

Carpe Diem

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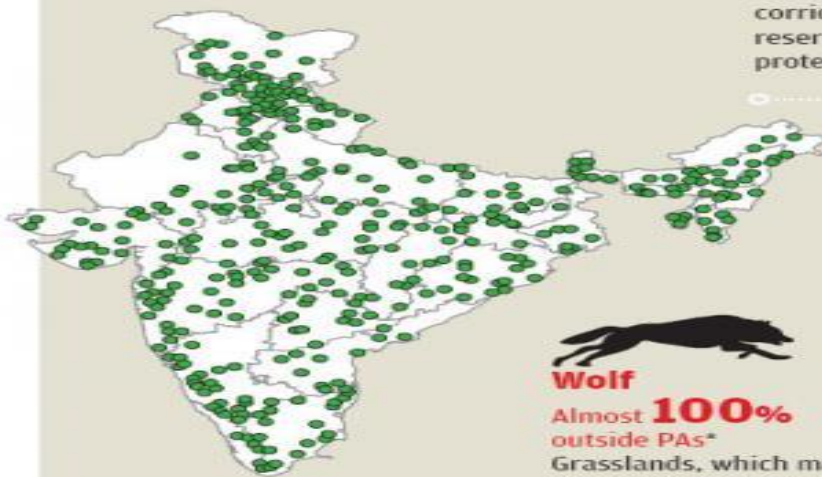
Protected but not safe

Many Schedule-1 species, which are accorded the highest degree of protection under the law, are found outside notified protected areas

726 protected areas in India (in green) comprising 4.88 per cent of total land area



Tiger
29% outside tiger reserves*
Lansdowne Forest Division, a tiger corridor between Corbett and Rajaji tiger reserves, has 22-25 tigers but is not a protected area (PA)



Wolf
Almost 100% outside PAs*
Grasslands, which make up the wolves' habitat, are not notified as PAs



Elephant
67% outside PAs*
Data from West Bengal and Jharkhand indicates that a herd spent about 235-265 days in a year outside the protected areas between 2005 and 2008



Gangetic dolphin
Almost 100% outside PAs*
Gangetic dolphins are found along the entire stretch of the Ganga, but only the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar's Bhagalpur district is a notified PA



Blackbuck
50% outside PAs*
58 per cent blackbucks were found outside the Velavadar Blackbuck National Park in Bhavnagar, Gujarat, in 2010

*All-India figure; the list is indicative and not exhaustive as there is not enough data on animals outside protected areas



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