



Great Indian Bustard

[Source: IE](#)

The Rajasthan Forest Department named newly hatched [Great Indian Bustard \(GIB\) \(*Ardeotis nigriceps*\)](#) chicks **Sindoor, Vyom, Mishri, and Sophia** to honour [Operation Sindoor](#) and military personnel involved.

- **GIB, Rajasthan's state bird**, is India's most **critically endangered** bird. It is one of the **heaviest flying birds in the world**, and mainly found in **Rajasthan's Thar Desert**, with small populations in **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh**.
 - GIB is one among four bustard species found in India, alongside the **Lesser Florican, Bengal Florican, and Macqueen's Bustard**.
 - GIB is **omnivorous** and vulnerable to power line collisions due to **lack of frontal vision**.
- **Ecological Importance:** GIB **acts as an indicator species**, it reflects the health of grassland ecosystems. Their decline signals degradation of native grasslands.
- **Protection Status:** [IUCN Red List](#) (Critically Endangered), [CITES](#) (Appendix 1), [Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS\)](#) (Appendix I), and [Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#) (Schedule I).
- **Threats:** Habitat loss from **agriculture, mining, and infrastructure**, along with **collisions with power lines** (the leading cause of adult mortality) threaten the GIB.
 - Poaching has declined but human disturbance and unsustainable land use continue to impact the species.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Project GIB (launched in 2018) a joint initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Institute of India, and Rajasthan Forest Department
 - Captive breeding centres in Sudasari and Sam, Jaisalmer, use AI-enabled monitoring, incubators, and sensor-based systems to improve chick survival.

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Supreme Court constituted a seven-member committee to find a balance between conservation measures for the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and efforts to generate renewable energy in the same regions.

Threats:

- ⚡ Collision with power transmission lines
- 🔫 Hunting
- 🏠 Habitat loss

Generally Found in:



100 cm or 1 metre
Height

15-18 kg
Weight

- State Bird of Rajasthan
- Flagship Grassland Species
- Protection Status



Read more: [Great Indian Bustards](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/great-indian-bustard-14)