

Hangul

By IASToppers | 2024-03-05 15:20:00



Key facts

Hangul

Hangul, Kashmir's indigenous deer species, has recently experienced one of the healthiest **rutting seasons** mainly due to roars or calls made during this period.



[ref-wildlife sos]

About the Hangul:

- The Hangul is a subspecies of **Central Asian red deer** endemic to **Kashmir** and surrounding areas.
- It is found in dense **riverine forests** in the **valleys and mountains** of **Jammu and Kashmir** and **northern Himachal Pradesh** at altitudes ranging from **3,000 to 4,000 meters** above sea level.
- Named after the local word “**han doon**”, meaning **Indian horse-chestnut**, Hangul is the **state animal of Jammu and Kashmir**, also known as the **Kashmir stag**.
- The **Dachigam National Park** and **Tral Wildlife Sanctuary** are its primary habitats, with a **gestation period** of about **8 months**.
- Physically, Hangul **males**, darker than females, have annually shed and **re-grown antlers** symbolizing dominance during mating, while females lack horns; both feature a **distinctive white rump patch** and **greyish-white inner buttocks**.
- Behaviorally, this **shy** and **sensitive species** follows a **matriarchal society** with females living in groups of up to **18**, and **adult males** living **independently**.
- **Population trends** show severe **declines** due to militancy, habitat disturbances, and predation, facing challenges such as a **skewed male-female ratio** detrimental to natural breeding and genetic diversity.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN:** Critically Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I

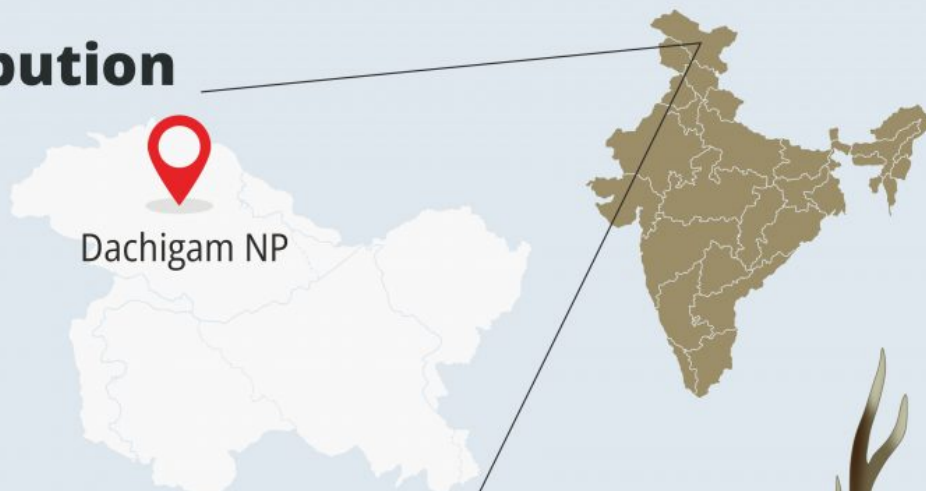
- The Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I



Hangul Kashmir Stag

(*Cervus hanglu hanglu*)

Distribution



Total number of Hanguls left in the wild :

289



Predators

Leopard, Himalayan black bear



Threats

Poaching, habitat destruction, overgrazing by livestock,

Extinct

Threatened

Least Concern

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