

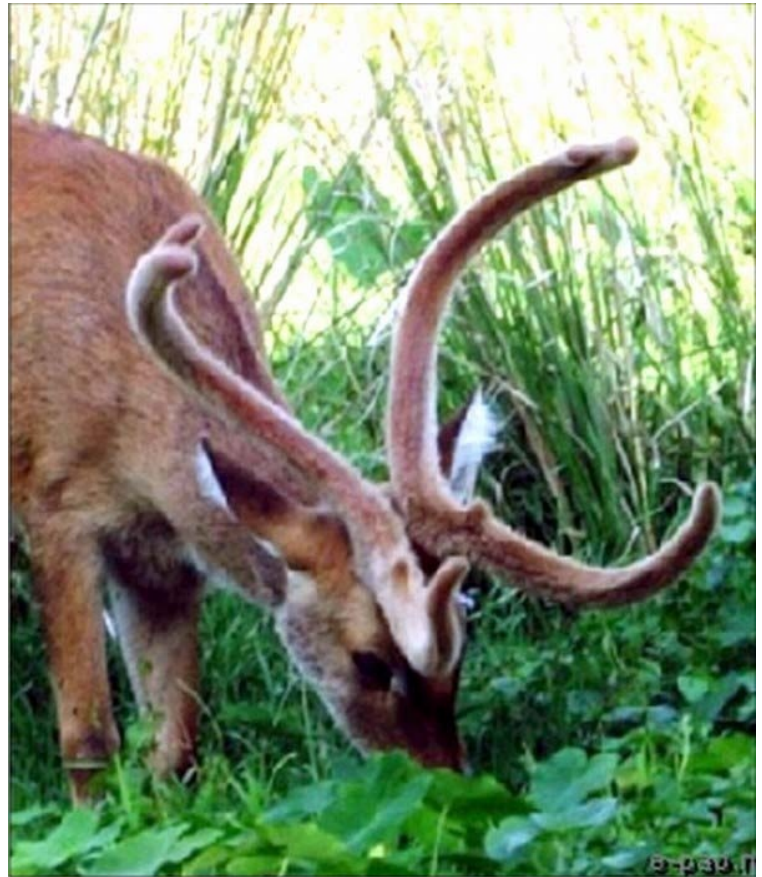
## Paragrass threatens to cut off food supply chain to Sangai

Source: *The Sangai Express*

**Imphal, June 05 2011:**

Unhindered growth of para grass around Keibul Lamjao national park, which is the home to the brow antlered deer locally known as Sangai, has come to pose a threat to the very existence of the rare animal.

Pointing out that the typical grass has overgrown and killed some indigenous plants that the Sangai feeds on in the only floating national park in the world, experts fear that the rare animal might be on the verge of extinction within five years if the paragrass's unrelenting spread is not checked timely.



According to the 2003 animal census, 180 Sangais are living in their 'last' natural home, Keibul Lamjao that links Loktak lake in Bishnupur district. Para grass was brought in to the State as it is an excellent fodder for animals. "During a recent research carried in and around Keibul Lamjao, we found paragrass growing all over the national park.

In fact so widespread is the growth of this exotic grass species, that it has killed many indigenous plant species grown on the floating park including Koubru Yai (local name)," said P Kumar, Associate Professor, Life Science, Manipur University.