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1. Great Indian Bustard

Prelims perspective: What needs to be learned

- What is it?
- Distribution and Habitat
- Threats and Conservation Status
- Ecological Significance
- Protected Region

Mains Perspective: Notes need to be prepared

- Biodiversity Conservation(GS III - Environment)

What needs to be Known:

- What is it?
 - The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*), **locally known as Godawan**, is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world and is the state bird of Rajasthan.
- Distribution and Habitat
 - **Distribution:** Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
 - **Habitat:** Found in Grasslands
- Threats and Conservation Status
 - **Threats:** Electrocution with power transmission lines, Hunting and Habitat loss
 - **Conservation Status:**
 - ★ **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered
 - ★ **CITES:** Appendix I
 - ★ **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):** Appendix I
 - ★ **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule 1
- Ecological Significance
 - It is considered a "flagship" species, meaning its presence indicates the health of the grassland ecosystem it inhabits.

>> Kozhikode >> Ernakulam >> Thiruvananthapuram

- **Protected Region**

→ **Desert National Park**

★ **Location:** Thar Desert

★ **Features:** Park has the fragile desert ecosystem with sand dunes, rocky outcrops, salt lakes, intermittent streams, and fixed dunes.

★ **Note:** One of the largest national parks in India.

★ **Recognition:** It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980 and a National Park in 1992.

2. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Prelims perspective: What needs to be learned

- What is it?
- Associated Ministry
- Features

Mains Perspective: Notes need to be prepared

- Infrastructure Development (GS III- Economy)

What needs to be Known:

- What is it?
 - ➔ It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** aimed at providing all-weather road connectivity to eligible, previously unconnected rural habitations, thereby integrating villages with markets, schools, and healthcare facilities.
- Associated Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development
- Phases
 - ➔ **Phase I (Launched: December 2000):** Focused on new connectivity to unconnected habitations.
 - ➔ **Phase II (Approved: May 2013):** Emphasized upgradation of existing rural roads in addition to new connectivity.
 - ➔ **Road Connectivity Project for LWE Areas (Launched: 2016):**
 - ★ A separate vertical under PMGSY for Left Wing Extremism-affected areas.
 - ★ Targets 44 districts (35 worst-affected + 9 adjoining districts).
 - ★ Includes construction of roads with culverts and cross-drainage structures.
 - ➔ **Phase III (Duration: 2019–20 to 2024–25):**
 - ★ Focus on consolidation of existing rural road networks for better connectivity.
 - ★ Covers routes linking agriculture markets, educational and health institutions.

3. Krishna Delta

Prelims perspective: What needs to be learned

- Location and Formation: Formed at **Andhra Coast** due to **alluvial deposition** of Krishna river
- Krishna River
- Natural Gas Deposits in India

Mains Perspective: Notes need to be prepared

- Indian Drainage System and Natural Resources (GS I- Indian Geography)

Prelims Fact:

- Called the Rice Bowl of Andhra Pradesh.
- Known for Mangrove Vegetation

What needs to be Known:

- **Krishna River:**
 - ➔ **Origin:** Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra
 - ➔ **Passing States:** Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
 - ➔ **Mountain Ranges:** It is bounded by the Balaghat range on the north, by the Eastern Ghats on the south and the east, and by the Western Ghats on the west.
 - ➔ **Major Dams:** Almatti Dam, Srisailam Dam, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, and Prakasham Barrage
 - ➔ **Tributaries**
 - ★ **Right bank:** Venna, Koyna, Panchganga, Dudhganga, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha and Tungabhadra rivers.
 - ★ **Left Bank:** Bhima, Dindi, Peddavagu, Halia, Musi, Paleru, and Munneru rivers.
- **Natural Gas Deposits in India**
 - ➔ **Off Shore Deposits:** Western Offshore (Mumbai High), Eastern Offshore (KG Basin), Mahanadi & Cauvery Offshore.
 - ➔ **On Shore Deposits:** Assam (Digboi, Naharkatiya, and Moran), Gujarat (Cambay Basin, Rajasthan (Barmer Basin and Jaisalmer regions).

4. Rare Earth Elements

Prelims perspective: What need to learned

- What are Rare Earth Elements
- Significance of Rare Earth elements
- Distribution in India

Mains Perspective: Note need to be prepared

- Energy Transition (GS III- Economy)
- Applications of REE (GS III- Science and Technology)
- Geopolitics and Supply Chain Dynamics (GS II- International Relations)

Prelims Facts:

- A group of 17 **metallic** elements in the periodic table, including 15 **Lanthanides**.
- They are not very scarce on the Earth's crust, but are difficult and quite expensive to extract- Hence called Rare Earth Elements.

What Need to be Known:

- **Significance of Rare Earth Elements:**
 - ➔ Enable high-strength magnets like those used in EVs and wind turbines.
 - ➔ Used in Phosphors: Substances that emit light when irradiated.
 - ➔ Used for Catalysis: e.g.: Cerium in refineries
 - ➔ In defence Tech: e.g.: Radars and other defence technologies.