



Vallanadu Wildlife Sanctuary: Blackbuck Surge

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Context: The Blackbuck population at Vallanadhas risen to 300, thanks to habitat restoration under the Tamil NadBiodiversity Conservation and Greening Project.

- **About the Sanctuary:**
- **Location:** Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) district, Tamil Nadu. It is a **scrub forest** (not a typical thick jungle).
- **Uniqueness:** It was specifically created to protect the Blackbuck in South India.
- **Basics of Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra):**
- **Conservation Status:** IUCN - **Least Concern**; Wildlife Protection Act 1972 - **Schedule I** (highest protection).
- **State Animal:** Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Habitat:** They are "open forest" animals; they avoid dense bushes and prefer open grasslands.
- **Subject Reference:**
- **GS Paper III:** Environment and Biodiversity (Protected Areas, Conservation of Species).
- **Prelims:** Location-based questions, IUCN status, and Wildlife Protection Act schedules