



## 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 **Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigricaps*)**, 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

