

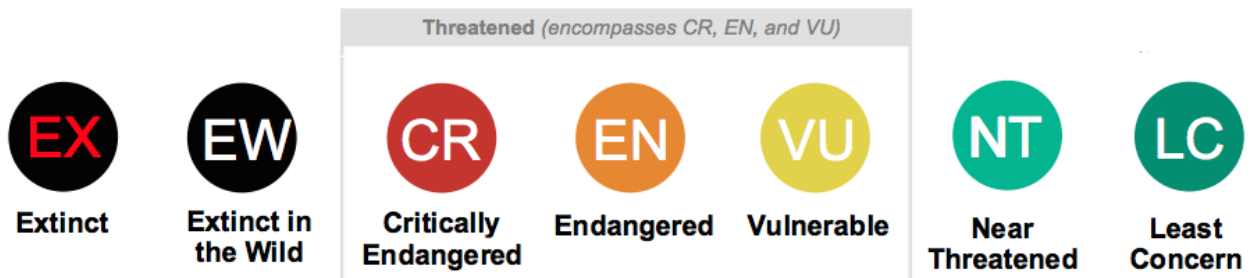
**LAST MINUTE  
PRELIMS  
RECKONER  
2023**

**CONSERVATION STATUS OF SPECIES**

## CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

### IUCN Categorisation

- ✓ Critically endangered is the highest risk category assigned by the IUCN red list to wild species. There are five quantitative criteria to determine whether a taxon is threatened.
- ✓ Critically endangered means that the **natural population of a species has decreased, or will decrease, by 80% within three generations**, and all the available evidence indicates an extremely high risk of its extinction in the wild.



### CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES IN INDIA

#### Jerdon's Courser

##### Features:

- ✓ Nocturnal bird found only in the northern part of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ It was considered to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1986.
- ✓ The area of rediscovery was declared as the **Sri Lankamaleswara Wildlife Sanctuary**.

##### Distribution:

- ✓ Endemic to Andhra Pradesh

##### Threats:

- ✓ Clearing of scrub jungle, creation of new pastures, growing of dryland crops, plantations of exotic trees, quarrying and the construction of the Telugu-Ganga Canal, Illegal trapping



#### White-bellied Heron

##### Features:

- ✓ Inhabits rivers with sand or gravel bars or inland lakes

##### Distribution:

- ✓ Bhutan, north-east India, Bangladesh and Myanmar

##### Threats:

- ✓ Loss and degradation of lowland forest and wetlands through direct exploitation and disturbance



### Forest Owlet

#### Features:

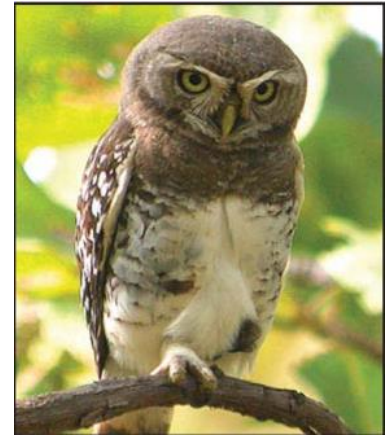
- ✓ After 113 long years, in 1997, the owlet was rediscovered in India

#### Distribution:

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra

#### Threats:

- ✓ Logging operations, burning and cutting of trees damage roosting and nesting trees of the Forest Owlet.



### Bengal Florican

#### Features:

- ✓ Rare bustard species that is very well known for its mating dance

#### Distribution:

- ✓ Native to 3 countries: Cambodia, India and Nepal.
- ✓ In India, it occurs in 3 States: Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

#### Threats:

- ✓ Conversion of the bird's grassland habitat for various purposes including agriculture



### Pygmy hog

#### Features:

- ✓ World's smallest wild pig
- ✓ Protected under Schedule I of WPA

#### Distribution:

- ✓ Formerly, the species was widely distributed along the southern Himalayan foothills. Now it is restricted to **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam** and its buffer reserves

#### Threats:

- ✓ Hunting, loss and degradation of grasslands, dry-season burning, livestock, grazing and afforestation of grasslands



### Gharial

#### Features:

- ✓ A type of Asian crocodylian distinguished by their long, thin snouts
- ✓ They live in clear freshwater river systems
- ✓ Included in Schedule I of WPA

#### Distribution:

- ✓ Once found from Pakistan to Myanmar, its range has shrunk to two countries:



- **India:** along the Chambal, Girwa and Son Rivers
- **Nepal:** along the Narayani River
- ✓ National Chambal Sanctuary along the river Chambal in Madhya Pradesh is the longest protected area of the species.

