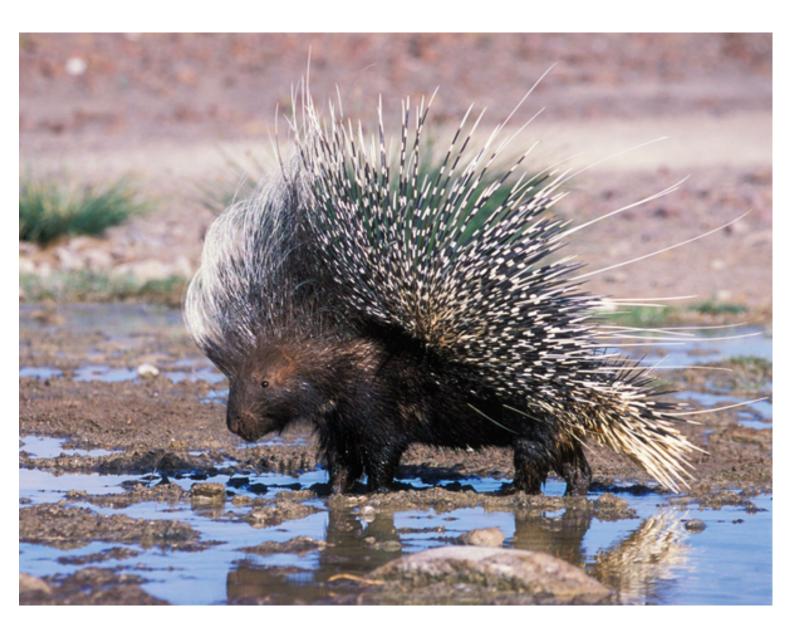


# **Indian Crested Porcupine**

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