



BISHNOI COMMUNITY – BLACK BUCK & CHINKARA: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS : What exactly were Guru Jambheshwar's principles regarding Thar wildlife?

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

In 1998, Salman Khan, Saif Ali Khan, and others allegedly hunted blackbuck in Rajasthan's Kankani village, triggering a legal battle and backlash from the Bishnoi community, known for zealously guarding the wildlife and environment of the Thar Desert.

- **Bishnoi Community:** Based in western Rajasthan, follows 29 principles set by Guru Jambheshwarji in 1485, promoting nature and wildlife protection.
- **Ecological Faith:**
 - Rule 19: "Not to fell green trees."
 - Rule 18: "Be compassionate towards all living beings."
- **Respect for Wildlife:** Guru Jambheshwarji taught against harming animals, and the community believes in reincarnation as deer. Blackbuck is considered sacred.
- **Special Protection:** Blackbuck, chinkara, and other species are often found near Bishnoi villages. The blackbuck is believed to be a manifestation of Guru Jambheshwarji.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - **Khejarli Massacre (1730):** 363 Bishnois, including Amrita Devi, sacrificed their lives to protect Khejri trees.
 - The community continues to defend wildlife, often risking their lives to protect it from poachers.

Blackbuck and Chinkara:

Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*):





PL RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

MAKING YOU SERVE THE NATION

- Native to India and Nepal; **near-threatened** species, protected under **Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA)**.
- Males have spiral-shaped horns, and the species is adapted to grassy plains and open woodlands.

Chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*):



- Native to India, Pakistan, and Iran; **least concern** species, protected under **Schedule 1 of WPA**.
- Both sexes have straight, ringed horns, and they are adapted to arid conditions.

Source : <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/wildlife-biodiversity/the-bishnoi-blackbuck-and-chinkara-what-exactly-were-guru-jambheshwars-principles-regarding-thar-wildlife>