



Pied Cuckoo to be Tracked

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Why in News

Recently, the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, has decided to study the migration of the **Pied Cuckoo Bird (*Jacobin Cuckoo or Chaatak*)**, by tagging the bird with satellite transmitters.

- The study will be conducted along with the **Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS)** and the **Government of India's Department of Biotechnology**.
- IIRS is a constituent unit of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. It is **headquartered in Dehradun**.

Key Points

- **The Study:**
 - This is the **first study in the country** that seeks to trace and observe the migratory routes of the pied cuckoo.
 - It **aims** to gather data and information on **climate change and the monsoon**.
 - Pied cuckoo is known for its **close association with the monsoon in India**.
 - Farmers have traditionally relied on the arrival of the pied cuckoo as a signal of arrival of monsoon and seed sowing.
 - It is part of a larger project called the **Indian Bioresource Information Network (IBIN)** funded by the Government of India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT), which aims to put relevant Indian bioresources information online.

- **Benefit:**

- Gathering information about the migratory route can be invaluable for research on climatic variations taking place in the world, especially since the species has such a close association with the monsoon.

It will give us information on the monsoon, changes in the monsoon and monsoon winds, erratic rainfall, seasonal fluctuations, water vapour pressure, etc.

- The extent of the **effect of ecologies changing** can be seen in the movement of species from a less favourable region to a more favourable region.



- **Pied Cuckoo:**

- It is a bird with black and white plumage (pied) with a fancy crest on the head. Its scientific name is ***Clamator jacobinus***. It is **found in Africa and Asia**.
- There are **two types** of pied cuckoos found in India.
 - In **central and northern parts of India**, pied cuckoos are **migratory**, they are seen only from just before the monsoon to early winter.
 - It is believed that the pied cuckoos that come to the Himalayan foothills are from Africa.
 - They have high site fidelity, that is, they come back to the same location year after year.
 - Pied cuckoos are also found in **southern India**, but those are resident birds and not migratory.
- The bird is primarily **arboreal**, which means that it mostly lives on trees. It is a **brood parasite** i.e. It lays its eggs in nests that belong to other birds.
- It is one of the few species that come to India in the summer. Most other migratory species come in winter.
- **IUCN Status:** Least Concerned.

Source: IE