

Forest minister visits Great Indian Bustard hatchery

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Jaisalmer: Forest and environment minister Sukhram Bishnoi on Sunday visited Desert National Park in Jaisalmer and inspected Great Indian Bustard (Godawan) conservation breeding centre and Godawan enclosure at Sudasari.

He expressed happiness on the centre welcoming eight new chicks and congratulated the scientists. He praised the department for setting up the centre in time for the breeding season of Godawan.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, International Fund of Houbara Conservation, Abu Dhabi and Rajasthan wildlife department, in a joint endeavour, had conserved eight eggs, from which eight chicks have hatched, at the Godawan hatchery centre at Sam area in Jaisalmer, which is a big step towards conservation of Godawan.

It is to be mentioned the forest and climate change ministry, government of India, wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, and the state government, had signed a tripartite agreement in 2018, under which the Godawan conservation and research programme is being run.

Deputy director, conservation of forest and WII Godawan expert Dr Suthirtho Dutta and Jaisalmer DFO Ashutosh Ojha briefed the minister about the project through a presentation and informed him about the artificial reproduction of the bird. They informed Bishnoi that government of India had permitted to collect 10 eggs, of which eight eggs were sent to hatchery for incubation and eight chicks have hatched from them. DNP DFO Kapil Chandrawal said, to understand the roaming area of Godawan, WII Dehradun scientists helped in tagging two Godawans with GPS tag, from which important information is being received and it is helping them to understand the bird better. WII along with state forest department had planned a month ago to save Godawan and set up a hatchery at DNP in Jaisalmer on temporary basis. The work of permanent hatchery centre is going on at Ramdeora.

Chandrawal said the eggs were incubated at the incubator brought from Abu Dhabi. These eggs are to be incubated for 25 days. Now, the chicks are being given special food brought from abroad, along with natural food.

According to sources, all these chicks will grow at this centre. They will be kept for three years and their eggs will be collected and incubated here. Once their number touches 25, they will be released to DNP.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/forest-minister-visits-great-indian-bustard-hatchery/articleshow/70729605.cms>