird with cryptic plumage that blends perfectly with dry leaf litter; mostly found in open scrub, grasslands, and farmlands.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Active at dusk and night, feeding on flying insects mid-air; rests motionless on the ground during the day, making it hard to detect.**



Species In UPSC

Spoonbill



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Recognized by its distinctive spatula-shaped bill, used to sift through water for prey; found in wetlands, marshes, and shallow lakes.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Feeds by sweeping its bill side to side in shallow water to catch small fish, crustaceans, and insects.**



Species In UPSC

White Ibis



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Near Threatened; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Medium-sized wading bird with white body and bare black head and neck, commonly seen in wetlands and agricultural fields.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Feeds in shallow waters by probing mud with its long curved bill; often seen foraging in flocks during the day.**



Species In UPSC

Asian Elephant



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Largest land mammal in Asia; has arched back, smaller ears than African elephants, and one finger-like projection on the trunk tip.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Lives in female-led herds, migrates seasonally over long distances in search of food and water.**
- 5. Gestation Period: Around 18 to 22 months – one of the longest in the animal kingdom.**



Species In UPSC

Ceylon Frogmouth



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Small nocturnal bird with a wide, frog-like gape and cryptic plumage; found in Western Ghats (India) and Sri Lanka.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Rests motionless during the day, mimicking broken branches; active at night, feeding on insects with sudden fly-catching flights.**



Species In UPSC

Coppersmith Barbet



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Small, green bird with red forehead and throat, known for its metallic ‘tuk-tuk’ call resembling a coppersmith at work.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Makes nest holes in tree trunks; feeds on fruits, especially figs, and occasionally on insects.**



Species In UPSC

Grey-chinned Minivet



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Medium-sized passerine with sexual dimorphism; males have a dark grey head with orange underparts, while females display a greyish head with yellow underparts.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Often forms small flocks and participates in mixed-species foraging groups in the forest canopy, feeding primarily on insects.**



Species In UPSC

White-throated Redstart



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Key Characteristic: Medium-sized bird with a distinctive white throat patch, long white wing stripe, and rufous underparts; males have a dark gray hood and black face, while females are less brightly colored but share the white throat and wing stripe.**
- 4. Key Behavior: Breeds at high altitudes in stunted bushes and open conifer forests; during winter, descends to middle altitudes inhabiting open scrubby areas.**



Species In UPSC

Double-humped Camel



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Domesticated form: Not Evaluated; Wild form (Camelus ferus): Critically Endangered; CITES – Appendix I (wild); WPA, 2022 – Not listed**
- 3. Found in: Cold desert regions such as Ladakh (India), Central Asia, Mongolia, and China**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Has two humps; stores fat in humps and is well adapted to cold, arid climates with thick fur.**
- 5. Key Behavior: Used as a pack animal on trans-Himalayan routes; endures long waterless periods and harsh climates.**



Species In UPSC

One-horned Rhinoceros



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: India (Assam, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh) and Nepal; primarily in Kaziranga, Manas, and Pobitora wildlife habitats**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Possesses a single black horn and armour-like skin folds; largest of the Asian rhinos**
- 5. Key Behavior: Mostly solitary; prefers grassland and marshy areas, often seen wallowing in water to cool off and remove parasites**



Species In UPSC

Gharial



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Reptilia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Critically Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: India (Chambal, Girwa, Ghagra rivers) and parts of Nepal; restricted to clean, flowing river systems**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Has a long, narrow snout with interlocking teeth; males have a bulbous growth (ghara) on the snout tip**
- 5. Key Behavior: Highly aquatic and fish-eating; nests on sandy riverbanks and rarely ventures far from water**



Species In UPSC

Indian Wild Ass



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Near Threatened; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, and surrounding areas in Western India**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Recognized by a light brown coat with a dark dorsal stripe; adapted to arid, saline desert landscapes**
- 5. Key Behavior: Lives in herds, grazes on grasses and shrubs, and undertakes seasonal movements in search of water and forage**



Species In UPSC

Wild Buffalo

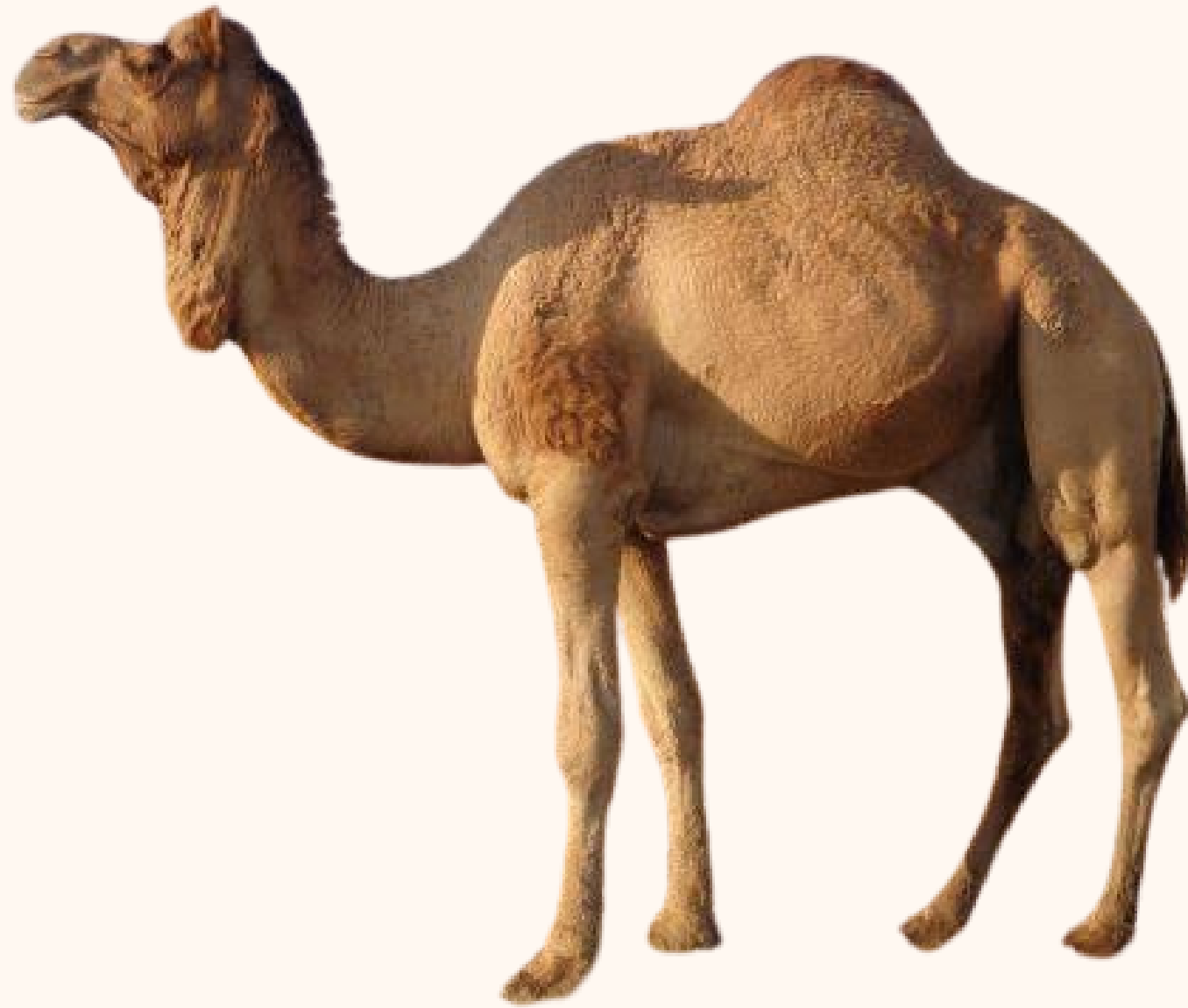


- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Assam (Kaziranga, Manas), Chhattisgarh, and parts of Central India; also in Nepal and Bhutan**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Larger and bulkier than domestic buffalo; has long, crescent-shaped horns and prefers swampy grasslands**
- 5. Key Behavior: Gregarious and water-dependent; often wallows in mud or water to regulate body temperature and repel insects**



Species In UPSC

Kharai Camel



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed**
- 3. Found in: Kutch district of Gujarat, India**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Known as the ‘swimming camel,’ it can swim up to 3 kilometers in seawater to graze on mangroves.**
- 5. Key Behavior: Thrives in both coastal and dry ecosystems, feeding primarily on mangroves and saline plants.**

Note: The Kharai camel was recognized as a distinct breed in 2015 by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources.



Species In UPSC

Dugong



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 1972 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Coastal waters of Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kutch, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Medium-sized marine mammal with a fusiform body, paddle-like forelimbs, and a fluked tail; closely related to manatees but distinguished by its dolphin-like tail**
- 5. Key Behavior: Herbivorous, feeding primarily on seagrass meadows; typically leads a solitary or small-group existence and is known for its gentle, slow-moving nature**

Note: In September 2021, Tamil Nadu announced the establishment of India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay to protect this vulnerable species.



Species In UPSC

Painted Stork



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Near Threatened; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Found in: Wetlands of the Indian subcontinent, including India, Sri Lanka, and extending into Southeast Asia.**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Large wading bird with distinctive pink tertiaries feathers, giving it the name “painted.”**
- 5. Key Behavior: Forages in shallow waters by immersing its half-open beak and sweeping it side to side to catch prey sensed by touch.**

Note: Painted Storks breed once a year, with the season varying by region—August to October in northern India and November to March in southern India.



Species In UPSC

Black-necked Crane



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Near Threatened; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 1972 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Breeds in high-altitude wetlands of the Tibetan Plateau, including eastern Ladakh (India); winters in lower altitudes of China, Bhutan, and occasionally Arunachal Pradesh (India).**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Medium-sized crane with a black head and neck, red crown patch, and whitish-gray body; distinctive black tail and wing feathers.**
- 5. Key Behavior: Omnivorous, feeding on plant roots, tubers, insects, snails, and small vertebrates; revered by the Monpa community of Arunachal Pradesh as an embodiment of the sixth Dalai Lama.**



Species In UPSC

Common Myna



- 1. Taxonomy:** *Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves*
- 2. Protection Status:** *IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 1972 – Schedule IV*
- 3. Found in:** Native to South Asia, including India, and widely introduced to regions such as Australia, the Middle East, South Africa, and islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- 4. Key Characteristic:** Medium-sized bird with a brown body, black hooded head, yellow legs, and a distinctive yellow patch behind the eye.
- 5. Key Behavior:** Omnivorous and opportunistic feeder, often seen foraging on the ground near human habitation; known to follow grazing cattle to catch insects disturbed by their movement.



Species In UPSC

Ganges River Dolphin



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 1972 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems across India, Bangladesh, and Nepal.**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Possesses a long, slender snout with visible teeth even when the mouth is closed; has small, lens-less eyes, rendering it effectively blind.**
- 5. Key Behavior: Relies on echolocation to navigate and hunt in murky river waters; often observed swimming on its side, allowing a flipper to trail the riverbed to detect prey.**

Note: The Ganges River Dolphin was declared the National Aquatic Animal of India in 2009.



Species In UPSC

Leatherback Sea Turtle



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Reptilia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 1972 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Globally distributed across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Largest of all sea turtles, reaching lengths up to 2.7 meters and weights up to 500 kilograms. Distinguished by a leathery, flexible carapace with seven longitudinal ridges, unlike other sea turtles with hard shells.**
- 5. Key Behavior: Highly migratory, capable of transoceanic journeys exceeding 10,000 kilometers. Primarily feeds on jellyfish and other soft-bodied invertebrates, playing a crucial role in regulating marine ecosystems.**

Note: Leatherback turtles are known for their deep-diving abilities, reaching depths greater than 1,000 meters in search of prey.



Species In UPSC

Swamp Deer



1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia

2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 1972 – Schedule I

3. Found in: Fragmented habitats across northern, northeastern, and central India, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Madhya Pradesh; also in southwestern Nepal.

4. Key Characteristic: Known as “Barasingha,” meaning “twelve-tined,” due to males typically having 12-antlered points; some individuals may have up to 20 points.

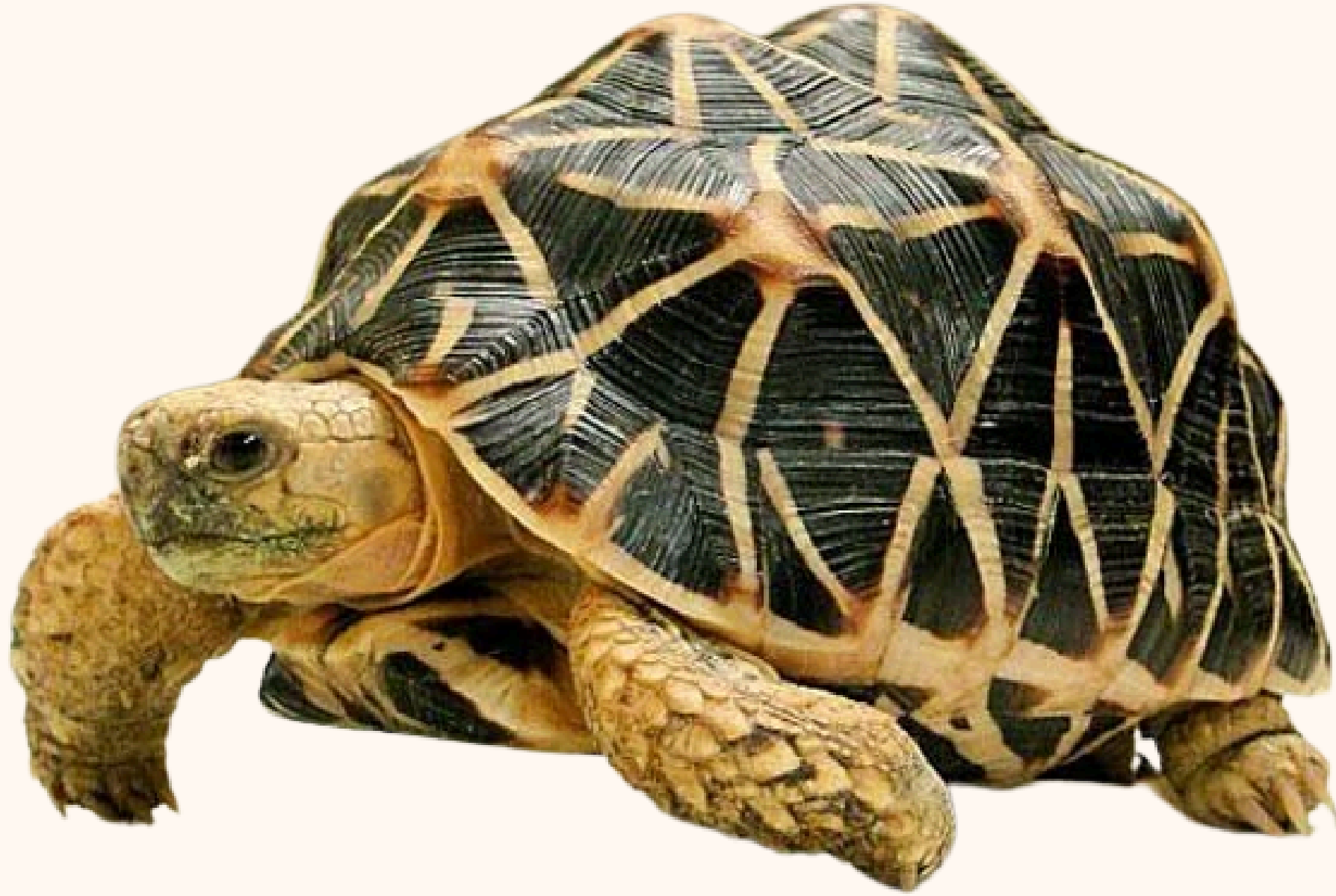
5. Key Behavior: Gregarious, forming herds ranging from 8 to 20 individuals, with larger groups during the rutting season; primarily grazers, feeding on grasses and aquatic plants.

***Note: The Swamp Deer is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.**



Species In UPSC

Indian Star Tortoise

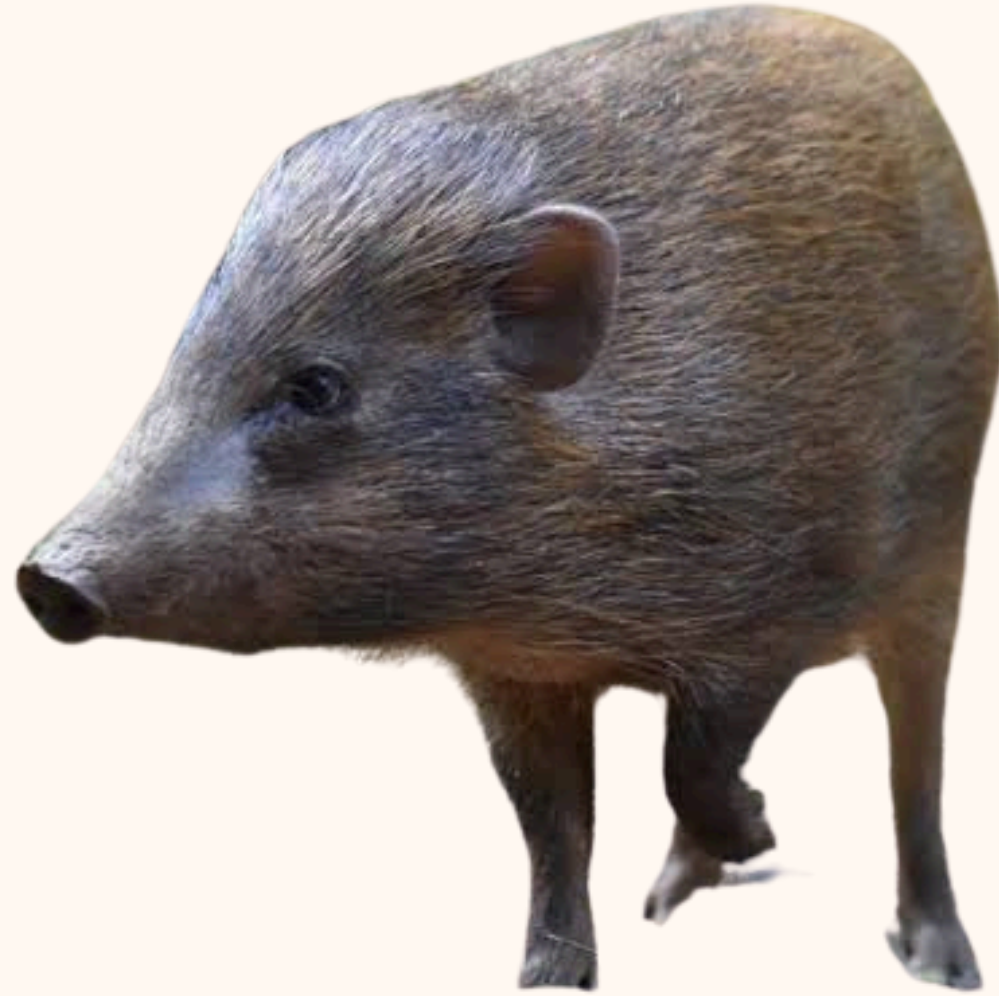


- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Reptilia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 1972 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Found in: Arid and semi-arid regions of northwestern and southern India, Sri Lanka, and southeastern Pakistan.**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Distinctive star-like patterns on the carapace, providing camouflage in dry environments.**
- 5. Key Behavior: Primarily herbivorous, feeding on grasses, flowers, and fruits; known for being shy and solitary, with activity patterns influenced by ambient temperature.**



Species In UPSC

Pygmy Hog



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 1972 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Historically ranged across the tall, wet grasslands of the Himalayan foothills in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. Currently, the only known wild populations are in Assam, India, particularly within Manas National Park.**
- 4. Key Characteristic: The world’s smallest wild pig. It has a dark brown coat with minimal hair and a slightly tapered head.**
- 5. Key Behavior: Constructs nests from grass, which are used year-round for shelter. Lives in small family groups and is primarily diurnal, foraging for roots, tubers, insects, and small invertebrates.**



