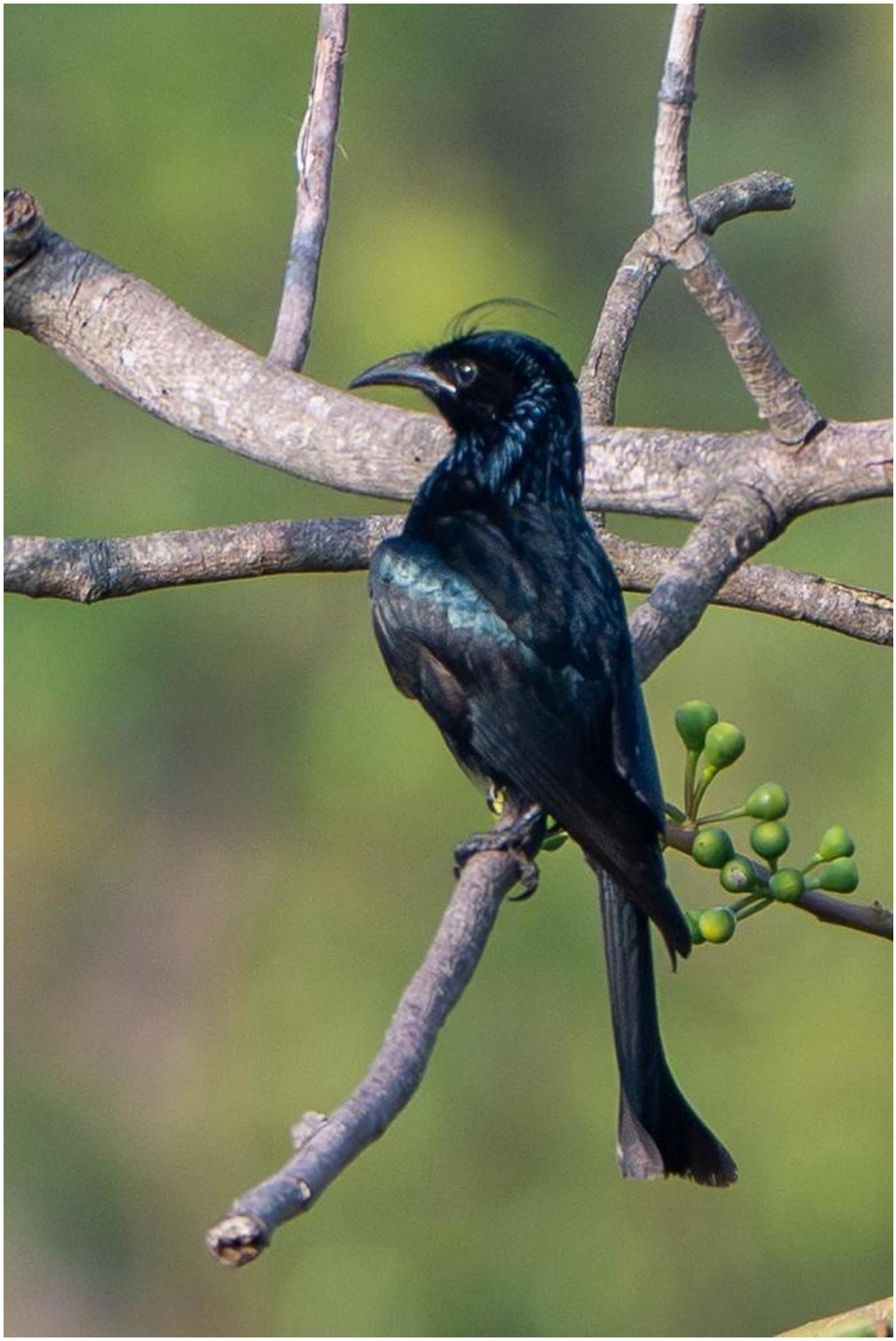
Hair-crested Drongo

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Species*

Why in News?

Recently, a hair-crested drongo was sighted for the first time at the foothills of Manjamalai near Palamedu in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu.

- **Scientific name – *Dicrurus hottentottus***
- **Family –** *Dicruridae* (Drongos)
- **Habitat –** It is a ***terrestrial landbird that inhabits broadleaf evergreen and moist deciduous forests.***
- It also exhibits forest edges, secondary growth, thick scrub, degraded forests and plantations.
- **Distribution –** Very large range across India, South & Southeast Asia, such as India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei.
    - **Indian Range** – Peninsular India (Western & Eastern Ghats, northern Tamil Nadu), Himalayan foothills, Northeast India.
- **Characteristics – Colour** – Glossy black body with metallic blue/green spangles.
- **Tail** – Unlike other drongos, its tail is rectangular/lyre-shaped with upward curls, rather than deeply forked.
- **Diet – *Omnivorous; primarily feeds on insects (often caught in flight) and nectar.***
- **Conservation Status –**
    - **IUCN Red List –** Least Concern.
    - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 –** Schedule II
- **Behaviour –** It is *partially migratory within India.*
- Known for being highly vocal and a brilliant mimic.
- They often move in small flocks or follow other species to catch insects disturbed by them.
- **Uniqueness –** Hair-like crest feathers on the forehead and deeply forked tail make it easily distinguishable.
- **Threats –** Forest loss due to logging, agriculture, mining and road construction, habitat degradation, and trapping for the songbird trade.
- **Ecological Significance – Pollinator –** Visits flowers for nectar, aiding in pollination.
- **Biological pest controller –** Feeds on insects, helping control agricultural and forest pests naturally.



References

1. TH | Hair-crested Drongo
2. BirdLife Data Zone | Hair-crested Drongo

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering