



Indian Pangolin

Why in News

Recently, the Odisha Forest department has stressed the need for **stricter monitoring of social media platforms** to check [pangolin](#) poaching and trading.



Key Points //

▪ About:

- Pangolins are **scaly anteater mammals** and they have **large, protective keratin scales covering their skin**. They are the only known mammals with this feature.

▪ Diet:

- Insectivore- Pangolins are **nocturnal, and their diet consists of mainly ants and termites**, which they capture using their long tongues.

▪ Types:

- Out of the eight species of pangolin, the **Indian Pangolin** (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the **Chinese Pangolin** (*Manis pentadactyla*) are **found in India**.

◦ Difference:

- Indian Pangolin is a large anteater covered by 11-13 rows of scales on the back.
- A terminal scale is also present on the lower side of the tail of the Indian Pangolin, which is absent in the Chinese Pangolin.

▪ Habitat:

◦ Indian Pangolin:

- It is widely distributed in India, except the arid region, high Himalayas and the North-East.
- The species is also found in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

◦ Chinese Pangolin:

- It is found in the Himalayan foothills in Eastern Nepal, Bhutan, Northern India, North-

East Bangladesh and through Southern China.

▪ **Threats to Pangolins in India:**

- **Hunting and poaching** for local consumptive use (e.g. as a protein source and traditional medicine) and international trade for its meat and scales in East and South East Asian countries, particularly China and Vietnam.
- They are believed to be the world's most trafficked mammal.

▪ **Conservation Status:**

- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**: Schedule I
- **IUCN Red List**: Endangered
- **CITES**: Appendix I

Source:TH

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