

The New Forest - the IFS training campus - an area which houses the FRI and its sister institutions including the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) is also home to a rich biodiversity. These flora and fauna become a part of our neighbourhood while we are at the campus. The campus is also adorned with heritage buildings, museums, nurseries and a beautiful landscape. This initiative is aimed at making us more familiar with our neighbourhood.

The KYC (Know your Campus) initiative started by the IFS 2019 batch in this lockdown period shall come out with a campus related topic each day.

*Hi! I am Simbhai, the lion King from Gir. I am searching for my friend - Pumbhai. Can you help me find him?*



*Indian Wild  
Boar*



*Let me first tell you about him..*

*This is how he looks... And mostly when you see him, he is busy eating..*

**Family :**  
**Suidae**

**Scientific Name :**  
**Sus scrofa**  
**cristatus**



The snout is one of its most defining features. The structure of the snout and skull is well suited for digging.

The canine teeth are modified into tusks that protrude from the adult's mouth. The bottom tusk is longer and sharper. Upper tusk is only present in the males used when they fight during the breeding season.

Their colours can be brown, black, red or dark grey depending on the location.

## **Distribution :**

- The Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) are Native of European forests, north-west Africa and Asia.
- Also introduced to Americas and Australia too, thus making it one of the widest ranging mammals in the animal kingdom.



## **Classification :**

- Around 16 sub species of *Sus scrofa* (Wild boar) are recognised and grouped into four regional groupings.
- The Indian boar (*Sus scrofa cristatus*) is a subspecies native to Indian subcontinent, Burma and Western Thailand.

## **Habitat :**

- known to reside in a variety of habitats including tropical forests and grasslands, but they tend to favour deciduous broad-leaf forests with dense vegetation, streams, marshes.
- In India they are also found in agricultural and open landscapes near human inhabitations.



## Social life :

Female dominated sounders (herd of wild boar) led by an old matriarch.

Barren sows  
(females only)

Mother with  
young one



Adult males are solitary except the breeding season.

Females either remain with their mothers or establish new territories nearby. During breeding season, males travel long distances in search of a sounder of sows. The male fiercely fights potential rivals during breeding season and also gets injured.

## He eats and eats...

Highly versatile omnivore comparable to humans.

- Rhizomes, roots, berries, seeds
- Leaves, bark, shoots
- Insects, rodents, reptiles

## Favourite food of..

Leopards, dholes, tigers, bears, and wolves





*He has been a part of the human evolution story..*



- one of the earliest animals to be hunted for food and also domesticated. Thus, it is the ancestor of all the domestic pig breeds.
- Upper Palaeolithic painting in Bhimbetka of a boar attacking a human.

It has a poor eyesight and lacks colour vision



It appears in Vedic mythology and is present as Varaha avatar of Lord Vishnu in the Puranic literature.

## *Interesting facts..*

Owing to their strong sense of smell they are used for drug detection in some countries.

It possesses mutations that protect against snake venom.



Probationer : Hey, Simbhai I have seen Pumbhai and his family roam around the lawns of FRI at night... Sometimes they even come near our hostel.

Simbhai : You found him! Thanks buddy. I have heard that in some places they cause agricultural losses and often fall prey to electrical fences.

Probationer : Yes that's true. But we are doing our best to spread awareness among the farmers. Also we are trying to maintain a healthy grassland and a good predator population in the forest areas to keep them away from farms.

Simbhai : It was good to interact with you buddy. Let's hope that this old world mammal has kept our readers engaged.



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