



Indian Bison (Gaur)

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Why in News

Recently, a case of poaching of Indian Bison was discovered using a sniffer dog in West Bengal.

Key Points

Indian Bison or Gaur (*Bos gaurus*)



- **Location:** Native to South and Southeast Asia
In India, they are found in Nagarhole, **Bandipur**, Masinagudi National Parks and BR Hills.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **Vulnerable** in IUCN Red List.
 - Included in the **Schedule I** of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
- **Important Facts:**
 - It is the **tallest species of wild cattle** found in India and **largest extant bovine**.
 - Recently, the **first population estimation exercise of the Indian Gaur (Bison)** was carried out in the **Nilgiris Forest Division, Tamil Nadu**.
 - Recently, the conservation breeding of Gaur was started at Mysuru zoo under the conservation breeding programme of the **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)**.
- **Threats:**
 - **Food Scarcity:** Due to the destruction in the grasslands, planting of commercially important trees, invasive plant species and indiscriminate grazing of domestic animals
 - **Poaching:** For their commercial value as well as due to the high demand of gaur meat.
 - **Habitat Loss:** Due to deforestation and commercial plantations.
 - **Human-Animal Conflict:** Due to living in proximity with human habitations.

Source: TH