## World Wildlife Conservation Day

### Source: TH

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**World Wildlife Conservation Day (4<sup>th</sup> December)** serves as a reminder of India's rich biodiversity and the urgent need for action to protect its <u>critically endangered species</u>.

- **History:** Originating from a 2012 pledge by the US State Department, the day encourages global action for wildlife preservation and sustainability.
- India's Biodiversity: India, a <u>megadiverse country</u> with only 2.4% of the world's land area, accounts for 7-8% of all recorded species, including 91,000 species of animals.
  - India hosts four out of 34 globally recognized biodiversity hotspots, namely the Himalayas, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats-Sri Lanka, and Sundaland.
- Threats to Wildlife: Rapid economic development and population growth in India increase demand for natural resources, conflicting with wildlife habitats.
  - <u>Poaching, trafficking</u>, and land cultivation lead to significant man-animal conflicts. Despite the importance of <u>wildlife sanctuaries</u> and <u>Biosphere Reserves</u>, they lack fencing and face ongoing challenges.
  - While big cats like tigers and lions receive attention, **birds like the** <u>Great Indian Bustard</u> are often overlooked despite threats.
  - As of 2022, India has 73 critically endangered species, up from 47 in 2011, including 9 endemic mammal species.

# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

## Constitutional Provisions for Wildlife

#### **42nd Amendment**

Act, 1976: Forests & Protection of Wild Animals and Birds (moved from State to Concurrent List)

#### Article

48 A: State shall endeavor to protect & improve environment and safeguard forests and wildlife of country

#### Article

51 A (g):Fundamental duty to protect & improve natural environment including forests and Wildlife

#### Legal Frameworks

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

## Major Conservation Initiatives

#### Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH):

- (5) Financial assistance provided to State/UT Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife
- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme

#### National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031)

#### **Guidelines for Eco-tourism in Protected Areas**

- **Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation**
- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau: To combat wildliferelated crimes

#### Wildlife Division (MoEFCC):

- (9) Policy and law for conservation of biodiversity and Protected Area network
- Technical and financial support to the State/ UTs under IDHW, Central Zoo Authority and Wildlife Institute of India

#### Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB): Collection, collation of intelligence & its

dissemination, establishment of centralized Wild Life crime databank, coordination etc.

#### Wildlife Crime Control:

- 🕞 Operation Save Kurma
- Operation Thunderbird

- Species-Specific Initiatives Adjutant in Gangetic riverine tract Dolphin Conservation in Non-Protected Area Segment of Ganga River Conservation Breeding Centre for Wild water buffalo (2020) Recovery programme for Snow leopard (2009) Recovery programme for Vultures (2006) Project Elephant (1992)
  - Project Tiger/National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (1973)

## India s Collaboration with Global Wildlife Conservation Efforts

- 🕒 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- (9) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

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- (b) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- () World Heritage Convention
- (9) Ramsar Convention
- (5) The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC)
- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
- International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- () International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- 🕞 Global Tiger Forum (GTF)

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