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Operation 'Clean Art' to Crackdown on Illegal Trade in Mongoose Hair

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Why in News

Recently, there has been a widespread crackdown on factories making **paint brushes with mongoose hair** across the country.

Key points.

- Brushes made of mongoose hair are preferred because they are **superior and hold colour better**.
- Mongoose is listed in **Schedule II Part 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** and any smuggling or possession of its body part is a non-bailable offence.
- **IUCN Red List status- Least Concerned.**
- **All six species** are listed on **CITES Appendix III** with a zero quota for commercial trade.
- There are **six species of mongoose found in India**- Indian grey mongoose, Small Indian mongoose, Ruddy mongoose, Crab-eating mongoose, Stripe-necked mongoose and Brown mongoose.

The **Indian grey mongoose** is the **most commonly found** species and also the **most hunted**.

Not a pretty picture

A look at the seizure of paint brushes made of mongoose hair in recent years



	Cases	No. of brushes seized	Arrests
2017	15	62,924	23
2018	16	79,021	19
2019	27	54,352	49

- For about 150 kg of mongoose hair, at least 6,000 animals would have been killed, according to an estimate

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Operation Clean Art

- It was the **first pan India operation** to crackdown on the smuggling of mongoose hair in the country.
- It was conceived by **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** with the singular **aim of ensuring that the mongoose hair brush trade should be closed down across the country.**

Source: TH