



Melghat Tiger Reserve & Vulture Conservation

Published On: 07-01-2026

Background & Context

The **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** recently released **15 critically endangered Indian vultures** (Long-billed vultures) into the **Melghat Tiger Reserve** in Maharashtra. These birds were translocated from the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in Pinjore.

Critical Insights

- **The "Soft Release" Process:** The birds were kept in a pre-release aviary to acclimatize before being fitted with **GSM and satellite tags** for real-time tracking.
- **The Melghat Landscape:** Located in the Gawilgarh Hill of the **Satpura Range**, Melghat (meaning "meeting of ghats") is a historical stronghold for vultures.
- **Conservation Challenges:** The primary threat remains **Diclofenac**, a veterinary drug that causes kidney failure in vultures. BNHS is working with local *gaushalas* to ensure a "Safe Zone" with non-toxic carcasses.
- **Status:** Indian vultures are listed as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List.