



## **Community Connect Report**

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## CHITAL (LOCAL ANIMAL FOUND IN SARISKA NATIONAL PARK, ALWAR)

The chital or cheetal (*Axis axis*), also popular as spotted deer or axis deer, is a species of deer that is native to the Indian subcontinent. German naturalist Johann Christian Polycarp Erxleben first explained the species in 1777. A moderate-sized deer, male chital reach nearly 35 in (90 centimetres) and females 28 in (70 centimetres) at the shoulder. While males weigh 66-165 lb (30–75 kilograms), the lighter females weigh 55-99 lb (25–45 kilograms). The species is sexually dimorphous: females are smaller than males, and antlers are not present on females. The upper parts are golden to rufous, completely covered in white spots. The abdomen, rump, throat, insides of legs, ears and tail are all white. The antlers, three-pronged, are nearly 3.3 ft (1 metre) long.

**Chital**



**Stag**



Female

### Conservation status



Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)

### Scientific classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Cervidae

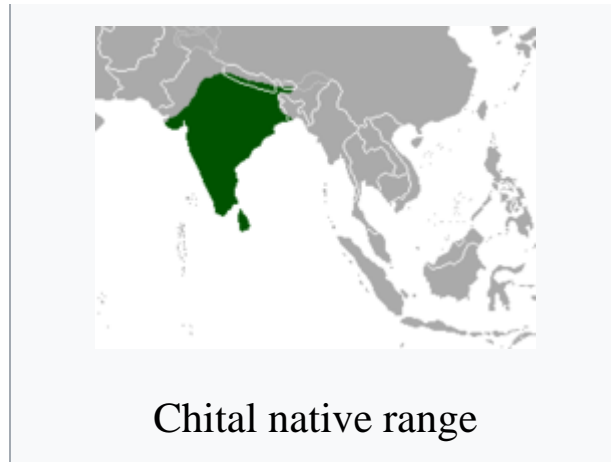
Subfamily: Cervinae

Genus: *Axis*  
C. H. Smith, 1827

Species: *A. axis*

### Binomial name

*Axis axis*  
 (Erxleben, 1777)



## ETYMOLOGY

The scientific name of the chital is *Axis axis*. "Axis" has many possible origins: the Sanskrit *akṣaḥ*, or the Greek *axōn*, the Lithuanian *ašis*. The vernacular name *chital* is derived from the Sanskrit *citrāla* or from the Hindi *cītal*, both of which mean "variegated", in reference to the spotted coat of the deer. Another possible origin is from the Sanskrit *citra*, which means "spotted" or "bright". The name of the cheetah has a similar origin. Other names for the chital are *cheetul*, *cheetal*, *axis deer*, and *Indian spotted deer* or simply the *spotted deer*.

## TAXONOMY AND PHYLOGENY

The chital is the only member of the genus *Axis* and is classified under the family *Cervidae* (deer). German naturalist Johann Christian Polycarp Erxleben first explained the species in 1777. Earlier, *Hyelaphus* – comprising the *H. kuhli* (Bawean deer), *H. calamianensis* (the Calamian deer) and *H. porcinus* (the hog deer) – was considered a subgenus of *Axis*. However, *Hyelaphus* has now been inflated to generic status. A 2004 phylogenetic study showed that *Hyelaphus* is closer to the genus *Rusa* as compared to the genus *Axis*. The study showed that *Axis* is paraphyletic, and distant from *Hyelaphus* in the phylogenetic tree. The chital forms a clade with *Rucervus duvaucelii* (barasinga) and *R. schomburgki* (Schomburgk's deer). The chital diverged from the *Rucervus* lineage five million years ago (in the early

Pliocene). A 2002 study shows that *Axis shansius*, followed by *A. lyra*, is the earliest ancestor in the *A. axis* lineage. *Axis* is no longer considered as a subgenus of *Cervus*.

The species is considered monotypic.

## TREEPIE (LOCAL BIRD FOUND IN SARISKA NATIONAL PARK, ALWAR)

The treepies consist of four close species (*Crypsirina*, *Dendrocitta*, *Platysmurus*, and *Temnurus*) of long-tailed passerine birds in the kingdom Corvidae. There are eleven species of treepie. Treepies are mostly similar to magpies. Most treepies are black, brown, gray, or white. They live in tropical forests of Southeast Asia. They are highly arborous and rarely come to the ground to feed.

### Treepies



### Grey treepie

### Scientific classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: [Chordata](#)

Class: [Aves](#)

Order: [Passeriformes](#)

Family: [Corvidae](#)

### Genera

- [Crypsirina](#)
- [Dendrocitta](#)
- [Platysmurus](#)
- [Temnurus](#)

## SPECIES

Following Ericson *et al.* (2005), the black magpie is kept with the treepies:

- Genus *Crypsirina*
  - Hooded treepie, *Crypsirina cucullata*
  - Racket-tailed treepie, *Crypsirina temia*
- Genus *Dendrocitta*
  - Andaman treepie, *Dendrocitta bayleyi*
  - Bornean treepie, *Dendrocitta cinerascens*
  - Collared treepie, *Dendrocitta frontalis*
  - Grey treepie, *Dendrocitta formosae*
  - Rufous treepie, *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
  - Sumatran treepie, *Dendrocitta occipitalis*
  - White-bellied treepie, *Dendrocitta leucogastra*
- Genus *Platysmurus*
  - Black magpie, *Platysmurus leucopterus*
- Genus *Temnurus*
  - Ratchet-tailed treepie, *Temnurus temnurus*

## SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES OF NU CAMPUS

At NIIT University, it is considered that Sustainability should be the elementary basis of all the activities performed. The accompanying consequence of sustainability can be observed right through all the actions undertaken - from the layout of campus to the research tasks managed by faculty and everything else in between.

The campus is constructed in tandem with all local environmental matters and in harmony with the five elements of nature. The buildings are aligned with local architectural construction criteria to provide adequate wind circulation and maximum relief during summers. Construction of check dams, protection of local species and systematic afforestation of the Aravalli slopes by planting over 1.5 lakh trees has ensured an ecological resurrection of the campus area. Each one at NU is passionately engaged in some of the many activities continuously being undertaken leading to a sustainable campus. Some initiatives are given below but the list is by no means complete.

- Minimising carbon footprint through Earth Air-Tunnels
- A Walk-only Campus
- Greening of hills
- Campus nursery to nurture local varieties of plant species
- Drip irrigation
- Tree-farming
- Water, waste paper and kitchen food waste recycling to produce manure
- Containing illegal mining of Aravalli hills
- Checking soil erosion through tree planting
- Building environmental awareness among students and local community

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