

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEB 19, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The Tamil Nadu government – has proposed to establish Integrated farmers' market complex in five districts of the state, which will cater to multiple farmer-oriented services**
- ✓ The one-stop centre would be established as a pilot project at a cost of Rs50 crore.
- ✓ The complex will host several services for farmers, ranging from selling the produces to procuring fertilizers, repairing their tractors and other agriculture machinery
- ✓ The objective of the project is to provide all facilities for farmers at one place.
- ✓ It intends to eliminate middlemen and serve as a platform for the farmers and consumers, besides enhancing profits
- ✓ It would come up in Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Trichy and Tirunelveli districts.
- ✓ Based on the public response, it would be replicated in other districts
- ✓ Deputy Chief Minister and finance minister O Panneerselvam, while presenting the budget for 2020-2021 on February 14, said the government has allocated funds for the project.
- ✓ Each complex will be constructed at a cost of Rs10 crore
- ✓ The facilities will be created depending on the crop pattern and demands of the farmers in the five chosen districts
- ✓ The complex would also have subsidiary facilities such as cold storage with capacity of 25 to 50 tonnes, shops for the farmers to exhibit their produce, value addition centres, training centre for farmers, besides mechanic shops.
- ✓ Banking facilities like ATM, grocery shops and canteen would also be an integral part of the complex.
  
- **Gujarat-based Torrent Gas - has got the Supreme Court's nod to create a gas distribution network in Chennai and Tiruvallur.**

- ✓ The firm is likely to invest ₹5,000 crore in creating city gas distribution networks, spread across 3,569 sq km of area in the two districts.
- ✓ In September 2018, Torrent Gas won the bid floated by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to lay the City Gas Distribution (CGD) infrastructure to provide CNG and PNG in Chennai and Tiruvallur districts.
- ✓ Torrent Gas is one of the leading CGD companies in the country
- ✓ It is engaged in the supply of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG)
- ✓ It has been authorised for 16 Geographical Areas (GA), covering 32 districts across 7 States, namely Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Telangana and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

## STATES

- **The Haryana Government - announced to offer Rs. 6 crore prize money to players winning gold medals at the Olympic Games**
- ✓ It has also announced to offer Rs. 3 crore to those winning Gold Medal at Asian Games.
- ✓ Moreover, the state government has also proposed to give Rs 1.5 crore to those winning Gold Medal at Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ It had also decided to give Rs. 15 lakh to each player participating in the Olympic Games
- ✓ Earlier, winners of Gold medal were given Rs. 5 crore.
- ✓ Apart from Gold Medalist, the silver medalist was given Rs 2 crore, while the bronze medalist was given Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ The gold medalist in the Asian Games will now get Rs 3 crore instead of two, while the gold medalist in the Commonwealth Games will get Rs 50 lakh more.
- ✓ The Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar also announced pension for the players
- ✓ He proposed that the Haryana Government will provide pension to the national award winners like Arjuna Award, Dhyanchand, and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards.
- ✓ Haryana Government will also offer jobs to the players who win medals in international level sports competitions.

## NATIONAL

- **The government - has decided to amend the Aadhaar Act and the Representation of the People Act to legally empower the Election Commission to link the unique identification number with the electoral roll**
- ✓ The move is intended to remove bogus and duplicate entries and ensure providing voting rights to migrant voters.

- ✓ The law ministry conveyed this to the Election Commission at a meeting on February 18 to fast-track the implementation of electoral reforms proposed since 2004-05.
- ✓ Aadhaar-EPIC linkage will help the commission to work towards a secure, possibly electronic, voting to help migrant voters — including domestic workers, migrant labourers etc — exercise their franchise.
- ✓ Earlier, in 2015, the Election Commission had taken up the linking of voter card and Aadhaar number, as part of its National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme.
- ✓ But, the EC had to abandon the programme after the seeding of around 32 crore Aadhaar numbers following the 2015 Supreme Court judgment restricting the use of Aadhaar.
- ✓ Then, following the SC judgment in September 2018 making Aadhaar mandatory with due amendment in the Aadhaar Act, the EC requested the law ministry for a suitable amendment to enable linking of EPIC with UID

