



Indian Bison (Gaur)

Why in News?

Recently, **Sri Lanka asked India to translocate 6 Indian Bisons** to reintroduce them in the island from where they became extinct by the end of 17th century.

- If the project is cleared, it would be the first such agreement between India and Sri Lanka.

What are the Important Facts about Indian Bison?

▪ About:

- The **Indian Bison or Gaur (*Bos gaurus*)** is the **tallest species of wild cattle** found in **India** and **largest extant bovine**.
- There are about **13,000 to 30,000 gaurs** in the world with approximately **85% of the population present in India**.
 - The **first-ever population estimation exercise** of the Indian gaur carried out in the **Nilgiris Forest Division** in February 2020 estimated around **2,000 Indian gaurs** to be inhabiting the division.



▪ Geography:

- It is native to **South and Southeast Asia**.
- In **India**, they are very much **prevalent in the Western Ghats**.
 - They are primarily found in **Nagarhole National Park**, **Bandipur National Park**, **Masinagudi National Park** and **Biligirirangana Hills (BR Hills)**.
- It is also found in **Burma and Thailand**.

- **Habitat:**
 - They prefer **evergreen forests and moist deciduous forests**.
 - However, they can survive in **dry deciduous forests** also.
 - They are **not found** in the **Himalayas** with an altitude **greater than 6,000 ft**.
 - They generally stick to the **foothills only**.
- **Food Habits:**
 - The Indian Bison is a **grazing animal** and generally feeds in the **early morning and in the late evenings**.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **Vulnerable** in [IUCN Red List](#).
 - Included in the **Schedule I** of the [Wild Life Protection Act, 1972](#).
- **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](#)

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