



## World Sparrow Day

### Why in News?

Every year on 20<sup>th</sup> March, **World Sparrow Day** is observed to raise awareness and protect the house sparrows.



### What are the Key Highlights of the World Sparrow Day?

#### ▪ About:

- The **Nature Forever Society of India and the Eco-Sys Action Foundation of France** came up with the idea for World Sparrow Day.
- The idea was to **dedicate a day for the house sparrow** in order to spread the word about its protection.
- The **first World Sparrow Day** was organised in **2010**.

#### ▪ Theme for 2022:

- I love sparrows.

#### ▪ Significance:

- The day is observed to **raise awareness on the plight of the sparrow**, which is on the verge of extinction.

- **House sparrows** were a common sight in our backyards, and they were easy to see. However, due to the loss of nature and biodiversity in recent years, spotting

house sparrows in the city has become more difficult.

- The idea is also to **use it as a platform to emphasise the importance of sparrow conservation** and urban biodiversity.

▪ **Most Common and Widespread Species:**

- The **humble house sparrow** is one of the **world's most common and widespread species**.
- Apart from the house sparrow, there are other **twenty-six distinct species of Sparrow**.

- All these species are spread across three continents namely **Asia, Africa and Europe**.

▪ **Reasons for the Decline:**

- **Increasing pollution, urbanisation, global warming** and vanishing ecological resources.

## What are the Characteristics of the Sparrows?

- The House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is perhaps the **most widespread, commonly seen wild bird in the world**.
- It has been **transported all over the world by European settlers** and can now be found on **two-thirds of the landmasses** of the world including **New Zealand, Australia, North America, India and Europe**.
- It is only absent from areas like **China, Indochina, Japan and areas of Siberia and Australia** to east and tropical Africa.

**Source: Mint**

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