



## "Peacock Spotted at 6,500 Feet in Uttarakhand"

### Why in News?

Recently, [peacocks](#) were sighted at an unusual altitude of **6,500 feet** in Uttarakhand's [Bageshwar district](#), indicating [ecological changes](#) due to increased human activity.

### Key Points

- The peacock, normally seen at **1,600 feet**, was spotted in the **Kafligair** (April) and **Kathayatbara** (October) forest ranges.
- Experts believe **warmer conditions** at higher altitudes, influenced by human expansion, may explain the bird's **altitudinal migration**.
- Experts from [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#) suggest it may be a **seasonal shift**, as cooler winter temperatures could prompt the bird to retreat.

### Peacock



- The collective name for peacocks is peafowl. The male of the variety is called a peacock and the female peafowl is called a peahen.
  - The Indian peacock is also the **National Bird of India**.
  - Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) belongs to the **Phasianidae family**. They are among the largest of all birds that fly.
    - Phasianidae is the pheasant family, a bird family that includes among its members the jungle fowl (from which the domestic chicken is descended), partridge, peacock, pheasant, and quail.
  - The two most-recognizable species of peafowl are:

- The **blue Peacock/ Indian Peacock** found in **India and Sri Lanka**.
- The **green or Javanese peacock (P. muticus)** found in Myanmar (**Burma**) to **Java**.

▪ **Habitat:**

- The Indian peafowl is a native of India and some parts of **Pakistan and Sri Lanka**.
- The **species are currently habituated more in central Kerala**, followed by southeast and northwest parts of the state.
  - At least **19% of the states' area is suitable habitat for this species and this may increase by 40-50% by 2050**.
- They are well adapted to living in forest edges and cultivated areas.

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