



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

RAJASTHAN

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Drishti, 641, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee
Nagar, Delhi-110009

Inquiry (English): 8010-440-440

Inquiry (Hindi): 8750-187-501

Website: www.drishtias.com

Email: help@groupdrishti.in

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IVF Breakthrough for the Great Indian Bustard Conservation

Why in News?

Recently, a significant step was taken to save the **critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** as a chick was successfully born through **In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF)**, marking a major milestone in conservation efforts for the species.

Key Points

➤ IVF Success in Conservation:

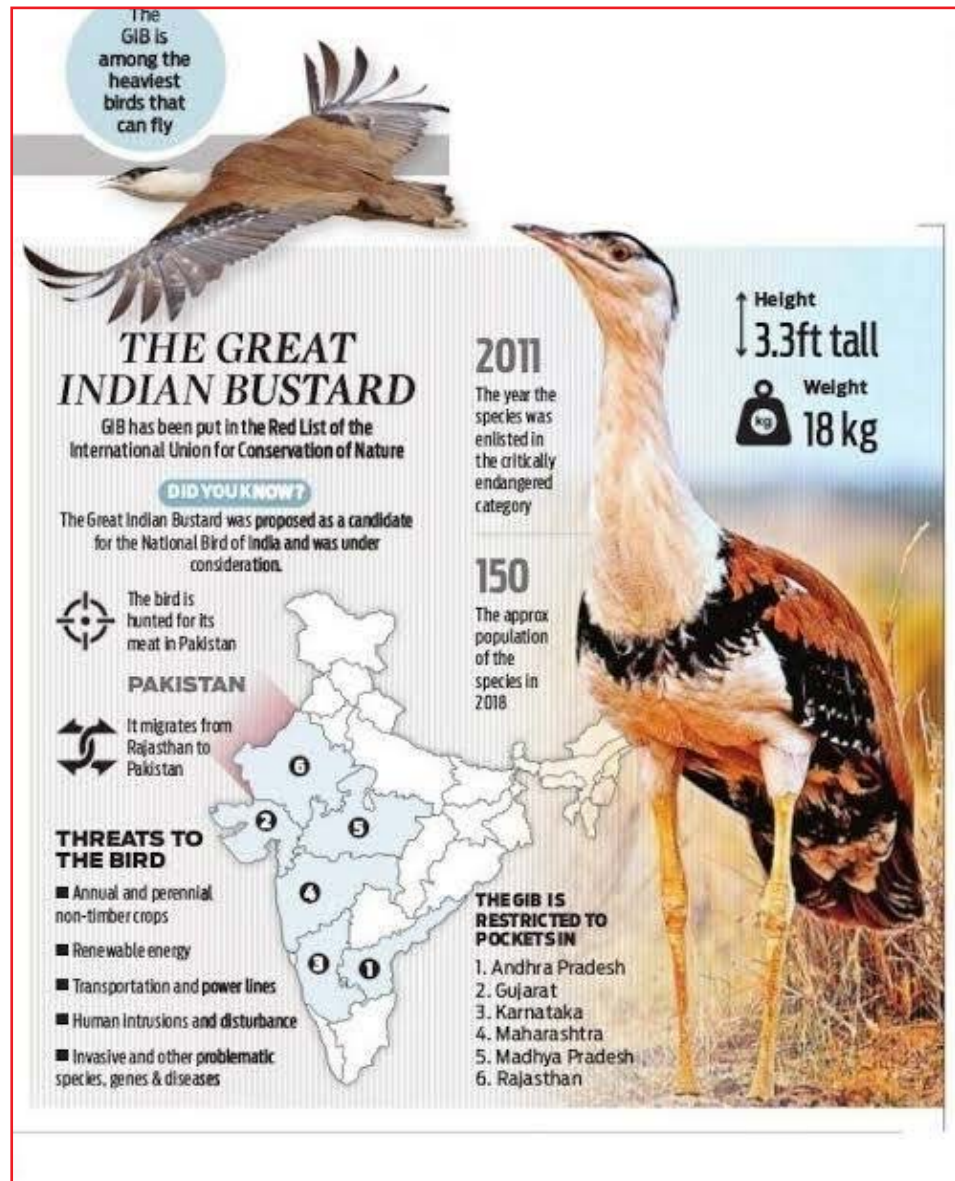
- A **Great Indian Bustard** chick was successfully born through **IVF**, a first for the species, giving a major boost to ongoing conservation efforts aimed at saving this **critically endangered bird**.
- This breakthrough comes as the species faces severe population decline, largely due to **habitat loss and collisions with power lines**.
- The chick was born under the **Species Recovery Programme** at the **Desert National Park** in Rajasthan, which is home to the last remaining wild population of GIBs.

