

Caspian Cobra

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Caspian Cobra Latest News

In an intriguing development with respect to wildlife, a rare Caspian Cobra has been recently spotted in the Upper Forest Range of Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh.

About Caspian Cobra

- The Caspian cobra, also called the **Central Asian cobra**, **ladle snake**, **Oxus cobra**, or **Russian cobra**, is a species of **venomous snake** in the family Elapidae.
- It is the **most venomous cobra** in the world.
- Scientific Name: *Naja oxiana*

Caspian Cobra Habitat and Distribution

- It is **native to Central Asia**.
- It is found in parts of **Turkmenistan**, **Uzbekistan**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Tajikistan**, the Fergana Valley, north and east **Afghanistan**, northeastern **Iran**, the northern half of **Pakistan** from the **Kashmir region east to the**

state of Himachal Pradesh in India, and in southwestern Tajikistan.

- It thrives in arid and semi-arid regions, including rocky hillsides and scrublands.

Caspian Cobra Features

- It averages **1-1.2 metres**, with a maximum known length of 175 cm, making it **slightly shorter than the Indian cobra** (max 2.2 metres).
- Its body is **slender, uniformly thick** from head to midbody, and ends with a **medium-length tail**.
- It has **long cervical ribs** capable of **expansion to form a hood**. It has **no hood marking**, just a plain colour instead.
- When threatened, it will spread its hood to appear larger and more intimidating.
- Its **coloration** can vary from **light brown to dark brown or even black**, sometimes with a **faint banding pattern**.
- The belly is usually lighter, ranging from cream to light yellow.
- Its head is large, as broad as the neck, and has a rounded snout.

Caspian Cobra Conservation Status

It is classified as '**Near Threatened**' under the IUCN Red List.

News: **ETVB**

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

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