

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.

Vultures of India

Let's Know Them

India is the home to nine species of vultures.



Slender-billed Vulture



White-rumped Vulture



Red-headed Vulture



Himalayan
Griffon Vulture



Indian Vulture



Cinereous vulture



Eurasian Griffon
Vulture



Egyptian Vulture



Bearded Vulture

Reference

[The Hindu| India's First Vulture Conservation Portal.](#)



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