Delhi Bird Atlas 2025

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently the Delhi Bird atlas was released.

- **Delhi Bird Atlas** – It is the first systematic effort to map the distribution and abundance of bird species across the National Capital Territory.
- **Prepared by** – The Delhi Forest Department, Bird Count India, WWF-India, and partner organizations.
- **Rank** – The atlas places Delhi second only to Nairobi among the world's national capitals in bird diversity.
- **Reasons for High Bird Diversity –** Attributed to its unique geographical location:
  - Northern edge of the Aravalli Range
  - Proximity to the Western Himalayas
  - Presence of the Yamuna and Sahibi floodplains
  - Strategic location along the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).

> ***Central Asian flyway*** *is a major migratory route connecting the Arctic with the Indian Ocean*

Key features of the survey

- Covers 11% of Delhi's area
- Survey initiated in January 2025
- Conducted twice annually (winter and summer)
- Delhi divided into 6.6 km × 6.6 km grids
- 145 subcells randomly selected for sampling
- Data collected through standardized bird checklists uploaded to *eBird*

Key Findings

- Delhi's bird checklist now includes *471 species.*
- An additional *22 species* have not been re-recorded since 1975.
- During the first year of surveys, *221 species* were documented:
  - 200 species in winter
  - 152 species in summer
  - 126 resident species

    - 81 winter migrants
    - 14 summer migrants
- **Ecological Composition –** Birds were classified according to feeding habits:
    - Invertebrate feeders – **108 species (48.87%)**
    - Plant and seed feeders – **37 species**
    - Omnivores – **34 species**
    - Vertebrate and carrion feeders – **33 species**
    - Fruit and nectar feeders – **9 species**
    - The atlas also recorded **18 endemic species** and several threatened birds, including:
- **Endangered –** Egyptian Vulture, Black-bellied Tern
- **Vulnerable –** River Tern, Common Pochard
- **Near Threatened –** Black-tailed Godwit, Ferruginous Duck, Painted Stork, Black-headed Ibis, Oriental Darter

Reference

The Indian Express| Delhi Bird Atlas

