



## India to Host CMS COP 13 in 2020

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The **13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP)** of the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** will be **hosted by India** during 15th to 22nd February, 2020 at **Gandhinagar** in Gujarat.

- **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** will be its **mascot for the 13th Conference of Parties (COP)** of the UN Convention on the conservation of migratory species (CMS).
- Representatives from 129 Parties and eminent conservationists and international NGOs working in the field of wildlife conservation will attend the COP.
- Hosting of COP would give India an opportunity to showcase its conservation initiatives for wildlife species.
- It will provide a global platform for deliberations on the conservation and sustainable use of migratory wild animals and their habitat.

## Migratory Species in India

- Migratory species are those animals that move from one habitat to another during different times of the year, due to various factors such as food, sunlight, temperature, climate, etc.
- The movement between habitats can sometimes exceed thousands of miles/kilometers for some migratory birds and mammals.
- A migratory route can involve nesting and also requires the availability of habitats before and after each migration.
- **India is a temporary home to several migratory animals and birds.** The important among these include **Amur Falcons, Bar-headed Geese, Black-necked cranes, Marine turtles, Dugongs, Humpbacked Whales**, etc.
- The **Indian sub-continent is also part of** the major bird flyway network, i.e, **the Central Asian Flyway (CAF)** that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory waterbird species, including 29 globally threatened species.
- India has also launched the National Action Plan for the conservation of migratory

species under the Central Asian Flyway.

## Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS)

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- It is an environmental treaty **under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme, CMS (also referred to as the Bonn Convention)** provides a global platform for the **conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats**.
- CMS brings together the States through which migratory animals pass, the Range States, and lays the legal **foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures** throughout a migratory range.
- It is the only global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes.
- **India** has been a **Party to the CMS since 1983**. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention.
- **India** has also signed **non legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016)**.