

Ramsar Sites in India 2023 - Updated List of Ramsar Sites

Five new Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) were announced by the Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav in July 2022. The five new Ramsar sites are Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove in Tamil Nadu, Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh and Pala Wetlands in Mizoram. Currently, there are 75 Ramsar sites in India. In this article, we discuss what Ramsar Sites are, their significance and the number of Ramsar Sites in India with their names and states they are located in.

The term was coined when the International Treaty for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands was signed in a city in Iran called Ramsar in 1971. The topic, 'Ramsar Sites of India' is important for the upcoming [IAS Exam](#).

Click the links below to get information on wetlands in India:

1. [Facts about Ramsar Sites in India for UPSC](#)
2. [List of Ramsar Sites in India](#)
3. [UPSC Questions on Indian Ramsar Sites](#)

Latest Updates about Indian Ramsar Sites

1. In July 2022, five new sites from India were added to the List of Ramsar Sites. The new sites are:
 1. **Karikili Bird Sanctuary - Tamil Nadu**
 2. **Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest - Tamil Nadu**
 3. **Pichavaram Mangrove - Tamil Nadu**
 4. **Sakhya Sagar - Madhya Pradesh**
 5. **Pala Wetlands - Mizoram**
2. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh were announced as Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) on the occasion of [World Wetland Day 2022](#) (2nd February 2022) held at Sultanpur National Park, a Ramsar site in Haryana.
3. Haiderpur Wetland in Uttar Pradesh has been added as the 47th Ramsar Site in December 2021. It is a human-made wetland formed in 1984 and is located within the boundaries of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.
4. Four new sites have been added to the list of Ramsar Sites in India in August 2021. These are:
 - Sultanpur National Park - Gurugram, Haryana
 - Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary - Jhajjar, Haryana
 - Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary - Near Ahmedabad, Gujarat
 - Wadhvana Wetland - Vadodara, Gujarat
5. In 2020, the following sites were added to the Ramsar Sites of India List:
 - December 2020 - The Tso Kar Wetland Complex was added to the list of Ramsar sites in India. This includes the high-altitude wetland complex of two connected lakes, Startsapuk Tso and Tso Kar, in Ladakh.
 - November 2020 - Maharashtra - Lonar Lake
 - November 2020 - Agra (Uttar Pradesh) - Sur Sarovar also called, Keetham Lake
 - November 2020 - Uttarakhand - Asan Barrage
 - July 2020 - Bihar - Kanwar Lake or Kabal Taal
 - February 2020 - Kolkata - Sunderban Reserve Forest (Sunderban Wetlands)

- 2nd February 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention, the day which is also celebrated as World Wetlands Day. India on this occasion established the Centre for Wetland Conservation & Management which is the first in the country. It is set up under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), at the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) in Chennai.
- Sambhar Lake had been in the news for its deterioration over salt mining. [Sambhar Lake](#) is a Ramsar Site in India.

Facts of Ramsar Sites & Indian Wetlands for UPSC

The table below provides relevant facts in brief useful for [UPSC Exam](#):

Ramsar Sites in India & Indian Wetlands	
What are Ramsar Sites?	Any wetland site which has been listed under the Ramsar Convention that aims to conserve it and promote sustainable use of its natural resources is called a Ramsar Site.
What is the Ramsar Convention?	Ramsar Convention is known as the Convention of Wetlands. It was established in 1971 by UNESCO and came into force in 1975.
Is India a part of the Ramsar Convention?	Yes, India is a party to the Ramsar Convention. India signed under it on 1st February 1982.
How many Ramsar Sites are in India?	There are 75 Ramsar Sites in India [Latest]
Which is the largest Ramsar Site in India?	Sundarbans is the largest Ramsar Site in India
Which is the first Ramsar Site in India?	Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were recognized as the first Ramsar Sites of India
Which Indian state has the most number of Ramsar Sites?	Tamil Nadu has the most number of Ramsar Sites in India. It has 14 Indian Wetlands.
Which is the smallest wetland in India?	Renuka Wetland (Area - 20 ha) in Himachal Pradesh is the smallest wetland of India.

