

Slender-billed Vulture

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Slender-billed Vulture Latest News

Recently, five slender-billed vultures bred in captivity at the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)'s conservation facility in Assam were released into the wild.

About Slender-billed Vulture

- The slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*) is an **Old World vulture species** native to sub-Himalayan.
- **Habitat:** Wetlands and wooded areas and also in open countryside.
- **Distribution:** It is found in **India from the Gangetic plain north**, west to Himachal Pradesh, south potentially as far as northern Odisha, and east through Assam.
 - It is also found in north and central **Bangladesh, southern Nepal, Myanmar, and Cambodia.**
- **Characteristics**
 - They are characterised by their **long, slender necks**, pale underparts and their dark, thin bills.
 - Unlike other vultures, they are not that common in areas close to human habitation.
 - **Diet:** They **feed on carrion**, and large flocks are often seen near carcasses.

- **Behavior:** It is very good at gliding and always away on search flights to find new food.
- **Reasons for its population decline:** These are **exposed to diclofenac** (and other Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs [NSAIDs]) through scavenging on the carcasses of largely cattle and buffalo that had been treated prior to death.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN Red list:** Critically Endangered
 - **Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I

Source: TH

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