



WROUGHTON'S FREE TAILED BAT: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: Wroughton's free-tailed bat, a highly rare species, spotted in Delhi's Yamuna Biodiversity Park

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The rare sighting of Wroughton's free-tailed bat at Delhi's Yamuna Biodiversity Park highlights the success of urban biodiversity restoration. Once considered critically endangered, the species plays a vital role in regulating insect populations and pollination.

Significant Sighting in Delhi:

- Wroughton's free-tailed bat spotted at Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Delhi, a rare event outside its usual habitats (Western Ghats, Meghalaya, Cambodia).
- Highlights the success of urban biodiversity restoration in supporting rare species.



Wroughton's free-tailed bat is primarily found in Western Ghats . Credit: Mohan Singh, officer at DDA Yamuna Biodiversity Park

Distinct Characteristics of the Species:

- Large size, prominent ears, bicoloured velvet-like fur.
- Roosts in caves or warm, dark places in moderate colonies.
- Plays a vital role in controlling insect populations and aiding pollination.



Ecological Importance and Conservation Status:

- Initially classified as "Critically Endangered," now listed as "Data Deficient" by IUCN.
- Adaptable species with powerful flying abilities, yet feeding ecology remains largely unknown.

Delhi's Bat Biodiversity:

- Delhi hosts 14 bat species, including four previously thought extinct.
- Restoration efforts have created habitats like Aravali Biodiversity Park, home to Blyth's horseshoe bat's only known roosting site in the region.

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