



drishti

Species Included in Appendix I of UNCMS

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Why in News

The **Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican** have been included in **Appendix I of UN Convention on Migratory Species** at the ongoing **13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** in Gandhinagar (Gujarat).

- India's proposal to include all the three species in the Appendix I was **unanimously accepted** by the **13th COP to the CMS**.
- A migratory species may be listed in **Appendix I** provided that the best scientific evidence available indicates that the **species is endangered**.



Asian Elephant

- **India** is the **natural home of the largest population of Asian elephants**. It is also found in **Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar**.
- It usually resides in shrublands, artificial/terrestrial forests and grasslands.
- It is listed as '**Endangered**' on the **IUCN Red List of threatened species**. It is also listed in **Appendix I of the** Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**) and **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

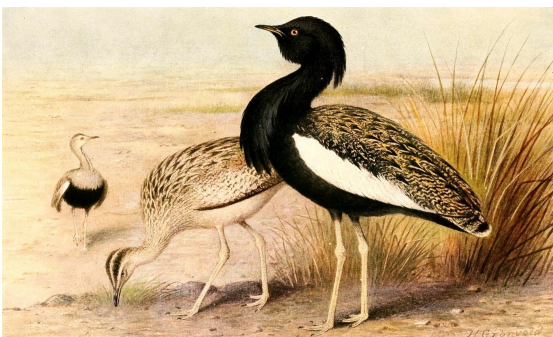
- The challenges confronting Asian elephant conservation in most elephant Range States are habitat loss and fragmentation, human-elephant conflict, and poaching and illegal trade of elephants.

Great Indian Bustard



- The Great Indian Bustard is one of the **heaviest flying birds in the world**.
- It usually resides in dry grasslands and scrublands on the **Indian subcontinent**; its **largest populations** are found in the Indian state of **Rajasthan**.
The Great Indian Bustard is the **state bird of Rajasthan**.
- It is listed as **'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List**. It is also listed in **Appendix I** of CITES and **Schedule I** of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- 90% of its population has been reduced within 50 years (six generations) majorly due to **poaching**.

Bengal Florican



- The species has two disjunct populations, one in the **Indian Subcontinent**, the other in **South-East Asia**. The former occurs in Indian Subcontinent mainly in India (**Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh**.) and **terai region of Nepal**.
- It inhabits lowland dry, or seasonally inundated, natural and semi-natural grasslands, often interspersed with scattered scrub or patchy open forest.

- It has been listed as '**Critically Endangered**' on the **IUCN Red List**. The bird is listed under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife Protection Act of India, 1972 and **Appendix I** of CITES
- It has a very small, rapidly declining population largely as a result of widespread **loss of its grassland habitat**.

Source:PIB