



January - 07

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Emergency was declared in New South Wales state of Australia recently because of forest fires.
- ❖ Dhoti Day (Veshti Day) was celebrated on January 06 in Tamil Nadu.
  - The state-run Co-optex desperately worked to promote the “Veshti Day”.
- ❖ Yoga Science Meet was conducted on January 6, 2020 on the side-lines of 107th Indian Science Congress in Bengaluru.
  - The meet discussed how Yoga helps insulate from diseases.

## NATIONAL

### Young Scientists Laboratories

- ❖ Prime Minister has launched 5 Young Scientists Laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ The five labs are:
  - Artificial Intelligence research will be at Bengaluru.
  - The Quantum Technology laboratory will be at IIT Mumbai.
  - Cognitive Technologies research will be done at a lab based in IIT Chennai.
  - Asymmetric Technologies will be based out of the campus of Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
  - Smart Materials research will be based out of Hyderabad.
- ❖ DRDO already has 52 labs.
- ❖ It can be noted that N Chandrasekaran Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Defence in 2018 to study the use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military.

### Setting Up of Medical Colleges under PPP

- ❖ Government Think Tank NITI Aayog released its Draft “Model Concession Agreement for Setting Up Medical Colleges under Public Private Partnership” (PPP) guideline document.
- ❖ As per various reports, Niti Aayog has unveiled PPP model to link new or existing private medical colleges with functional district hospital.



- ❖ The suggestion will address the issues of limited resources and finances in medical education.
- ❖ The model is already operative in the states of Gujarat and Karnataka.
- ❖ Also, this will help to bridge the gap of shortage of doctors & nurses in the country.
- ❖ According to WHO, there is only one government doctor for every 10,189 people in the country.
- ❖ Also, there is shortage of 2 million nurses in India.

### **Farmers Science congress**

- ❖ 107<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress was inaugurated by PM Modi on January 3, 2020.
- ❖ On the sidelines of the event, the Farmers Science Congress was conducted for the first time.
- ❖ The conference is significant as the current era is shifting from becoming self-sufficient in production to nutritional security.
- ❖ The importance of programmes such as ARYA were stressed at the event.
- ❖ The Farmer Science Congress was held under 3 different themes namely.
  - Farmers innovation on integrated agriculture and entrepreneurship to double farmers' income
  - Climate change, bio-diversity, conservation.
  - Agrarian distress, farmers empowerment and rural bio-entrepreneurship.

### **ARYA**

- ❖ ARYA is Attracting and Retaining of Youth in Agriculture.
- ❖ It is being implemented by the ICAR.
- ❖ The programme aims at bringing the youth under Agriculture sector.
- ❖ This is to prevent the increase in migration of youth from rural areas to urban.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre at Challakere**

- ❖ ISRO is planning to construct Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre at Challakere, Chitradurga district of Karnataka.
- ❖ It is expected to become operational in three years.
- ❖ The Centre is to be located in the NH-4 Bengaluru-Pune Highway.

- ❖ At present, astronauts who are the part of Gaganyaan Mission, the Human Spaceflight Programme of ISRO are trained in Russia.
- ❖ The centre aims at bringing in all the features that are provided by Russia and begin training astronauts within the country.
- ❖ If successful in the Gaganyaan mission, India will become the fourth country after US, Russia and China to send humans to space.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Breeding of Great Indian Bustard

- ❖ India made a successful world record of having succeeded in breeding of Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*).
- ❖ Barely 150 of these birds are estimated to be surviving now globally.
- ❖ It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ It is found in Rajasthan (Desert National park), Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in India and parts of Pakistan.

*Ardeotis nigriceps*

# GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD

A VERY LARGE GRASSLAND BUSTARD, DRIVEN TO EXTINCTION, DUE TO MASSIVE HABITAT LOSS AND HUNTING

MOSTLY IN RAJASTHAN WITH SMALL FRAGMENTED POPULATIONS IN ANDHRA PRADESH, GUJARAT, MAHARASHTRA, MADHYA PRADESH AND KARNATAKA

**50-249**  
POPULATION OF MATURE INDIVIDUALS, NUMBERS DECLINING

**15.6 years**  
LIFESPAN

**92-122 cm**  
SIZE FROM HEAD TO TAIL

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ON THE IUCN RED LIST LISTED ON SCHEDULE I OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT OF 1972

VOICE: A BARK WHEN ALARMED, A DEEP MOAN IN DISPLAY  
EATS: PLANTS, CROPS, INSECTS, LIZARDS AND RODENTS

GREGARIOUS, SOCIABLE BIRD. FORM SEGREGATED FLOCKS, WHICH DISPERSE DURING BREEDING TIME.

