

India's National Red List Assessment of Birds

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

Why in News?

Recently, India has initiated a National Red List Assessment of 1,211 regularly occurring bird species under the framework of the IUCN.

National Red List Assessment of Birds		
Particular	Details	
 Assessment	National Red List Assessment of Birds	
 Number of bird species covered	1,211	
 Preliminary assessments completed	107, as of 19 October 2026	
 Assessment framework	IUCN Red List framework	
 Target year for preliminary assessment	End of 2026	
 Expected final assessment	Towards the end of 2027	
 National target	More than 11,000 species by 2030	
 Roadmap	National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030	
 International event	IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, Abu Dhabi	

- **Launched at** - IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi.
- **Part of** - India's National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030.
- **Coverage** - It encompasses both resident and migratory bird species.
- **India's target** - To assess over 11,000 species of flora, fauna, and fungi by 2030.
- **Preliminary assessment** - As of 19 October 2026, it had been completed for 107 bird species.
- **Spearheaded by** - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Organisation	Role / relevance
Botanical Survey of India (BSI)	Jointly leads the national initiative; botanical expertise
Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)	Jointly leads the initiative; involved in bird assessments
IUCN India	Scientific collaboration

CSS India-WTI	IUCN SSC Centre for Species Survival India-Wildlife Trust of India
State of India's Birds (SoIB)	Contributes bird population-trend information using citizen science

- **Parameters** - Assessments require data on at least one of three key parameters:
 - **Geographic range** - The spatial distribution and extent of the species' occurrence.
 - **Population size** - The total number of individuals within the population.
 - **Population trends** - The direction of change in population size, such as increasing, stable, or declining.
- Additional considerations under the IUCN criteria include population reduction, fragmentation, small population size, and quantitative extinction-risk analysis.

National Red List Assessment of Birds

Preliminary Proposed Categories

Bird species	Proposed status
Great Indian Bustard	CR Critically Endangered
Indian Roller	VU Vulnerable
Grey Plover	LC Least Concern
Marbled Duck	EN Endangered
White-throated Bushchat	EN Endangered
Sarus Crane	VU Vulnerable
Pallas's Fish-Eagle	EN Endangered

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National Red List Assessment of Birds Forum

- A collaborative platform established to strengthen the scientific basis of conservation status assessments for India's birds.
- **Key Functions**
 - Brings together ornithologists and conservationists.
 - Facilitates sharing of expertise and available evidence.
 - Promotes discussion and consensus on assessment parameters.
 - Develops estimates for critical conservation indicators.
- **Significance**
 - Helps bridge knowledge and data gaps in bird assessments.
 - Enhances the accuracy and reliability of the National Red List Assessment of Birds.

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

- **Established** - 1964.
- **Organisation** - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- **Purpose** - To assess the global extinction risk of animal, plant and fungal species.
- **Significance** - It provides scientific information for biodiversity conservation, policy formulation and conservation prioritisation.

IUCN Red List Categories



Threatened categories

CR Critically Endangered (CR) Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. 	EN Endangered (EN) Very high risk of extinction in the wild. 	VU Vulnerable (VU) High risk of extinction in the wild. 			
NT Near Threatened (NT) Close to qualifying for a threatened category. 	LC Least Concern (LC) Evaluated and considered to have a relatively low extinction risk. 	DD Data Deficient (DD) Insufficient information to assess extinction risk. 	NE Not Evaluated (NE) Not yet assessed against the criteria. 	EW Extinct in the Wild (EW) Survives only in cultivation, captivity or outside its former natural range. 	EX Extinct (EX) No reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. 

Reference

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