



## CMS COP-13

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### Why in News

India is hosting the **13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020 at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.

- The **theme** of CMS COP-13 is '**Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home**'.
- The **mascot** for CMS COP-13 is '**Gibi – The Great Indian Bustard**'. It is a critically endangered species (according to the IUCN) and has been accorded the highest protection status (listed in Schedule I) under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

### Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

- In order to protect the migratory species throughout their range countries, a Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), has been in force **since 1983, under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme**.
- **Also referred to as the Bonn Convention**, it provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats and 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.
- Under this convention, migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on **Appendix I** and Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them.
- Migratory species that need conservation and management or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in **Appendix II of the Convention**.

- India has signed a non legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).

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, Humpback Whales, etc.

**Source: PIB**