

Tamil Nadu's Bengal Foxes Face Habitat Loss

Conservationists highlight the shrinking habitat and threats to Bengal foxes in Tamil Nadu due to urbanization and agriculture.

The Bengal fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) is a species of fox native to the Indian subcontinent, known for its elusive nature and monogamous behaviour.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Bengal foxes** in **Tamil Nadu** are facing threats from **hunting** and significant **habitat loss**.
- The **species** has largely disappeared from much of its **traditional geographical range** across **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Forest Department** officials report **Bengal foxes** are now found only in pockets in **Dharmapuri**, **Tiruvannamalai**, **Salem**, **Madurai**, and **Villupuram** districts.
- Expanding **agriculture** and **urbanization** are identified as key factors contributing to the **shrinking habitat** of these foxes.
- The **Bengal fox** is known for its **monogamous behaviour**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **scientific name** for the **Bengal fox** is ***Vulpes bengalensis***.

Sangam literature contains references to the **Bengal fox**, indicating its widespread presence in the dry, arid grasslands of **South India**.

The **Bengal fox** is also commonly known as the **Indian fox**.

Its primary **habitat** includes **grasslands**, **scrub forests**, and **semi-arid regions**.

Habitat loss due to human activities like **agriculture** and **urbanization** is a major threat to many **wildlife species** in **Tamil Nadu**.

The **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** is responsible for **wildlife conservation** and **protection** within the state.

REVISION FLASHCARD

*Bengal fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) faces habitat loss in Tamil Nadu due to urbanization and agriculture.*

Syllabus Relevance: High

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