**WILL HELP IN REMOTE VOTING**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Linking Aadhaar number with electoral rolls will help rid voters' list of bogus and duplicate entries</li> <li>➤ Linkage will help realise EC's plan to work towards secure, possibly electronic, voting to help migrant voters exercise franchise even if they are not in constituency</li> <li>➤ Govt seeking to amend Aadhaar Act and RP Act to</li> </ul>	 <p>enable linking Aadhaar with electoral rolls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Law ministry informed EC about the move at a meeting on Tuesday</li> </ul>
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- ✓ Other reforms which were in the pipeline include --
  - ✓ the proposal to allow more than one cutoff date for enrolment of a voter after attaining adulthood,
  - ✓ making false affidavit an electoral offence/corrupt practice that would attract disqualification,
  - ✓ covering print media and social media intermediaries under Section 126 of the RP Act 1951(48-hour silence period),
  - ✓ making service voter facility for spouses gender-neutral, and
  - ✓ amendment in the contributions form.
- **India's total foodgrain production - is estimated at an all-time record high of nearly 292 million tonnes (MT) in 2019-20 crop year, with an increase of 2.3% than the last year's foodgrain production.**
- ✓ Among all crops, output of wheat too is estimated at an all-time record level of 106 MT
- ✓ The production of other crops is also estimated to be higher than the normal production levels.

- ✓ The agriculture ministry released its second advanced estimates for the current year on February 17

### Food for the palate

The estimated total foodgrain output of 291.95 MT is over 6 MT higher than that produced in 2018-19

In million tonnes-MT	2018-19	2019-20 target	2019-20 2nd advance estimate
Total foodgrain production	285.21	291.10	291.95
Rice	116.48	116.00	117.47
Wheat	103.60	100.50	106.21
All pulses	22.08	26.30	23.02
Jowar	3.48	4.90	4.38
Bajra	8.66	9.50	8.90

SOURCE: GOVT.

- ✓ It forecasted the fourth consecutive year-on-year higher output of foodgrains since 2016-17 crop year (July-June).
  - ✓ According to the estimates, the planned output of foodgrain this year has already crossed its target (291 MT) which was set before the beginning of the 2019-20 sowing season
  - ✓ In general, the ministry releases four advance estimates followed by final estimates of production of major agricultural crops every crop year.
  - ✓ The fourth advance estimates are considered as good as final estimates.
  - ✓ India's foodgrain market comprises of rice, wheat, coarse cereals (millets and maize) and pulses
- **The country's first intercity electric bus service between Mumbai and Pune - was started on February 14, 2020.**



- ✓ Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated this electric bus service.
- ✓ This bus has a seating capacity of 43 people and can cover a distance of 300 km on a single charge.

- ✓ The Centre is planning to start this type of bus service in other parts of Maharashtra.
- ✓ This bus will be run under the public-private partnership model.
- **India - has become the first country in the world that provides 100 percent digital Haj-2020 process.**
- ✓ This was announced by Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Minorities Affairs on February 17.
- ✓ Various services like e-visa, online application, Masiha health facility, etc, given to Haj pilgrims, have become completely online services.
- ✓ As per the Minister, almost 1,23,000 Indian Muslims will visit the holy place through the Haj Committee of India while other pilgrims will go through Haj group organizers
- **The World Bank and Government of India - signed a \$450 million loan agreement to improve groundwater requirements of the country.**
- ✓ The major objective of this agreement is to improve the declining level of groundwater and strengthen the efforts in the country.
- ✓ The Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) aims to strengthen the institutional framework associated with the groundwater management.
- ✓ This agreement will help in better implementation of ABHY by using state-of-the-art technology such as Artificial Intelligence and Space Technology
- ✓ Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) is also known as National Groundwater Management Improvement Programme.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented in Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka
- ✓ All these states have alluvial aquifers of the Indus-Gangetic plains and hard rock aquifers of peninsular India.
- ✓ The Atal Bhujal Yojana scheme promotes panchayat-led groundwater management
- ✓ It also helps to improve cropping patterns and use of groundwater at the community level.
- ✓ The total outlay of Atal Bhujal Yojana scheme is Rs 6,000 crore.
- ✓ The World Bank will provide 50% as a loan while the balance will be borne by the Government of India.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented for a period of five years (2020-2021 to 2024-2025).
- **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories - will soon be covered by Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).**
- ✓ This was announced by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Jitendra Singh

