



# STATE ANIMALS OF INDIA

## Rajasthan-Chinkara

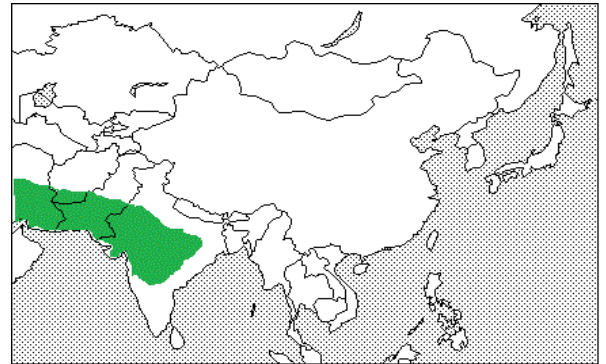
### Introduction

Also known as **The Indian Gazelle**, it is the **state animal of Rajasthan**. They live in dry deciduous forests, open woodlands, and dry areas such as sand dunes, semi arid deserts and arid valleys. Indian Gazelles are speedy and quick but shy and terrified by humans at the same time. They have been generally observed in small herds, the usual group size being three.

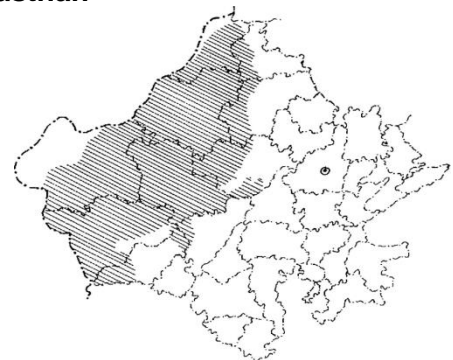


The word 'gazelle' is taken from Arabian language meaning 'loveable'.

**Map of Chinkara distribution in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Western and Central India**



**Distribution of Chinkara in Thar region, Rajasthan**



#### Did You Know?

The male Chinkara has curved and ringed horns while the female has smaller irregular shaped horns contributing to the solitary antelope of India where both sexes have horns.

Male Chinkaras are territorial and dominate area of about 200 meters in diameter. These are separated by fecal piles used repeatedly by them to indicate territorial rights.

## Characteristics

- ❖ Light chestnut in color, with white ventral region.
- ❖ Dark stripes on face with a noticeable nose spot. In summer, the fur is reddish-buff in color while in winters, it has dark grayish sandy color with white torso.
- ❖ Height is 65 centimeters at the shoulder and weighs 23 kg.
- ❖ Feed on grass, leaves and wild fruits.
- ❖ Natural lifetime of Indian Gazelles is 12-15 years.
- ❖ Female Indian Gazelles may give birth yearly. There are two reproduction period-at the end of monsoon season and in late spring. Gestation period lasts for 5 to 6 months and generally give birth to one calf.



## Current status

- ✓ **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** listed Chinkara under the **Red List of Threatened Species**. IUCN's 2001 data shows that there are about 80, 000 of these in the Thar Desert region.
- ✓ Studies of Dr. Sumit Dookia, a biologist, shows a 43% decline in Chinkara number between 2000 and 2013.

### Chinkara in History

In B-15 at Bhimbetka, the drawing of Chinkara resembles with the blackbuck on the pre-Harappan pottery of Kalibangan and on the Harappan pottery of Surkotada.

### Did you know?

Indian Gazelles can run at the speed from 50 to 60 km.

## Threats faced by Chinkara

- Hunted for illegal meat trade.
- Degradation of natural habitat due to overgrazing by sheep and goats, expansion in agricultural areas, and industrial development.
- Stray dogs attacking and killing Chinkara.
- Poaching for trophies.



## Government Actions

- ✓ First wildlife sanctuary for Chinkaras in Karnataka at Yadahalli in Bagalkot district will soon be established.
- ✓ Chinkaras are protected under the schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

## What else can be done ...?

- ✓ Signage installation near the sanctuary to avoid road killings of these animals.
- ✓ Protected areas are necessary to keep pace with the population of Chinkara.
- ✓ Government should promulgate strict laws against poaching and habitat management schemes should be launched.
- ✓ Regular campaigns to raise awareness among local people regarding the importance of wildlife are required.
- ✓ Proper maintenance and restoration of grasslands is crucial.

