



# Indian House Crows

[Source: DTE](#)

## Why in News?

Recently the **Kenyan government** has announced an **action plan to eliminate** a million [Indian House Crows \(\*Corvus splendens\*\)](#) by the end of 2024.

- This decision stems from the birds' significant **negative impact** on local ecosystems and their nuisance to the public, particularly in the Kenyan coastal region.

## What is the Kenyan Government Action Plan?

- **Invasive Species Issue:** The Indian House Crow is described as an [invasive alien species](#) from India and parts of Asia, introduced to East Africa via shipping activities.
- **Ecological Impact:** The crows prey on **endangered local bird species**, destroy nests, and eat eggs and chicks, leading to a **decline in indigenous bird** populations.
  - This decline **disrupts the [ecosystem](#)**, allowing [pests](#) and [insects](#) to proliferate, further harming the environment.
- **Historical Effort:** A similar effort in Kenya over 20 years ago managed to reduce their numbers temporarily.
- **Government and Community Response:** An action plan to combat the crow menace includes mechanical and targeted methods for culling the birds, and **use of licensed poison** for population control.

## What are the Key Facts About Indian House Crows?

- **Species:** *Corvus splendens*
- **Common names:** Indian house crow, house crow, Indian crow, grey-necked crow, Ceylon crow, Colombo crow
- **Family:** Corvidae
- **Taxonomy:** The nominate race of *Corvus splendens* (*C. splendens*) exists in **India, Nepal** and **Bangladesh** and has a grey neck collar.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - [IUCN Status:](#) **Least Concerned**
  - [Wildlife Protection Act:](#) **Schedule II**

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## Key Points About Kenya

- **Kenya** is located in **East Africa**. Its terrain rises from a low coastal plain on the Indian Ocean to mountains and plateaus at its centre.
- Kenya shares **common borders with** five countries namely: **Tanzania** in the South, **Uganda** in the West, **South Sudan** in the North West, **Ethiopia** in the North and **Somalia** in the East
- Kenya's is located **between the [Indian Ocean](#) and [Lake Victoria](#)**.
- [Lake Turkana](#), the world's largest desert lake, is part of the Omo-Turkana basin, which stretches into four countries: **Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda**.
- [UN-Habitat](#) maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya.



### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

#### **Prelims:**

**Q. Consider the following statements: (2019)**

1. Some species of turtles are herbivores.
2. Some species of fish are herbivores.
3. Some species of marine mammals are herbivores.
4. Some species of snakes are viviparous.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

**(a)** 1 and 3 only

**(b)** 2, 3 and 4 only

(c) 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (d)**

**Q. Which one of the following is the national aquatic animal of India? (2015)**

(a) Saltwater crocodile

(b) Olive ridley turtle

(c) Gangetic dolphin

(d) Gharial

**Ans: (c)**

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