➤ In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF):

- It is a widely used **assisted reproductive technology (ART)** aimed at facilitating pregnancy when natural conception is difficult or impossible.
- It involves a series of steps designed to allow fertilization of an egg outside the body, in a laboratory setting, before implanting the embryo back into the female's uterus. This process is now being applied in wildlife conservation, such as in the recent case of the **Great Indian Bustard**.

➤ Great Indian Bustard:

- **Habitat:** Grasslands of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and parts of Karnataka.



Note:



- **Conservation Status:** Listed as “**Critically Endangered**” on the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red List](#).

Desert National Park

- It is situated on the western border of India within the Jaisalmer & Barmer Districts of Rajasthan.
- Great Indian Bustards, Rajasthan State animal (Chinkara), State tree (khejri) and State flower (Rohida) are found naturally at this park.
- It was declared a [UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980](#) and National Park in 1992.

Kutch Bustard Sanctuary

- The Kutch Bustard Sanctuary is located near Nalia in the Kutch district of Gujarat, India.
- It is the smallest sanctuary in the country, spread over just two square kilometres. The sanctuary, also known as the Lala-Parijan sanctuary, was declared in July 1992 primarily to safeguard the endangered Great Indian bustard.
- The sanctuary is home to three species of Bustards: the Great Indian bustard, lesser floricans, and the Macqueen bustard.

Rajasthan's Land Aggregation Law

Why in News?

Recently, Rajasthan has announced its plan to become the **first state** in India to introduce a land aggregation law aimed at assisting industries and benefiting farmers.

Key Points

- **Land Aggregation Bill:** Rajasthan is set to introduce a Bill in the State Assembly, which will establish a legal mechanism for land aggregation. The law is expected to facilitate industries and help farmers.
- **Focus on Global Investment:** The announcement comes ahead of the ‘**Rising Rajasthan**’ **Global Investment Summit, scheduled for December 2024**.
 - The state government has already signed over **Rs.12.50 lakh crore worth** of MoUs during roadshows in Mumbai and Delhi.
- **Policy Details:** The proposed legislation aims to aggregate private land from willing owners, develop

it, and return **25% of the developed land to the original owners**. This compensation can be used by landowners for personal use or to lease or sell for better returns.

- **Farmer Partnership in Development:** The policy ensures that farmers become partners in development, benefiting from both the developed land and the increased value of the remaining land, leading to higher income.
- **Land Usage and Timeframe:** Private land will be used for **industrial parks, public infrastructure, and related development**. The aggregated land must be utilized within five years, or it will revert to the **Land Aggregation Authority**.
- **Land Aggregation Authority:** A new “Land Aggregation and Development Authority” will be formed to manage the aggregation and development of land. An Appellate Authority will also be created to address grievances efficiently, avoiding court proceedings.
- **Regional Benefits:** Specific regions like **Banswara, a tribal area bordering Gujarat, and areas along the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Expressway** are expected to benefit significantly from this legislation.

Congo Fever Outbreak in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, Rajasthan has reported a case of **Congo fever**, leading to the death of a 51-year-old woman in Jodhpur.

- The state government has issued guidelines to prevent further spread of the disease, and health teams are actively tracing symptomatic individuals.

Key Points

- **Congo Fever:** Congo fever, also known as **Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)**, is a viral disease transmitted to humans primarily through **tick bites or contact with infected animals**.
 - It can also spread through direct contact with bodily fluids of an infected person.
- **Symptoms:** The onset is sudden and includes high fever, muscle ache, dizziness, neck pain, and photophobia.
 - Severe cases can lead to hemorrhaging, liver failure, and even death.

Note:

- **Government Response:** The state has directed hospitals to improve vigilance, isolate potential cases, and conduct awareness campaigns about the disease.