**Threats:**

- ✓ The combined effects of dams, barrages, artificial embankments, change in river course,
- ✓ Pollution, sand-mining, riparian agriculture and ingress of domestic and feral livestock caused irreversible loss of riverine habitat and consequently of the gharial

**Leatherback turtles**

**Features:**

- ✓ Largest of living sea turtles weighing as much as 900 kg

**Distribution:**

- ✓ Found in tropical and temperate waters of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans

**Threats:**

- ✓ High sea fishing operations, harvesting of eggs, destruction of nests, construction, mining and plantation of exotics
- ✓ Artificial lighting disorients hatchlings and adult and causes them to migrate inland rather than back to the sea.



**River terrapin**

**Features:**

- ✓ Also called Batagur baska, it inhabits freshwater rivers and lakes
- ✓ The omnivorous diet of the river terrapin and other terrapin species, makes them an essential part of the efficient clean-up systems of aquatic habitats

**Distribution:**

- ✓ Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia

**Threats:**

- ✓ Use of flesh for medicinal purposes, demand for eggs, which some consider a delicacy



**Siberian Crane**

**Features:**

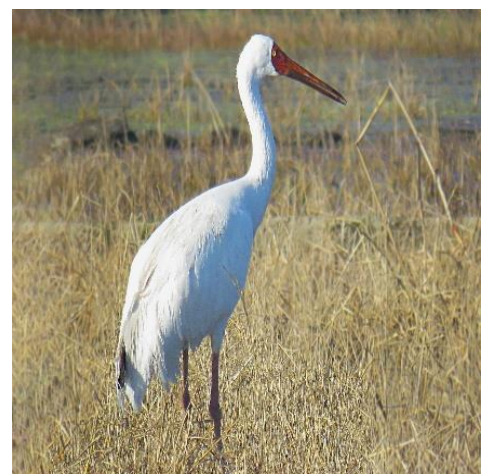
- ✓ There are two breeding populations, along the western and eastern Russia. The eastern populations migrate during winter to China, while the western population winters in Iran.
- ✓ Earlier, Siberian Cranes were observed in the Bharatpur wetlands and the Keoladeo (Ghana) National Park

**Distribution:**

- ✓ Since the winter of 2002/03, Siberian Cranes have not been spotted anywhere in India.

**Threats:**

- ✓ Habitat destruction due to hydrological changes such as construction of dams



### Great Indian Bustard

#### Features:

- ✓ Among the heaviest of the flying birds
- ✓ Also called Godawan, it is the **official state bird of Rajasthan**.
- ✓ Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, in the CMS Convention and in Appendix I of CITES



#### Distribution:

- ✓ Historically, the GIB population was distributed along western India but today the population is confined mostly to **Rajasthan and Gujarat**.
- ✓ Small populations are found in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

#### Threats:

- ✓ **Hunting**, which is still prevalent in Pakistan
- ✓ Occasional poaching outside Protected Areas, collisions with high tension electric wires, fast moving vehicles and free-ranging dogs in villages

### Malabar Civet

#### Features:

- ✓ Malabar Civet is a nocturnal and elusive animal
- ✓ The Malabar civet was last seen half a century ago in the forests of Kerala.

