



# **Ladakh Adopts State Animal And Bird**





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Ladakh adopted two endangered species, snow leopard and black-necked crane, as State animal and State bird, two years after it was carved out as a separate Union Territory (UT) from the erstwhile State of J&K.





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The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh declares 'Snow Leopard' & 'Black Necked Crane' as the State Animal & State Bird respectively of #UTLadakh  
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- "The Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh is pleased to declare snow leopard (*Panther unica*) and black-necked crane (*Grus nicricollis*) as state animal and state bird, respectively, of the union territory of Ladakh from the date of issue of this notification,"



Pakistan  
Administered  
Kashmir

Aksai Chin

UT of J&K  
with Assembly

UT of Ladakh  
without Assembly

JAMMU &  
KASHMIR

LADAKH

# Former State Symbols



The former state of Jammu and Kashmir had **the black-necked crane and Kashmir stag (Hangul)** as its State Bird and State Animal. Both species are rare and had been symbols of the state for a long time.





# Reason of the change



- The **black-necked crane** is found only in **Eastern Ladakh** and the **Kashmir stag** is found only in **Kashmir Valley**.
- So, following the bifurcation into separate administrative divisions, the black-necked crane could no longer be the State Bird for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Hangul could no longer be the State Animal of Ladakh.



# Need of the state symbols

- Every State and UT of India has symbols such as the State Bird, Animal and Flower, which are recognised for their importance in that region.
- They are chosen from the unique flora and fauna in the State and UT, and represent the culture and the natural wonders of that particular State/UT.
- These symbols play a vital role in boosting conservation and protection efforts, and shine a spotlight on species that are integral to a state or UT.





# Selection of the symbols



- In December 2020, the **Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh (WCBCL)**, an NGO working for the preservation of wildlife in the region, called on Lieutenant Governor R.K. Mathur at the Raj Bhawan.
- The delegation, led by its president Lobzang Visuddha and secretary Dorjey Daya, batted strongly for naming **the black-necked crane as the State Bird and snow leopard as the State Animal of Ladakh.**



# The Snow Leopard

- Habitat : **Ladakh** and the **Lahul-Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh.**
- IUCN Red List Status : Vulnerable
- Population in Ladakha : between 200-300 individuals
- “Ladakh is internationally known as the snow leopard capital of the world. A lot of attention is given to conservation in the region because of this species.”

# The Black-necked crane



- Habitat: Eastern Ladakh's high-altitude wetlands and marshes
- IUCN Red list Status: Near Threatened
- The birds arrive here as early as March for breeding and leave by October end or early November.
- Their habitat loss could lead to the extinction of this species, at least from this region.





- Ladakh is the only summer breeding ground for the bird in India and the number of breeding pairs are under 20 in the country at the moment.
- The black-necked crane also commands high respect in the region.
- There are local songs that sing its praises.
- It is already a flagship species and many research projects are on in the Ladakh UT for its conservation.
- This makes it a top contender for the State Bird.

With reference to snow leopard Consider the following statement [PYQ]

1. India has been conserving the snow leopard and its habitat through the project snow leopard
2. It is critically endangered species

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) both 1 and 2
- (d) neither 1 or 2



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