

# GYPS VULTURES

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## Context:

Moyar valley is the biggest nesting colony of critically endangered Gyps vultures in the wild.

## Background:

Moyar Valley, also known as Maayar Valley, stretches approximately 85 kilometers from Gudalur through the core area of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve within the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

## About GYPS VULTURES:

1. The Gyps vultures, including the White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Indian Vulture (*G. indicus*), and Slender-billed Vulture (*G. tenuirostris*), have faced rapid population declines since the mid-1990s in India.
2. These vultures are endemic to South Asia and play a crucial role in the ecosystem by scavenging carcasses.
3. The primary cause of their decline was poisoning due to the widespread veterinary use of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) diclofenac in cattle.
4. As a result, all three species were listed as "Critically Endangered" on the IUCN Red List.

