

Species in News - Animal Species of India (UPSC Environment and Ecology)

India is home to a vast array of species of all shapes and sizes. From the Asian Elephant to the Great Indian hornbill, the country's biodiversity is legendary. This article will list out the animal species of India, as well as the National Parks that are inhabited by some of them.

The information from this article will be useful in the UPSC Prelims exam.

Latest Context:

Ladakh Union Territory administration recently adopted Snow Leopard and Black-necked Crane as State animal and State bird, respectively. Till 5th August 2019, black-necked crane was the state bird of Jammu & Kashmir. The black necked crane is found in eastern Ladakh's high-altitude wetlands and marshes and these birds arrive in March for breeding and migrate by October end or early November. In total, there are about 7,500 snow leopards left in the world, out of which 500 are in India. Out of that, the population of snow leopards is between 200-300 in Ladakh alone, according to few experts. This is the rationale behind the decision of adoption of snow leopard as state animal of Ladakh and black-necked crane as state bird of Ladakh.

List of Species of India in News [UPSC Prelims]

Below is the list of Animal Species in India, Latin name, and the subsequent locations within India:

Species of India in News – UPSC Notes

Species Name	Latin Name	Location within India/Description	Conservation Status
Oriental Darter / Snakebird	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater habitats of India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN: Near Threatened CITES: Not Mentioned Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Not Mentioned
Clouded Leopard	<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sikkim West Bengal Meghalaya Tripura Mizoram Manipur Assam Nagaland Arunachal Pradesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN: Vulnerable CITES: Appendix I Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indus River Basin • Ganges River Basin • Introduced to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix II • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Not Mentioned
Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramganga River in Corbett National Park • Indus River • Ganges River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary • Girwa River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary • Gandak River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Valmiki Tiger Reserve • Chambal River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Chambal Sanctuary • Yamuna River • Son River • Kosi River • Mahanadi River • Brahmaputra River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Critically Endangered • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Bengal Florican / Bengal Bustard	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terai • Uttar Pradesh • Assam • Arunachal Pradesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Critically Endangered • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Lesser Florican / Likh / Kharmore	<i>Sypheotides indicus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasslands of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gujarat ○ Madhya Pradesh ○ Andhra Pradesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Critically Endangered • CITES: Appendix II • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

Olive Ridley Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coast of Odisha • Coromandal Coast • Bay of Bengal • Indian Ocean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Giant Leatherback Turtle / Lute Turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Ocean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sri Lanka ○ Nicobar Islands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Ooceraea Joshii	<i>Ooceraea joshii</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala 	Not Protected
Greater Adjutant Stork	<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bihar • Assam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Endangered • CITES: Not Mentioned • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule IV
Indian Star Tortoise	<i>Geochelone elegans</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry lowlands of India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gujarat ○ Karnataka ○ Punjab ○ Tamil Nadu ○ Kerala 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix II • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule IV

Houbara Bustard	<i>Chlamydotis macqueenii</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN: Vulnerable CITES: Not Mentioned Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Not Mentioned
Euphranta Siruvani	<i>Euphranta siruvani</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siruvani (Western Ghats) 	Not Protected
Indian Pangolin	<i>Manis crassicaudata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout India except north-eastern states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN: Endangered CITES: Appendix I Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Fishing Cat	<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sundarbans Foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga Brahmaputra river valleys Western Ghats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IUCN: Vulnerable CITES: Appendix II Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

Red Panda	<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darjeeling (West Bengal) • Sikkim • Arunachal Pradesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Endangered • CITES: Appendix II • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Caracal	<i>Caracal caracal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rajasthan, • Gujarat • Madhya Pradesh • Listed as Critically endangered species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Least Concern • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Himalayan Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jammu And Kashmir • Himachal Pradesh • Uttarakhand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Critically Endangered • CITES: Not Mentioned • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Asiatic Lion	<i>Panthera leo leo</i>	Gir Sanctuary, Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Lion Tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca silenus</i>	Western Ghats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Endangered • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife

			<p>(Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I</p>
Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>	Western Ghats, Karnataka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	Entirety of Indian Subcontinent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Least Concern • CITES: Appendix II • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule V
Indian Rhinoceros	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uttar Pradesh • West Bengal • Assam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Nilgai (Asian Antelope)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	Range from foothills of the Himalayan Mountains southward to Mysore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Least Concern • CITES: Not Mentioned • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule III
Hoolock Gibbons	<i>Hylobates hoolock</i>	Arunachal Pradesh and Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Not Mentioned • CITES: Not Mentioned • Wildlife (Protection)

			Act, 1972: Schedule I
Snow Leopard	<i>Panthera uncia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jammu and Kashmir • Himachal Pradesh • Uttarakhand • Sikkim • Arunachal Pradesh • Adopted as State Animal of Ladakh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Blackbuck	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rajasthan • Gujarat • Madhya Pradesh • Tamil Nadu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Least Concern • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Indian Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus fusca</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madhya Pradesh • Karnataka, • Maharashtra • Rajasthan • Uttarakhand • Chhattisgarh • Tamil Nadu • Assam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karnataka • Kerala • Tamil Nadu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Endangered • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection)

			Act, 1972: Schedule I
Great Indian Bustard	<i>Ardeotis nigriceps</i>	Dry grasslands of India but mainly found in Rajasthan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Critically Endangered • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Himalayan Ibex	<i>Capra sibirica hemalayanus</i>	Found in the Himalayas to 5500 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Least Concerned • CITES: Not Mentioned • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
The Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	Western Ghats and their outflanking hills in southern India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Great Indian Hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Western Ghats and in the forests along the Himalayas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

Black Necked Crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Territory of Ladakh adopted Black Necked Crane as State bird • Found only in Ladakh's Changthang region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Near Threatened • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in 1947 • It was declared extinct in the country in 1952 • To be re-introduced into the country at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh from Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN: Vulnerable • CITES: Appendix I • Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