THE DEADLY VIRUS

Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) virus is considered as biosafety level 4 pathogen with up to **50%** fatality rate. In case of nosocomial infection, mortality rate may go up to **80%**

It produces little or no disease in its natural hosts (animals) but causes severe infection in humans



WAY FORWARD

- Need for awareness programmes for people living in close proximity to livestock, people working in slaughterhouses, those handling animal carcasses for livelihood and health workers

FROM THE PAST

It was first described in the Crimea in 1944 and was found to be responsible for an illness in a human in Congo in 1956

The disease is also known as Khungribta (blood taking), KhumYmuny (nose bleeding) and Karakhalak (Black Death) in different parts of the world

INFECTIONS IN HUMANS

The regular mode of infection in humans are tick bites, nosocomial (originating in hospital) infection, crushing of infected ticks, direct contact with CCHF virus infected blood or tissue as during slaughtering infected animals

SYMPTOMS

Headache, high fever, back, joint & stomach pain, and vomiting
Rarer signs include jaundice, severe bruising and uncontrolled bleeding

TREATMENT

There are limited treatment options for CCHF. Ribavirin is the only known drug that is effective against it



RISK GROUP

Shepherds, campers, agricultural workers, veterinarians, abattoir workers, and other persons in close contact with livestock and ticks are at risk of infection

- Human-to-human transmission can be encountered in case of close contact with infected blood, secretions, organs or other body fluids of infected persons

- Training for those working in primary healthcare centres, rural and district hospitals on biosafety issues, including isolation

- Better surveillance



Note:

Roop Kanwar Case: Revisiting India's Last Sati Incident

Why in News?

Recently, 37 years after Roop Kanwar's death, a Jaipur court acquitted eight individuals accused of glorifying the act of **sati**, citing insufficient evidence.

Key Points

- Roop Kanwar's Sati Incident (1987):
 - Roop Kanwar, an 18-year-old woman from Divrala, Rajasthan, allegedly committed sati on **4th September, 1987**, by sitting on her husband's funeral pyre.
 - Thousands of people reportedly witnessed her dressed in "**solah shringaar**" (16 adornments) and chanting the **Gayatri Mantra** during the event.
- The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987):
 - Enacted after Roop Kanwar's incident, this law seeks to prevent the practice of sati and its glorification.
 - Important Provisions:
 - **Section 3:** Punishment for attempt to commit sati, which includes life imprisonment.
 - **Section 5:** Punishment for glorification of sati, including up to 7 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 30,000.
 - Glorification of Sati includes any act of organizing events, creating memorials, or promoting the veneration of a woman who committed sati.

The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987

- This act prohibits the practice of Sati against women.
- "Sati" means the act of burning or burying alive of:
 - any widow along with the body of her deceased husband or any other relative or with any article, object or thing associated with the husband or such relative; or
 - any woman along with the body of any of her relatives, irrespective of whether such burning or burying is claimed to be voluntary on the part of the widow or the woman or otherwise.

Man-Eating Leopard Hunt in Udaipur

Why in News?

Recently, the authorities in **Udaipur district** are actively searching for a **leopard** responsible for multiple deaths.

Key Points

- A leopard has killed seven people in Udaipur district, search teams from the forest department, police, and **Indian Army** are trying to capture or eliminate the animal.
- Cages have been set up in various locations, and local villagers are assisting in the efforts.
- The **Chief Wildlife Warden** ordered the animal to be shot after a recent fatal attack on a 55-year-old woman, and the hunt continues in **Gogunda and nearby areas**.

Chief Wildlife Warden

- **Authority:** The **Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW)** is the statutory authority under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** responsible for overseeing the Wildlife Wing of the state forest department.
- **Administrative Control:** The CWLW exercises full administrative control over **Protected Areas (PAs)** within the state, ensuring the implementation of wildlife protection measures.
- **Structure of Protected Areas:** Each Protected Area (PA) is generally classified as a Wildlife Division, with administrative responsibilities headed by a **Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF)**.

Tata Power's Massive Investment in Rajasthan

Why in News?

