

**19 – 04 – 2023**

**News:** Mangrove Pitta Bird

## **Mangrove Pitta Board**

- Mangrove Pitta Board (*Pitta megarhyncha*) is a **species of bird that can be found in a few pockets of eastern India, including Odisha's Bhitarkanika and West Bengal's Sundarbans.**
- The Mangrove Pitta bird is a **ground forager (an animal that searches widely for food) and tree rester that primarily inhabits coastal mangrove forests in India.**

### **IUCN Status**

- The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) has categorized and evaluated the species and has listed it as "**Near Threatened**".

### **Distribution**

- **India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia.**

### **Importance**

- This species is important because it is a **bio-indicator of the health of mangrove forests, which are crucial to maintaining ecological balance in coastal areas.**
- Recently, the **first mangrove pitta bird census was conducted in two coastal districts of Odisha (Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur).**
- This census was conducted **using a point count method, where direct sightings and chirping sounds were used to count the birds.**
- The **census of Mangrove Pitta birds found that a total of 179 individual birds were counted.**
- The **highest concentration of these birds was found in the mangroves near the Mahipura river mouth inside the Bhitarkanika National Park.**