



Great Knot

Why in News?

A Great knot has flown over 9,000 kilometers from Russia for a winter sojourn on Kerala's coast.

- The migratory bird that traversed the [Central Asian Flyway \(CAF\)](#) is only one of the two — the other has been sighted at Jamnagar in Gujarat.



What are the Key Points about the Great knot?

- **Physical Appearance:**
 - A medium-sized bulky wader with a straight, dark-brown bill and yellowish-brown legs.
 - It has a striped crown with an indistinct white eyebrow. Its upperparts are grey, with dark feather tips, its underparts are white.
 - The rump is pure white, the tail is tipped with grey.
 - Breeding plumage consists of darker upperparts with black and chestnut markings.
- **Scientific Name:** *Calidris tenuirostris*
- **Protection Status:**
 - [IUCN Status:](#) **Endangered**
- **Distribution:**
 - This species breeds in **north-east Siberia, Russia, wintering mainly in Australia**, but also **throughout the coastline of South-East Asia** and on the coasts of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula.
 - In India, it is found along the coastal regions of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
 - The **Yellow Sea of North Korea, South Korea and China is a particularly important stop-over site** on migration in both spring and autumn.

▪ **Habitat and Ecology:**

- Occurs within **sheltered, coastal habitats** containing large, intertidal mudflats or sandflats, including **inlets, bays, harbours, estuaries and lagoons**.
- Often recorded on sandy beaches with mudflats nearby, sandy spits and islets and sometimes on exposed reefs or rock platforms.

What is the Central Asian Flyway (CAF)?

- It is a migration route, **covering over 30 countries**, for different waterbirds linking their northernmost breeding grounds in **Russia** (Siberia) to the southernmost non-breeding (wintering) grounds in **West and South Asia**, the **Maldives** and **British Indian Ocean Territory**.
- CAF is among the **nine flyways in the world** and three of the nine flyways that pass through the Indian Subcontinent. The other two are:
 - **East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF)** and **Asian East African Flyway (AEAF)**.
- **India has a strategic role in the flyway**, as it **provides critical stopover sites** to over **90% of the bird species** known to use this migratory route.
 - Flyways are the area used by a group of birds during their annual cycle which includes their breeding areas, stop over areas and wintering areas.

Source: TH

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