

Black-and-orange Flycatcher & the Nilgiri Flycatcher

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In news- A new study has revealed that the Black-and-orange Flycatcher(BOF) & the Nilgiri Flycatcher(NIF), two species endemic to the Western Ghats, could suffer a loss of 31 percent and 46 per cent of their range respectively by 2050 due to climate change.

About the study-

- **Researchers from the Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur**, developed species distribution models for two both, BOF and NIF.
- They did this to understand the current potential suitability and possible responses of the species to future climate change **using the MaxEnt algorithm.**
- **MaxEnt, which stands for 'maximum entropy modelling', predicts species' occurrences by finding the distribution** that is most spread out, or closest to uniform, while taking into account the limits of the environmental variables of known locations.
- As per the study, about 75 per cent of the currently suitable areas of both species lie outside the protected area network in the Western Ghats.
- Future predictions for BOF indicate a 30.82 percent loss in suitable areas under the warming scenario called 'RCP 8.5'.

Black-and-orange Flycatcher(BOF)-

- BOF is a **species of flycatcher endemic to the central and southern Western Ghats, the Nilgiris.**
- It is also found in Biligiri Rangana, Kannan Devan Hills and Palni hill ranges in southern India.
- It is **unique among the Ficedula flycatchers in having**

rufous coloration on its back.

- The male is distinctly black headed with black wings.
- The female has the black replaced by dark brown and has a light eye-ring.
- They **prefer areas with high leaf litter** and undergrowth in open shola grassland habitats.
- **IUCN status:** Least concerned.

The Nilgiri Flycatcher(NIF)-

- It is **an Old World flycatcher with a very restricted range** in the hills of southern India.
- It **was formerly referred to as the Nilgiri verditer flycatcher** because of its similarity to the verditer flycatcher.
- **Nilgiri verditer is** a winter migrant to the Nilgiris, which, however, has distinct dark lores and a lighter shade of blue.
- This small and somewhat long-tailed flycatcher is about 13 centimetres (5.1 in).
- It is **dark steely indigo blue with some violet-blue** on the forehead and darker lores.
- The **female is duller with dark brown** on the upperparts and dark grey below.
- Like most flycatchers, it makes sallies to capture insects and returns to its perch.
- It forages mainly in the lower storey but can sometimes be found on top of the canopy.
- It is **found mainly in the higher altitude shola forests of the Western Ghats**, Nilgiris, Palnis, Anamalai ranges, the Brahmagiri, Baba Budan and Biligirirangan hills.
- **IUCN status:** Least concerned.