- ✓ The Centre is proposing to set up an exclusive bench of CAT in Jammu-Kashmir itself.
  - ✓ Earlier, CAT had jurisdiction only over issues related to the central services in Jammu and Kashmir.
  - ✓ The bench of Chandigarh Central Administrative Tribunal will settle the service disputes and other matters in Jammu and Kashmir until the new Jammu and Kashmir bench is constructed.
  - ✓ A CAT tribunal has similar powers as are vested in a civil court.
  - ✓ It is guided by the principles of natural justice and also by the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908
  - ✓ Anyone can appear personally to a tribunal either in person or take advocate's help.
  - ✓ The CAT consists of a chairman, vice-chairman and other members, who are appointed by the President.
  - ✓ The members of the CAT are appointed from judicial and administrative areas
- **Researchers at the Atomic Energy Commission of India - have discovered 14,100 tonnes of lithium reserves in Mandya near Bangalore.**
  - ✓ Lithium is a rare metal, which is mainly used for the manufacture of electric vehicle batteries.
  - ✓ Chile, being the highest producer, produces 8.6 million tons of Lithium
  - ✓ Following Chile, Australia and Argentina produce 2.8 million and 1.7 million tons of lithium respectively
- **The Union government - has decided to rename the 'Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses' (IDSA) as the 'Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses'**
  - ✓ The decision has been taken to honour the commitment and legacy of the late Manohar Parrikar
  - ✓ Parrikar was the Defence Minister from November 9, 2014, to March 14, 2017
  - ✓ He was instrumental in initiating several reforms in the Defence sector.
  - ✓ The IDSA, an autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of Defence, was established in New Delhi in 1965.
  - ✓ It is dedicated to objective research and policy along with relevant studies on all aspects of country's defence and security.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **Pakistan - will not be categorized under the black list at the ongoing FATF plenary session, with a key sub-group, International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG), recommending that it remain on the grey list.**
- ✓ Malaysia, Turkey and China supported Pakistan.

- ✓ The reviewers presented the findings of the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) at the ICRG meeting in Paris on February 18
  - ✓ Asia-Pacific Group (APG) is a sub-group of the FATF which met in Beijing in January
  - ✓ The findings will now be presented at the FATF plenary, which will be completed on February 21.
  - ✓ A final decision by the Financial Action Task Force will be announced on February 21 at the end of the five-day FATF Plenary session in Paris.
  - ✓ Pakistan is expected to get atleast 6-8 months of time to show the proof of completion of its systems to control terror funding.
  - ✓ The country needed to show success on 13 out of 27 action points to get out of the grey list.
  - ✓ Pakistan was presented with the 27-point action plan in the previous FATF meet in October last.
  - ✓ In the last plenary, Pakistan was put on notice with the announcement of serious action.
  - ✓ In November last, when Pakistan complied with only 5 of the 27 action plan points, the FATF asked it to “swiftly complete its full action plan by February 2020”.
  - ✓ It has to be recalled that, last week, an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan sentenced Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, to 11years in two terror financing cases.
  - ✓ The two sentences of five-and-a-half years each will run concurrently.
  - ✓ Pakistan also recently informed FATF that Jaish-e-Mohammad founder Masood Azhar and his family were “missing”
  - ✓ It has claimed that there were only 16 UN designated terrorists in Pakistan, of which “seven are dead”.
  - ✓ Pakistan needs 12 votes out of 39 to exit the grey list and move to the white list.
  - ✓ To avoid being put on the black list, it needs support of 3 countries.
- **Pakistan - conducted a successful flight test of the air launched nuclear-capable cruise missile Ra’ad-II with a range of 600 km on February 18**
- ✓ The test intends to significantly boost Pakistan military’s “deterrence capability” on land and at sea.
  - ✓ The Ra’ad-II weapon system consists of state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems, which ensures engagement of targets with high precision
  - ✓ Pakistan’s development of the Ra’ad might be seen as an attempt to match India’s BrahMos cruise missile

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **The 13th United Nations Migratory Bird Species Conservation Conference - commenced in India.**



- ✓ It will be held from February 17, 2020, to February 22, 2020.
- ✓ The abbreviation of this conference is CMS-COP-13
- ✓ India has been chosen as the President of this conference for the next three years.
- ✓ The international delegates from 130 countries are expected to take part in this conference.
- ✓ The Great Indian Bustard has been selected as the mascot for this conference.
- ✓ This convention provides a global platform for discussions on immigrant wildlife and their natural habitat.
- ✓ It also highlights issues related to the various species of birds and animals.

