

Key Facts about Bharal and Himalayan Ibex

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About Bharal:

- The bharal, also called the **blue sheep**, is a **caprine native to the high Himalayas**.
- Scientific Name: *Pseudois nayaur*
- It is the only member of the genus *Pseudois*.
- **Distribution:** It occurs in **India, Bhutan, China** (in Gansu, Ningxia, Sichuan, Tibet, and Inner Mongolia), **Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan**.
- **Features:**
 - These **medium-sized caprids** are 115 to 165 cm (45 to 65 in) long along the head and body, with a tail of 10 to 20 cm (3.9 to 7.9 in).
 - They stand 69 to 91 cm (27 to 36 in) high at the shoulder.
 - **Males are slightly larger** than females.
 - The **short, dense coat** is **slate grey in colour**, sometimes **with a bluish shine**. The **underparts and back** of the **legs are white**, while the chest and fronts of the legs are black.

- It has **horns that grow upwards, curve out**, and then towards the back, somewhat like an upside-down.
- Bharal are **active throughout the day**, alternating between feeding and resting on the grassy mountain slopes.

- **Conservation Status:**

- **IUCN Red List: Least Concern**
- **Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule 1**

About Himalayan Ibex:

- It is a **subspecies of the Siberian ibex** that is **native to the Himalayan region** of **India, Pakistan, Tibet, and Nepal**.
 - **Ibex** is any of several sure-footed, **sturdy wild goats** of the genus *Capra* in the family Bovidae that are found in the **mountains of Europe, Asia, and northeastern Africa**.
- Scientific Name: *Capra sibirica hemalayanus*
- They inhabit the **high-altitude regions of the Himalayas**, including the Trans-Himalayan region, where they can be found at elevations between **3,000 and 5,800 meters**.
- It is found in several parts of India, primarily in the states of **Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand**.
- **Features:**

An adult ibex weighs about 90 kgs, and stands around 40 inches tall, with **huge curved horns**. Males are larger than females.

- The **horns have notches on the front**, and **grow each year**.
- They have a **light brown to reddish-brown coat**, with a **white belly** and black and white markings on their legs.
- Their **coat is thick and woolly in winter**, and **shed in early summer**.
- **The colour** ranges from **pale brown to dark brown**, with a darker dorsal stripe.
- They are **usually found in small herds**, sometimes around 50 together.
- They can run at a **speed of up to 50 km/h**.
- **Conservation Status:**

IUCN Red List: Near Threatened

Q1: What is IUCN?

The International Union for Conservation of Nature is a global organization composed of governments, NGOs, scientists, and experts dedicated to conserving nature and promoting sustainability. Its primary role involves assessing the conservation status of species, providing data and analysis on the state of biodiversity worldwide, and offering guidance and frameworks for conservation efforts.

Source: [Census exercise begins in Himachal's cold desert Lahaul & Spiti district to estimate blue sheep, Himalayan ibex](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/bharal-and-himalayan-ibex/>

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