

Tibetan Antelope

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Tibetan Antelope Latest News

Recently, a New Delhi court has convicted an art gallery owner for attempting to illegally export Shahtoosh shawls – made Tibetan Antelope.

About Tibetan Antelope

- The Tibetan antelope or chiru (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) is a **medium-sized antelope**.
- **Appearance**
 - **Male** Tibetan antelopes are **significantly larger than females**, and can also be readily distinguished by the presence of horns and by black stripes on the legs, both of which the females lack.
 - The **fur of** Tibetan antelopes is distinctive, and **consists of long guard hair** and a silky undercoat of shorter fibers
- : They inhabit open **alpine, montane valleys**, and cold steppe environments with sparse vegetation cover.

- **Distribution:** They are found almost entirely in China, where they **inhabit Tibet**, southern Xinjiang, and western Qinghai; a few are also **found across the border in Chang Thang, Ladakh, India**.
- **Migration:** They are a **migratory species**, often travelling as much as 400 kilometres between their summer and winter grounds.
- **Diet:** They are **herbivores** (folivores, graminivores) and feed on forbs, grasses, herbs, shrubland, and sedges.

Conservation Status of Tibetan Antelope

- **IUCN Red List:** Near Threatened
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

What are Shahtoosh Shawls?

- These are made from the **hair of the Tibetan Antelope**.
- It offers high levels of smoothness and warmth, Shahtoosh shawls became a highly expensive commodity.
- The Shahtoosh shawl trade has been **banned globally since 1975 under CITES**.

Source: **PIB**

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