## PERSONALITIES

- **93-year-old, C I Sivasubramanian– becomes the oldest student to obtain Master’s degree at the IGNOU convocation**



- ✓ Sivasubramanian received his masters’ degree in public administration at the convocation on February 17
- ✓ After finishing my school in 1940s, he started his career as a clerk in the ministry of commerce in 1940s
- ✓ He finally retired as a director from the ministry in 1986 at the age of 58

## DEFENCE

- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat -said that the Navy is planning to form the Peninsula Command on the Eastern and Western Command**
- ✓ As per the CDS, India wants to establish two to five theater commands in the country.
- ✓ He also announced that IAF's Air Defence Command will be released by the beginning of 2021 while peninsula command will be established soon.
- ✓ The Government has ordered a study to start the Air Defence Command under the chairmanship of the Vice Chief of Air Force.
- ✓ It will be helpful in crisis situations like aerial attacks.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Former CMD of Andhra Bank, Suresh Patel - has been chosen as a Vigilance Commissioner, while former member of Punjab Civil Services Commission, Amita Pandove will be an Information Commissioner.**

### Scouting for talent

The Prime Minister heads the selection committee for choosing the CVC chief. The Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha or the leader of the largest Opposition party make up the rest of the panel

- The post of Chief Vigilance Commissioner has been vacant since June 2019, after K.V. Chowdary completed his tenure. Vigilance Commissioner Sharad Kumar has been functioning as the interim CVC

- After the Personnel

Ministry called for applications for the post in March 2019, the deadline for submission was extended thrice between May and June 2019



- The CVC is led by the Central Vigilance Commissioner and has two Vigilance Commissioners

- ✓ This was decided at a meeting of the selection committee presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 18
- ✓ It was attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress Leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitender Singh
- ✓ Sanjay Kothari, Secretary to the President of India, is likely to be the next Chief Vigilance Commissioner.
- ✓ Former Information and Broadcasting Secretary Bimal Julka will likely be the Chief Information Commissioner.
- ✓ The government is yet to make a formal announcement of these appointments.

## SPORTS

- **The match schedule and host cities for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup - were unveiled by FIFA and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) on February 18.**
- ✓ Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Kolkata and Navi Mumbai have been confirmed as the five host cities for the tournament.
- ✓ Sixteen teams will compete across 32 matches in the tournament
- ✓ The final match to lift the coveted trophy will be held in Navi Mumbai on November 21.
- ✓ The tournament commences on November 2.
- ✓ The quarterfinals will take place on November 12 and 13 while the semifinals will be conducted on November 17
- ✓ The official slogan of the tournament – Kick Off The Dream – was also launched at the press conference
- **Sunil Kumar - bagged a gold medal in the Greco-Roman wrestling on the opening day of the Asian Championships in New Delhi on February 18**

