



## FLAMINGO FESTIVAL: ENVIRONMENT

**NEWS:** Flamingo Festival to begin from January 18 in Tirupati district

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS:

The Flamingo Festival 2025 at Sullurpeta, Andhra Pradesh, showcases migratory flamingos to promote eco-tourism, biodiversity conservation, and local cultural heritage. Flamingos, known for their striking pink coloration and ecological role, play a crucial part in maintaining wetland ecosystems.

### Flamingo Festival 2025

#### Location:

- Sullurpeta, situated near Pulicat Lake in Andhra Pradesh, a significant habitat for migratory flamingos.

#### Objective:

- Promote eco-tourism, foster awareness about biodiversity conservation, and support local development.

#### Attractions:

- Birdwatching sessions highlighting flamingos and other migratory birds.
- Cultural programs, traditional arts, and crafts showcasing local heritage.
- Ecological tours and community-based activities.

#### Flamingos:

##### 1. Distinctive Characteristics

#### Coloration:

- Flamingos are known for their iconic pink or reddish hues derived from carotenoid pigments in their diet, primarily algae, plankton, and crustaceans.

##### 2. Habitat and Range

#### Geographical Distribution:

- Found across tropical and subtropical regions, including Africa, Asia, and the Americas.



## Preferred Habitats:

- Shallow saline and alkaline lakes, estuaries, and mudflats.

## 3. Social and Migratory Behavior

### Social Nature:

- Flamingos are highly social birds, forming colonies that can number in the thousands.

### Migration to India:

- During winter, flamingos migrate to Indian wetlands such as Pulicat Lake and Rann of Kutch for feeding and breeding.

## 4. Feeding Mechanism

### Specialized Adaptations:

- Flamingos possess unique, inverted beaks that allow them to filter-feed on small organisms, including algae, diatoms, and small invertebrates from the water.



## Ecological and Conservation Significance

### 1. Ecological Role



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- Flamingos help regulate algae and small invertebrate populations in wetlands, maintaining ecological balance.
- Their presence supports wetland health, benefiting other aquatic species and biodiversity.

## 2. Conservation Status

### Six Flamingo Species and Their IUCN Red List Status:

1. **Greater Flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) – **Least Concern**
2. **Chilean Flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*) – **Near Threatened**
3. **American Flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) – **Least Concern**
4. **Lesser Flamingo** (*Phoeniconaias minor*) – **Near Threatened**
5. **Andean Flamingo** (*Phoenicoparrus andinus*) – **Vulnerable**
6. **James's Flamingo (Puna Flamingo)** (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*) – **Near Threatened**

### Flamingo Status in India:

- **Greater Flamingo:**
  - Migrates to India from Israel, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.
  - Designated as the **State Bird of Gujarat**.
- **Lesser Flamingo:**
  - Migrates from **Siberia** to Mumbai, passing through the **Rann of Kutch** in Gujarat.

## 3. Threats to Flamingos

### Habitat Destruction:

- Urbanization and industrial projects impacting wetlands.

### Pollution:

- Contamination of feeding grounds from agricultural runoff and industrial effluents.

### Climate Change:

- Altered migratory patterns and reduced availability of suitable habitats.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/flamingo-festival-to-begin-from-january-18-in-tirupati-district/article69075681.ece>