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## IVF Breakthrough for the Great Indian Bustard Conservation | Rajasthan | 23 Oct 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, a significant step was taken to save the [critically endangered Great Indian Bustard \(GIB\)](#) as a chick was successfully born through [In-Vitro Fertilization \(IVF\)](#), marking a major milestone in conservation efforts for the species.

### Key Points

- **IVF Success in Conservation:**
  - A [Great Indian Bustard](#) chick was successfully born through [IVE](#), a first for the species, giving a major boost to ongoing conservation efforts aimed at saving this **critically endangered bird**.
  - This breakthrough comes as the species faces severe population decline, largely due to **habitat loss and collisions with power lines**.
  - The chick was born under the [Species Recovery Programme](#) at the [Desert National Park](#) in Rajasthan, which is home to the last remaining wild population of GIBs.
- **In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF):**
  - It is a widely used **assisted reproductive technology (ART)** aimed at facilitating pregnancy when natural conception is difficult or impossible.
  - It involves a series of steps designed to allow fertilization of an egg outside the body, in a laboratory setting, before implanting the embryo back into the female's uterus. This process is now being applied in wildlife conservation, such as in the recent case of the **Great Indian Bustard**.
- **Great Indian Bustard:**
  - **Habitat:** Grasslands of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and parts of Karnataka.
  - **Conservation Status:** Listed as "**Critically Endangered**" on the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) Red List](#).

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

Height  
↑ 3.3ft tall

Weight  
kg 18 kg

150

The approx population of the species in 2018

### THE GIB IS RESTRICTED TO POCKETS IN

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

## Desert National Park

- It is situated on the western border of India within the Jaisalmer & Barmer Districts of Rajasthan.
- Great Indian Bustards, Rajasthan State animal (Chinkara), State tree (khejri) and State flower (Rohida) are found naturally at this park.
- It was declared a [UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980](#) and National Park in 1992.

## Kutch Bustard Sanctuary

- The Kutch Bustard Sanctuary is located near Nalia in the Kutch district of Gujarat, India.
- It is the smallest sanctuary in the country, spread over just two square kilometres. The sanctuary, also known as the Lala-Parijan sanctuary, was declared in July 1992 primarily to safeguard the endangered Great Indian bustard.

- The sanctuary is home to three species of Bustards: the Great Indian bustard, lesser floricans, and the Macqueen bustard.

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