

Himalayan Serow in Himachal Pradesh

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

*Recently, the elusive Himalayan serow (*Capricornis thar*) was recorded in the Dalhousie Forest division after nearly 20 years.*

- **Location** - Dalhousie catchment forests bordering Kalatop-Khajjar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **First Authenticated Evidence** - Confirms species presence after decades; locals had reported sightings earlier without proof.
- **Ecological Role** - Occasional prey for snow leopard; indicator of biodiversity health.
- **Conservation Value** - Species was believed to have disappeared from Dhaula Dhar range; rediscovery highlights ecological importance of Dalhousie forests.
- **Biodiversity Records** - Strengthens faunal inventory of western Himalayas.



Species Profile

- **Scientific Name** - *Capricornis thar*
- **Diet** - Herbivores
- **Nature** - Shy, solitary, forest-dwelling mountain ungulate.
- **Habitat** - Steep Himalayan terrain, dense forests.
- **IUCN Status** - ***Near Threatened*** due to habitat degradation, fragmentation, and hunting pressure.
- **WPI status** - ***Under Schedule I*** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972,

Reference

[Times of India | Himalayan Serow](#)