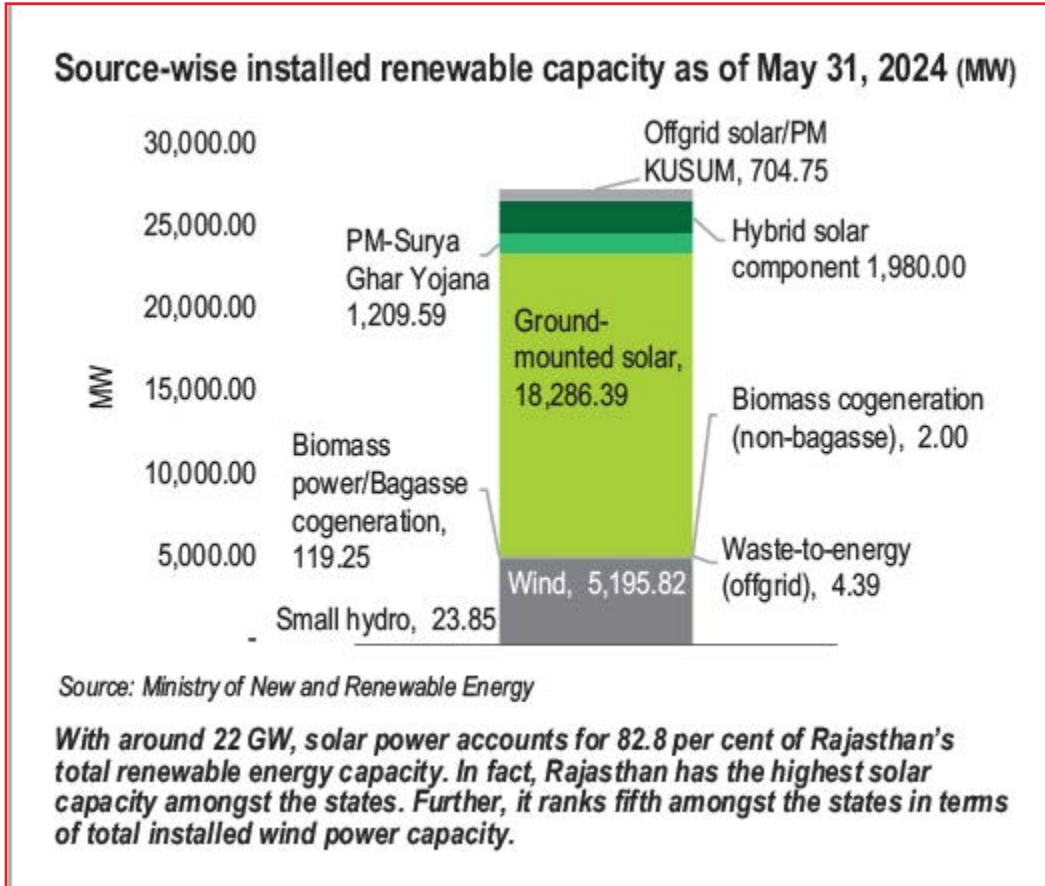
Recently, Tata Power announced a significant investment to support Rajasthan's transformation into a power surplus state with **reliable, clean, and affordable energy**.

Key Points

- **Investment Commitment:** Tata Power will invest **Rs.1.2 trillion (\$14.3 billion)** over the next **10 years** in Rajasthan's power sector.

Note:

- **Rs.75,000 crore** will be allocated to **renewable energy** projects.
- **Rs.20,000 crore** will be invested in modernizing transmission and distribution to reduce energy losses and improve power quality.
- **Rs.10,000 crore** will explore opportunities to develop **nuclear power plants**.
- **Rs.1,000 crore** will be invested in setting up **1 lakh EV charging points** across the state.
- The plan includes **rooftop solar power** for **10 lakh households** under the **PM Surya Ghar Yojana**.
- The investment is expected to generate over **28,000 direct jobs** in Rajasthan.



PM Surya Ghar Yojana

- **About:** It is a central scheme to promote the adoption of **solar rooftop systems** by providing substantial financial subsidies and ensuring ease of installation.
- **Objective:** It aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India, who opt to install roof top solar electricity units.
- **Implementation Agencies:** The scheme will be executed at **two levels**.
 - **National Level:** Managed by the **National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA)**.
 - **State Level:** Managed by **State Implementation Agencies (SIAs)**, which are the Distribution Utilities (DISCOMs) or Power/Energy Departments of the respective states or UTs.
- **Role of DISCOMs:** As SIAs, **DISCOMs are responsible for facilitating various measures** to promote rooftop solar adoption, including ensuring the availability of **net metres**, and conducting timely inspections and commissioning of installations.



Note: