



Sirpur Lake

Why in News?

Recently, on the [National Green Tribunal's](#) order, a team from the **Indore Municipal Corporation** removed [encroachments](#) and cleared stalls from the catchment area of [Sirpur Lake](#).

- It was designated a [Ramsar site](#) under the [Ramsar Convention](#) on **January 7, 2022**.

Key Points

- **About Sirpur Wetland:**
 - It is a **Human-made wetland**, often called [Pakshi Vihar \(bird sanctuary\)](#). It is located in **Indore district of Madhya Pradesh**.
 - It is more than 130 years old, made by **Maharaja Shivaji rao Holkar** to generate water supply for the city of Indore.
 - It is a **shallow, alkaline, nutrient-rich lake** that floods during [monsoon](#).
- **Biodiversity:**
 - Hosts around **175 terrestrial plant species** and six types of macrophytes.
 - Supports **30 fish species** (natural and cultured), and eight species of [reptiles](#) and [amphibians](#).
 - Home to **130 bird species**, including resident and migratory birds such as, [Common pochard \(*Aythya ferina*\)](#), [Egyptian vulture \(*Neophron percnopterus*\)](#), [Indian river tern \(*Sterna aurantia*\)](#).
 - Attracts a **large congregation of waterbirds in winter**, making it a significant **seasonal habitat**.
- **Benefits to Local Communities:**
 - Provides fisheries and **medicinal plants**.
 - Acts as a **flood buffer** and helps regulate the local microclimate.
 - Offers opportunities for spiritual enrichment, recreation, and educational activities.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - The site currently **lacks a formal management plan** and does not have national legal conservation status.

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RAMSAR CONVENTION

About

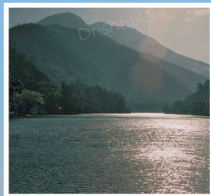
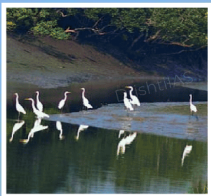
- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
- Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- **Largest Ramsar Site in World:** Pantanal: South America

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:** 2nd February



India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- **Total Number of Ramsar Sites: 85**
- 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

