PTEROPUS GIGANTEUS

written by iasexam.com | 17/08/2023

About

- Pteropus giganteus, commonly known as the Indian flying fox.
- It is a remarkable bat species native to the Indian subcontinent.

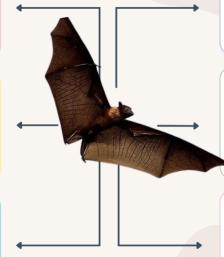
Appearance

- It is characterized by its large size and fox-like facial features.
- Usually displays a dark brown, gray, or black body, often with a distinct yellowish mantle.
- Males are generally larger than females.

Geographic Range

 Pteropus giganteus occurs in tropical regions of South Central Asia, from Pakistan to China, and as far south as the Maldive Islands.

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Habitat

- They can be found in forests and swamps.
- Large groups of individuals roost in trees such as banyan, fig, and tamarind.
- Roosting trees are usually in the vicinity of a body of water.

Conservation

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix II
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule II

Negative impact

- Indian flying foxes considered as vermin cause extensive damage to fruit orchards.
- They may also spread disease, particularly the Nipah virus, which causes illness and death in humans.