



Operation Bhediya

Why in News?

Recently, the forest department launched '**Operation Bhediya (Wolf)**' after a series of attacks by a pack of wolves in Mehshi tehsil, which resulted in the deaths of six children and a woman, and around 30 injuries over the past 45 days.

Key Points

- **Operation Bhediya:** Aims to capture and neutralize a pack of [wolves](#) responsible for recent attacks.
- **Technologies and Strategies:** Utilization of [drone](#) cameras and thermal [drone mapping](#) to locate and track the wolves.
 - Approval has been obtained for tranquilizing the wolves to safely capture them.
- The [Chief Wildlife Warden](#) can allow hunting of a [Schedule I wild animal](#) if it poses a danger to humans by issuing a written order explaining the reasons.
- **Wolf:** It is classified as "[Least Concern](#)" by the [IUCN](#), listed in [Schedule I of the Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#), and included in [Appendix I of CITES](#).
- **Schedules in WPA, 1972:**
 - **Schedule I:** Protects endangered species with strict penalties; prohibits hunting except in extreme cases (e.g., Black Buck, [Snow Leopard](#)).
 - **Schedule II:** High protection and trade prohibition for certain species (e.g., Assamese Macaque, Indian Cobra).
 - **Schedules III & IV:** Protects non-endangered species with lesser penalties for violations (e.g., Chital, [Flamingo](#)).
 - **Schedule V:** Lists vermin species that can be hunted (e.g., Common Crows, Rats).
 - **Schedule VI:** Regulates cultivation and trade of specified plants, requiring prior permission (e.g., Blue Vanda, Kuth).

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