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News: Pangolin

- A new report by TRAFFIC and World Wide Fund for Nature – India (WWF–India) revealed that 1,203 pangolins were poached for illegal wildlife trade in India from 2018-2022.

Indian Pangolin

- Pangolin is a **harmless animal with no teeth.**
- Pangolins are **known for their unique appearance.** They **have scales made of keratin that cover their entire body.**
- It is a **nocturnal animal that dig burrows and feeds on ants and termites and play a vital role in ecosystem management,** mostly in aerating and adding moisture to the soil.
- There are **eight species of pangolin: 4 Species in Africa – Black-bellied pangolin, White-bellied pangolin, Giant Ground pangolin and Temminck's Ground pangolin.** Also, **4 species are found in Asia: Indian pangolin, Philippine pangolin, Sunda pangolin and the Chinese pangolin.**
- Out of the 4 species in Asia, **Indian pangolin and Chinese pangolin are found in India.**

- Indian Pangolin 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.
- Within India, the Indian Pangolin is widely distributed and is found in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- IUCN Status: Indian Pangolin– Endangered.
- All 8 Pangolin sub –species enjoy a CITES Status of Appendix I.
- Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule I.
- In February 2015, TRAFFIC, in partnership with WWF-India and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) launched a social media campaign to create awareness and divert efforts towards curbing illegal trade in pangolins.
- World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in February every year.
- Pangolin was included in the "Not all animals migrate by choice" campaign by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).
- Recently, Madhya Pradesh forest department, for the first time, has radio-tagged an Indian Pangolin. It will help in knowing its ecology and develop an effective conservation plan for it.

Chinese Pangolin

- The Chinese pangolin is a pangolin native to the northern Indian subcontinent, northern parts of Southeast Asia and southern China.
- It has been listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List since 2014, as the wild population is estimated to have declined by more than 80% in three pangolin generations, equal to 21 years.
- It is threatened by poaching for the illegal wildlife trade.
- The Chinese pangolin has been enlisted in the Appendix I of CITES Convention and has been in the Schedule I of Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.