



Udhwa Lake

Why in News?

[The Ramsar Convention](#) has **recognized four new wetlands** in India, increasing the **total number** of such designated sites **in the country to 89**.

Key points

- **New Additions to the Ramsar List:**
 - Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
 - Therthangal Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
 - Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim)
 - Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)
- **State-Wise Distribution:**
 - **Tamil Nadu holds the highest number of Ramsar sites in India**, with 20 wetlands.
 - **Sikkim and Jharkhand** have **joined the Ramsar list for the first time** with their new designations.
- **India's Global Ranking:**
 - India has the **highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia** and **ranks third globally**:
 - **United Kingdom** (176 sites)
 - **Mexico** (144 sites)
 - Over the last decade, India's Ramsar sites increased from 26 to 89, with 47 sites added in just three years.
- **Significance of Wetlands:**
 - Wetlands are areas covered by water temporarily, seasonally, or permanently.
 - They provide crucial ecosystem services, including:
 - **Flood control**
 - Water supply
 - **Biodiversity** support
 - Food, fibre, and raw material sources
- **The Udhwa Lake:**
 - **Location:**
 - It is located in **Sahebganj district of Jharkhand**.
 - It is situated in a **small village called Udhwa**, which is named after **Saint Uddhava, a friend of Lord Krishna in the Mahabharatha**.
 - It is the **first Ramsar designated wetland** from Jharkhand.
 - **Establishment:**
 - In **1991**, the sanctuary was established to **safeguard and conserve the diverse bird species found in the region**.
 - Designated as the **sole bird sanctuary in Jharkhand**, it plays a crucial role in **preserving the natural heritage and biodiversity of the area**.
 - **Rivers:**
 - The Sanctuary has **two water bodies Patauran and Berhale**, interconnected by a water channel. Patauran is a comparatively clean water body.

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**.

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