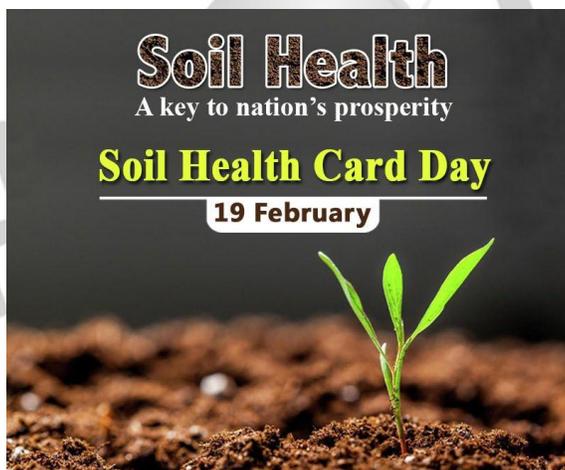


- ✓ The 21-year-old from Haryana's Dabarpur village defeated Kyrgyzstan's Azat Salidinov in the 87kg final, an Olympic weight category
- ✓ Pappu Yadav was the last Greco-Roman grappler to have clinched the gold way back in 1993 in the 48kg title bout.
- ✓ For Sunil, the historic effort was an improvement on his own silver medal performance at the 2019 edition of the Asian meet, which was his first-ever senior competition after dominating the junior Asia and national circuit.
- ✓ At the Rome Ranking Series in January this year, Sunil bagged silver after losing to Hungary's Victor Lorincz.
- ✓ In the 55kg, Karnataka's Arjun Halakurki settled for bronze.
- **The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), in a historic decision - banned national javelin thrower Amit Dahiya for four years.**
- ✓ He was banned by NADA's disciplinary panel for sending the wrong dope sample during the National Javelin Throw Open Championship last year.

- ✓ Amit Dahiya (21) finished third in the competition held on April 16, 2019, in Sonapat, Haryana
- ✓ During the event, Nada officials asked Dahiya to give a dope sample but he sent someone else to give a sample
- ✓ Dahiya was temporarily suspended on July 16, 2019.
- ✓ Nada referred his case to the ADDP (Anti Doping Disciplinary Panel) on January 9, 2020
- ✓ National Anti-Doping Agency has banned Amit Dahiya for deliberately misleading the officials of NADA during a dope test
- ✓ National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) was established on November 24, 2005, with a vision for dope free sports events in the country.
- ✓ NADA aims to implement anti-doping rules according to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) rules.

## NATIONAL DAY

### ➤ Soil Health Card Day – February 19

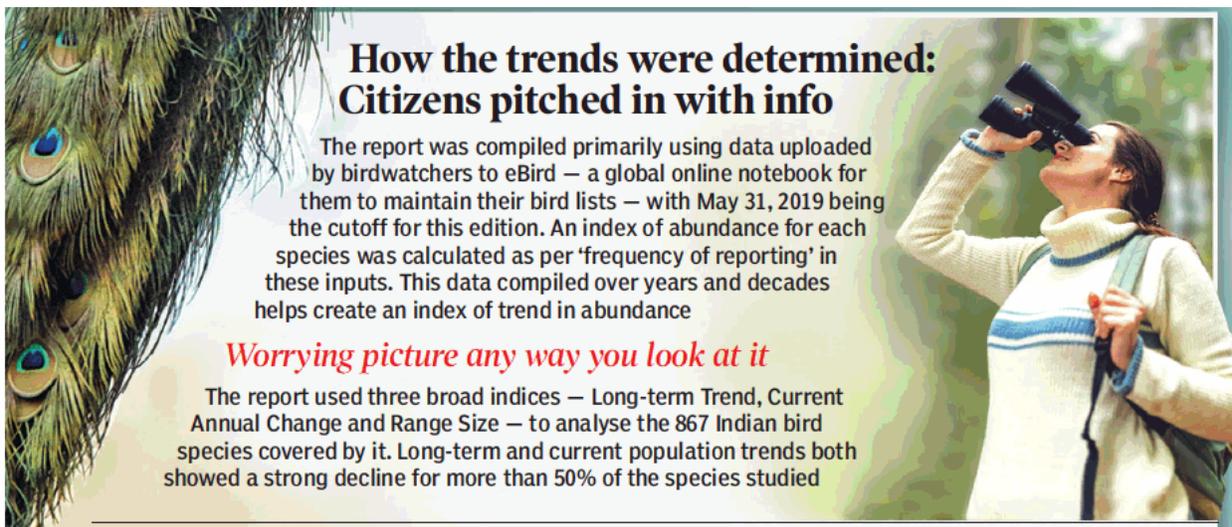


- ✓ This day is observed in India to commemorate the launching of Soil Health Card Scheme by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 19, 2015, in Suratgarh, Rajasthan
- ✓ A government agency collects the soil samples from villages and distributes Soil Health Cards to all the farmers.
- ✓ Apart from that, farmers are also given information about using natural fertilizers.
- ✓ During the launch of the scheme, the Prime Minister said that the farmers should know the current health status of their farm soil.
- ✓ The PM also emphasized the fact that if the soil will not be health, then farm production will be affected.
- ✓ Soil health card day highlights the report of soil's current health status.
- ✓ The soil health status report is prepared by the soil testing laboratory and issued a card which is called the Soil Health Card.

