

Sambar Deer

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Sambar Deer Latest News

The Wildlife Wing of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department recently recorded the presence of sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) in high-altitude protected areas of Chamba district through camera traps for the first time.

About Sambar Deer

- It is a **large deer native to the Indian Subcontinent, southern China and Southeast Asia.**
- Scientific Name: *Rusa unicolor*
- **Several races** of sambar are recognized, among them the **large Indian sambar** and the **smaller Malayan sambar.**

Sambar Deer Habitat and Distribution

- They are native to **India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Sri Lanka, Burma, the Philippines, southern China, Taiwan, Borneo, Malaysia, Sumatra, and Java.**
- Sambars inhabit both **gently sloping and steep forested hillsides.**

- They reside **preferably near cultivated areas**, such as gardens and plantations, in order to acquire food, but are **also found in thick forests, swamp forests, and open scrub**.

Sambar Deer Features

- A **large**, relatively **long-tailed** deer, it stands 1.2–1.4 m (47–55 inches) at the shoulder.
- It is the **largest oriental deer**, with some adult males reaching 550 kg in weight.
- Its body is covered with a **hairy coat** that is colored **yellowish brown to dark gray**.
- Its **underside** is usually **dark or chestnut in color**.
- Its **hairs are generally long** and **more so around the neck particularly in males**.
- It has a **long black tail**. The **underside of this tail** is usually **white** in color.
- **Males have antlers** and tend to be **heavier and darker**. Their antlers can grow up to 42 inches long and have **3 or 4 tines (points)** and are **shed periodically**.

Sambar Deer Conservation Status

It is classified as '**Vulnerable**' under the IUSN Red List

Source: **TI**

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