



Next Phase of Bustard Conservation

Why in News?

Recently, The [Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change \(MoEFCC\)](#) has approved Rs 56 crore for the next phase of the **conservation of [Great Indian Bustard \(GIB\)](#) and [Lesser Florican](#).**

Key Points

- The plan includes habitat development, [in-situ conservation](#), completing the conservation breeding center, releasing captive-bred birds, and other activities.
- The [National CAMPA \(Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority\)](#) had recommended the [Wildlife Institute of India's \(WII\)](#) proposal to the governing body.
- Plans to recover the species first started in 2013 under the [National Bustard Recovery Plan](#), which later gave way to the [Bustard Recovery Project in 2016](#).
 - Later, in July 2018, a **tripartite agreement was signed between MoEFCC, Rajasthan forest department and WII.**
- As part of the project run by the three parties, **two GIB conservation breeding centres and one Lesser Florican centre** are functioning in **Rajasthan's Sam, Ramdevra and Sorsan respectively.**
 - The team at Sam and Ramdevra built up a founder population by **collecting GIB eggs from the wild**, which were **incubated and hatched artificially in the facility.**
 - Currently, there are approximately **140 GIBs and fewer than 1,000 Lesser Floricans left in the wild.**

Great Indian Bustard

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The GIB is among the heaviest birds that can fly



THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD

GIB has been put in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature

DID YOU KNOW?

The Great Indian Bustard was proposed as a candidate for the National Bird of India and was under consideration.



The bird is hunted for its meat in Pakistan

PAKISTAN



It migrates from Rajasthan to Pakistan

THREATS TO THE BIRD

- Annual and perennial non-timber crops
- Renewable energy
- Transportation and power lines
- Human intrusions and disturbance
- Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases



2011

The year the species was enlisted in the critically endangered category

150

The approx population of the species in 2018

Height
3.3ft tall

Weight
18 kg

THE GIB IS RESTRICTED TO POCKETS IN

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Gujarat
3. Karnataka
4. Maharashtra
5. Madhya Pradesh
6. Rajasthan



The Vision

- The **Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*)**, the **State bird of Rajasthan**, is considered India's most **critically endangered bird**.
- It is considered the flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in **Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Protection Status:**
 - [IUCN Red List](#): Critically Endangered
 - [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#): Appendix 1
 - [Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS\)](#): Appendix I
 - [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#): Schedule I

Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides indicus*)



- It is one of **three bustard species endemic to India**, the others being the **Bengal florican** and the **Great Indian Bustard**.
- In the local language, the bird is known as **'tanmor'** or **'kharmor'**, derived from the root word 'mor' for peacock.
- The endangered bird is observed in **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat**.
- **Conservation status:**
 - [IUCN Status](#): Endangered
 - [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): Schedule I
 - [CITES](#): Appendix II