Species In UPSC

Spider Monkey



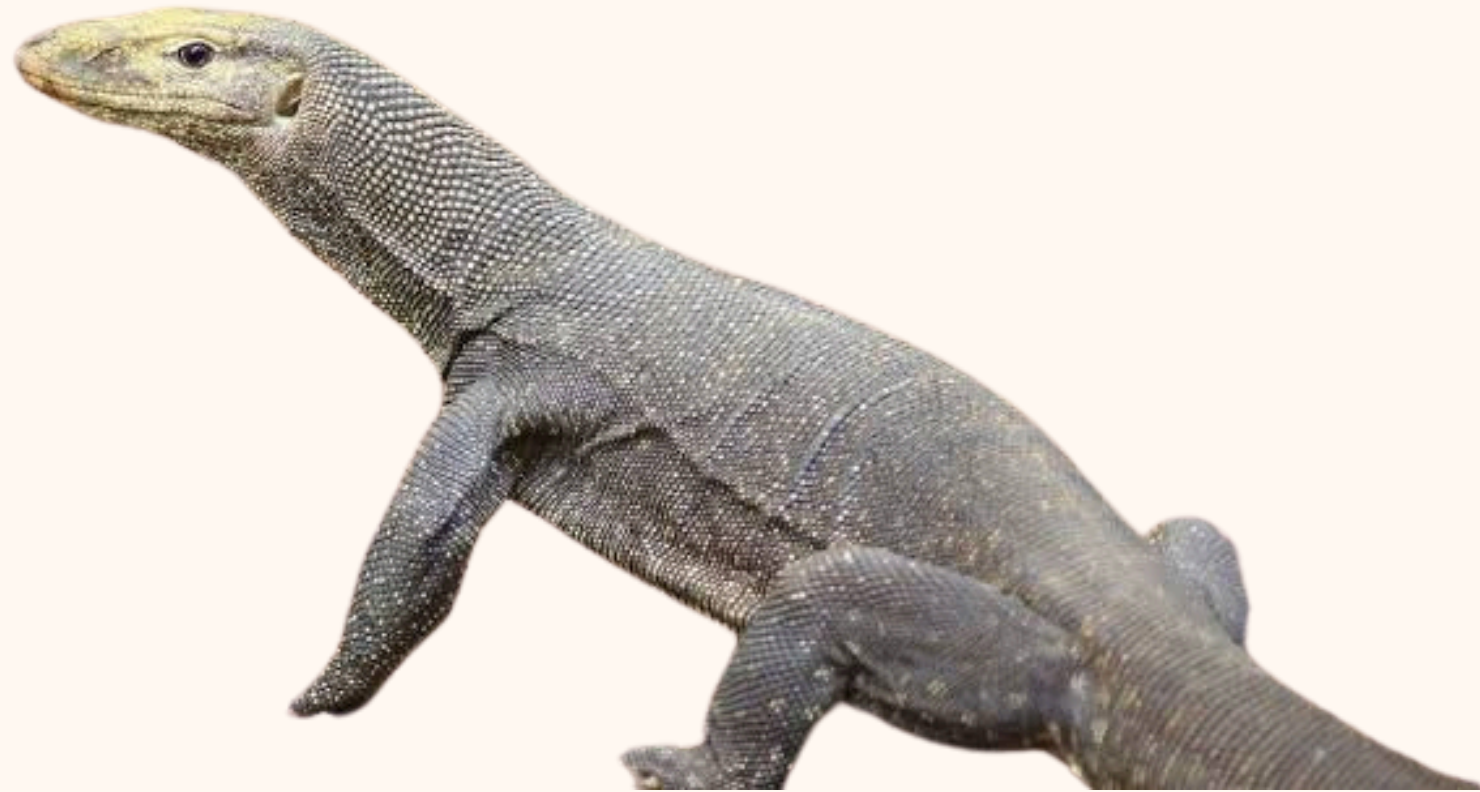
- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Varies by species**
- 3. Found in: Tropical forests of Central and South America, ranging from southern Mexico to Brazil.**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Notable for their long, prehensile tails and elongated limbs, which facilitate an arboreal lifestyle. They lack thumbs, an adaptation for efficient brachiation.**
- 5. Key Behavior: Highly social. They are diurnal and primarily arboreal, relying on their tails and limbs to navigate the forest canopy.**

Note: Spider monkeys are considered among the most intelligent New World monkeys, with complex social structures and behaviors.



Species In UPSC

Monitor Lizard



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Reptilia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Varies by species (e.g., Varanus bengalensis – Least Concern); CITES – Appendix I or II (species-dependent); WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: India, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia; commonly seen in forests, scrublands, and even urban fringes**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Large, carnivorous lizards with forked tongues and powerful claws; Bengal monitor is the most widespread in India**
- 5. Key Behavior: Solitary and diurnal; excellent climbers and swimmers; feed on insects, small mammals, eggs, and carrion**



Species In UPSC

Hedgehog



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern (Indian Hedgehog); CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed**
- 3. Found in: Northwestern India, especially Rajasthan and Gujarat, in semi-arid and desert habitats**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Small, nocturnal mammal with a coat of sharp spines for defense; rolls into a tight ball when threatened**
- 5. Key Behavior: Nocturnal insectivore; forages at night for insects, worms, and small vertebrates, often near human settlements**



Species In UPSC

Marmot



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule II**
- 3. Found in: High-altitude Himalayan regions – Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Large burrowing rodent with dense fur; adapted to alpine grasslands**
- 5. Key Behavior: Diurnal and colonial; hibernates in winter, feeds on grasses and herbs**



Species In UPSC

Pangolin



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: India (except NE and high Himalayas), Sri Lanka, and parts of Pakistan**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Covered in overlapping keratin scales; has a long, sticky tongue for feeding on ants and termites**
- 5. Key Behavior: Nocturnal and solitary; curls into a tight ball when threatened**



Species In UPSC

Lion-tailed Macaque



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Western Ghats of Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Small primate with a silver-white mane and a black tufted tail resembling a lion's**
- 5. Key Behavior: Arboreal and territorial; avoids human presence, lives in small, matriarchal groups in dense rainforests**



