



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

White-rumped vulture

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Why in news?

White-rumped vulture rescued in Adyar dies of dehydration.



About White-rumped vulture:

Family: Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles)

IUCN classification on Red List Category: **Critically Endangered.**

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They are listed **under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.**

It is also known as **Gyps Bengalensis**, and is one of the **9 species of Indian vulture** which are identified for protection.

They are medium in size and called white humped due to presence of white patch of feathers on the lower back and upper tail.

Habitat and distribution

They are generally found in Indian subcontinent and the regions of south east Asia such as Thailand, Laos.

They are more commonly found in the Indus valley and along the Himalayas to Assam valley.

They are found in variety of landscapes including hilly regions and Plains near human settlements.

Threat

Prime reason for decline - Use of **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs** for cattle treatment – for eg **diclofenac**.

Habitat degradation and fragmentation.

Loss of foraging range.

Reduced availability of

Instances of electrocutions due to encounter with power lines.

Significance of vultures:

They are known to be scavengers who, by eating the dead carcass -

Keep a check on the spread of disease like rabies, anthrax.

Help in avoiding the risk of water contamination.

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They keep the environment clean.

They help in sustainability of customs such as Towers of Silence.

Tower of Silence

It is a traditional custom/practice of the Parsis. After death of a person they place the 'Towers of Silence'. Vultures can feed upon the body.

Measures Taken to Conserve Vultures:

The veterinary drug Diclofenac has been banned by the governments of India and Nepal.

Meloxicam is being promoted as an effective replacement for vultures and other scavenging birds.

The Government of India has developed a National Action Plan on Vulture Conservation (2006). The Action Plan outlines strategies and actions for mitigating vulture population declines through ex-situ and in-situ vulture conservation.

White-backed, Long-billed, and Slender-billed Vultures have been moved from Schedule IV to Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972.

Vulture Protection Zones have been created.

Sites for Vulture Restaurants have been identified and in operation.

In Panchkula, a 'Vulture Captive Care Facility' has been established.

State governments have been advised to establish vulture care centres in order to conserve three species of vultures.

Captive breeding facilities have been established to secure healthy wild birds for breeding in captivity for conservation and future release.

Regular awareness raising activities are organised for various groups such as veterinarians, pharmacists, school children, government agencies, conservation partners, and local communities.

India's Role in Conservation of vulture

In 2004, India introduced a motion in the IUCN for vulture conservation, which was accepted in the form of an IUCN resolution.

It called on Gyps vulture range countries to take action to prevent all uses of diclofenac in veterinary applications.

It also called for the establishment of an IUCN South Asian Task Force under the auspices of the IUCN and range countries to develop and implement national vulture recovery plans, including conservation breeding and release.

Action Plan for Vulture Conservation (APVC) in India (2020-2025)

The Action Plan for Vulture Conservation (APVC) in India, 2020-2025, is a critical requirement for the country's vulture conservation.

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With the first action plan expiring in 2009, it was critical that a new document be created that outlines the vision for vulture conservation in the coming years.

Based on the recommendations of the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2006

The most urgently recommended action is to prevent nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) from poisoning major vulture food, cattle carcasses.

Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction (SAVE)

SAVE is a coalition of like-minded regional and international organisations formed to oversee and coordinate conservation, campaigning, and fundraising efforts to alleviate the plight of South Asia's vultures.

Vultures in India:

White rumped vulture (Critically Endangered)

Slender billed vulture (Critically Endangered)

Long billed vulture (Critically Endangered)

Red headed vulture (Critically Endangered)

Egyptian vulture (Endangered)

Himalayan Griffon (Near Threatened)

Cinereous vulture (Near Threatened)

Bearded vulture (Near Threatened)

Griffon Vulture (Least Concern).

CITES: Appendix II , Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I