- ✓ Soil Health Card helps farmers to increase crop production by using a balanced amount of fertilizers.
- ✓ Mostly, three kinds of soil land are found in India - Saline, Alkaline and Acidic.

## REPORT

- **The State of India's Birds 2020 Report - was recently released at the 13<sup>th</sup> COP Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Gandhinagar, Gujarat on February 17, 2020**
- ✓ The report has been prepared with the help of a massive database of more than 10 million observations uploaded by 15,000 birdwatchers on the 'e-bird' platform.
- ✓ The project was started in May 2018 as a means to collect the actual data of birds in India.
- ✓ As part of the project, about 867 birds were assessed and it was concluded that almost all the species are declining
- ✓ According to the report, India has witnessed a big decline in migratory shorebirds, raptors, Indian Vulture, Large-billed Lea Warbler, Curlew Sandpiper, Richard's Pipit and White-rumped Vulture.
- ✓ Birds were divided into different categories – 101 birds as a high concern, 319 birds as moderate concern and 442 birds as low concern species.
- ✓ Out of 101 species categorized as of High Conservation Concern, 59 were based on their range size and abundance trends, and an additional 42 were based on their IUCN Red List status.
- ✓ As per the report, good growth has been observed in Indian Peacock's population.
- ✓ Indian Peacock has also mentioned as the species of 'least concern' on the IUCN list.
- ✓ The number of India's domestic or house sparrow has decreased in large cities but almost stable overall



**How the trends were determined:  
Citizens pitched in with info**

The report was compiled primarily using data uploaded by birdwatchers to eBird – a global online notebook for them to maintain their bird lists – with May 31, 2019 being the cutoff for this edition. An index of abundance for each species was calculated as per 'frequency of reporting' in these inputs. This data compiled over years and decades helps create an index of trend in abundance

*Worrying picture any way you look at it*

The report used three broad indices – Long-term Trend, Current Annual Change and Range Size – to analyse the 867 Indian bird species covered by it. Long-term and current population trends both showed a strong decline for more than 50% of the species studied

# The sparrow is not as threatened as you thought, but vultures are



You have known this, and now there is data that shows the number of birds in the country is dwindling. A massive study of 867 Indian bird species was made possible with the help of birdwatchers across the country, who uploaded information on an online platform called eBird. Both the long-term trend and the current annual change are disturbing. But there's good news, too. Our national bird, the peafowl (which includes both peacock and peahen), is flourishing. And if you live in a city and have been concerned about why you don't see that many sparrows anymore, relax: their numbers have dropped in big cities, but they are doing fine elsewhere in the country

## About half of Indian birds facing deep threat...

**867** The number of Indian bird species that were analysed by the report. It placed these species in three categories of conservation concern

\*5 of the 867 species have been combined

► Species of High concern include those whose numbers have declined considerably in the long term and continue to decline at present. Species whose current range is Very Restricted are also in this category as are those whose abundance trend could not be assessed but they are listed as threatened in IUCN's Red List

► The ones of Moderate concern are those that must be closely monitored to arrest their continuing decline

**101**  
High

**319**  
Moderate

**442**  
Low

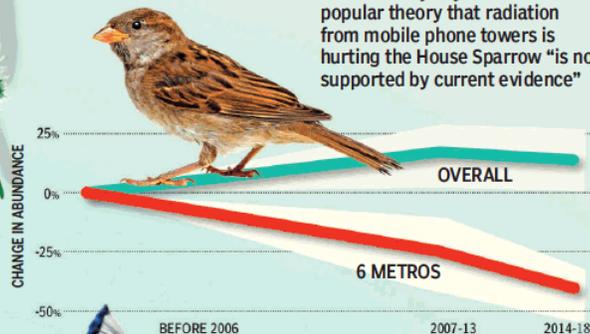


## But some are doing a sight better... like the House Sparrow...

► Widespread concern has been aired at dinner table conversations and nature columns about the declining numbers of the House Sparrow, but the survey found that the species has been "fairly stable" overall during the past 25 years and more

