



Mammals of Delhi

About Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi

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Concept: Sh. Mandeep Mittal (IFS), Sh. Vishal Singh (IFS)

Editorial Support and Photo Credit: Sh. Sohail Madan,
Sh. Rajender Singh Smt. Geeta Yadav

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Rhesus Macaque

Macaca mulatta

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- The most widespread monkey of northern India, living in close association with humans.
- Rhesus is an aggressive primate that is found in multi male groups dominated by a single male (alpha).
- Habitat in urban areas, deciduous and evergreen forests, and scrub.



Sambar

Rusa unicolor

(IUCN - Vulnerable)

- Sambar Deer which is native to South and South-East Asia.
- Is the largest species of Deer belongs to Cervidae family.
- Mostly browsers, they are rarely seen grazing.
- Alarm call is a loud “Dhonk”
- Threats are poaching, habitat loss and disease.



Spotted Deer (Chital)

Axis axis

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Spotted Deer belongs to family Cervidae is Native to Indian subcontinent.
- They are spread throughout dry and mixed deciduous type of forest.
- They act as major prey base for large carnivores in many forests of India.
- Sexes are nearly identical except for size and antlers in male.



Hog Deer

Axis porcinus

(IUCN - Endangered)

- The closest relative of the spotted deer, it is stouter with shorter legs.
- When alarm it erects its tail and calls in low bark, while scurrying into the grass with its neck lowered and stretched out.



Nilgai

Boselaphus tragocamelus
(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Nilgai is the member of family Bovidae.
- Also known considered as Largest asian antelope.
- Adult males are iron blue, while females and calves are sandy brown
- They are usually seen in agriculture fields.
- They do not seem to prefer dense forest rather they were recorded from open type of forest with scattered trees.
- The behavior pattern is diurnal at most times but was also observed roaming at night also.



Black Buck

Antilope cervicapra

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
- Adult males are dark brown to velvet black with white undersides.
- Females and young are light brown above and white below.
- Dominant males remain with the herd through the year.
- When alarm the blackbuck leaps up as if on a spring.



Indian Boar

Sus scrofa cristatus

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Indian Boar belongs to family Suidae.
- A large forest pig, this ancestor of the common pig is dark grayish brown with dark mane.
- A subspecies of Wild Boar it is distributed widely all over India.
- They play an important role in being the scavengers of forest and act as prey base for larger carnivore species.
- They are omnivorous in feeding nature.
- It inhabits scrub, grassland, mixed deciduous and evergreen forest.



Leopard

Panthera pardus

(IUCN-Vulnerable)

- Most adaptable big cat of the Indian Subcontinent.
- The leopard has a clear yellow coat marked with black rosettes.
- They co-exist in human dominated landscapes by preying upon cattle, dogs and monkeys.
- As they are often sighted near habitation in rural India, it is mistakenly considered to be a common species.
- Poaching, habitat loss, human-animal conflict and decline in prey base are some of the threats faced by the leopard.



Jungle Cat

Felis chaus

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Jungle Cat belongs to family Felidae is one of the 10 species of cats that are recorded from Indian Subcontinent.
- Diet - small mammals such as hares and rats, birds, reptiles and amphibian.
- Jungle cat mostly prefers marshy and dense forest region near sea shore and lakes etc.
- Their distribution is found overlapping with most of the mammals indicating a general habitat preference.
- It can hunt animals much larger than itself, such as porcupine.



Common Palm Civet

Paradoxurus hermaphroditus
(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Common Palm Civet also known as Asian Palm Civet belongs to family Viverridae are largely dependent on vegetable matter.
- A small proportion of their diet was also seen as animal matter.
- Being a seed dispersal agent, they have a major economic importance in forest.
- The name palm in Common Palm Civet is due to their fondness for palm flower sap which later becomes 'toddy' from palm trees and thus also known as toddy cat.
- Threats include habitat loss and poaching.



Small Indian Civet

Viverricula indica

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Small Indian Civet belongs to family Viverridae.
- They are generally nocturnal and solitary living mammals.
- They are characterized by small spots over their body which merges and form stripes.
- They show an opportunistic type of feeding pattern in wild. Sometimes feeding on seeds, fruits, they are primarily identified as carnivore.
- The sightings of small Indian civet was primarily from open and scattered type of forest which suggest they generally do not like dense forest.
- Threats are habitat loss and road kill.



