

## **New Addition to the Ramsar Sites List**

## Why in News?

Recently, India has **added 11 more** <u>Ramsar sites</u>, or wetlands that are of international importance, **taking the number of such sites to 75.** 

■ Tamil Nadu has maximum no. of Ramsar sites (14), followed by UP which has 10 nos. of Ramsar sites.

### What is Ramsar Site?

## About:

- A Ramsar site is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, which is also known as the <u>'Convention on Wetlands'</u> an intergovernmental environmental treaty established by <u>United Nations Educational</u>, <u>Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</u> in 1971, and named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the convention was signed that year.
- Earlier, India designated 10 new wetlands of international importance:
  - Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Vembannur Wetland Complex, Vellode Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary, Satkosia Gorge, Nanda Lake, Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, Sirpur Wetland.

Which New Sites have been added?		
Name	States	Specificatio
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Hirakud Reservoir	Odisha	river tern ( Sterna aurant ia).  It is the
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		forme d by River Maha nadi.  It prov ides a safe habita t to:
Yashwant Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	■ Yashw ant Sagar is one of the tw o Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the Indore region as well as one of the most i mport ant birdin g sites in Malwa region of Ma dhya Prade sh. ■ It is consider ed to

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It is de clared an **Impor** tant Bird Area (IBA) and lies at the sout hern tip of the C entra Asian flyway

of mig ratory

birds. Copp er plate inscri ption S from the 9<sup>th</sup> ce ntury menti on Pas umkul am, V enchik ulam, Nedu marth ukula m, Per umkul am, El emchi

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Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	Anas penel ope, North ern Pintai I Anas acuta , Gar gane y Anas querq uedul a were r ecord ed in tanks.  It is no table as a nesting site for se veral migra tory heron speci es that roost in the promi nent growth of babul trees.  The br eedin g pop ulatio n of m igrator y wate rbirds arrive here

and in clude: paint ed stork, white ibis, black ibis, little egret, great egret.

The site q ualifie s as an Important Bird

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Spotbilled Pelica

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reeds here.

 The w etland exhibits rich biodiv ersity including many globall y nearthrea tened

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		mport ant Bird Area (IBA).
Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve	Jammu and Kashmir	■ It serves as an abod e to many resid ents and migra tory bird s pecie s. ■ It is also re cogniz ed as an Im portan t Bird Area (IBA). ■ It prov ides a pleth ora of ecosy stem servic es incl uding °
Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve	Jammu and Kashmir	The area ha s exte nsive reedb eds of Ph ragmi tes c omm unis and Typh a ang ustat a, and

rich growt h of Nym phae a can dida and N. stellat a on open water. It serves as an abode more than four lakh r esiden t and migrat ory birds of at least 21 spe cies.

## **UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

## Prelims

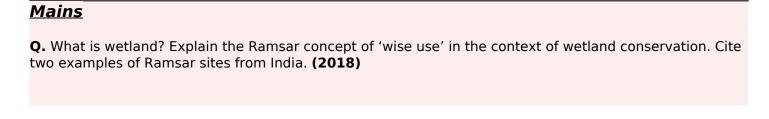
# Q. If a wetland of international importance is brought under the 'Montreux Record', what does it imply? (2014)

- (a) Changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur in the wetland as a result of human interference.
- **(b)** The country in which the wetland is located should enact a law to prohibit any human activity within five kilometres from the edge of the wetland.
- **(c)** The survival of the wetland depends on the cultural practices and traditions of certain communities living in its vicinity and therefore the cultural diversity therein should not be destroyed.
- (d) It is given the status of 'World Heritage Site.'

#### Ans: (a)

#### Exp:

- The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interferences. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.
- The Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.



**Source: PIB** 

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