Other Interesting Facts about the Ramsar sites that as an IAS aspirant, you must know about:

- Ramsar sites are one of the major protected areas in the world.
- There are currently over 2500 Ramsar sites in the world covering an area of 257,106,360 hectares.
- World's First Ramsar site was identified in 1974, which was the Cobourg Peninsula in Australia.
- The United Kingdom has the world's largest number of Ramsar Sites i.e. 175.
- February 2 is celebrated as International Wetlands Day, as the Ramsar Convention was signed on February 2, 1971.
- The Ramsar Convention works with the collaboration of the following organizations:
 - [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN).
 - Birdlife International.
 - International Water Management Institute (IWMI).
 - Wetlands International.
 - Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
 - WWF International

7. To research any of the Ramsar sites, one can check the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS)
8. The number of contracting parties for the Ramsar Convention as of October 2019 is 171.

List of Ramsar Sites in India

The Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971 with the aim of "conservation and wise use of wetlands with local, national and international cooperation for overall sustainable development of the world".

The Ramsar sites are maintained in the [Montreux Record](#) to track any major ecological changes that might affect any of the wetland sites positively or in a reverse way.

The Ramsar convention entered into force in India on 1 February 1982.

India currently has 75 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). This is the highest in South Asia.

List of Ramsar sites in India [Updated - December 2023]

Ramsar Sites in India	State - Location
Karikili Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest	Tamil Nadu
Pichavaram Mangrove	Tamil Nadu
Sakhya Sagar	Madhya Pradesh
Pala Wetlands	Mizoram
Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary	Gujarat
Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Haiderpur Wetland	Uttar Pradesh
Sultanpur National Park	Haryana
Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary	Haryana
Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	Gujarat
Wadhvana Wetland	Gujarat
Ashtamudi Wetland	Kerala
Beas Conservation Reserve	Punjab
Bhitarkanika Mangroves	Odisha
Bhoj Wetlands	Madhya Pradesh
Chandra Taal	Himachal Pradesh
Chilika Lake	Odisha
Deepor Beel	Assam
East Kolkata Wetlands	West Bengal
Harike Wetlands	Punjab
Hokera Wetland	Jammu & Kashmir

Kanjli Wetland	Punjab
Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan
Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve	Punjab
Kolleru lake	Andhra Pradesh
Loktak lake	Manipur
Nalsarovar Bird sanctuary	Gujarat
Nandur Madhameshwar	Maharashtra
Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	Punjab
Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Parvati Agra Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Pong Dam lake	Himachal Pradesh
Renuka lake	Himachal Pradesh
Ropar Wetland	Punjab
Rudrasagar Lake	Tripura
Saman Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Sambhar lake	Rajasthan
Sandi Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Sarsai Nawar Jheel	Uttar Pradesh
Sasthamkotta lake	Kerala
Surinsar- Mansar lakes	Jammu & Kashmir
Tsomoriri Lake	Ladakh
Upper Ganga river	Uttar Pradesh
Vembanad Kol Wetland	Kerala
Wular lake	Jammu & Kashmir
Sunderban Wetland	West Bengal
Asan Barrage	Uttarakhand
Kanwar Lake or Kabal Taal	Bihar
Lonar Lake	Maharashtra
Sur Sarovar	Uttar Pradesh
Tso Kar Wetland Complex	Ladakh
Nanda Lake	Goa
Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary	Gujarat
Hokersar Wetland	Jammu & Kashmir
Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve	Jammu & Kashmir
Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve	Jammu & Kashmir

Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	Jammu & Kashmir
Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary	Karnataka
Sirpur Lake	Madhya Pradesh
Yashwant Sagar	Madhya Pradesh
Thane Creek	Maharashtra
Ansupa Lake	Odisha
Hirakud Reservoir	Odisha
Satkosia Gorge	Odisha
Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve	Tamil Nadu
Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Pallikarnai Marsh Reserve Forest	Tamil Nadu
Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	Tamil Nadu
Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Vadavur Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Vellode Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Vembannur Wetland Complex	Tamil Nadu
Vellode Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu
Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	Uttar Pradesh
Sundarban Wetland	West Bengal

UPSC Questions on Ramsar Sites in India

Q. How is Ramsar Site declared, and who declares it?

Ans. Ramsar Sites in India are declared under the Ramsar Convention, which was established by UNESCO in 1971. A site is declared as a Ramsar Wetland Site in India if it meets any one of the nine criteria set under the Convention of Wetland.

Q. How many Ramsar Sites are there?

Ans. There are a total of 2500 Ramsar Sites in the world, including 75 Ramsar sites in India.

Q. Which is the largest Ramsar Site in India?

Ans. Sundarbans is the largest Ramsar Site in India.

Q. Which is the smallest Ramsar Site in India?

Ans. Renuka Wetland (0.2 sq. km) of Himachal Pradesh is the smallest Ramsar Site in India, followed by Chandertal Wetland (0.49 sq. km) in Himachal Pradesh.

