

Giant Malabar Squirrel

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Giant Malabar Squirrel Latest News

A rare Giant Malabar Squirrel has been recently spotted in the Devpur forest area of Chhattisgarh's Barnawapara forest.

About Giant Malabar Squirrel

- The Malabar Giant Squirrel, also known as the **Indian Giant Squirrel**, is a **large multicoloured tree squirrel species endemic to India**.
- It is **one of the largest squirrels in the world**.
- Scientific Name: *Ratufa indica*.

Giant Malabar Squirrel Habitat and Distribution

- It is found primarily in the **Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, and Satpura Range**.
- It is found in areas with elevation ranging from 180 to 2,300 metres in **tropical deciduous, semi-deciduous, and wet evergreen forests and woodlands**.

- It is arboreal and **spends most of its time** in the **upper canopy, leaping from tree to tree** with **incredible agility**, jumping up to 6 metre length.
- It makes its **shelter within holes in trees**.
- It is **Maharashtra's state animal** and locally known as **Shekru**.

Giant Malabar Squirrel Features

- Total body length varies from 254 to 457 mm. The **tail** is typically **longer than the length of its body**.
- It exhibits **2-3 types of color patterns** with **shades of black, brown, and deep red**.
- The **body** varies from **deep red to brown with white patches on the belly** as well as **dirty white or cream-colored under-parts** and **forelimbs**.
- It has **pink lips** and a nose. The **eyes** are colored in **bright dark or light brown**.
- The powerful and **long tail** is **light brown with a creamy white tip**.
- They have short, round ears, a broadened hand with an **expanded inner paw for gripping**, and **large, powerful claws** used for gripping tree bark and branches.
- They are typically **solitary** animals, being seen only rarely in pairs during the breeding season.
- Instead of running, it frequently **freezes or flattens itself against the tree stem when threatened**.

Giant Malabar Squirrel Conservation Status

It is classified as '**Least Concern**' under the IUCN Red List.

Source: **SM**

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