



## Blackbuck Killed in Sirsa | Haryana | 26 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, a [blackbuck poaching](#) incident in **Jandwala Bishnoiyan village, Sirsa district**, has outraged [the Bishnoi community](#).

- The community, known for its commitment to [wildlife conservation](#), is demanding **stronger action to safeguard endangered species** and prevent further poaching.

### Key Points

- **About the Incident:**
  - On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, the **carcass of a five-year-old male blackbuck was found** with cut marks, indicating poaching.
  - Veterinary surgeon conducted the post-mortem, identifying a punctured wound as evidence of poaching.
    - Other animals, such as a [nilgai](#) and calves, might have also been poached in the area.
- **Conservation Concerns:**
  - Local conservationists are alarmed by the declining blackbuck population in the region.
  - **The Akhil Bhartiya Jeev Raksha Bishnoi Sabha**, highlighted the **impact of de-notification of sanctuaries in 2017** on wildlife in villages like **Jandwala Bishnoiyan, Ganga, and Bhaukhera**.
  - [Blackbucks and chinkara deer](#) populations have significantly decreased since de-notification.
  - A case has been registered under **Sections 9, 39, 49, 51, and 54** of [the Wildlife Protection Act 1972](#).

### Blackbucks

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#### ▪ About:

- The Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), or the **Indian Antelope**, is a species of antelope native to India and Nepal.
  - It is widespread in **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha**, and other areas throughout peninsular India.
- It is considered as the **epitome of grassland**.
- The **blackbuck is a diurnal antelope** (active mainly during the day).

#### ▪ Recognition:

- It has been **declared as the State Animal of Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh**.

#### ▪ Cultural Importance:

- It is a **symbol of purity for Hinduism** as its skin and horns are regarded as sacred objects. For **Buddhism**, it is a **symbol of good luck**.

#### ▪ Protection Status:

- **Wildlife Protection Act 1972**: Schedule I
- **IUCN Status**: Least Concern
- **CITES**: Appendix III

#### ▪ Threat:

- Habitat Fragmentation, **Deforestation**, **Natural Calamities**, Illegal Hunting.

#### ▪ Related Protected Areas:

- Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary - Gujarat
- Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary - Tamil Nadu
- In 2017, the Uttar Pradesh State Government approved the plan of setting up the **Blackbuck Conservation Reserve** in the trans-Yamuna belt near Prayagraj. It **would be the first conservation reserve dedicated to the blackbuck**.
- **Tal Chhapar Sanctuary**- Rajasthan

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**Geospatial Survey to Combat Illegal Mining | Haryana | 26 Dec 2024**

**Why in News?**

- Recently, **Haryana** has ordered a [geospatial survey of the Aravallis near the Rajasthan border](#). The survey will **demarcate banned mining areas** in Haryana and identify licensed mines in Rajasthan to [curb illegal mining](#).

## Key Points

- **About the Survey:**
  - Conducted by **Haryana Space Applications Centre (HARSAC)**, the survey aims to **define the jurisdiction of Haryana and Rajasthan over various hills** and update revenue records.
- **Addressing Jurisdictional Issues:**
  - **Illegal mining** mafias exploit the jurisdictional ambiguity over the Aravalli hills.
  - The **Enforcement Bureau registered an [First Information Report \(FIR\)](#)** for the illegal mining of 6,000 metric tonnes of hill in Rava village.
- **Illegal Mining:**
  - **About:**
    - Illegal mining is the extraction of minerals, ores, or other valuable resources from land or water bodies **without the necessary permits, licenses, or regulatory approvals** from government authorities.
    - It can also involve the violation of environmental, labor, and safety standards.
  - **Issues:**
    - **Environmental Degradation:**
      - It can lead to deforestation, soil erosion, and water pollution and can result in the **destruction of habitats for [wildlife](#)**, which can have serious ecological consequences.
    - **Hazards:**
      - Illegal mining often involves the **use of hazardous chemicals such as [mercury](#) and [cyanide](#)**, which can pose serious **health risks to miners** and nearby communities.
    - **Loss of Revenue:**
      - It can lead to a **loss of [revenue](#) for governments** as miners may not pay appropriate taxes and royalties.
      - This can have significant economic impacts, particularly in countries where natural resources are a major source of revenue.
    - **Human Rights Violations:**
      - Illegal mining can also result in **[human rights violations](#)**, including forced labor, child labor, and exploitation of vulnerable populations.

