



GREATER FLAMINGO: ENVIRONMENT

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The **Greater Flamingo**, a tall wading bird with pinkish plumage derived from its diet, is a **Least Concern** species but faces threats like habitat loss. They migrate to India during winter, inhabiting wetlands like **Pulicat Lake** and **Rann of Kutch**, contributing to biodiversity and wetland health.

Greater Flamingo:

Physical Characteristics:

- Tall wading birds with **pinkish plumage**, long necks, and legs.
- Pink color is derived from their diet (algae and crustaceans).



Conservation Status:

- Listed as **Least Concern** by IUCN, but face threats like habitat loss and pollution.

Species Diversity:

- Six recognized species worldwide.



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- In India, the **Greater Flamingo** and **Lesser Flamingo** are commonly found.

Diet:

- Feed on **algae, diatoms**, and small aquatic organisms.
- Use specialized beaks to filter food from water.

Habitat:

- Found in shallow water bodies like **lagoons, estuaries, and salt pans**.

Behaviour:

- Highly **social birds**, forming large flocks for feeding and breeding.

Breeding:

- Build **mud mound nests** and lay a single egg.

Significance:

- Indicators of **wetland health**.
- Contribute to **biodiversity** and attract **ecotourism**.

Migration to India:

- Migrate to India during **winter**.
- Commonly found in wetlands like **Pulicat Lake** and **Rann of Kutch**.

Source: <https://epaper.thehindu.com/reader> The hindu pg:3