

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Conservation

Why in news?

Justice P.S. Narasimha has criticized the anthropocentric bias of imported environmental principles like 'inter-generational equity', arguing - inadequate for protecting the Great Indian Bustard.

- **Scientific Name** - *Ardeotis nigriceps*.
- **Family** - *Otididae*.
- It is a ***flagship species*** for the health of grassland ecosystems.
- It is among the ***heaviest flying birds*** in the world.
- **Population** - There are currently 200 individuals worldwide.
- **Habitat** - It inhabits ***arid and semi-arid grasslands***, open country with thorn scrub, and tall grass interspersed with cultivation, generally avoiding irrigated areas.
- **Distribution range** - Fewer than 150 Bustards are found in the ***Rajasthan*** alone.
- Small and scattered populations exist in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Appearance** - Distinctive black crown on forehead, pale neck and head, brownish body with wings marked in black, brown, and grey.
- **Size** - Males are generally larger than females, weighing between 8 to 18 kg, while females are considerably smaller.



- **Diet - Omnivorous** with seasonal diet variation; feeds on insects, small rodents, seeds, and grasses.
- **Behavior** - They are primarily *terrestrial birds*, spending most of their time on the ground.
- **Threats** - Habitat loss from agriculture, mining, infrastructure, along with collisions with power lines (leading cause of adult mortality).
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN** - Critically endangered.
 - **CITES** - Appendix I.
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** - Schedule I

To know about Great Indian Bustards' Recovery Program, click [here](#)

References

1. [The Hindu | Petition on the conservation of Great Indian Bustard](#)
2. [WWF | Great Indian Bustard](#)