

Pangolin

April 8, 2020

Why in news:

Recently a Chinese news agency reported the seizure of over 10 tons of pangolin scales in the eastern Chinese city of Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province.

About the animal:

- Pangolins, **nocturnal animals that feast on ants and termites.**
- It is believed that its **scales possess magic or charms, medicinal benefits** and they are used as a **culinary delicacy.**
- They are said to be the most trafficked wild animal in the world.
- It is the only **scaly mammal on the planet.**
- Of the eight species of pangolin worldwide, **two species are found in India.**
- They are Chinese pangolin, mostly found in northeast India and Indian pangolin.
- It can also **curl itself into a ball** as self-defence against predators.
- The **colour of its scales varies depending on the colour of the earth in its surroundings.**
- IUCN status of Chinese pangolin – **Critically endangered**
- IUCN status of Indian pangolin – **Endangered**