#### Distribution:

- ✓ Endemic to the Western Ghats
- ✓ Recorded in Karnataka and Kerala

#### Threats:

Deforestation and commercial plantations



### Kashmir Stag (Hangul)

#### Features:

- ✓ Hangul, also known as Kashmir red stag, is a subspecies of the elk
- ✓ State animal of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state
- ✓ Granted protection status under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**
- ✓ **Project Hangul** was launched for the conservation and protection of Kashmir stag



#### Distribution:

- ✓ Once widely distributed in the mountains of Kashmir and parts of Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh
- ✓ Today, the only viable population is in the Greater Dachigam landscape north-east of Srinagar, centred in **Dachigam National Park** and adjoining protected areas

#### Threats:

- ✓ Habitat fragmentation, predation and very low fawn-female ratio

### Namdapha flying squirrel

#### Features:

- ✓ It is an arboreal, nocturnal flying squirrel
- ✓ It is known from a **single specimen collected in 1981** in Namdapha National Park

**Distribution:**

- ✓ **Endemic** to Arunachal Pradesh

**Threats:**

- ✓ Poaching of animals for food from within the park, and possibly by habitat destruction

**Vultures**

**Features:**

- ✓ Out of nine species of vultures, population of **three species- White-backed Vulture, Slender-billed Vulture and Long-billed Vulture-** have declined by 99%

**Distribution:**

- ✓ Across India

**Threats:**

- ✓ Use of the painkiller **diclofenac** for veterinary purposes. On consumption of carcasses, diclofenac gets into the system of vultures, which they are unable to metabolize. Accumulation of diclofenac results in gout-like symptoms such as neck-drooping ultimately leading to death.



**OTHER SPECIES AND THEIR IUCN STATUS:**

Sl. no	Species	Features	Status
1.	Asiatic lion	✓ Found in <b>Gir National Park, Gujarat</b>	✓ Endangered ✓ Included in Sch. I of WPA, 1972
2.	Bengal Tiger		
3.	Asian Elephant		
4.	Red Panda	✓ Found in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal ✓ State animal of Sikkim	
5.	Sangai deer	✓ Endemic to Manipur ✓ Original habitat is the floating marshy grasslands ( <b>Phumdis</b> ) of the <b>Keibul Lamjao National Park</b> ✓ State animal of Manipur	
6.	Ganges River Dolphin (Susu)		
7.	Indus river dolphin	✓ found in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan and in River Beas ✓ State aquatic animal of Punjab	
8.	Lion tailed macaque		
9.	Nilgiri Tahr	✓ Endemic to Western Ghats, especially along the <b>Shola forest of Eravikulam National Park, Kerala</b>	
10.	Leopard		
11.	Snow leopard	✓ ' <b>Bishkek Declaration</b> ', by the 12 range countries, for snow leopards ✓ State animal of Ladakh	
12.	Clouded Leopard	✓ State animal of Meghalaya ✓ <b>Clouded Leopard National Park</b> in the Sipahijola Wildlife Sanctuary, <b>Tripura</b>	
13.	One Horned Rhino		
14.	Mugger crocodile		
15.	Swamp Deer (Barasingha)	✓ 'Boorsingh the Barasingha': Official mascot of Kanha National Park	
16.	Black necked Crane	✓ <b>Revered in Buddhist traditions</b> and hence culturally protected	
17.	Dugong Dugon	✓ Commonly known as "sea cows"	
18.	Olive Ridley Turtle	✓ Known for their synchronized mass nesting ( <b>Arribadas</b> ) ✓ <b>Gahiramatha sanctuary</b> in Odisha is known for the largest nesting site	
19.	Star Tortoise	✓ Threatened by exotic pet trade ✓ Included in <b>Sch IV of WPA</b>	✓ Vulnerable
20.	African Cheetah	✓ Cheetahs brought from Namibia were <b>released in Kuno Palpur National Park</b>	

21. Indian Wild Ass (Khur)	✓ its last refuge lies in Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary, Little Rann of Kutch and the Great Rann of Kutch in Gujarat	✓ Near Threatened
22. Tibetan Antelope (Chiru)	✓ Hunted for its underfur ( <i>Shahtoosh</i> ), to weave luxury shawls	
23. Black Buck	✓ <b>Bishnois of Jodhpur</b> consider the blackbuck to be the reincarnation of their religious Guru Jambaji	✓ Least concerned

