

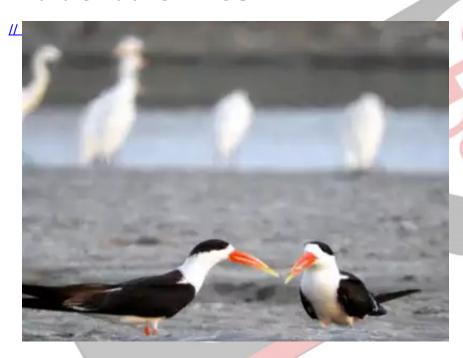
## **Indian Skimmers**

### Why in News?

As per the <u>Asian Waterbird Census</u> **2023** (recommended dates for the AWC are 7 – 22 January) which has been started recently, **the** <u>Godavari</u> **estuary in Andhra Pradesh has become a prime and safe habitat for the <u>Indian Skimmer</u> (** *Rynchops albicollis***).** 

Around 250 Indian Skimmers, were sighted in Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### What are Indian Skimmers?



- About:
  - Another common name for Indian skimmers is Indian scissors bill.
  - They are **more widespread in winter;** the Indian skimmer is found in the coastal estuaries of western and eastern India.
    - The species can be sighted near the <u>Chambal River</u> in Central India, in **few parts** of Odisha and in Andhra Pradesh.

The Vision

- Major Threats:
  - Habitat degradation, excessive and widespread increases in disturbances near the rivers.
- Protection Status:
  - IUCN Red List Status: Endangered
  - **CITES**: Not listed

# **Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary**

■ The Government declared a part of the Godavari mangrove system as Coringa Wildlife

**Sanctuary in 1978** to rehabilitate the <u>salt water crocodile</u> and to protect the other endangered species, such as <u>Olive Ridley turtles</u> and <u>Indian Otter</u>.

 About 120 species of resident and migratory birds depend on this area for breeding and nesting.

#### **Asian Waterbird Census**

- Every January, thousands of volunteers across Asia and Australasia visit wetlands in their country and count waterbirds. This citizen-science programme supports the conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide.
- The AWC is an integral part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, the International Waterbird Census (IWC), coordinated by Wetlands International.