BROWN AND WHITE BUSTARD  
MALES - WHITISH NECK AND UNDERPARTS WITH NARROW BLACK BREAST BAND  
FEMALES - SMALLER WITH GREYER NECKS, NO BREAST BAND (IN-BREEDING) AND BROWN BREAST BAND (BREEDING) BIRD.

SPENDS MOST OF ITS TIME ON GROUND BUT IS A GOOD FLIER

**THREATS**

- HABITAT DESTRUCTION AND FRAGMENTATION, CONVERSION OF GRASSLANDS
- POWER LINES AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT DISTURBANCE
- OVERGRAZING
- HUNTING

**FAMILY**

- Males exhibit courtship displays by inflating their gular pouches and producing deep resonant calls. They also cock their tails and may get into territorial fights with other males.
- Females lay one egg and incubate it for 25-30 days. Chick fledges in about 75 days and stays with the mother for about a year.
- Breeding season March-September

**CONSERVATION MEASURES**

- Project Bustard
- Conservation breeding programmes
- Intense legal protection and severe penalties on killing the bird.
- Research and Monitoring: Conservation sites identified and are being declared as small protected areas.
- Strengthening protection along protected Area boundaries
- Controlled grazing
- Control repeated grass burning
- Eradication of invasive species of flora
- Education and awareness programme

TEXT: ANISHKAR ILLUMINATI, PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/ANTHONY VITALI (REPRODUCED FROM THE IUCN RED LIST), WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/ANDREW CHONCAY (OLD), WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/ANDREW CHONCAY (NEW), WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/FRANK FINK (PUBLIC DOMAIN) & GODO, GODO/CLARENCE REYNOLDS

### Conservation Status:

- ❖ Critically Endangered in IUCN Red List.
- ❖ Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ Listed in Appendix I of CITES.



### Conservation Measures

- ❖ Project Great Indian Bustard:
  - It is a Rajasthan government project launched in 2018.
  - It envisages constituting enclosures and securing inviolate areas to ensure successful breeding of birds in the Desert National Park.
- ❖ Bustard Recovery Programme:
  - Initiated by the Union Environment Ministry in 2017.

## **STATES**

### **Zo Kutpui festival**

- ❖ The Mizoram State Government is organising Zo Kutpui festival.
- ❖ By conducting such festival, the Mizoram Government is trying to unify the Mizo population in the country and also across the world.
- ❖ The event will host performances of several Mizo tribes.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **World Book Fair – New Delhi**

- ❖ The New Delhi World Book Fair was organised by National Book Trust (NBT) in association with India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO).
- ❖ The fair also acts as a gateway to the intellectual world of South Asia.
- ❖ The theme of the fair is “Gandhi, the Writers’ Writer”.
- ❖ The fair is important for the Indian market as India is the third largest market for English publications with more than 12,000 publishers.

### National Book Trust

- ❖ This Indian Publishing House was founded in 1957 functions under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- ❖ The Headquarters is located in New Delhi.

### **Khelo India Youth Games**

- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Khelo India Youth Game is to be held on February, 2020 in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ Khelo India was launched by PM Modi in January 2018.

- ❖ The games include two categories namely,
  - under-17-year school students.
  - under-21-year college student.
- ❖ Under the event, annual scholarship of Rs 5,00,000 is given for 1000 kids to prepare them for international sporting events.
- ❖ The event is to be held every year in 20 disciplines.
- ❖ All the 36 states and union territories are to participate in the event.

## SPORTS

### Chennai Marathon 2020

- ❖ Kenya's Felex Rop and India's K Suguna won the men's and women's full marathon respectively in the Chennai Marathon 2020.
- ❖ The 8th Edition of Chennai Marathon, Skechers Performance Chennai Marathon 2020 is the largest sporting event in Chennai and second largest in India.
- ❖ Previously it was known as “The Wipro Chennai Marathon”.
- ❖ It is Organized by Chennai Runners, a not-for-profit organization run by passionate runner-volunteers since 2006.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Day for War Orphans – January 06

- ❖ This special day enables the international community to recognize the sufferings and plights of orphans during world War.
- ❖ This day is organised by French organisation, SOS Enfants en Detresses.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### North East Monsoon

- ❖ This year's Northeast monsoon ended on a high, with the season's total rainfall recorded remaining 30 per cent surplus.
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recognises October to December as the time for the northeast monsoon.
- ❖ During this period, rainfall is experienced over Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh, along with some parts of Telangana and Karnataka.
- ❖ The year 2019 was one of the most active North Indian Ocean cyclone seasons on record.
- ❖ There were eight cyclonic storms in and around India—the highest number of cyclones in a single year since 1976.

