

Gaur

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Gaur Latest news

The Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR), the last stronghold of Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) in Jharkhand, has registered an alarming decline in the bovid's population.

About Gaur

- Gaur, also known as **Indian Bison**, is the **largest species** among the wild cattle and the Bovidae.
- **Distribution:** Gaurs are indigenous to the **South and Southeast parts of Asia**.
- **Habitat**
 - Gaurs are primarily found in **evergreen and semi-evergreen forests** along with moist deciduous forests with open grasslands.
 - They prefer hilly-terrains below an altitude of 1,500-1,800 m with large and undisturbed forest tracts and abundant water.
- **Conservation Status of Gaur**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable

- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wild Life Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- **Ecological Significance:** It plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance in forests besides serving as **important prey species for tigers**. Being herbivores, they also help shape **vegetation dynamics and contribute to seed dispersal**.
- **Threats: Loss of habitat** throughout most of their range. Another serious concern is susceptibility to **domestic cattle diseases** like rinderpest, hoof, or mouth disease.

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/indian-gaur/>

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