



World Migratory Bird Day 2022

Why in News?

World Migratory Bird Day was recently celebrated on 08 October 2022.

What is World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)?

- **About:** It is a **bi-annual global campaign** organised to raise awareness about migratory birds, the need for their conservation, and the importance of the preservation of their habitat.
 - It is celebrated on the second Saturday in May and then in October. This year it was celebrated on 14 May and 8 October 2022.
 - WMBD is **organized by** a collaborative partnership among **two UN treaties** - the [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals \(CMS\)](#) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (**AEWA**), and the non-profit organization, Environment for the Americas (**EFTA**).
 - The 2022 global campaign is also being actively supported by other dedicated organizations, including the [East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership \(EAAFP\)](#) and Bird Life International (BLI).
- **Theme:**
 - The theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2022 is **“Light Pollution”**
 - WMBD 2022 is addressing the growing issue of light pollution on these birds and actions on a global scale to help migrate these birds safely.
 - **Artificial lights are the cause of significant threats to migratory birds such as:**
 - Distortion while flying at night
 - Collisions with buildings
 - Disruptions - in their ability to migrate long distances and in their internal clock.

What is Light Pollution?

- **About:**
 - As per CMS, **“light pollution refers to artificial light that alters the natural patterns of light and dark in ecosystems”**.
 - The use of artificial light at night is increasing all over the world. **From 2012 to 2016, artificially lit outdoor areas increased by 2.2% per year**, in 2022, this number could be much greater.
 - Today, **more than 80% of the world's population lives under a “lit sky”**, a figure closer to 99% in Europe and North America.
- **Impact of Light Pollution on Birds:**
 - It can **alter birds' behaviours**, including migration, foraging and vocal communication.
 - It also **affects their activity levels and their energy expenditure**, especially those which migrate at night.
 - It attracts and **disorients nocturnally migrating birds**, which may end up circling in illuminated areas.
 - This unnatural light-induced behaviour can mean they end up **depleting their energy reserves** and puts them at **risk of exhaustion, predation and lethal collision**.
 - **Long distance migratory birds**, such as the blackpoll warbler, the Asian stubtail and the

oriental plover may start and end their migrations in areas with relatively low levels of light pollution, but **during migration they may fly over areas of intense urban development where they experience high levels of artificial light.**

What is the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention?

- It is an international agreement that aims to conserve migratory species throughout their ranges. The agreement was signed under the auspices of the **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)** and is concerned with conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.
 - It was signed in 1979 in Bonn, West Germany and entered into force in 1983.
- As an environmental treaty of the United Nations, CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and **sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.**
- India is a signatory to the CMS.
 - India hosted the CMS CoP-13 (in 2020) at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.
 - India has also launched the National Action Plan for the conservation of migratory species under the Central Asian Flyway.
 - India is a temporary home to several migratory animals and birds.
 - The important among these include [Amur Falcons](#), [Bar-headed Geese](#), [Black-necked cranes](#), [Marine turtles](#), [Dugongs](#), [Humpback Whales](#), etc.
 - The Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the [Central Asian Flyway \(CAF\)](#) that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans.

[Source: CMS](#)

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