

## Blackbuck

*Prelims: Current events of national importance | Conservation*

### Why in News?

*Blackbucks once extinct in Chhattisgarh since 1927, are steadily reclaiming their habitat following a reintroduction program launched in 2018.*

- **Common Name** - Blackbuck is a Medium-sized antelope native to India and Nepal.
- **Scientific Name** - *Antilope cervicapra*.
- **Genus** - Antilope.
- **Kingdom** - Animalia.
- **Family** - Bovidae.
- **Habitat** - Open grasslands, scrublands, and lightly forested areas.
- **Distribution** - Indian subcontinent.
- **Morphology**
  - **Males** - Distinctive spiraled horns, dark brown to black coat.
  - **Females** - Fawn-colored, usually hornless.



- **Diet - Herbivorous** - Coarse grasses, pods, leaves.
- **Reintroduction in Chhattisgarh** - Under scientific wildlife management

under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

- **First Release (2018)** - 77 blackbucks (50 from Delhi, 27 from Bilaspur Zoo).
- **Current Population (2026)** - 190 (130 wild + 60 in enclosures).
- **Monitoring** - Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) Infra-Red Cameras, daily patrolling by forest guards.
- **Future** - Introduction in *Gomardha Wildlife Sanctuary, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh district*.
- **Conservation Status**
  - **IUCN Status** - Least Concern
  - **CITES** - Appendix III (India)
  - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** - Schedule I
- **Threats**
  - Habitat loss due to agriculture and urbanization.
  - Poaching for meat and horns.
  - Human-wildlife conflict in farming areas.

## Reference

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