



Conservation Efforts for Great Indian Bustard

Source: HT

Recently, a **Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*)**, the state bird of Rajasthan, successfully hatched an offspring through [artificial insemination](#) in Jaisalmer district, marking a significant milestone in conservation efforts.

- Official estimates indicate that **fewer than 150 GIBs are left** in the wild in India, with 90% residing in the desert regions of Rajasthan and the remainder **found in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka**.
- The Jaisalmer breeding center was set up by the Rajasthan Forest Department as part of the **Union environment ministry's [Bustard Recovery Program](#)**, launched in 2016.
- **Protection Status of GIB:**
 - [IUCN](#): Critically Endangered
 - [CITES](#): Appendix 1
 - [Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS\)](#): Appendix I
 - [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#): Schedule I

PRESENT GIB POPULATION

State	Birds
Rajasthan	128
Gujarat	10
Maharashtra	8
Karnataka & AP	10

THREATS

- Fatal collision with power-lines
- Nest predation by native predators (fox, mongoose, crow, monitor lizard) and free-ranging dogs
- Hunting in Pakistan
- Agricultural expansion
- Pesticide prevalence (food reduction and contamination),
- Grazing pressure
- Plantation of shrubs and tree species in grasslands,
- Poor land-use policies
- Habitat Loss



POPULATION DECLINE

- GIB population fell by 90% in the 50 years since 1969
- Population size was 1,260 individuals in 1969
- Fell to 745 in 1978
- 600 in 2000
- 250 around 2011
- Less than 150 GIB in 2019

Read More: [Safeguarding Great Indian Bustards](#)

