



World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation Centre

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh has established the **world's first conservation and breeding center** for [Asian king vultures](#) in **Maharajganj district**.

Key Points

- The facility aims to improve the population of Asian king vultures, which has been listed as **critically endangered** in the [International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list](#) since 2007.
 - The centre is named [Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre](#), where **24x7 monitoring of the vultures** is being done.
- Asian king vultures (also called [red-headed vulture](#)) are **critically endangered due to a loss of their habitats and the excessive use of diclofenac, a **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug**, in domestic animals, which becomes poisonous for vultures.
 - At present the centre has **a pair of male and female vultures**. Three more females, who are in the aviary, will gradually get their male counterparts. The aviary is **20-feet by 30-feet**.
 - The **centre aims to ensure the good health of growing vultures and provide them with a pair**. Once a female lays an egg, the pair will be left free in their natural environment.**

Asian King Vultures

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- This is one of the **9 species of Vulture which are found in India.**
- It is also called the **Asian King vulture or Pondicherry Vulture** was extensively found in India but its numbers drastically reduced after diclofenac poisoning.
- Conservation status:
 - [IUCN Red List](#): **Critically Endangered**
 - [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): **Schedule 1**

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