



LAST MINUTE PRELIMS RECKONER 2025

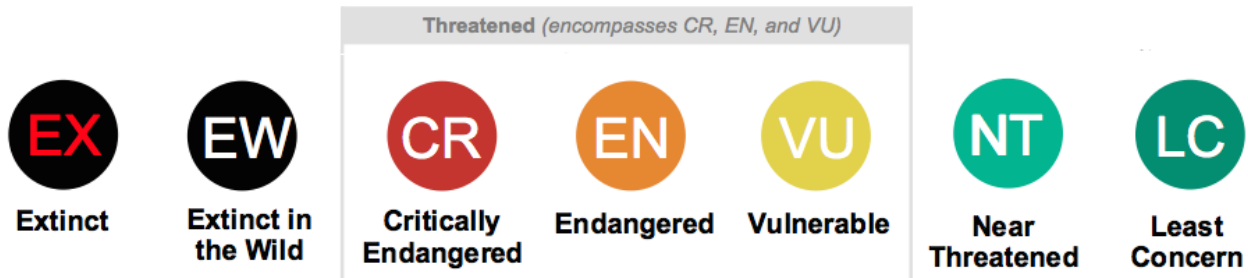
ENVIRONMENT

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED 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

- ✓ According to IUCN criteria, **73 species** including 9 species of mammals, 18 species of birds, 26 species of reptiles and 20 species of amphibians are categorized as Critically Endangered in India.

List of Critically Endangered Species from India

Sl. No.	Category	Common Name	Probable Locality/State(s)
1	Mammal	Kashmir Stag/Hangul	Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh
2		Malabar Large-spotted Civet	Karnataka, Kerala
3		Chinese Pangolin	North-eastern India, Sikkim
4		Andaman Shrew	Andaman & Nicobar Is.
5		Jenkin's Shrew	Andaman & Nicobar Is.
6		Nicobar Shrew	Andaman & Nicobar Is.
7		Namdhapa Flying Squirrel	Arunachal Pradesh (Namdhapa National Park)
8		Large Rock Rat	Tamil Nadu

9		Leafletted Leaf-nosed Bat	Karnataka (Manahalli and Theralli in Kolar district)
10	Bird	Pink-headed Duck	Gangetic Plains (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh)
11		Baer's Pochard	North-East India especially Assam and Arunachal Pradesh
12		Himalayan Quail	Western Himalaya (Uttarakhand)
13		Great Indian Bustard	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh
14		Bengal Florican	Terai Grasslands in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
15		Lesser Florican	Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh
16		Masked Finfoot	Indian Sunderbans
17		Siberian Crane	Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan
18		Sociable Lapwing	Gujarat, Rajasthan
19		Spoon-billed Sandpiper	East Coast of India
20		Jerdon's Courser	ShriLankamaleshwara Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh
21		White-bellied Heron	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
22		Red-headed Vulture	Western and northern India
23		White-rumped Vulture	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, etc.
24		Indian Vulture	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, etc.
25		Slender-billed Vulture	Gangetic plains, North-East India especially Assam
26		Bugun Liocichla	Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh
27		Yellow-breasted Bunting	North and North-East India

28	Reptile	Gharial	North India
29		Northern River Terrapin	Odisha, West Bengal
30		Three-striped Roofed Turtle	Assam, Bihar, etc.
31		Red-crowned Roofed Turtle	Ganga basin of India
32		Assam Roofed Turtle	India
33		Hawksbill Turtle	Coastal India
34		Leith's Softshell Turtle	South of Ganges basin
35		Black Softshell Turtle	Assam, Tripura
36		Asian Giant Softshell Turtle	Lowland rivers and estuaries in India
37		Elongated Tortoise	Foot hills of Himalayas, Gangetic plain
38		Asian Giant Tortoise	North-eastern India
39		Superb Large Fan-throated Lizard	Satara District, Maharashtra
40		Adi's Day Gecko	Karnataka
41		Anaikatti Day Gecko	Anaikatti Hills, Western Ghats
42		Kottiyoor Day Gecko	Western Ghats
43		Shevaroy Day Gecko	Shevaroy Hills, Tamil Nadu
44		Thackeray's Dwarf Gecko	Shevaroy Hills, Tamil Nadu
45		Chamba Bent-toed Gecko	Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
46		Cyrtodactylus	North Tripura District, Tripura

		montanus	
47		Satara Gecko	Satara District, Maharashtra
48		Yercaud Slender Gecko	Yercaud, Shevaroy Hills, Tamil Nadu
49		Hemiphyllodactylus kolliensis	Kolli Hills, Tamil Nadu
50		Madras Spotted Skink	Barkud Island, Chilika; Odisha
51		Rhinophis goweri	Bodamalai Hills and Kolli Hills, Tamil Nadu
52		Shevaroy Hills Earth Snake	Shevaroy Hills, Tamil Nadu
53		Island Pit Viper	Nicobar Islands
54	Amphibian	Konkan Tiger Toad	Amboli, Maharashtra
55		Ghats Wart Frog	Naduvattom, Tamil Nadu
56		Charles Darwin's Frog	Andaman Islands
57		Resplendent Shrubfrog	Anamudi summit, Kerala
58		Günther's Bush Frog	Munnar, Kerala
59		Green Eyed Bushfrog	Munnar, Kerala
60		Kaikatti Bush Frog	Nelliyampathi Hills, Western Ghats
61		Mark's Bush Frog	Kaikatti-Nelliyampathi, Kerala
62		Large Ponmudi Bush Frog	Ponmudi Hill, Kerala
63		Sacred Grove Bushfrog	Kapildhara Falls, Amarkantak
64		Amboli Bush Frog	Amboli, Maharashtra
65		Griet Bush Frog	Munnar, Kerala
66		Munnar Bush Frog	Munnar, Kerala
67		Shillong Bush Frog	Shilong, Meghalaya

