



# Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme

## Why in News?

The Central government is spearheading a significant transformation in the realm of wetland tourism with the '**Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme**'.

- This initiative, **launched in June 2023**, aims to revolutionize **tourism practices at ecologically-sensitive wetlands**, particularly **Ramsar sites like Odisha's Chilika Lake and Haryana's Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary**.

## Key Points

- The scheme is a **collaborative effort between** the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- The scheme will be **implemented over the next three years (2023 onwards) to encourage optimal use of** wetlands, and enhance biodiversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.
  - The primary focus of the Scheme is to strategically transition from high-volume tourism to high-value nature tourism at ecologically-sensitive wetlands.
- The aim is **to enhance livelihood opportunities for local communities through harnessing the nature-tourism potential** of the Ramsar Sites across the country.
- The **scheme is being implemented in convergence with various Central Government ministries and agencies**, State wetland authorities, and a network of formal and informal institutions and individuals, working together for a common cause.
- Out of **16 identified Ramsar sites, five have been selected for pilot projects under the scheme**.
  - These **pilot sites include** Sultanpur National Park (Haryana), **Bhitarkanika Mangroves (Odisha)**, Chilika Lake (Odisha), Sirpur (Madhya Pradesh), and **Yashwant Sagar (Madhya Pradesh)**.

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# RAMSAR CONVENTION

## About

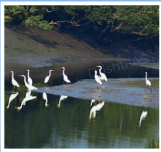
- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
  - Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- Largest Ramsar Site in World: Pantanal: South America

## Montreux Record

- Adopted in Montreux (Switzerland) in 1990.
- Identifies Ramsar sites that need priority conservation attention at national or international level.

## Wetlands

- A place in which the land is covered by water – salt, fresh, or somewhere in between – either seasonally or permanently.
- Take many forms including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains.
- World Wetlands Day: **2<sup>nd</sup> February**



## India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- Total Number of Ramsar Sites: **75**
  - Chilika Lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Harike Lake (Punjab), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (Jammu and Kashmir), etc.
- Related Framework in India
  - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands.
  - The 2017 Rules decentralise wetlands management and provide for the constitution of the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority.

## Key Facts

- Largest Ramsar Site: Sunderbans, West Bengal
- Smallest Ramsar Site: Vembannur Wetland Complex, Tamil Nadu
- State with the maximum number of Ramsar Sites: Tamil Nadu (14)
- Wetlands in Montreux Record:
  - Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
  - Loktak Lake: Manipur



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