



# Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries Recognised as Ramsar Sites

[Source: DTE](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, on [World Environment Day](#), the [Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries](#) in Bihar have been recognised as **wetlands of international importance** under the [Ramsar Convention](#).

- This brings the total number of such wetlands in **India to 82**.

## What are the Key Characteristics of Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries?

- **Geographical Setting:**
- Both the bird sanctuaries are built on [human-made wetlands](#) primarily developed for irrigation through the construction of the **Nakti Dam**.
  - Both sanctuaries were designated as Bird Sanctuaries in 1984 due to their importance as **wintering habitats** for migratory species.
    - The catchment area features [dry deciduous forests](#) surrounded by hills.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
  - These wetlands provide habitats for over 150 species of birds, mammals, fish, aquatic plants, reptiles, and amphibians.
  - They host globally threatened species such as the endangered [Indian elephant](#) and the vulnerable native [catfish](#).
  - According to the [Asiatic Waterbird Census 2023](#), the Nakti Bird Sanctuary reported 7,844 birds, the highest in the survey, followed by the Nagi Bird Sanctuary with 6,938 birds.

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# Ramsar Sites

Total Sites: 82



## Note:

- The **Kanwar Lake** in Bihar's Begusarai district was designated as the state's first Ramsar Site in 2020.

## What is the Ramsar Convention?

- The **Ramsar Convention** is an international treaty signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, under the auspices of **UNESCO**, aimed at conserving wetlands of international importance.
  - In India, it came into force on 1st February 1982, under which wetlands of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- **Montreux Record** is a register of wetland sites 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 interference.
  - It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

# RAMSAR CONVENTION

## About

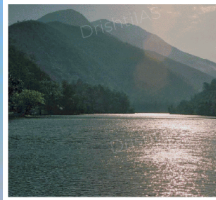
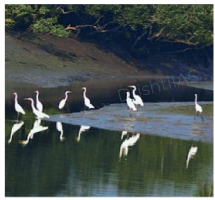
- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
  - Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- Largest Ramsar Site in World: Pantanal: South America

## 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: **82**
  - 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



## Note

- **World Wetlands Day** is celebrated every year on the **2nd February** across the globe.
- **India's Initiatives for Ramsar Sites:**
  - **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.**
  - **National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)**
  - **Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme**
  - **National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP):** It was launched in 1985, to tackle threats to vulnerable wetland ecosystems and enhance their conservation.

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

### **Prelims:**

**Q. Consider the following pairs: (2022)**

| Wetland/Lake | Location |
|--------------|----------|
|--------------|----------|

1. Hokera Wetland : Punjab
2. Renuka Wetland : Himachal Pradesh
3. Rudrasagar Lake : Tripura
4. Sasthamkotta Lake : Tamil Nadu

**How many pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- (a) Only one pair  
(b) Only two pairs  
(c) Only three pairs  
(d) All four pairs

**Ans: (b)**

**Q. Consider the following pairs: (2014)**

| <b>Wetlands</b>      | <b>Confluence of rivers</b>                   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Harike Wetlands : | Confluence of Beas and Satluj/Sutlej          |
| 2. Keoladeo Ghana :  | Confluence of Banas National Park and Chambal |
| 3. Kolleru Lake :    | Confluence of Musi and Krishna                |

**Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?**

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (a)**