68		Sushil's Bushfrog	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
69		Anaimalai Flying Frog	Indira Gandhi National Park, Tamil Nadu
70		Dattatreya Night Frog	Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka
71		Micrixalus kottigeharensis	Chikmagalur, Karnataka
72		Gundia Frog	Karnataka
73		Kerala Indian Frog	Anamalai Hills, Western Ghats

Source: Reply of the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the Rajya Sabha.



A Closer Look at Some Important 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 crocodilian 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:

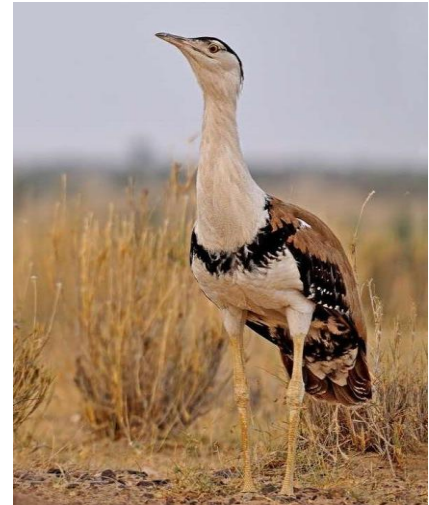
- ✓ Historically, the GIB population was distributed along western India but today the

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 Kerela.

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.

Vultures of India

This poster depicts the nine species of Vultures reported from India and their identification features along with their IUCN RedList Status



White-rumped Vulture
Gyps bengalensis



Slender-billed Vulture
Gyps tenuirostris



Indian Vulture
Gyps indicus



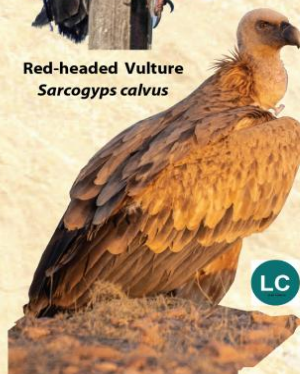
Red-headed Vulture
Sarcogyps calvus



Bearded Vulture
Gypaetus barbatus



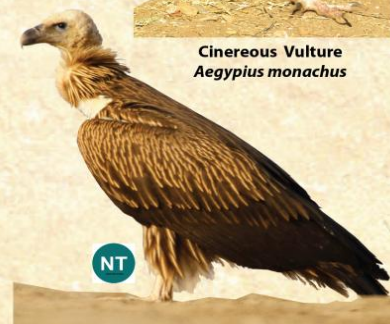
Cinereous Vulture
Aegypius monachus



Griffon Vulture
Gyps fulvus



Egyptian Vulture
Neophron percnopterus



Himalayan Griffon
Gyps himalayensis

CR = Critically endangered
EN = Endangered
NT = Near threatened
LC = Least concern

OTHER SPECIES AND THEIR IUCN STATUS:

Sl. no	Species	Features	Status
1.	Asiatic lion	✓ Found in Gir National Park, Gujarat	✓ 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 (Phumdis) of the Keibul Lamjao National Park ✓ 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 Shola forest of Eravikulam National Park, Kerala	
10.	Leopard		✓ Vulnerable ✓ Included in Sch. I of WPA, 1972
11.	Snow leopard	✓ ' Bishkek Declaration ', by the 12 range countries, for snow leopards ✓ State animal of Ladakh	
12.	Clouded Leopard	✓ State animal of Meghalaya ✓ Clouded Leopard National Park in the Sipahijola Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura	
13.	One Horned Rhino		
14.	Mugger crocodile		
15.	Swamp Deer (Barasingha)	✓ 'Boorsingh the Barasingha': Official mascot of Kanha National Park	
16.	Black necked Crane	✓ Revered in Buddhist traditions and hence culturally protected	
17.	Dugong Dugon	✓ Commonly known as "sea cows"	
18.	Olive Ridley Turtle	✓ Known for their synchronized mass nesting (Arribadas) ✓ Gahiramatha sanctuary in Odisha is known for the largest nesting site	
19.	Star Tortoise	✓ Threatened by exotic pet trade ✓ Included in Sch IV of WPA	
20.	African Cheetah	✓ Cheetahs brought from Namibia were released in Kuno Palpur National Park	✓ Vulnerable

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	✓ Bishnois of Jodhpur consider the blackbuck to be the reincarnation of their religious Guru Jambaji	✓ Least concerned

