



## Great Indian Bustard

### Why in News?

Only four Female [Great Indian Bustards \(GIB\)](#) are left in Gujarat.

- According to a 2018 count, India has fewer than **150 GIBs, of which 122 are in Rajasthan.**



### What is the Great Indian Bustard?

- **About:**
  - It is the State bird of Rajasthan and 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.
- **Threats:**
  - The bird is under constant threats **due to collision/electrocution with power transmission lines**, hunting (still prevalent in Pakistan), habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion, etc.
- **Protection Status:**
  - [International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List](#): Critically Endangered
  - [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and](#)

**Flora (CITES):** Appendix I

◦ **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):** Appendix I

◦ **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule 1

▪ **Measures taken to protect GIB:**

◦ **Species Recovery Programme:**

- It is kept under the species recovery programme under the **Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

◦ **National Bustard Recovery Plans:**

- It is currently being implemented by conservation agencies.

◦ **Conservation Breeding Facility:**

- MoEF&CC, Rajasthan government and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) have also established a conservation breeding facility in Desert National Park at Jaisalmer in June 2019.
- The objective of the programme is to build up a captive population of Great Indian Bustards and to release the chicks in the wild for increasing the population.

◦ **Project Great Indian Bustard:**

- It has been launched by the Rajasthan government with an aim of constructing breeding enclosures for the species and developing infrastructure to reduce human pressure on its habitats.

◦ **Eco-Friendly Measures:**

- Task Force for suggesting eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of power transmission lines and other power transmission infrastructures on wildlife including the Great Indian Bustard.

**Source: TOI**

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