

Tapir

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Tapir Latest News

World Tapir Day is celebrated every year on April 27.

About Tapir

- Tapirs are large **herbivorous mammals**.
- They are often **called “living fossils”** due to their lineage **dating back millions of years**.
- **Appearance:** They have short, flexible snouts, and tapirs use them to grab leaves and fruits.
- They are also **excellent swimmers** and spend a lot of time in water.
- **Diet:** They're **herbivores** and fifty per cent of their diet consists of fruit.
- **Distribution:** They inhabit jungle and forest regions of **South America, Central America, and Southeast Asia**.
- There are **only four species of tapirs**. They live in distinct geographical areas.
 - **Malayan Tapir:** It is the **largest of the tapirs** which is **native to Southeast Asia**. Its black-and-white stripes help it blend into the forest. **(IUCN Status: Endangered)**

- **Baird's Tapir:** It is **Central America's** biggest land mammal. It is found in tropical forests and around water. **(IUCN Status: Endangered)**
- **Lowland Tapir:** The **South American tapir** is the most widespread. It is found in the **Amazon Basin and other areas. (IUCN Status: Vulnerable)**
- **Mountain Tapir:** It is the rarest and **found in the high Andes. (IUCN Status: Endangered)**
- **Ecological Role:** They form an important part of the **ecosystem as seed dispersers.**

Source: News On Air

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/tapir/>

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