

# ENDANGERED ANIMALS IN INDIA

BY

DIVISION OF EDUCATION SERVICES

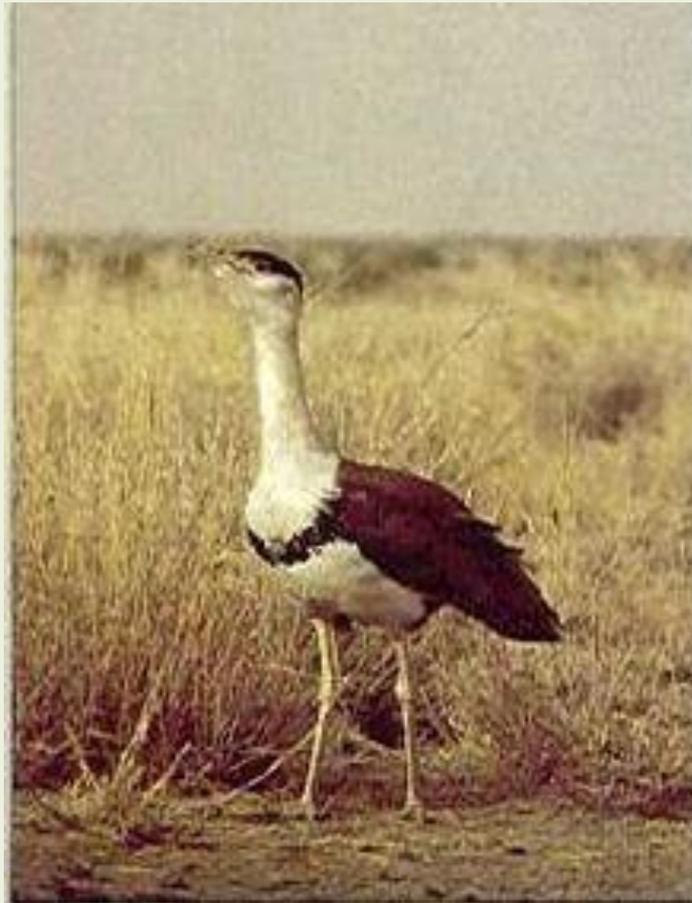
(VISITOR SERVICES)

NMNH (MoEF), NEW DELHI

# ENDANGERED ANIMALS IN INDIA

- Critically Endangered species in India According to the [Red Data Book](#) of [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN), there are 47 critically endangered species in India (As of 5 September 2011 (2011-09-05))
- The Red list of 2012 is out on 18 february 2012 at Rio +20 Earth Summit. Red List has listed 132 species of plants and animals as Critically Endangered from India.

# Indian Bustard- Ardeotis nigriceps (Vigors)Great



- **The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) or Indian Bustard is a bustard found in India and the adjoining regions of Pakistan. A large bird with a horizontal body and long bare legs giving it an ostrich like appearance, this bird is among the heaviest of the flying birds. The deep buff coloured wings with black sides, a conspicuous black crested crown, an outstretched neck which is whitish in colour and the white underparts are the distinguishing features of this bird. Once common on the dry plains of the Indian subcontinent, today very few birds survive and the species is on the brink of extinction, being critically endangered by hunting and loss of its habitat, this consists of large expanses of dry grassland and scrub. They are confined mostly to the arid regions of Rajasthan, Gujarat and the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.**

# Jerdon's Courser ( *Cursorius bitorquatus* ( Blyth)



- **Jerdon's Courser is one of the rarest birds of the world. It is listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN. Because it known only from one single site and the habitat in which it lives is also shrinking and degrading.**
- 
- **It is a nocturnal bird endemic to India. The bird was discovered by the surgeon-naturalist Thomas C. Jerdon in 1848 but not seen again until its rediscovery in 1986 by Bombay Natural History Society from Godavary river valley in Andhra Pradesh. This courser is a restricted-range endemic found locally in India in Anantpur, Cuddapah, Nellore and Bhadrachalam in the Godavary valley in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh.**
- 
- **The bird has a pinkish, sandy brown plumage with a dark brown crest and a broad, white supercilium looping around the nape. The chin and throat are whitish and the abdomen is grayish white in colour. The tail is white with black.**

