



Asian Houbara Bustard

Why in News

Recently, the Pakistan government has **issued special permits** to Dubai royal family members, allowing them to hunt the **internationally protected bird** [houbara bustard](#) during the 2020-21 hunting season.

Key Points

- Bustards are large, **terrestrial birds** that belong to several species, including some of the largest flying birds.
- **Two Distinct Species of Houbara Bustard:** The [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) recognises two distinct species found in:
 - **North Africa (*Chlamydotis undulata*)** and
 - **Asia (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*).**
- **Habitat of Asian Houbara:**



- The population of the Asian houbara bustards extends from northeast Asia, across central Asia, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula to reach the Sinai desert (Egypt).
- After breeding in the spring, the Asian bustards migrate south to spend the winter in Pakistan, the Arabian Peninsula and nearby Southwest Asia.
- **Reasons for Decline:** Poaching, unregulated hunting, along with degradation of its natural habitat.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Status-** Vulnerable
 - **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)-** Appendix I
 - **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)-** Appendix II

[Source: TH](#)

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