

Lesser Florican

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Conservation

Why in news?

Justice P.S. Narasimha reviews the anthropocentric bias of inter-generational equity, arguing it may be inadequate for conservation of the dying species of the Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican.

- Lesser Florican is a bustard species **endemic** to the Indian subcontinent, is the smallest in the bustard family.
- **Scientific name** - *Sypheotides indicus*.
- Locally, the bird is known as Kharmor (grass peacock) in Gujarat and Khar titar (grass pheasant) in Rajasthan.
- **Family** - Otididae.
- **Habitat** - It prefers open, **semi-arid grasslands**, often near agricultural fields, and in on-breeding months, it can inhabit wooded lands and scrublands, along with grasslands.
- **Distribution** - It has a widespread presence in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Diet** - Being **omnivorous**, their diet ranges from small insects and critters to herbs and shoots.
- **Characteristics** -
 - They are usually solitary and shy & males and females look different.
 - **Appearance** - Males are smaller, lighter, and have striking black-and-white feathers with decorative black head plumes.
 - Females are larger, brownish, and blend into grassy habitats thanks to their dull, camouflaged coloring.



- **Conservation status**
 - IUCN - Critically Endangered.
 - **Wild life Protection Act, 1972** -Schedule-I.
- **Threats** - Habitat loss & degradation, invasive species, hunting, collisions with power lines, etc.

References

1. [The Hindu | Justice P.S. Narasimha reviews on endanger species](#)
2. [Birdlife | Lesser Florican](#)
3. [Wildlife SOS | Lesser Florican](#)