Vulture Network

Prelims – *Current events of National and International importance| Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity.*

Why in News?

Recently, an Assam-based foundation launched the India's first vulture conservation portal.

- **The Vulture Network** – It is a cloud-based portal designed to serve as a comprehensive knowledge and awareness platform on vultures of India.
- It is the first of its kind in India to build a network of individuals engaged in saving the large scavenger birds.
- **Launched by –** ***We Foundation India*** *collaboration with* ***Gauhati University's Department of Zoology.***
- **Supported by –** Assam Bird Monitoring Network, LASA Foundation, Suraksha Samitee, and Bihongo Bondhu and local conservationists.
- **Aim –** To highlight the importance of vultures and the urgent need for their conservation.
- **Purpose –** It was developed to compile scientific information, spread awareness, and provide freely downloadable outreach materials for conducting awareness.
- It focuses on the threats of carcass poisoning, harmful veterinary drugs such as diclofenac, and negative social perceptions, which continue to drive vulture population decline.
- **Languages –** It was on disseminating information in local languages, beginning with Assamese.
- **Awareness Day –** International Vulture Awareness Day, which is observed every year on the ***first Saturday of September.***
- **Moment of Crisis –** India's vultures are vanishing at an alarming rate silently poisoned by certain non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID),used for veterinary purposes.
- The vultures are pushed to the brink by shrinking habitats and toxic food sources.
- **Special emphasis** – The program specially focuses on the slender-billed vulture, which has only about 800 mature individuals left.



Reference

The Hindu| India's First Vulture Conservation Portal.

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering