

## **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 inhabit *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 exists 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

