

World Wetlands Day

Why in News?

India announced new Ramsar sites on World Wetlands Day recently.

World Wetlands Day, 2025

- February 2 is annually marked as World Wetlands Day.
- **Aim** - To spread awareness about conserving one of the most critical ecosystems on the planet.
- **Theme, 2025** - "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future".
- **Wetlands** - Wetlands are regions covered by water either perennially or seasonally, such as marshes and lakes.
- They are vital reservoirs of biodiversity, aid water conservation and provide habitat for numerous migratory birds, aquatic species, and plant life.
- They also help recharge groundwater, control floods and support fisheries and local communities.
- From the point of view of climate change mitigation, wetlands are ***important carbon sinks***, absorb more carbon from the atmosphere than they release.

Ramsar Convention

- Ramsar Convention is an ***international treaty*** that aims to conserve wetlands and their resources.
- It was the ***first modern treaty*** between nations to conserve natural resources
- It was signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar and came into force in **1975**.



Wetland Definition of Ramsar Convention

Areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6 metres.

- These sites receive international support for conservation and management.
- **Pillars** - Provides a framework for national action and international cooperation
- Protects sites of global importance
- Ensures the sustainable use and conservation of wetlands
- **Main bodies of the Ramsar Convention** - The Conference of the Parties (COP) and Standing Committee.
- There are currently over 2,400 Ramsar Sites around the world.
- **Ramsar sites in India** - India has **89** Ramsar sites. Tamil Nadu has the most Ramsar sites at **20**.

- India recently announced **4 new Ramsar sites** under the global agreement Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Newly Added Ramsar Sites, 2025	
Udhwa Lake	Jharkhand
Theerthangal	Tamil Nadu
Sakkarakottai	Tamil Nadu
Khecheopalri	Sikkim

Reference

[The Indian Express | World Wetlands Day](#)

