World Sparrow Day 2025

Why in News?

World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year on March 20th.

- **Aim -** To raise awareness and protect Sparrows which are declining at alarming rate.
- **Initiated by -** Nature Forever, a bird conservation organization in 2010.
- **Theme, 2025 - *A Tribute to Nature's Tiny Messengers.***

The house sparrow became Delhi's state bird in 2012.

- **Significance of Sparrows**– They help control insect populations by feeding on various bugs and pests.
- Key players in ***pollination and seed dispersal.***
- Their presence enhances biodiversity, making them crucial for the health of both rural and urban ecosystems.
- **Threats - *Unleaded petrol*** has led to toxic compounds and pesticide use in agriculture harm the insects, sparrows depend on for food.
- The increasing presence of crows and cats, along with a lack of green spaces has added to the problem.
- Urbanization has also taken away their natural nesting spaces.

Conservation Efforts
• **Save the Sparrow campaign -** Led by environmental conservationist ***Jagat Kinkhabwala***. • **Initiative by Koodugal Trust in Chennai-** Involved school children in creating sparrow nests. • The children build small wooden houses, providing food and shelter for sparrows. • **Early Bird campaign -** Introduces children to the world of birds, in Mysuru, Karnataka. • The program includes a library, activity kits and trips to villages to observe birds. • These educational efforts are helping children recognize and understand the importance of sparrows and other birds in nature.

Reference

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