Species In UPSC

Indian Gazelle (Chinkara)

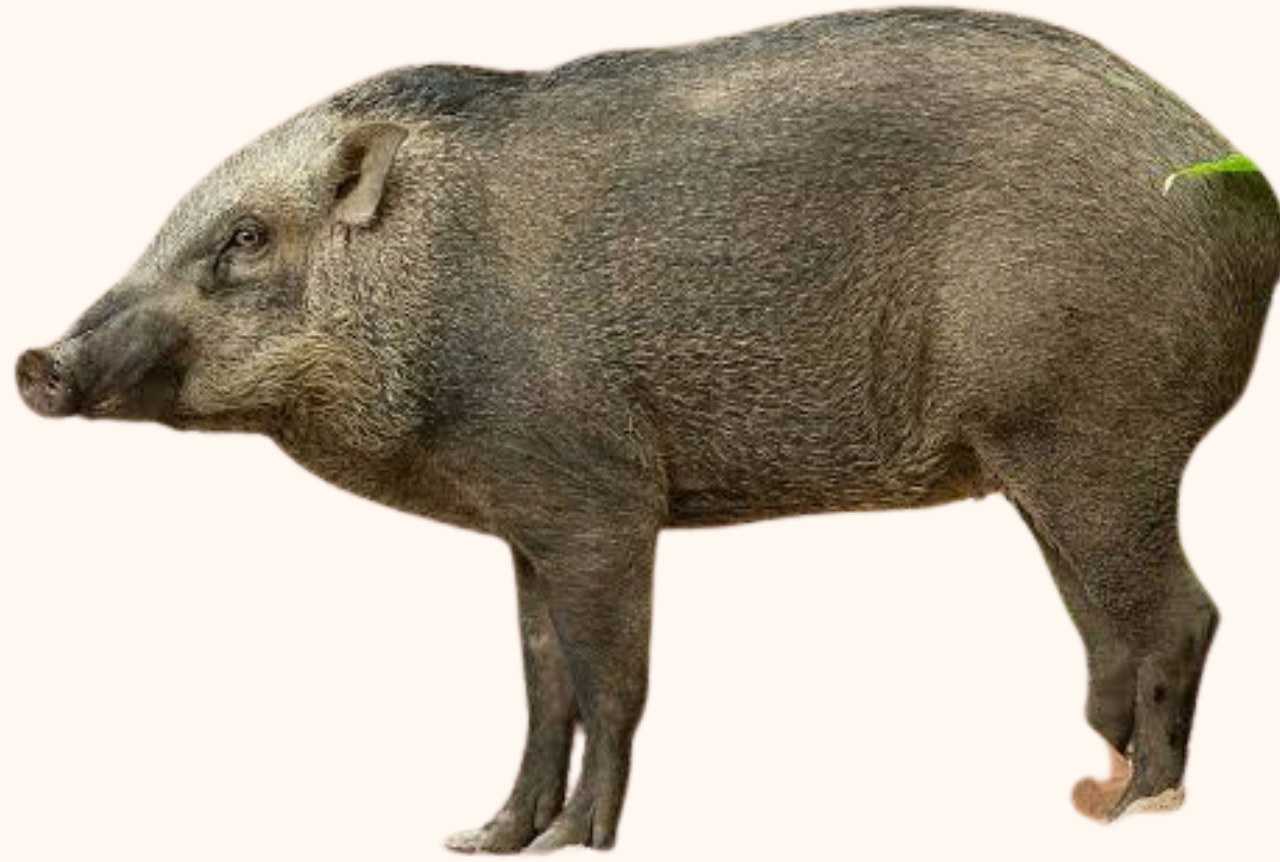


- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Arid and semi-arid regions of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, and Central India**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Slender body with fawn-colored coat and curved horns; adapted to hot, dry climates**
- 5. Key Behavior: Solitary or in small groups; feeds on grasses, leaves, and can survive without water for long periods**



Species In UPSC

Wild Boar



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule III**
- 3. Found in: Widely distributed across forests, grasslands, and agricultural areas throughout India**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Stocky, pig-like animal with bristly coat, tusks, and sharp snout for digging**
- 5. Key Behavior: Omnivorous and nocturnal; forages for roots, crops, insects, and carrion; often raids farmlands**



Species In UPSC

Red Panda



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Eastern Himalayas – Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal (Darjeeling), and also Nepal, Bhutan, China**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Small, reddish-brown mammal with a bushy ringed tail and masked face; not closely related to giant pandas**
- 5. Key Behavior: Arboreal and crepuscular; mainly feeds on bamboo, but also eats fruits, eggs, and insects**



Species In UPSC

Slow Loris



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Northeast India, and also in Southeast Asia, Bangladesh, Bhutan**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Only primate in India with a toxic bite; large eyes adapted for night vision, slow deliberate movement**
- 5. Key Behavior: Nocturnal and arboreal; feeds on fruits, insects, tree gum; often hangs upside down to forage silently**



Species In UPSC

Dodo



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Extinct; CITES – Not Applicable; WPA – Not Applicable**
- 3. Found in: Was endemic to Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Flightless bird with a heavy body, short wings, and large hooked beak; evolved without natural predators**
- 5. Key Behavior: Nested on the ground and fed on fallen fruits; became extinct in the late 1600s due to hunting and introduced animals**



