



Lesser Florican Conservation Crisis

Why in News?

The unchecked release of stray dogs from Nasirabad and Ajmer into the forested expanse of **Arwar Conservation Reserve** has emerged as a grave threat to the **Lesser Florican**.

Key Points

- **Decline in Population:** The [Lesser Florican \(*Sypheotides indicus*\)](#), once common in Rajasthan's monsoon [grasslands](#), has experienced a **catastrophic 97% decline**.
 - In the year 2025, **only one male was spotted in the breeding grounds** of Ajmer, Kekri, and Shahpura, a sharp decrease from 39 in 2020.
 - A landscape survey by the [Bombay Natural History Society \(BNHS\)](#) highlighted the species' dwindling numbers, with the lone male observed near Bandanwara.

WHY THEY ARE AT RISK

- Lesser floricans are critically endangered according to the IUCN

- They are shy and cannot tolerate human presence

- Loss of habitat due to declining grasslands



- Pesticide usage in breeding grounds

- Threat of destruction of eggs due to human activity

Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides Indicus*)

- It is one of **three bustard species** endemic to India, the others being the **Bengal florican** (Critically Endangered) and the **Great Indian Bustard** (Critically Endangered).
- It is the **smallest of the bustard family** and is renowned for its spectacular **leaping breeding display**.
- In the local language, the bird is known as **'tanmor' or 'kharmor'**, derived from the root word 'mor' for peacock.
- It is mainly observed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- **Conservation status:**
 - [IUCN Status:](#) Critically Endangered

- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**: Schedule I
- **CITES**: Appendix II

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