



Indian Peafowl

Why in news

Recently, a man was hit by a **peafowl in Kerala** after which he died. This incident has turned the spotlight on the **increasing population of Indian peafowls** in the state.

Key Points

▪ About: //



- 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, or Indian, peacock** of India and Sri Lanka.
 - The **green or Javanese, peacock (*P. muticus*)** found from 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**.

▪ Concerns:

- They are a **threat to paddy farmers** in Kerala. They destroy its seeds and cause man-animal conflict.
 - Agriculture expansion and **deforestation** have caused other species to **'invade human territory'**.
 - The growing population of peafowls signals **climate change**. They are known to grow and thrive in dry conditions.
- **Protection Status:**
- **IUCN**: Least Concern
 - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**: Schedule I

Source: DTE

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