



Captive-bred Wolves into the Wild in Gujarat

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Gujarat's ambitious project to **reintroduce [wolves](#) bred in captivity to the wild** shows early signs of success.

- This initiative is the **first of its kind outside the United States**, aiming to restock wolf populations and they can perform their role as **biocontrol agents** that keep the population of wild herbivores, like **nilgai (blue bulls) and wild boars** under control.

What are the Major Points Related to Wolves?

- **About:**
 - Wolves are the largest members of the dog family (**Canidae**), known for their **majestic physique, thick fur, sharp eyes, strong jaws, pointed ears**, and a long bushy tail add to their formidable presence.
- **Ecology and Behavior:**
 - **Social Animals:** They live in packs typically consisting of a breeding pair and their offspring, working together to hunt and raise pups.
 - **Apex Predators:** Primarily hunting large ungulates like **deer, elk and moose**, they play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance.
 - **Communicative Masters:** Their famous howls are not just eerie calls, they serve to **strengthen pack bonds, defend territory, and communicate with other packs.**
- **Subspecies Found in India:**
 - India boasts two wolf subspecies: the **grey wolf** (*Canis lupus pallipes*) in the peninsular region and the **Himalayan or Tibetan wolf** (*Canis lupus chanco*) in the north.
- **Distribution Range in India:**
 - The range of grey wolf stretches across several states, including **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra** among others.
 - The Himalayan wolf is primarily found in the **Ladakh region** and the **Lahaul and Spiti region of northeastern Himachal Pradesh** among others.
- **Protection Status:**
 - **Grey Wolf:**
 - [IUCN Red List](#): Least Concern
 - [Wildlife Protection Act \(India\)](#): Schedule I
 - [CITES Appendix](#): I
 - **Himalayan Wolf**
 - [IUCN Red List](#): Vulnerable