Species In UPSC

Dove



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule IV**
- 3. Found in: Widespread across India and other parts of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Pale grey bird with a distinctive black half-collar on the neck**
- 5. Key Behavior: Monogamous and seed-eating; often seen in urban and rural areas, nesting on buildings and trees**



Species In UPSC

California Condor



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Critically Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Not Listed**
- 3. Found in: Western coastal mountains of the United States and Mexico, including areas like the Grand Canyon and Baja California**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Largest land bird in North America, with a wingspan of approximately 9.5 feet; predominantly black plumage with distinctive white patches under the wings**
- 5. Key Behavior: Scavenger, primarily feeding on carrion; capable of soaring long distances without flapping wings; forms strong social bonds and exhibits playful behaviors**

Note: The California Condor has faced significant threats, including lead poisoning



Species In UPSC

Skua



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed**
- 3. Found in: Coastal and pelagic zones of the North Atlantic; rarely seen near Indian subcontinent (recorded as vagrant)**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Robust seabird with dark plumage and hooked beak, known for aggressive nature**
- 5. Key Behavior: Piratic feeder—steals food from other seabirds mid-air; also hunts fish and scavenges carrion**



Species In UPSC

Olive Ridley Turtle

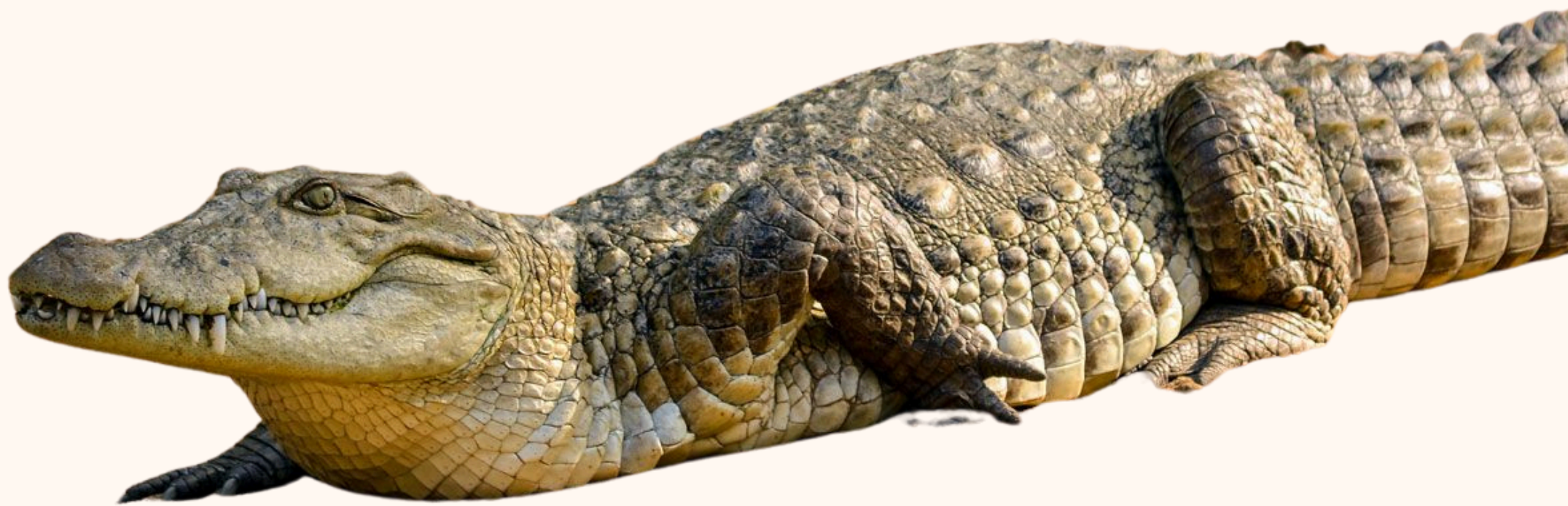


- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Reptilia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Warm coastal waters of Indian Ocean, especially Odisha coast (Gahirmatha, Rushikulya); also in Pacific and Atlantic Oceans**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Smallest and most abundant sea turtle with an olive-colored, heart-shaped shell**
- 5. Key Behavior: Known for mass nesting (arribada) where thousands of females come ashore simultaneously to lay eggs**



Species In UPSC

Saltwater Crocodile



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Reptilia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Eastern coastal India (Odisha, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands); also in Southeast Asia and Northern Australia**
- 4. Key Characteristic: World's largest living reptile, can grow over 6 meters; broad snout and ridged scales**
- 5. Key Behavior: Aggressive apex predator; highly territorial, excellent swimmer, can travel long distances in saltwater**



Species In UPSC

Great Indian Bustard



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Aves**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Critically Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Arid and semi-arid grasslands of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Large ground-dwelling bird with a black crown, white neck and underparts, and long legs adapted for running**
- 5. Key Behavior: Largely silent and ground-nesting; prefers undisturbed open landscapes; omnivorous—feeds on insects, seeds, and small reptiles**



Species In UPSC

Hoolock Gibbon



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Schedule I**
- 3. Found in: Northeast India (especially Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura), and parts of Bangladesh and Myanmar**
- 4. Key Characteristic: India's only ape; shows sexual dimorphism—males are black, females are brownish**
- 5. Key Behavior: Arboreal and monogamous, known for loud duetting calls and agile brachiation (tree swinging)**



