

Bharal

Why in News?

Recently, the researchers analyzed the population of 1,000 snow leopards due to large numbers of bharal in the Sanjiangyuan region of China.

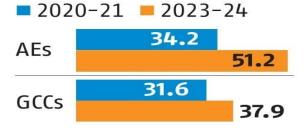
- **Bharal** It is called as the **Blue Sheep** and native to the high Himalayas.
- Taxonomy:
 - **Scientific name -** Pseudois Nayaur.
 - **Genus** Pseudois, where it is the only member.
- **Distribution** Montane regions in the Himalayas and China (in Gansu, Ningxia, Sichuan, Tibet and Inner Mongolia).
 - o *India*, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

Bharal accounted over 80% of snow leopards food intake. Its density ranks among the world's highest in Sanjiangyuan area of China's Qinghai province, part of the Tibetan Plateau.

- Habitat Open grassy slopes in high mountains and near cliffs.
- **Morphology** Short, dense coat is slate grey in colour and bluish sheen, underparts and backs of legs are white, chest and fronts of legs are black.
- Ears are small, nose is dark, horns are found in both sexes and are ridged on the upper surface.

EXTENDING THE LEAD

Share in inward remittances (banks) (in %)



Advance economies (AEs): US, UK, Singapore, Canada, Australia (FY21 figure doesn't reflect data for Australia); GCCs: UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain Source: RBI

• Sexual dimorphism:

• Males - Horns are grown upwards, turn sideways and curve backwards.

- **Females** Horns are much shorter and straighter.
- **Behavior** They are *active throughout the day*, alternating between feeding and resting on the grassy mountain slopes.
- They adjust up to the precipitous cliffs, where they once again freeze, melting into the rock face.
- Threats:
 - Poaching for meat.
 - Competition with livestock.
- Conservation Status:
 - IUCN Status Least Concern (LC).
 - Wildlife Protection Act 1972 Schedule 1.

References

- 1. Down to Earth | High numbers of snow leopards due to large numbers of Bharal
- 2. <u>Ultimate Ungulate</u> Bharal

