



Indore and Udaipur Joined Wetland Accredited Cities

[Source: TOI](#)

Why in News?

Indore and Udaipur have become the **first Indian cities** to gain international recognition as **accredited wetland cities** under the **Ramsar Convention**.

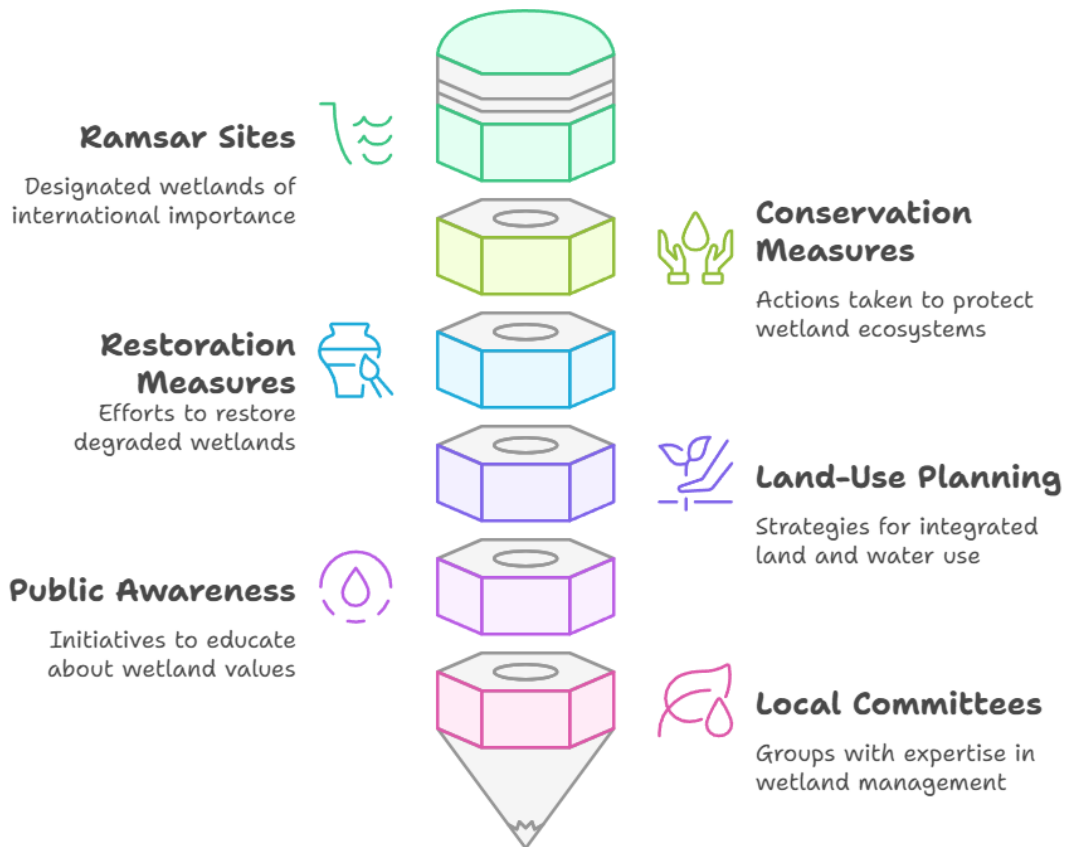
- Currently, **85 Indian wetlands** are protected under the **Ramsar Convention**, which includes **172 member countries** globally.

What are Wetland Accredited Cities?

- **About:** It is an **international recognition** for cities committed to **conserving and sustainably** managing their wetlands.
 - It recognises **urban areas** that protect wetlands, ensuring they provide **essential services** to the environment and communities.
- **Accreditation Criteria:** It is granted to cities that meet **six international criteria**, primarily focusing on the **conservation of wetland** ecosystems and their services.
 - Accredited cities are recognised for their efforts to **balance urban development** with ecological preservation.
 - **6 International Criteria are:**

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6 International Criteria



- **Global Recognition:** The highest number of accredited cities come from **China** (22 cities), followed by **France** (9 cities) reflecting the city's effort to integrate **wetland conservation** into urban planning.
- **Global Ramsar Sites:** There are currently over **2,400 Ramsar Sites** around the world covering over **2.5 million square kilometres**.

Note: **Bhopal**, another city nominated from India, did **not receive accreditation** due to concerns raised about potential ecological damage from a proposed road project affecting the **Bhoj Wetland**.

- Udaipur, **Rajasthan** is known as the **City of Lakes** because of its **scenic lakes** that are spread throughout the city. Key lakes in Udaipur include Lake Pichola, Fatehsagar Lake, Swaroop Sagar Lake etc.
- Famous lakes in **Indore** include **Lotus lake, Choral dam, Pipliyapala lake, Sirpur lake etc.**

What are Key Facts About Bhoj Wetland?

- **About:** It is a **Ramsar site** designated in **2002** that comprises two interconnected man-made reservoirs i.e., the **Upper Lake** (created by **Raja Bhoj** in the 11th century on **Kolans River**) and the **Lower Lake**.
 - Upper Lake borders **Van Vihar National Park**.
- **Biodiversity:**
 - **Avifauna (Birdlife):** Notable species include Coot (*Fulica atra*), **Red-Crested Pochard**,

Sarus Crane, Black-necked Stork and Pallas's Fish Eagle.

- **Other Fauna:** **Van Vihar National Park** provides a sanctuary for large mammals like **Chital, Wild Boar, Nilgai, and Sambar.**

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



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)