## The Aravallis

- **About:**
  - The Aravalli Range extends from Gujarat to Delhi through Rajasthan, 692 km in length and varies between 10 to 120 km in width.
    - The range acts as a natural green wall, **with 80% located in Rajasthan and 20% in Haryana, Delhi, and Gujarat.**
  - The Aravalli mountains are divided into two main ranges - **the Sambhar Sirohi Range and the Sambhar Khetri Range in Rajasthan**, where their extension is about 560 km.
  - It serves as an **ecotone** between the [Thar Desert](#) and [the Gangetic Plain](#).
    - Ecotones are areas where **two or more ecosystems, biological communities, or biotic regions meet.**
  - **Gurusikhar (Rajasthan)**, the highest peak in the range, reaches an elevation of 1,722 meters.
- **Significance of Aravallis:**
  - The Aravallis **prevent the Thar Desert from encroaching** on the Indo-Gangetic plains, historically serving as a catchment for rivers and plains.
  - The range **supports 300 native plant species**, 120 bird species, and exclusive animals like jackals and mongooses.
  - During [monsoons](#), the Aravallis **direct monsoon clouds eastward**, benefiting sub-

Himalayan rivers and North Indian plains. In winter, they **shield fertile valleys from cold westerly winds.**

- The range **aids in groundwater replenishment** by absorbing rainwater, thus reviving groundwater levels.
- The Aravallis act as the **“lungs” for Delhi-NCR**, mitigating some effects of the **region's severe air pollution.**

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## State Level Awards on Good Governance Day | Haryana | 26 Dec 2024

### Why In News?

Recently, **state-level awards** were organised on [Good Governance Day](#) in Gurugram district of Haryana.

### Key Points

- **Top Performing Districts in Haryana:**
  - **Kaithal secured the first position** among top-performing districts in Haryana.
  - **Fatehabad and Jhajjar** were placed **second and third.**
- **State Flagship Scheme Awards:**
  - **Mukhya Mantri Shehri Awas Yojana:**
    - [Mukhya Mantri Shehri Awas Yojana](#) secured top honours in the category.
    - It was launched to fulfill the **housing aspirations of poor families**, to provide housing for every impoverished individual.
    - Under the state scheme, **15,250 beneficiaries were given land plot allotment** certificates.
  - **Tohana Paddy Stubble Management Project:**
    - [The Crop Residue Management scheme](#) was placed second in the category.
    - This is aimed at making the **collection and storage of crop residues more convenient.** Additionally, officials are working on establishing partnerships with industries to purchase these crop residues.
  - **Haryana Project Monitoring System (HPMS) Portal:**
    - **HPMS Portal** secured the third prize.
    - It is a **web-based information Dashboard** which will help to **monitor and evaluate the implementation progress** of infrastructure-based projects
  - **Ambala Municipal Corporation's Initiatives:**
    - **Monthly Pass System** and awarded fourth prize.
- **Special Departmental Awards:**
  - **Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam:**
    - Recognized for its **waiver of monthly minimum charges scheme.**
  - **NIPUN Haryana Mission Monitoring System:**
    - Awarded second prize under [Haryana Shiksha Paroyojna Parishad.](#)

### Good Governance Day

- It is celebrated on **25<sup>th</sup> December** to raise awareness among citizens about **government accountability and effective administration.**
  - The **theme** for 2024 is **“India's Path to a Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens through Good Governance and Digitalisation.”**

- It was started in the year **2014** to honor the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- The birth anniversary of **Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya** is also observed on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

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