

STATE ANIMALS OF INDIA

Chandigarh- Indian Grey Mongoose

Every state and Union territory (UT) of India has its own State animal which represents the state and its policies. **The state animal of Chandigarh is Indian Grey Mongoose (Herpestes Edwardsi).** The formal announcement of the state animal was made in 2010 by the UT forest and wildlife



department. The Mongoose was chosen as they are **found in the city in large numbers** especially in the northern region and forest areas. They maintain the **ecological balance** of the city by preying on snakes which are also abundantly present in the city.

The Indian Grey Mongoose can be commonly located in scrublands, cultivated fields, among groves of trees and often near human habitation. It preys on rodents, snakes and on a variety of reptiles. It is a mongoose species found in West Asia and Indian Sub continent. It is locally also known as 'Nevla'.

Mongoose in Folk tales

The Brahmin and the Mongoose or is a folktale describing the rash killing of a loyal animal and warning against hasty action. In the story a mongoose is kept as a protector of the Brahman's new born son. The wife assumes that the mongoose has killed their son and in return, kills the mongoose and later finds out that her son is still sleeping without any harm and a dead cobra next to the baby's cradle. It is then realized that the mongoose had killed the cobra to defend it from harming the sleeping baby.



Mongoose for entertainment!

Parts of India and South East Asia because of the seemingly fearless nature of the Indian mongoose, still hold mongoose and cobra competitions where people may make bets on which animal will win the fight.

Characteristics

- Excellent rat-catchers, they are a boon to farmers.
- They are said to make excellent pets.
- The Indian grey mongoose has a coarse grey grey fur .
- Their tail length is equal to their body length. Body length: 36–45 cm and Tail length: 45 cm, weight: 0.9-1.7 kg. Males are significantly larger than the females.



FUN FACT

The government has released postal stamps, distributed t-shirts to popularize the animal. The yoga festival mascot was also designed as the yogi mongoose.





Mongoose in Mythology

Kubera is the king of the Yakshas and ruler of Alakapuri, a city located in the northern direction, close to Mount Kailas, in the Himalayas. He is the treasurer of gods. He is also considered as a form of Varuna, the god of the sea and also the father of Lakshmi. Kubera has a mongoose in his hand, a golden mongoose that spits gems every time it opens its mouth.

The presence of mongoose is significant as it is the enemy of snakes, especially Nags, who were believed to produce gems on their hoods.

Threat -MONGOOSE HARI -A BANE OR A BOON!

MONGOOSE ALERT!!

Indian Mongoose has fine hair which makes excellent paintbrushes and is desired by painters all over the world.

Each mongoose yields about 40 gm of hair out of which, only 20 gm of hair is found usable for making paint brushes thus it takes 50 mongooses to produce 1 kg of paintbrush quality hair.

An estimate by the Wildlife Trust of India in 2002 said that around 50,000 mongooses are killed by poachers every year.

DO NOT BUY MONGOOSE HAIR BRUSHES



Conservation

All mongoose species in India are protected under Schedule II (Part II) of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which prohibits all trade of animals listed in it.

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the trade of mongoose fur is also prohibited

TRAFFIC's (Trade Record Analysis of Flora and Fauna in commerce) India chapter launched an online campaign on social networking sites in February 2015 on the species during which facts were released to raise awareness about the mongoose.

TYPES OF MOONGOOSE



Strips-necked Mongoose
(*Herpestes vitticollis*)



Small Indian Mongoose
(*Herpestes Javanicus*)



Ruddy Mongoose
(*Herpestes smithi*)

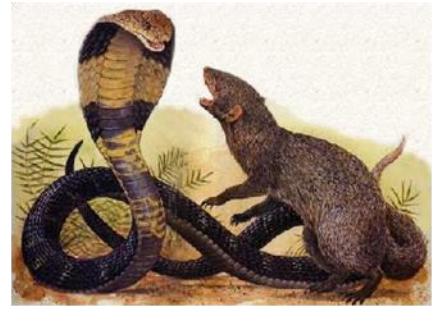


Indian Grey Mongoose
(*Herpestes Edwardsi*)

ACTIVITY ZONE

Activity 1

Ask your parents and grandparents about tales revolving around the mongoose or their encounter with one and depict the story in a comic strip.



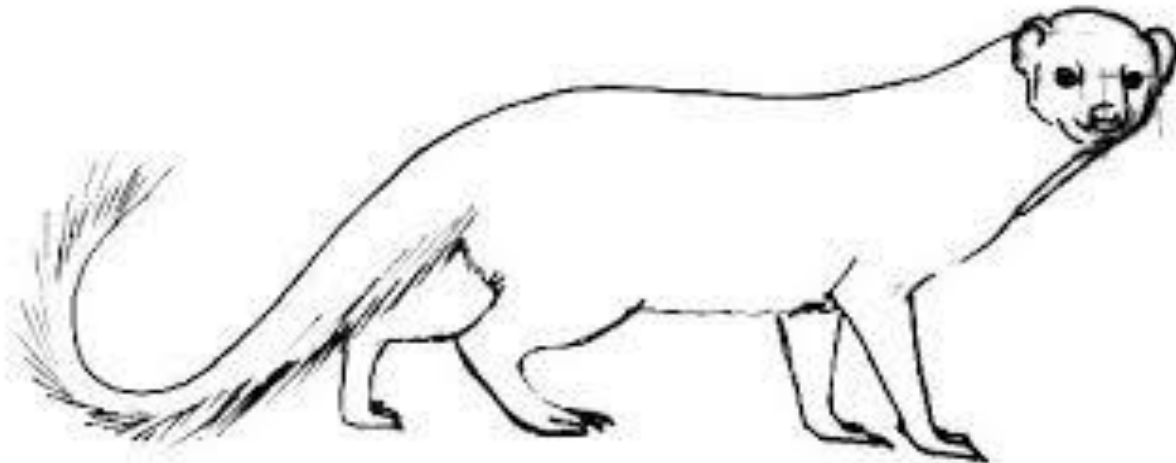
Activity 2

Identify the material your paint brushes and show the impressions of different brushes.

Activity-3

Design a poster to create awareness about the conservation of mongoose in India and use of synthetic brushes to paint.

Activity-4 Colour Me!



SOURCES:

Books

Bharucha, Erach, Wonders of Indian Wilderness Vol1, The Nature of Biodiversity in India, Reliance Pvt. Ltd in association with Mapin publishing, 2006.

Online

www.biolib.cz , www.downtoearth.org.in , www.hindustantimes.com , www.itsnature.org