# Himalayan Monal, Pheasant - Lophophorus impejanus (Latham)



**MALE**



**FEMALE**

- The Himalayan Monal secures a distinct position among pheasants due to its prominent build, brilliant plumage and strong association with local folklore. Its natural range spreads from eastern Afghanistan through the Himalayas including Kashmir region of Northern Pakistan, India (states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh), Nepal, southern Tibet and Bhutan. There is also a report of its occurrence in Burma. It occupies upper temperate oak-conifer forests interspersed with open grassy slopes, cliffs and alpine meadows between 2400 – 4500m, mostly concentrating in a narrow belt of 2700 – 3700m. They seem to exhibit clear and fluctuating altitudinal migration reaching as low as 2000m in winter. They, however, show tolerance to snow and have been observed to dig through snow for roots, tubers and other plant parts, and invertebrates. Seen in pairs during the breeding season (April to August), they form large coveys and involve in communal roosting during the winter. The population of this species in most of its range is threatened due to poaching and other anthropogenic factors. In a recent study, their population responded negatively to human disturbance (Hydro-electric project development)<sup>[3]</sup> The male monal has been under heavy hunting pressure for its crest feather, which was used for ornamental hats of Himachal men, until 1982 when legal hunting was banned in the state.

# Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone antigone*)



- The Sarus Crane is a large non-[migratory crane](#) found in parts of the [Indian Subcontinent](#), [Southeast Asia](#) and [Australia](#). The tallest of the flying birds, standing at a height of up to 1.8 m (5.9 ft) they are conspicuous species of open [wetlands](#). The Sarus Crane is easily distinguished from other cranes in the region by the overall grey colour and the contrasting red head and upper neck. They forage on [marshes](#) and shallow [wetlands](#) for [roots](#), [tubers](#), insects, [crustaceans](#) and small vertebrate [prey](#). Like other cranes, they form long-lasting [pair-bonds](#) and maintain territories within which they perform territorial and courtship [displays](#) that include loud trumpeting, leaps and dance-like movements.
- Sarus Crane numbers have declined greatly in the last century and it has been estimated that the current population is a tenth or less (perhaps 2.5%) of the numbers that existed in the 1850s. The stronghold of the species is [India](#), where it is traditionally revered and lives in agricultural lands in close proximity to humans. Elsewhere, the species has been [extirpated](#) in many parts of its former [range](#).

# Asiatic lion- Panthera leo persica (Meyer)



- The Asiatic lion also known as babbar sher in hindi. The only place in the wild where this species is found is in the [Gir Forest](#) in Kathiawar of [Gujarat](#), India. The Asiatic lion is one of the five major [big cats](#) found in India, the others being the [Bengal tiger](#), the [Indian leopard](#), the [snow leopard](#) and leopard. They prey mainly on cattle, deer, pig and other herbivore by making a short, high – speed charge upto 80 km per hour.
- The Asiatic lions once ranged from the Mediterranean to the northeastern parts of the [Indian subcontinent](#), but excessive hunting, habitat destruction, decline in natural prey and human interference have reduced their number. This forest is the last refuge of the Asiatic lion in the world, other than those protected in various zoos.

# Blackbuck - *Antilope cervicapra* (Linnaeus)



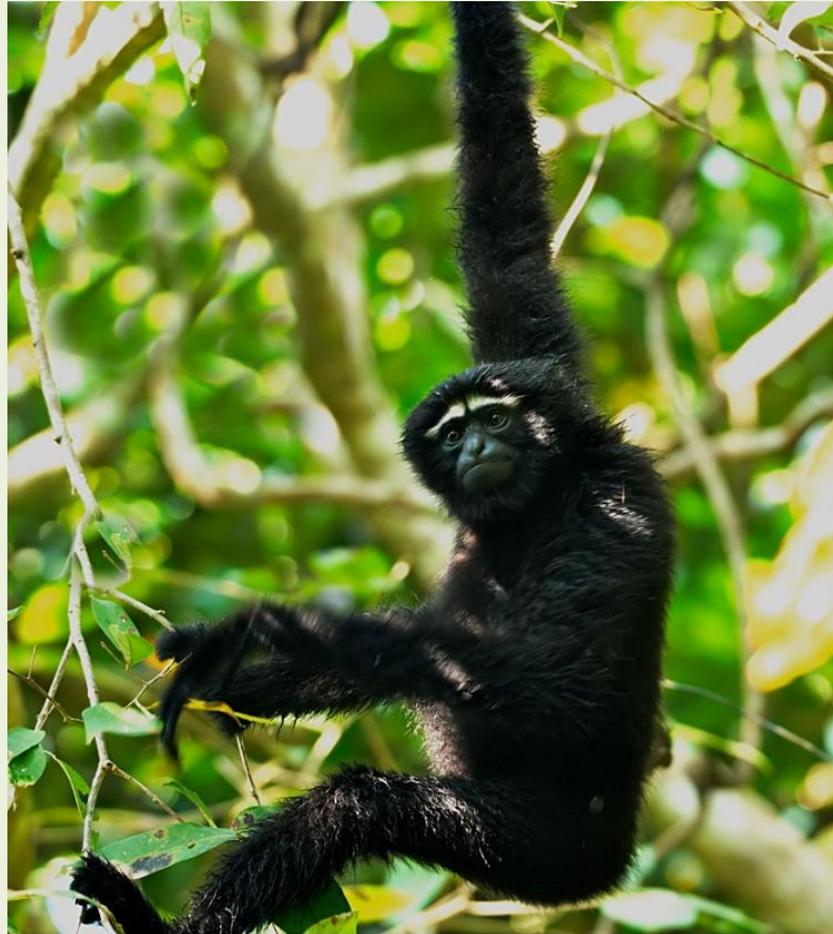
- The blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) is an [antelope](#) species native to the [Indian Subcontinent](#) that has been classified as [endangered](#) by [IUCN](#) since 2003, as the blackbuck range has decreased sharply during the 20th century. Males and females have distinctive coloration. Male blackbucks are dark brown, black, and white and have long, twisted horns, while females are fawn-coloured with no horns. Blackbucks originally ranged over large tracts of India except in the northeast. Today, the blackbuck population is confined to areas in [Maharashtra](#), [Orissa](#), [Punjab](#), [Rajasthan](#), [Haryana](#), [Gujarat](#), [Andhra Pradesh](#), [Tamil Nadu](#) and [Karnataka](#), with a few small pockets in [central India](#). The main threats to the species are [poaching](#), predation, habitat destruction, overgrazing, diseases, inbreeding and sanctuary visitors.

# Ganges River Dolphin - *Platanista gangetica*



- **As an indicator of the health of the freshwater ecosystem, the Ganges River Dolphin has recently been recognized by the government of India as its National Aquatic Animal. While habitat loss and pollution of fresh water aquatic systems are a major threat to this species, there are also reports that this animal is being killed and traded for its body parts, especially fat and oil.**
- **Ganges River Dolphin is listed on the Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and Schedule I of India's Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972. Therefore, hunting of the species and both domestic and international trade in the species and its parts and derivatives is completely prohibited.**

# Hoolock Gibbon (*Hylobates hoolock*)



- **Hoolock Gibbon is the only ape to be found in India. It is the most accomplished acrobat of all the apes. It lives in dense forests of north - eastern India. It is found in Bangladesh and in some parts of Burma and China. Its range extends into seven states covering Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.**

# Nilgiri langur (*Presbytis johni*)



- The Nilgiri langur (*Trachypithecus johnii*) is found in the [Nilgiri Hills](#) of the Western Ghats in [South India](#). Its range also includes [Kodagu](#) in [Karnataka](#), Kodayar Hills in [Tamil Nadu](#) and many other hilly areas in [Kerala](#) and [Tamil Nadu](#). This [primate](#) has glossy black fur on its body and golden brown fur on its head. It is similar in size and long tailed like the [gray langurs](#). Females have a white patch of fur on the inner thigh. It lives in troops of five to 16 monkeys. The animal is often seen encroaching into agricultural lands. It's diet consists of fruits, shoots and leaves. The species is endangered due to deforestation and poaching for its fur and flesh, the latter believed to have [aphrodisiac](#) properties.

