



Important Facts for Prelims (5th November 2018)

Greater Flamingoes

- After a long a gap, a flock of five greater flamingoes has been spotted on the Coast of Hope Island, a part of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh which is an abode for about 35 species of mangrove plants.
- Greater flamingoes are the **state bird of Gujarat**.
- Greater flamingoes are the **largest in size among all Flamingos**.
- Greater flamingoes are **found in** various regions of **Africa**, the **southeastern** parts of **Asia** as well as **southern Europe**. In Asia, their distribution range includes the coastal areas of India and Pakistan.
- Northern populations of these birds often migrate to warm regions during winter. Other reasons for their migration include scarcity of food, water-level changes, and competition within a single colony.
- These species form monogamous pairs which mean each pair remains together for their entire lives.
- These **birds prefer saltwater lagoons in coastal areas**. They also inhabit large alkaline and saline lakes.
- This omnivorous species feed on mollusks, crustaceans, insects, crabs, worms and small fishes. Their diet also consists of various plant materials such as algae, grass, decaying leaves, and shoots.
- They use their specialized beaks for filtering food. There are many comb-like plates arranged in rows inside their beaks. These plates help to filter small invertebrates and insects from the water.
- They get their **characteristic pink color** from their diet of brine shrimps and algae available in the coastal wetlands. The flamingoes are the indicators of a healthy coastal environment.

Ayurveda Day

- Ayurveda Day is being observed on **5th November 2018**. **Ministry of AYUSH** observes Ayurveda Day every year on **Dhanawantari Jayanti (Dhanteras)**.

Bhungroo

- Bhungroo is a **water management system** that injects and **stores excess rainfall** underground and lifts it out for use in dry spells.
- Adoption of this technology has decreased salt deposits on soil and increased fresh water supply, saving farmers from drought.