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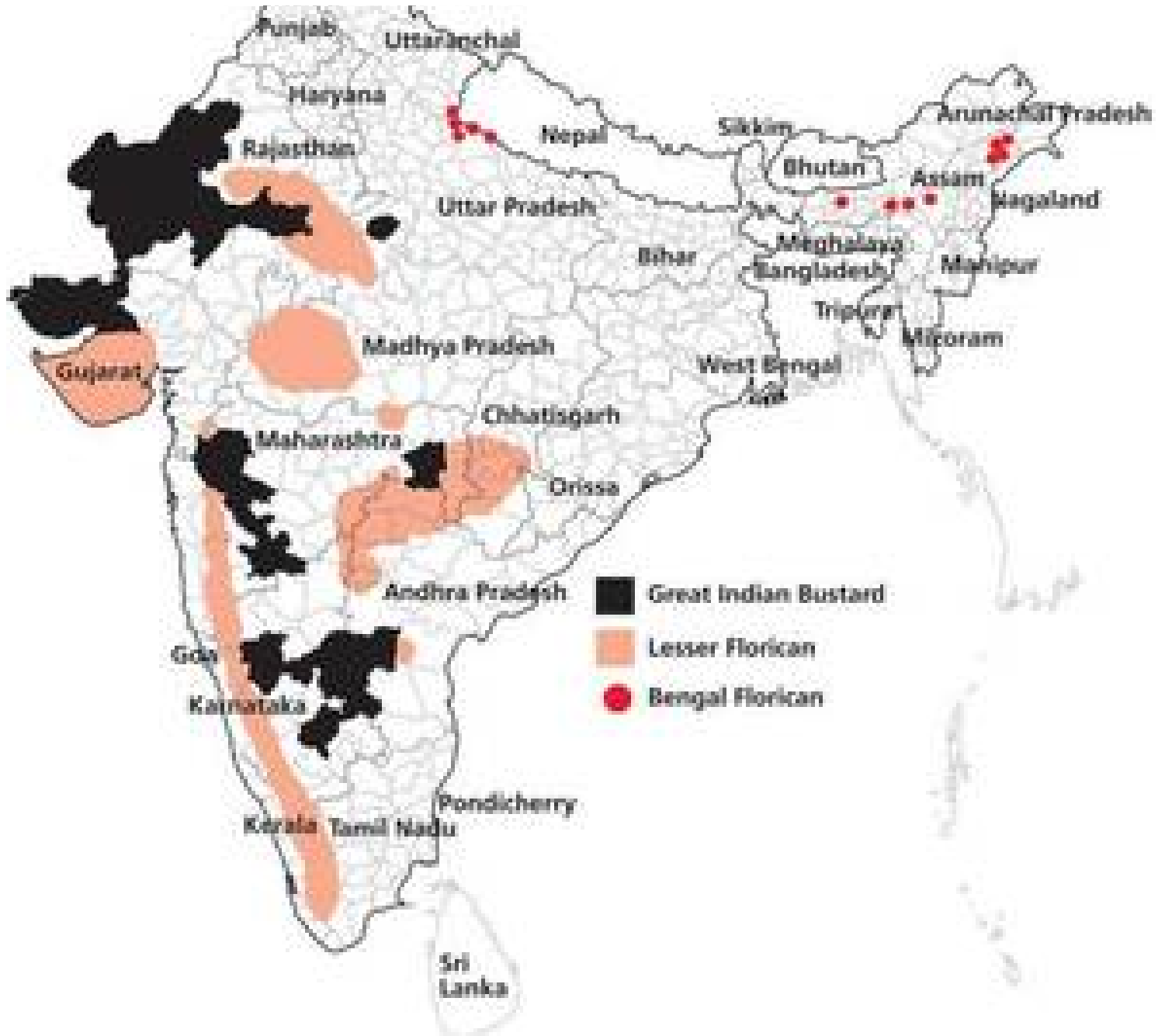


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SEEMA BHATT

JUNE 22, 2017 17:00 IST

UPDATED: JUNE 19, 2017 11:10 IST

One day, while returning from school, Lakshman almost fell over a wounded bird. In a bid to save the bird, he also learnt a lot about it.



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bird was injured and unable to move.

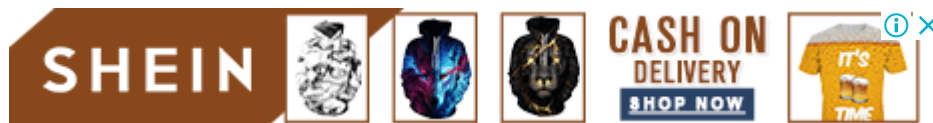
Quick thinking

Lakshman did not know what to do. His family was in the fields, so he ran home to tell his grandfather or *Dada* as he called him. After listening to the description, *Dada* thought that it could be *godavan*. He said that when he was young, there were many of these beautiful birds around, but in the past few years he saw fewer of them. He told Lakshman that he had heard about an area close to the village where efforts were being made to help save the *godavan* and other birds and animals found in the desert.

Dada suggested that Lakshman walk to over and talk to the people there. Lakshman was now excited and did just that. He proudly read the board at the entrance that said 'Desert National Park'. There were some people there wearing uniforms and they informed Lakshman that they were forest guards. Lakshman explained his problem to them. The guards acted fast and asked Lakshman to take them to the bird. When they saw the bird, they said that it was indeed a *godavan* and its English name was the Great Indian Bustard. They went on to say, that this bird once the pride of the area had sadly dwindled in numbers over the years, mainly because it was being hunted across the border. The guards told him they there were now attempts to protect the bird by providing safety in this area called Desert National Park. He also learnt that *godavan* was the state bird of Rajasthan.

The guards thanked Lakshman for his timely action making him proud and happy in having helped save such an important bird. He could not wait to tell his friends.

Conservation and Nature is a series brought to you by Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group (<http://www.kalpavriksh.org>).



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