

Indian Flying Fox bat

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About Indian Flying Fox bat:

- It is a species of flying fox **native to the Indian subcontinent**.
- It is one of the **largest bats in the world**.
- The nectar and **fruit-eating flying fox (Pteropus giganteus)** is generally considered a **vermin** as they raid orchards.
- It is a **keystone species** causing seed dispersals of many plants in tropical systems.
- **Appearance**
 - The Indian flying fox is so called due to its unique, **fox-like appearance**: reddish-brown coat, characteristically long snout as well as large eyes. And indeed, this animal resembles a little fox with

wings.

- **Distribution:** These bats are endemic to South Central Asia, found from Pakistan and China to the Maldives Islands.
 - **Habits and Lifestyle**
 - It is **highly social creatures, forming large roosts** of several hundred animals.
 - These bats live in a 'vertical', male-dominated hierarchy system, where higher-ranked individuals occupy higher spots of the tree, while lower-ranked individuals remain on lower spots.
 - **Diet:** They maintain a frugivorous diet, supplementing it with insects as well as flowers, containing juice and nectar.
 - **Threat:** Being external roosters, the flying fox is exposed to predators and disturbances apart from environmental indicators such as heat and light.
 - **Conservation status**
 - **IUCN:**Least concern
 - **The Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972:**Schedule II
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Q1) What is the keystone species?

A keystone species is a species that has a disproportionately large impact on its ecosystem relative to its abundance or biomass. The term "keystone species" was first introduced by the American ecologist Robert T. Paine in 1969 to describe certain species that play a critical role in maintaining the structure, diversity, and function of an ecosystem.

Source: [Flying fox bats for vigilance while day-roosting, finds study](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/indian-flying-fox-bat/>

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