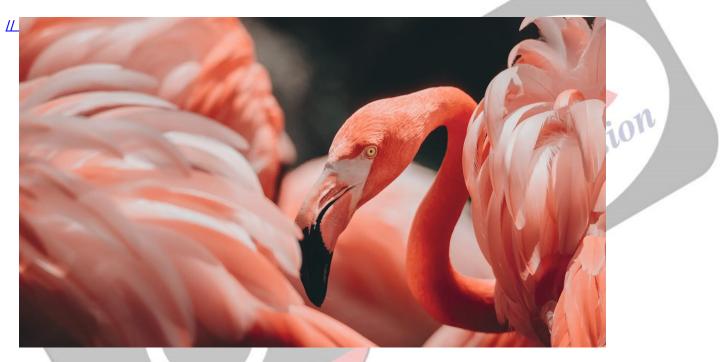


# **Pink Flamingos**

#### Source: DTE

## Why in News?

Recently, <u>climate change</u> has altered water levels and salinity at **Tanzania's Lake Natron**, home to many pink <u>flamingos</u>, making nesting more difficult and causing their population to decline due to <u>extreme</u> <u>weather</u> and human encroachment.



## What are the Key Facts About Flamingos?

- About: It belongs to the **family** Phoenicopteridae.
  - There are six species of flamingo namely the <u>Greater flamingo</u> (state bird of Gujarat), Chilean flamingo, Lesser flamingo, Caribbean flamingo, Andean flamingo, and Puna flamingo that inhabit lakes, mudflats, and shallow lagoons in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe.
- Distinctive Appearance: Known for their vibrant pink feathers, flamingos have long legs and necks, webbed feet, and a distinctive downward-curving bill adapted for filter-feeding.
  - Flamingos' habitats and food sources change by location and season, causing their colors to range from dark or bright pink to orange, red, or pure white.
- Adaptations: Flamingos have adapted to extreme environments with high salinity and temperatures, where their predators are limited.
- **Ecological Role:** They play a crucial ecological role by maintaining the health of their habitats through their feeding activities, which affect **nutrient cycling** and <u>algae</u> populations.
- Conservation Status:
  - IUCN Red List:

- Vulnerable: Andean flamingo
- Near Threatened: Lesser flamingo, Puna flamingo, and Chilean flamingo
- CITES: Appendix II
- Wildlife Protection Act. 1972: Schedule II



- Lake Natron is a salt lake located on the border between Tanzania and Kenya, part of the eastern branch of the <u>Rift Valley</u>.
  - The **Great Rift Valley** is a massive geological formation that stretches around 6,400 kilometers from **northern** <u>Syria</u> to **central Mozambique** in East Africa.
  - The valley is home to the **Jordan River**, which flows through the Jordan Valley and eventually **empties into the Dead Sea** on the border between Israel and Jordan.
- Lake Natron Basin was included in the <u>Ramsar List</u> in 2001, recognizing Lake Natron as an internationally significant <u>wetland</u> under Article 2 of the Ramsar Convention.
- It has a unique composition of warm waters and salt, caustic soda, and magnesite deposits.
- Lake Natron's alkaline waters support a thriving ecosystem of salt marshes, freshwater wetlands, flamingos and other wetland birds, tilapia and the algae on which large flocks of flamingos feed.

**UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)** 

## <u>Prelims:</u>

### Q. Consider the following fauna: (2023)

- 1. Lion-tailed Macaque
- 2. Malabar Civet
- 3. Sambar Deer

#### How many of the above are generally nocturnal or most active after sunset?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Ans: (a)

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/current-affairs-news-analysis-editorials/newsanalysis/27-06-2024/print

The Vision