

## **Proposal to Develop Wetlands as Ramsar Sites**

## Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan government has sent a proposal to the Union environment ministry to develop 5 **Wetlands** in the state as **Ramsar sites.** 

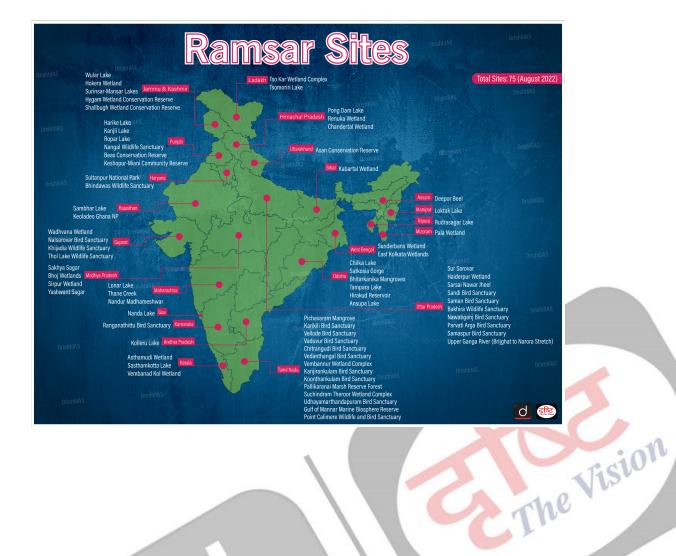
Before this, <u>Sambhar Lake</u> was declared as a Ramsar site in march 1990 and <u>Keoladeo Ghana</u>
 National Park declared in October 1981.

## **Key Points**

- The State Wetland Authority has proposed Khinchan bird sanctuary in Jodhpur, Chandlai in Jaipur, Kanwas Pakshi Vihar in Kota, Lunkaransar in Bikaner, and Menar Lake in Udaipur district.
  - According to the officials, all 5 wetlands fall into the Central Asian Flyway, which is used by migratory birds that start flying to this region from November onwards till February for warmer temperatures.
- At these sites, the state pollution control board is taking action to stop industrial
  effluents from being released into the water. Efforts to stop encroachment are also being
  done.

## The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

- It is an intergovernmental treaty, adopted on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the <u>Caspian Sea.</u>
- In India, it came into force on February 1, 1982, under which wetlands of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
  - As of 2023, the total Ramsar sites in India are 75.
- The Ramsar tag helps in better maintenance and management of a wetland and aids tourism for the region.



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