Bishnoi community regarded Chinkaras to be sacred and protected them which sustained their abundance near the villages of Bishnoi community.

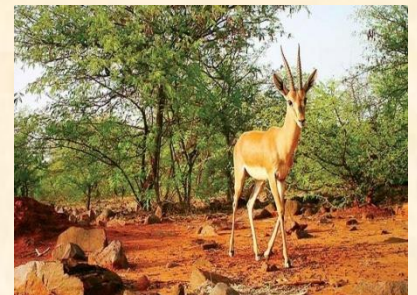
## Habitat of Chinkara in India

Ranthambore National Park

Desert National Park

Gir National Park

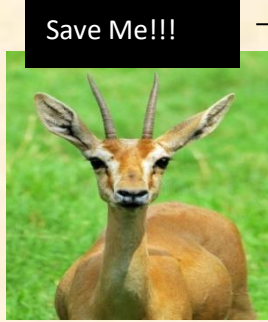
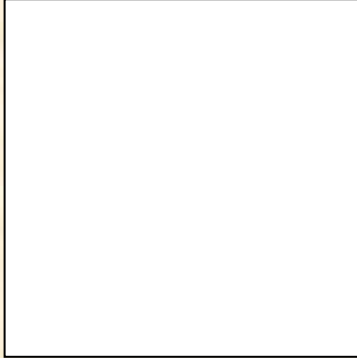
Panna National Park



# Activities

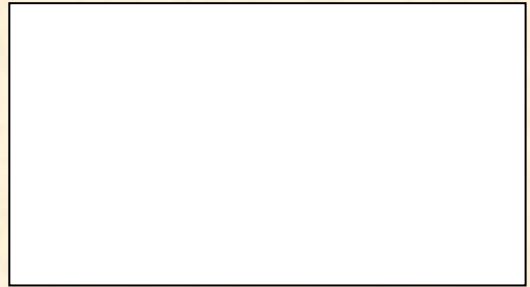
## Discover the Chinkara

Draw a poster –‘Save Chinkara’ as a theme.



## Let's Have Fun!!!

Using waste material and kitchen material, draw your own Chinkara.



## Poetry Bingo

Write a poem on Chinkara (Indian Gazelle) describing its physical appearance using these pictures.....



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## Search the words

Find the following words:  
Horns, Gazelle, Antelope, Habitat,  
Endangered, Rajasthan, Poaching

A	Z	E	P	F	M	S	R	Q	E	J
N	R	A	J	A	S	T	H	A	N	A
T	A	P	A	Q	F	X	J	I	D	P
E	H	O	R	N	S	C	X	R	A	E
L	A	F	P	G	F	P	G	O	N	J
O	B	P	O	A	C	H	I	N	G	D
P	I	T	E	Z	A	J	N	B	E	O
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L	T	A	O	L	E	L	F	B	D	G
O	S	Y	T	E	V	H	G	F	S	C

References:

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Chowdhury , Biswajit Roy. Wild Wonders of India. 2008;  
Mathpal, Yashodhar. Prehistoric Painting Of Bhimbetka. 1984;  
Young Intach (The Heritage Club Newsletter Jan-March 2018); CEE’S Nature Scope India (Endangered Elephants)  
Online resources: [animaldiversity.org](http://animaldiversity.org); [www.ecoindia.com](http://www.ecoindia.com) ; <http://eol.org/pages> ; <http://www.indiaspend.com>;  
[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org) ; [www.rufford.org/files/13.10.05%20Detailed%20Final%20Report.pdf](http://www.rufford.org/files/13.10.05%20Detailed%20Final%20Report.pdf) ; <https://tigerreservesinindia.com>  
Photography: [deccanchronicle.com](http://deccanchronicle.com); [dreamstime.com](http://dreamstime.com); [indiatoday.in](http://indiatoday.in); [flickr.com](http://flickr.com); [nammakpsc.com](http://nammakpsc.com); [yourshot.nationalgeographic.com](http://yourshot.nationalgeographic.com).