

Greater Hog Badger

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Greater Hog Badger Latest News

Recently, the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has released the first scientific assessment report on the greater hog badger (*Arctonyx collaris*).

About Greater Hog Badger

- It is a **nocturnal small burrowing omnivore mammal**.
- It is called '**mati gahori**' in **Assamese**.
- Globally, there are three extant species of this mammal—the **greater hog badger**, the **northern hog badger** (*Arctonyx albogularis*), and the **Sumatran hog badger** (*Arctonyx hoevenii*). The **first two are found in India**.
- **Appearance:** It **possesses an elongated pig-like snout** and modified teeth which point forward and are used for turning over the soil.
- **Distribution:** It is distributed across parts of **South, Central, and Southeast Asia**.

- Its range extends from Bangladesh and **northeastern India eastwards** through Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam.
- **Habitat:** They live in tropical **evergreen forests, savanna, grasslands** and shrubland, hills, and mountains.
- **Characteristics**
 - It is a **ground-dwelling, very shy and leads** a secretive solitary life.
 - These are **territorial creatures** that **mark their territories with their scents on the grass, rocks, and tree trunks**.
 - They are **excellent burrowers** and dig into the ground to create burrows for shelter and to find their food.
 - **Diet:** Its diet includes worms, insects, small mammals but also fruits, tubers, and roots.
- **Ecological Role**
 - It contributes to ecosystem **function as a highly fossorial mammal** (a term for animals adapted for digging, burrowing, or living primarily underground) through soil **disturbance, nutrient redistribution, and leaf litter turnover** during foraging.
 - Such digging behaviour enhances soil aeration and may facilitate seed germination and micro-habitat formation for invertebrates and small vertebrates.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN:** Vulnerable
 - **Wildlife Protection Act of 1972:** Schedule I

Source: TH

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