Indian Grey Mongoose

Herpestes edwardsii

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Indian Grey Mongoose also belongs to family Herpestidae.
- It is usually found near human habitation and prefers open forest and cultivated fields.
- Similar to Small Indian mongoose they are also omnivorous.
- Very bold and inquisitive often lives near habitation.
- Found in open scrub, cultivated land, rocky patches and forest edges.



Ruddy Mongoose

Herpestes smithii

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Ruddy Mongoose easily identifiable from their unique pitch-black tail is also a member of family Herpestidae.
- They extend their footprints from Peninsular India via western and eastern ghats up to Delhi. A general feeder of animal matter.
- Mostly diurnal, but at some places in forest found active during night time also.
- Photographic evidences from Camera Trapping have shown their fondness of feeding over dead carcass of Nilgai.
- Large forest mongoose easily identified by the black tip on the tail which it carries pointed upwards.



Small Indian Mongoose

Herpestes auropunctatus
(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Small Indian Mongoose is a member of family Herpestidae.
- They can be often seen in highly anthropized environments such as cultivated lands, urban and peri - urban spaces.
- They are believed to be carnivore but also considered as opportunistic feeder of seeds, vegetables and human waste.
- It usually prefers grassland and dry type of habitat system.



Striped Hyena

Hyaena hyaena

(IUCN-Near Threatened)

- Striped Hyena belongs to Family Hyaenidae.
- The only species of Hyenas that has been recorded in Indian subcontinent.
- Typically found in tropical forest and grasslands of India.
- They are mostly nocturnal and known to live a solitary life.
- They play a major role as a top scavenger within forest.
- Like Leopard, they are also known to survive in areas nearby human presence.



Golden Jackal

Canis aureus

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- They belong to family Canidae.
- Golden Jackal can be traced more commonly near human settlements comparing to other members of its family such as wolf.
- A successful hunter, the jackal has an undeserved reputation as a scavenger.
- Its scraggy, buff gray coat is not as smooth as the fox's nor as dense as the wolf's.
- Its eerie howls are characteristic of Indian jungles.



Indian Hare

Lepus nigricollis

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Indian Hare also known as black naped hare belongs to family Leporidae.
- Is native to Indian subcontinent and Java.
- A very territorial hare, defends up to 10 hectare of land against rival males.
- Their major role in ecosystem is prey base for big cats such as Leopards as well as Jackals.
- Usually found solitary or in pairs.



Indian Hedgehog

Paraechinus micropus

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Has a masked face because of greyish white hairs on its forehead and cheeks.
- Its fur is pale rufous and it has small ears limbs and claws.
- It can often be found curled up under a ziziphus bush, the fruit of which also eats.
- If food and water scares, it curls up in a borrow in a torpor for several days.



Indian Crested Porcupine

Hystrix indica

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Indian Crested Porcupine is a member of family Hystricidae.
- When the animal senses danger it erects its quills on its back and rattles its tail quills.
- This species of porcupine is largest porcupine species of India.
- They are known to be a nocturnal species.
- Their presence can be easily confirmed by their scats elongated shape.
- Large scale poaching is a threat to their populations.



Five-striped palm Squirrel

Funambulus pennantii

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- A ubiquitous squirrel of North India.
- The Five striped or Northern squirrel is almost a replica of its South Indian cousin except that it has five pale stripes instead of three.
- Bold and inquisitive, it has a bird like call which it repeats up to 10 times.



Indian Bush Rat

Golunda ellioti

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- Slightly smaller than the house rat
- A reddish-brown rodent, it has long tail that is brownish above and yellowish grey below.
- It borrows under thick bush and makes characteristic pathways from its borrow to its foraging ground.



Indian Flying Fox

Pteropus giganteus

(IUCN - Least Concern)

- A common fruit eating bat.
- It can be identified by its more brown than black coloration and dark tail which is shorter than its head and body length.
- Undersides are greyish and its face more rounded, with a broad muzzle and round pinkish ears.

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