

15 – 06 – 2023

- News: Great Indian Bustards (GIB) and Asiatic Lions
- As Cyclone Biporjoy approaches the port of Jakhau in Kutch, Gujarat, there are concerns about the impact on the Great Indian Bustards (GIB) in Naliya region and the Asiatic Lions in the Gir forest.

Asiatic Lions

- The Gir forest is home to nearly 700 Asiatic lions, which are found only in this region and are a vital species for conservation.
- Conservationists have raised concerns about the vulnerability of having the entire lion population concentrated in one area. Epidemics and natural disasters like the 2018 outbreak of Babesiosis and Cyclone Tauktae in 2019 pose significant risks to the survival of the lions.
- In 2013, the Supreme Court issued a directive for the transfer of Asiatic lions from Gujarat's Gir forest to Madhya Pradesh's KNP (Kuno National Park).
- The Gujarat government's plea to prevent the translocation of lions was rejected by the court, despite their assertion that these animals were a source of pride for the state.

Great Indian Bustard

- There are **only four remaining females in the grasslands of Naliya, Gujarat**. As birds, they have better mobility and may be able to sense danger and fly away from the cyclone's path.
- However, **the impact on their habitat due to flooding caused by heavy rainfall remains a concern**.
- Efforts are **being made to ensure the safety of wildlife during the cyclone**. The authorities have cancelled leaves, deployed rescue teams, and equipped hospitals to provide medical assistance to injured animals.