Rare Malvi Camel Breed Faces Extinction Threat

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Why in News?

The Malvi camel breed (popularly known as the white camel), one of the 9 officially recognized camel breeds in India, is facing a severe threat of extinction with only 102 animals remaining.

- The Malvi camel is a rare, critically endangered white coat breed native to India.
- **Endangered Threshold -** Animal geneticists consider any camel breed with fewer than 300 breeding females as endangered.
- **Affected Breeds-** The Malvi, along with the Mewari and Mewati breeds, falls squarely into this endangered category in India.

Key Characteristics & Habitat

- **Physical Attributes -** Recognized by its distinct white coat, it is the smallest among all Indian camel breeds.
- **Milk Production-** Valued for its dairy potential, with females yielding approximately 4–5 kg of milk per cycle.

- **Traditional Use -** Historically utilized as draft animals for rural

transportation, load-carrying, and light agriculture.

Geographical Distribution

- **Madhya Pradesh (Malwa Region) -** Mandsaur, Neemuch, Ratlam, and Gwalior districts.
- **Rajasthan**- Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, and Baran districts.

Factors Driving the Population Decline

- **Loss of Traditional Utility** - Rapid mechanization in rural transport and agriculture has drastically reduced the demand for draft camels.
- **Socio-Economic Shifts** - Changing livelihoods and shrinking profits from traditional camel keeping have caused pastoral communities to abandon camel rearing.
- **Loss of Grazing Commons-** Encroachment and fragmentation of traditional pasture lands in the Malwa and Hadoti belts.

Reference

Hindustan Times | Malvi camel breed

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