



Greater Adjutant Storks (Garuda)

Why in News

Recently, **Bihar** has decided **to tag greater adjutant storks** locally known as '**Garuda**' with **GPS trackers** to monitor their movement as part of efforts to conserve them.



Key Points

- **Scientific Name:** *Leptoptilos dubius*
- **Genus:**
 - The greater adjutant is a member of the **stork family, Ciconiidae**.
 - There are about **20 species in the family**.
 - They are **long-necked large birds**.
- **Habitat:**
 - **Once found across South and Southeast Asia**, the Greater Adjutant is one of the **most threatened stork species in the world**.
 - There are only three known breeding grounds - one in **Cambodia** and two in **India (Assam and Bihar)**.
- **Threat:**
 - The widespread **destruction and degradation** of the [wetlands](#) that this scavenger bird needs to forage (i.e. search for food) and the **loss of its nesting trees**, led to a decline.
- **Protection Status:**
 - [IUCN Red List](#): Endangered
 - [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act 1972](#): Schedule IV
- **Significance:**
 - **Religious Icon:**

- They are considered the **mount of Vishnu, one of Hinduism's prime deities.**
- Some worship the bird and call it "**Garuda Maharaj**" (Lord Garuda) or "**Guru Garuda**" (Great Teacher Garuda).
- **Helpful for Farmers:**
 - They help farmers by killing rats and other farm pests.

Source: DTE

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