

## Indian Crested Porcupine

By IASToppers | 2023-10-27 16:20:00



## Indian Crested Porcupine

A tiger in Tamil Nadu died after a fight with a porcupine, with spikes found in its intestine.



[Ref: britannica]

### **About Indian Crested Porcupine:**

- The Indian Crested Porcupine is a large rodent weighing between **11–18 kg**.
- It is covered in quills that are **brown or black with white and black bands**.
- Its quills can grow up to **51 cm long**.
- It contrary to **popular belief**, they **cannot** shoot their quills.

### **Distribution and Habitat:**

- It is found throughout **southwest** and **central Asia**.
- It occupies a broad range of habitats including **rocky hillsides, shrublands, grasslands, forests, and gardens**.
- Their distribution is influenced by factors like **forage density** and **suitable substrates** for digging burrows.

### **Diet:**

- Primarily **herbivorous**, consuming **roots, bulbs, fruits, grains, and tubers**.
- Known to **chew on bones** for minerals like **calcium**.
- Can act as **habitat modifiers** and are considered **agricultural pests** in many regions.

### **Behaviour:**

- Nocturnal creatures that spend around **7 hours** foraging every night.

- Live in **natural caves** or **excavated burrows**.
- Predators include **large cats, wolves, hyenas, and humans**.

#### Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Status:** Least Concern (LC)
- **Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule IV