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Daily news summary**Greater Hog Badger Kaziranga National Park IUCN**

UPSC Civil Services · 27 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve published its first scientific assessment documenting a distinct population of the Greater Hog Badger.
- Camera traps recorded significant presence and nocturnal behaviors of the vulnerable mammal across the reserve's floodplains.

WHAT IS THE GREATER HOG BADGER?

- **Scientific name:** *Arctonyx collaris*, a mustelid mammal native to Southeast Asia and North-East India.
- Characterized by a pig-like snout used for rooting soil, powerful claws for digging, and omnivorous feeding habits.

CONSERVATION STATUS & DISTRIBUTION

- **IUCN Red List Status:** Vulnerable.
- Protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (as amended in 2022).
- Inhabits tropical rainforests, grasslands, and alluvial floodplains across North-East Indian national parks.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Highlights the ecological importance of Kaziranga's non-charismatic micro-fauna beyond rhinos and tigers.
- Camera trap technology helps baseline population metrics for subterranean and nocturnal forest species.

KEY TERMS

- **Mustelidae:** A diverse family of carnivorous mammals including badgers, otters, martens, and weasels.

- **Rooting Behavior:** The act of using a elongated snout to dig and forage in the soil for roots, invertebrates, and tubers.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- Greater Hog Badger is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and protected under Schedule I of WPA 1972.

KEY DATA

- **Species Name:** Arctonyx collaris (Greater Hog Badger) - Prelims regularly asks for habitat, protection status, and natural occurrences of wildlife.
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable - Standard conservation status question in UPSC Prelims.
- **WPA 1972 Schedule:** Schedule I - Highest legal protection level provided under Indian wildlife legislation.

[Official source](#)

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