

World Sparrow Day

Source: PIB

World Sparrow Day, celebrated on 20th March, raises awareness about the declining sparrow population and emphasizes the need to preserve these vital birds for ecological balance.

- World Sparrow Day: It was initiated by "Nature Forever" in 2010 (a bird conservation organization) and is celebrated in over 50 countries.
 - The **house sparrow** is the state bird of **Delhi and Bihar**, adding to the event's global significance.
- 2025 Theme: "A Tribute to Nature's Tiny Messengers".
- Key Facts About Sparrow: Sparrows aid biodiversity by dispersing seeds, but their numbers are
 declining due to habitat loss, urbanization, and changes in agriculture. Conservation efforts
 focus on urban greening and agroecological practices.
 - The House Sparrow (Passer domesticus), part of the Passeriformes order and Passeridae family, listed as Least Concern on the <u>IUCN Red List</u>. It is a social species, found in groups of 8 to 10, chirping and chattering to communicate with each other.
- Few Common Species Habitat and Distribution in India:

| Sparrow Species | Scientific Name | Habitat Preferences | Distribution in India |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| House Sparrow | Passer domesticus | Urban and rural areas | Widely distributed across India |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow | Passer montanus | Woodlands, parks, and gardens | Found in various regions across India, less common than house sparrows |
| White-throated Sparrow | Zonotrichia albicollis | Northern regions, mountainous areas | Mainly in Jammu & Kashmir or Himachal Pradesh |
| Chestnut-shouldered Petronas | Petronia xanthocollis | Dry forests, scrublands | Inhabit regions like Rajasthan or Gujarat |
| Rufous Treepie | Dendrocitta vagabunda | Wet regions, forests | Prefers areas such as Assam or West Bengal |
| Baya Weaver | Ploceus philippinus | Coastal areas, wetlands | Commonly seen in coastal regions like Goa or Kerala |



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