# **Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus khur*)**



- The Indian wild ass's range once extended from western [India](#), southern [Pakistan](#) (i.e. provinces of [Sindh](#) and [Baluchistan](#)), [Afghanistan](#), and south-eastern [Iran](#). Today, its last refuge lies in the [Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary](#), [Little Rann of Kutch](#) and its surrounding areas of the [Great Rann of Kutch](#) in the [Gujarat](#) province of India. The animal, however, is also seen in the districts of [Surendranagar](#), [Banaskantha](#), [Mehsana](#), and other Kutch districts. Saline deserts (*rann*), arid grasslands and shrublands are its preferred environments.

# Lion Tailed Macaque - *Macaca silenus*(Linnaeus)



- The lion-tailed macaque (*Macaca silenus*) is endemic to the [Western Ghats](#) of [South India](#). The hair of the lion-tailed macaque is black. Its outstanding characteristic is the silver-white mane which surrounds the head from the cheeks down to its chin. The hairless face is black in color. With a head-body length of 42 to 61 cm and a weight of 2 to 10 kg, it ranks among the smaller [macaques](#). The tail is medium in length, and has a black tuft at the end, similar to a lion's tail. The male's tail-tuft is more developed than that of the female. It primarily eat indigenous fruits, leaves, buds, insects and small vertebrates in virgin forest.

# Olive Ridley Sea Turtle - *Lepidochelys olivacea*



- **These turtles are solitary, preferring the open ocean. They migrate hundreds or even thousands of miles every year, and come together as a group only once a year when females return to the beaches where they hatched and lumber onshore, sometimes in the thousands, to nest. In the India Ocean, the majority of olive ridleys nest in two or three large bundles near Gahirmatha in the [Orissa](#). However, olive ridleys are considered a rarity in most areas of the [Indian Ocean](#)**

# The Indian pangolin - Manis crassicaudata (Gray)



- It has large, overlapping scales on the body which act as armour. The massive, scaled armour of this animal, which covers its upper face and its whole body, does not cover the belly and inner side of the legs. It can also curl itself into a ball as self-defense against predators such as the [tiger](#). The colour of its scales varies depending on the colour of the earth in its surroundings. It is an [insectivore](#) that feeds on ants and termites, digging them out of mounds and logs using its long claws, which are as long as its forelimbs.

# The Nilgiri tahr (Nilgiritragus hylocrius)



- The Nilgiri tahr, *Nilgiritragus hylocrius*, known locally as the Nilgiri ibex or simply ibex, is an ungulate that is endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western Ghats in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in southern India. It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.
- The Nilgiri tahrs are stocky goats with short, coarse fur and a bristly mane. Males are larger than the females, and have a darker color when mature. Both sexes have curved horns, which are larger in the males, Adult males develop a light grey area on their backs and are thus called "saddlebacks".

# The leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*)



- The leopard cat is a small wild cat of South and East Asia. Since 2002 it has been listed as Least Concern by IUCN as it is widely distributed but threatened by habitat loss and hunting in parts of its range. The leopard cat's name is derived from the leopard-like spots prevalent in all subspecies, but its relation to the leopard is distant.
- They are found in agriculturally used areas but prefer forested habitats. They live in tropical evergreen rainforests and plantations at sea level, in subtropical deciduous and coniferous forests in the foothills of the Himalayas. Leopard cats are solitary, except during breeding season.

THANKYOU