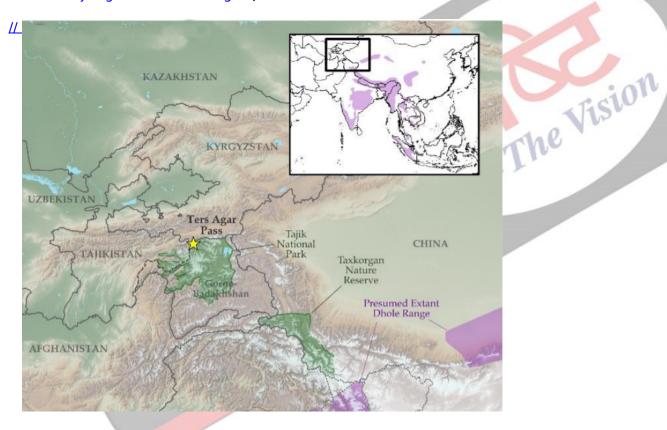


# **Dholes**

## 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 and Eastern
  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** 

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/dholes