



Declining Hangul Population

The **Hangul** (or Kashmiri Stag) **population monitoring exercise** has revealed an alarming decline in the fawn-hind and stag-hind ratio of the hangul population in **Kashmir**.

- Exercise was conducted by the **Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir (DWLP)** in collaboration with the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**.
- **Fawn** is a young deer in its **first year** and **Hind** is a female **deer**, over **three years old** and her counterpart, the **mature male**, is called a **stag**.
- The male-female and fawn-female ratios, is crucial for the management and conservation of deer populations.
- Although hangul is limited to the **Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary** near Srinagar, but a small population has also been witnessed in **Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary** in south Kashmir.
- The Kashmir stag is the **state animal** of Jammu and Kashmir and is the only surviving species of **red deer** in India.

Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary

- Dachigam (stands for 'ten villages') National Park is located about 22 Kilometers from Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Fauna:** The main animal species that Dachigam is most famous for is the hangul, or the Kashmir stag.
- **Flora:** floral wealth of the park is extremely diverse and a significant part of its ecosystem and includes walnut, apricot, apple, pear, and wild cherry, plum, chestnut, willow, oak and birch trees.

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