

## **Grandala Bird**

**Prelims -** Current events of National & International importance | General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity & climate change.

## Why in News?

Recently, a rare 'Grandala' Electric-Blue Bird was spotted in Sainj Valley, Himachal Pradesh.

- Grandala is the only species within the genus Grandala.
- Scientific name Grandala coelicolor.
- Family Turdidae.
- **Size** Medium-sized, measuring approximately 25-27 cm in length and weighing between 38-52 grams.
- **Plumage** Males are a deep blue with black wings, while females are brownish with white stripes and a grey-blue rump.
- **Distinctive Features** Males have a black throat patch. In flight, a white patch on the wing covers is visible.
- It has a clear sexual dichromatism or easy distinction between male and female birds.
- Behaviour They are social and always seen in flocks.

The sight of a flock of Grandalas in flight has been described as a "hypnotic effect" and compared to a tree "suddenly in bloom" when they alight on bare branches.

- **Habitat** They prefer alpine and subalpine regions, including rocky outcrops, scrublands, and alpine meadows at elevations typically between 3,000 to 5,000 meters.
- They also inhabit fruit orchards and descend to lower elevations during winter.
- **Distribution** Found primarily in the low to mid-altitudes of the Himalayas, including areas within India (Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh), Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tibet, and other parts of China.
- **Primary Diet** Grandalas are arboreal insectivores, feeding on various insects, larvae, nymphs, caterpillars, moths, and seeds.
- **Breeding** Building nests on cliff faces with materials like sticks, moss, and feathers.
- Conservation status IUCN Least Concern.



## Reference

- 1. TIMESNOW Rare Grandala species spotted in the Himalayas
- 2. TOI | Meet the electric blue bird of the Himalayas

