

Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary

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Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary Latest News

A wild gaur that had strayed into densely populated areas of Kannur District, Kerala, was captured by a Forest department expert team and later released into the forest area of the Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary recently.

About Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in the Wayanad district in **Kerala**.
- It is **part of the larger Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary** and the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**.
- **Tholpetty** in the north is **one of the two discontinuous pockets of Wayanad Sanctuary**, the **other being Muthanga** in the south.
- **Flora:**
 - The forests consist of both **tropical moist dry deciduous** and **semi-evergreen** forests.
 - **Plantations of teak, eucalyptus, silver oak, and rosewood** cover about **one-third** of the sanctuary.
- **Fauna:**

- **Elephants, tigers, panthers,** jungle cats, **civet cats,** monkeys, wild dogs, **bison,** deer, bears, and snakes can be spotted in the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary is also a **bird watcher's paradise,** hosting over 300 species of birds.
- Some notable avian residents include the **Malabar grey hornbill, crested serpent eagle,** peafowl, and various species of woodpeckers and kingfishers.

Key Facts about Gaur

- Gaur, also known as **Indian bison,** is the **largest species among the wild cattle** and the Bovidae.
- Scientific Name: Bos gaurus
- **Habitat and Distribution:**
 - Gaurs are **indigenous** to the **South and Southeast parts of Asia.**
 - They are found in **Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos,** Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Myanmar, **India, Bangladesh,** Bhutan, **China,** and **Nepal.**
 - They are primarily found in **evergreen and semi-evergreen forests** along with **moist deciduous forests with open grasslands.**
 - They **prefer hilly-terrains below** an altitude of **1,500-1,800 m** with large and undisturbed forest tracts and abundant water.
- **Features:**
 - Gaur is a **large animal** with a **sturdy build.**
 - It has a **short and deep neck,** a massive head, and frequently a large dewlap on the throat and chest.
 - The color of their body varies from **reddish or brown to black,** while the **limbs** are **pale colored.**
 - **Both males and females** have **upwardly curved horns,** growing from the sides of their heads. Their horns have a **yellow base and black tip.**
 - These animals have a **hump on their shoulders,** which is especially prominent in adult males.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - IUCN Red List: **Vulnerable**

Source: **TH**

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