



DATE: 8 MAY 2026

1 White Bellied Heron (Source: The Indian Express)

The White-bellied Heron, also known as the imperial heron or great white-bellied heron, is a large species of heron.

- **Habitat:** Strictly dependent on free-flowing, fast-flowing eastern Himalayan riverine habitats with low human disturbance.
- **Distribution:** Distributed Himalayan freshwater ecosystems spanning Bhutan, India, Myanmar, China, and Bangladesh.
- **Major Threats:** Hydropower dams (habitat fragmentation, altered river flows), habitat loss, hunting, and anthropogenic disturbances.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule-I





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2 European Union (EU) (Source: The Hindu)

- The European Union was established in 1993 and is a global entity comprising 27 nations from Europe.
- Following the Maastricht Treaty also known as The Treaty of the European Union (TEU) EU came into force.
 - The treaty was ratified by 28 nations, and it entered into force in 1992. Recently Britain exited from the treaty.
- *It is an economic and political bloc, out of 27 countries 19 countries use the EURO as their official currency.*
- *The EU has developed an internal single market through a standardized system of laws that apply in all member states in matters, where members have agreed to act as one.*

