



Greater Racket-Tailed Drongo

Why in News?

A **greater racket-tailed drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)** was spotted in Jhanjhrola, Gurugram marking the bird's first recorded sighting in the district.



Key Points

▪ About Greater Racket-tailed Drongo:

- **Appearance:**
 - A **medium-sized bird native to Asia**, notable for its **elongated outer tail feathers with webbing** only at the **tips**.
 - Diurnal in nature but **remains active before dawn and after dusk**.
- **Vocal Abilities:**
 - Known for **producing a variety of loud calls**, including accurate imitations of other bird species.
- **Distribution in India:**
 - Found from the western to eastern Himalayas, including the **Mishmi Hills**.
 - It also inhabits hilly regions of peninsular India and the **Western Ghats**.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List Status: Least Concern**
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule IV**
- **Migratory Pattern:**
 - The species is **usually found in moist, dense forests** along the **Himalayan foothills and terai regions**.
 - It **rarely descends to lower elevations**, except marginally during snowfall in the higher ranges.
 - It is an **altitudinal migrant**, not commonly seen in the National Capital Region

(NCR).

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IUCN Red List

- The IUCN Red List is the foremost global resource for assessing the risk of extinction among animals, fungi, and plant species.
- Accessible to all, it serves as a crucial indicator of global biodiversity health, it offers comprehensive insights into species' characteristics, threats, and conservation measures, playing a pivotal role in shaping informed conservation decisions and policies.
- The IUCN Red List Categories define the extinction risk of species assessed. **Nine categories** extend from NE (Not Evaluated) to EX (Extinct). Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU) species are considered to be threatened with extinction.
 - It is also a key indicator for the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and [Aichi Targets](#).
- The IUCN Red List includes the **IUCN Green Status of Species**, which assesses the recovery of species' populations and measures their conservation success.
 - There are **eight Green Status Categories**: Extinct in the Wild, Critically Depleted, Largely Depleted, Moderately Depleted, Slightly Depleted, Fully Recovered, Non-Depleted and Indeterminate.
 - A Green Status assessment examines how conservation actions have affected the current Red List status.

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