

## **Pulicat Lake**

1. **Pulicat Lake** (Telugu: *Pulicat Sarassu*, Tamil: *Pazhaverkaadu Eri*) is the second largest brackish – water lake or lagoon in India, after Chilika Lake.
2. It straddles the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu states on the Coromandal Coast in South India. The lake encompasses the Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary.
3. The barrier island of Sriharikota separates the lake from the Bay of Bengal and is home to the Satish Dhawan Space Centre

### **Geography and topography**

1. the lagoon's boundary limits range between 13.33° to 13.66° N and 80.23° to 80.25°E, with a dried part of the lagoon extending up to 14.0°N.; with about **84% of the lagoon in Andhra Pradesh and 16% in Tamil Nadu.**
2. The lagoon is aligned parallel to the coast line with its western and eastern parts covered with sand ridges.
3. Area of the lake varies with the tide; 450 square kilometres (170 sq mi) in high tide and 250 square kilometres (97 sq mi) in low tide. Its length is about 60 kilometres (37 mi) with width varying from 0.2 kilometres (0.12 mi) to 17.5 kilometres (10.9 mi).
4. Climate of the lagoon coast line is dominated by Tropical monsoons. Air temperature varies from 15 °C (59 °F) to 45 °C (113 °F).
5. The large spindle-shaped barrier island named Sriharikota separates the lake from the Bay of Bengal. The sandy barrier islands of Irkam and Venad and smaller islands in the north are aligned north–south and divide the lagoon into eastern and western sectors.
6. The morphology of the lagoons is categorized under four types with large areas under mudflats and sandflats.
7. The fishing village of Pulicat is at the south end of the lake.
8. The Satish Dhawan Space Center is located on the north end of the island.
9. Pulicat, Dugarājupatnam and Sullurpeta are villages located on the periphery of the lagoon.

### **Limnology**

1. Fishing is the major occupation in the many villages located around the lake periphery and on the islands.
2. The lake has rich fish diversity, mostly marine species, some truly brackish water and a few freshwater species.
3. Mullets and Catfish are the major brackish water fish, which have supported sustenance fishing for the lake fishermen.
4. The lake is a nursery for several species of fish.

5. Two thirds of the settlements in the lake area are in Tamil Nadu and the balance in Andhra Pradesh. 12,370 fishermen live on full-time fishery in the lake (6,000 in Andhra Pradesh and 6,370 in Tamil Nadu).
6. An average 1200 tonnes of fish and crustaceans are harvested annually, of which prawns constitute 60%, followed by mullets.
7. Seafood exports of white and tiger prawns, jellyfish, finfish and live lagoon green crabs are also economic benefits from the lagoon.
8. 168 total fish species are reported.
9. The frequently found ones are the mullets: *M. cunnesius*, *M. jerdoni*, *M. dussumieri*, *M. cephalus*, *M. bornensis* and blowfish *T. nigropunctatus*, *T. leopardus*, *Barbus dorsalis*, catfish *Macrones vittatus*, sardines, *Sardinella fimbriata* and milk fish. Finfish, green crabs, clams and prawns are the most commercially exploited fishes of the lagoon. Endangered green sea turtles are found on the beaches of Sriharikota beach.
10. Apart from prawns salt is also produced from the lagoon.