Species In UPSC

Shrew



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Not listed**
- 3. Found in: Widely distributed across India, Southeast Asia, and introduced in parts of Africa and Pacific islands**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Small, mouse-like insectivore with a pointed snout and tiny eyes; not a rodent**
- 5. Key Behavior: Nocturnal and insectivorous; uses smell and touch to hunt insects and worms; very high metabolism**



Species In UPSC

Tapir

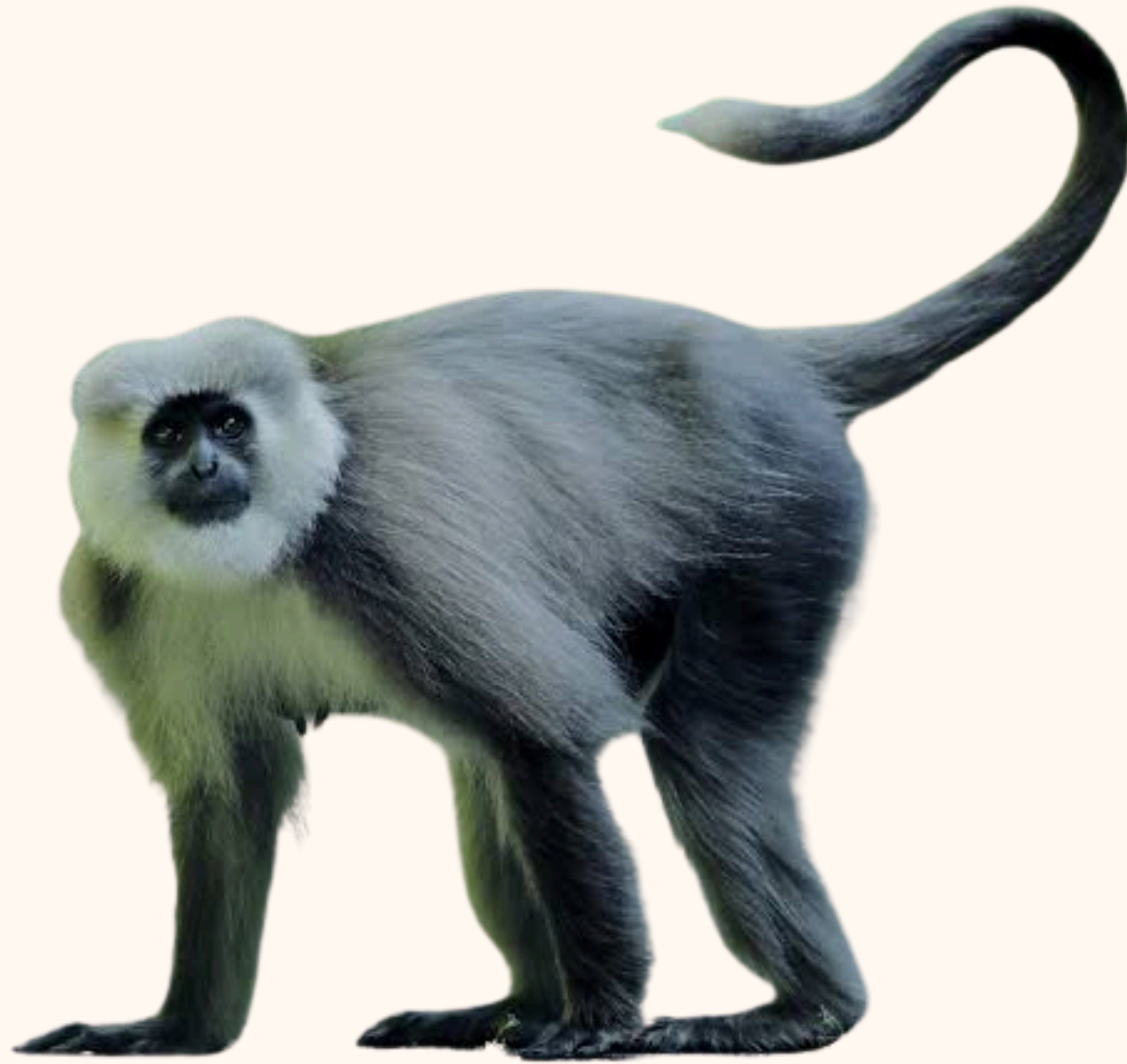


- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Endangered (Malayan Tapir); CITES – Appendix I; WPA, 2022 – Not listed (not native to India)**
- 3. Found in: Tropical forests of Southeast Asia – Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar (not found in India)**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Pig-like herbivore with a short, flexible trunk; Malayan Tapir has a distinct black-and-white color pattern**
- 5. Key Behavior: Solitary and nocturnal; feeds on leaves and fruits, and is an excellent swimmer**



Species In UPSC

Langur



- 1. Taxonomy: Kingdom – Animalia; Phylum – Chordata; Class – Mammalia**
- 2. Protection Status: IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Not Listed; WPA, 2022 – Schedule II**
- 3. Found in: Forests, villages, and urban areas across India, especially in the northern and central regions**
- 4. Key Characteristic: Medium to large primate with gray body, black face, and long tail; sacred in Hindu tradition**
- 5. Key Behavior: Diurnal and social; lives in troops, mainly folivorous but also eats fruits and flowers**