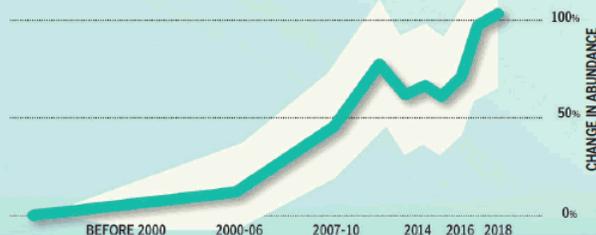
► But data from the six largest metros does indeed show a decline in their numbers in cities. However, the survey says that given the "extremely large range of the species" across the country, among other things, it is of Low Conservation concern

► The survey says that the popular theory that radiation from mobile phone towers is hurting the House Sparrow "is not supported by current evidence"



## ...and the Peafowl

► The Indian Peafowl, which is what the peacock is, was named the national bird in 1963 and has the highest level of legal protection in the country thanks to its inclusion in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act



► The trend of abundance of peafowl is of general increase and one of the reasons behind that could be range expansion (it is now found in Kerala, where it was formerly absent)

► The survey notes that some parts of India report increased levels of crop damage by peafowl and calls for careful conflict planning and management



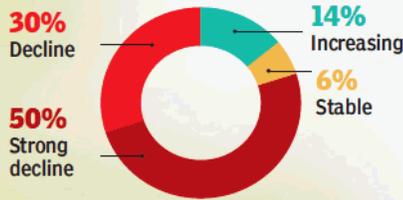
### LONG-TERM TRENDS

261 species for which long-term trends could be determined (i.e. not uncertain or data deficient). It maps proportional change in frequency of reporting in 2018 compared to 2000 and before



### CURRENT ANNUAL

146 species for which the current annual change could be estimated. It calculates average annual change in frequency of reporting for five years from 2014 to 2018



### RANGE SIZE

861 species were estimated  
**46%** moderate range sizes (Others)  
**33%** Large or Very Large (250,000 sqkm to 1,000,000 sqkm)  
**21%** Restricted or Very Restricted (< 42,500 sqkm to < 7,500 sqkm)

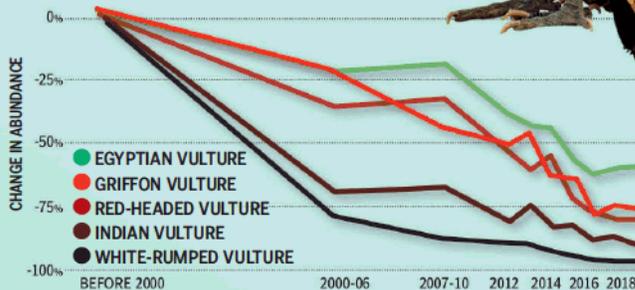
## Some species that have it especially bad

### Vultures

► The report says that many species of Indian vultures have seen “catastrophic” population declines onwards from the early 1990s. These declines are almost entirely due to inadvertent poisoning by the livestock anti-inflammatory drug diclofenac



White-rumped Vulture



► The White-rumped Vulture has suffered the most severe declines, followed by Indian Vulture and Egyptian Vulture

► Vultures are classed among raptors, a category the report notes has clearly declined. Among these, the species that occupy a range of habitats, including urban and other human habitats, and species of forest and woodland, have suffered the least declines in the long term

### Bustards



► All four species of bustards found in India – Great Indian Bustard, Macqueen’s Bustard, Lesser Florican and Bengal Florican – have suffered continuous population declines due to hunting and widespread habitat loss and also face slow growth and reproduction. The Great Indian Bustard is classified as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List 2019

**90%** of the Indian bustard population has declined in the past five decades. Current studies in Rajasthan say that collision with power lines is a prime threat for bustards

► The report says that bustards are habitat specialists and the overall pattern for them is of substantial decline. Of these, forest species have declined the most, followed by grassland/scrubland species, and then by wetland species

Graphic: Sajeev Kumarapuram

Source: State of India’s Birds, 2020: Range, trends and conservation status

