



Great Indian Bustard

Why in News?

Only four Female [Great Indian Bustards \(GIB\)](#) are left in Gujarat.

- According to a 2018 count, India has fewer than **150 GIBs, of which 122 are in Rajasthan.**



What is the Great Indian Bustard?

- **About:**
 - It is the State bird of Rajasthan and 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.
- **Threats:**
 - The bird is under constant threats **due to collision/electrocution with power transmission lines**, hunting (still prevalent in Pakistan), habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion, etc.
- **Protection Status:**
 - [International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List](#): Critically Endangered

- [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#): Appendix I
- [Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS\)](#): Appendix I
- [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#): Schedule 1
- **Measures taken to protect GIB:**
 - **Species Recovery Programme:**
 - It is kept under the species recovery programme under the [Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats](#) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
 - **National Bustard Recovery Plans:**
 - It is currently being implemented by conservation agencies.
 - **Conservation Breeding Facility:**
 - MoEF&CC, Rajasthan government and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) have also established a conservation breeding facility in Desert National Park at Jaisalmer in June 2019.
 - The objective of the programme is to build up a captive population of Great Indian Bustards and to release the chicks in the wild for increasing the population.
 - **Project Great Indian Bustard:**
 - It has been launched by the Rajasthan government with an aim of constructing breeding enclosures for the species and developing infrastructure to reduce human pressure on its habitats.
 - **Eco-Friendly Measures:**
 - Task Force for suggesting eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of power transmission lines and other power transmission infrastructures on wildlife including the Great Indian Bustard.

[Source: TOI](#)

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