

# Pangolin

April 20, 2021

**In News:** A live pangolin was rescued by the Special Task Force (STF), a specialised team of the Odisha crime branch that deals with wildlife crimes from a village in Cuttack district April 16, 2021.

## India's pangolins

- The Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are two of the eight pangolin species found in India.
- A large anteater with 11-13 rows of scales on its back, the Indian Pangolin is a large anteater.
- The Indian Pangolin also has a terminal scale on the lower side of its tail, which the Chinese Pangolin lacks.

## Habitat

- **The Indian Pangolin** is found across India, with the exception of the arid regions, the high Himalayas, and the north-east. Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka are also home to the species.
- **The Chinese Pangolin** can be found in the Himalayan foothills of Eastern Nepal, Bhutan, Northern India, North-East Bangladesh, and Southern China.

## Protection Status

- IUCN Red List
  - Indian Pangolin: Endangered
  - Chinese Pangolin: Critically Endangered
- Both these species are protected and are listed under the Schedule I Part I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).



## Eight species of pangolins

- Eight species of pangolins are found on two continents. They range from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered.
- **Four species live in Africa:** Black-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*), White-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*), Giant Ground pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*) and Temminck's Ground pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*).

**The four species found in Asia:** Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*), Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*).