



VAJIRAM AND RAVI

Institute for IAS examination



SMART Current Affairs

Theme: Environment

Sample Factsheet: Ramsar sites
(2 pages only)

RAMSAR SITES IN THE NEWS

About Ramsar Convention/Convention on Wetlands

- **Established in 1971** in the Iranian city of Ramsar.
- **The Convention encourages** the designation of "Ramsar sites," which are wetlands of international importance due to their unique ecological characteristics.
- **Members:** 172 signatory countries.
- It is a **permanent tag** and only in exceptional circumstances, due to extreme anthropogenic factors, are the Ramsar sites put in the **Montreux record** until the time they are restored to their existing level."

Ramsar and India

- **India joined it in 1982**, initially designating the Chilika Lake in Orissa and Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan.
- **Total sites:** 85 (As of Nov 2024).
- **Tamil Nadu harbours a maximum** number of Ramsar Sites (**18 sites**) followed by **Uttar Pradesh (10 sites)**. (As of Nov 2024)

Newly added Ramsar sites in 2024

Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary

- **Location:** Tamil Nadu, on the banks of the Noyyal River.
- Designated as a **Bird Sanctuary in 2022**.
- **Bird species:** Eurasian coot, spot-billed duck, Indian darter, and Indian cormorant.

Kazhuveli Sanctuary

- **Location:** Tamil Nadu, one of the largest brackish water wetlands.
- **Declared as a Bird Sanctuary** in 2021.
- **Connected to the Bay of Bengal** by the brackish Uppukalli Creek and the Edayanthittu Estuary.
- **Species:** Globally endangered species, like the

black-headed ibis and greater flamingo.

- **Lies in the** Central Asian Flyway.
- **Stopover for migratory birds** along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Tawa Reservoir

- **Location:** Madhya Pradesh.
- Massive wintering ground for migratory birds.
- Constructed at the **confluence of the Tawa and Denwa rivers**.
- **Major tributaries of Tawa reservoir:** River Malani, Sonbhadra, and Nagdwari.
- **Located inside the Satpura Tiger Reserve** and forms the western boundary of the Satpura National Park and Bori Wildlife Sanctuary.

About Tawa River:

- **Left bank tributary originates** from Mahadeo hills and joins river Narmada.
- **Longest tributary** of river Narmada.

Nagi Bird Sanctuary

- **Location:** Jamui District of Bihar.
- Designated as a **Bird Sanctuary in 1984**.
- Hosts one of the **largest congregations of bar-headed goose** on the Indo-Gangetic plain.

Value addition

- **Kanwar Lake** was designated as **Bihar's first Ramsar Site in 2020**.

Nakti Bird Sanctuary (man-made wetland)

- **Location:** Jamui District of Bihar.
- **Species:** Endangered Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) and a vulnerable native catfish.
- One of the **largest congregations of red-crested pochard** on the Indo-Gangetic plain.

Longwood Shola reserve forest

- **Location:** Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.
- **Adjacent to** the eastern slopes of the Nilgiris and is surrounded by tea plantations.
- **Forest type:** Classified as Southern Montane Wet Temperate Forest.
- **Flora:**
 - **Endangered species such as** Psychotria nilgiriensis, Actinodaphne bourneae, and Cinnamomum wightii are found in the Site.
 - **Vulnerable species like** Cayratia pedata and Syzygium densiflorum.
- **Fauna:**
 - **Key conservation area of endangered** Black-chinned Nilgiri Laughing thrush, Nilgiri Blue Robin, and vulnerable Nilgiri Wood-pigeon.
 - It is **home to 14 out of 26 species that are endemic** to the Western Ghats region.
 - **Several species are classified under the IUCN red list including,** Nilgiri Laughingthrush, Nilgiri Blue Robin, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Nilgiri WoodPigeon, Kashmir Flycatcher, Nilgiri Pipit, and Rufous-bellied Eagle.
- **Global international designation:** UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
- **Derived its name** from the **Tamil word, "Solai",** which means a **'tropical rain forest'**.
- One of the **Important Bird Areas (IBA's) of Tamil Nadu** and qualifies for **two criteria** of the IBA selection process – **A1 (Threatened species)** and **A2 (Endemic Bird Area 123: Western Ghats).**

Sholas/ Shola Forest

- **Sholas are found in** the upper reaches of the Nilgiris, Anamalais, Palni hills, Kalakadu, Mundanthurai, and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.
- They **occur only in the valleys** where the occurrence of fog and mist is low.

Karavetti Bird Sanctuary

- **Location:** Ariyalur District, Tamil Nadu.
- **Notified as a Sanctuary** in 1977.
- **One of the largest inland wetlands** of Tamil Nadu.
- It is basically an **irrigation tank** that receives water from the **Mettur dam**.
- Lies in the Central Asian Flyway and it is one of the freshwater feeding grounds for migratory water birds.
- **Crop yields are enhanced by guano** (bird excreta)

produced by the migratory and resident birds.

- **Flora:** Acacia nilotica, Prosopis chilensis, Azadirachta indica and Tamarindus indica.
- **Fauna:**
 - **Threatened species like** Common Pochard, River Tern, and Flap-shelled Turtle.
 - **Support 1% of the population of** Black-headed Ibis and Oriental Darters.
 - Endangered Bar Headed Goose (**IUCN Status: 'Least Concern'**)- visitor Bird.

Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve

- **Location:** Vijayanagara District, Karnataka
- **Notified in 2017.**
- On the **banks of the Tungabhadra Dam** backwater area.
- **First bird conservation reserve** in the **North Karnataka.**
- **Fauna:** Important visiting birds include Greater Flamingo, Painted Stork, Spotted Pelican, Comb Duck, Egrets, Cormorants, Ibis, Oriental Darter, Grebes, Spot-billed duck, Whistling duck, etc.
 - Around **11 species of birds** found here were listed in the **IUCN Red List.**
 - **Supports more than 1% of the biogeographic population** of Painted Stork and Black-headed Ibis.
- **Flora:** **Gum Arabic trees** (Vachellia nilotica) grow in the lake.









Aghanashini Estuary

- **Location:** Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka
- **Formed at the confluence of the Aghanashini River** with the Arabian Sea.
- **The brackish water of the Estuary** provides diverse ecosystem services.
- **Flora:** **Mangroves** bordering the estuary help to protect the shores against storms and cyclones.
- **Fauna:** Supports **over 1% of the biogeographic population of 15 waterbird species** (which includes river tern, oriental darter, lesser black-backed gull, woolly-necked stork, Eurasian oystercatcher, and others).
- Farmers practice traditional farming to grow **salt-tolerant rice called "kagga",** which is one of the specialties of the region.



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

SMART Current Affairs Programme 2025

-  Comprehensive Coverage from multiple sources
-  Interlinkages with static concepts
-  Economic Survey & Union Budget
-  Strategic Learning & Insight
-  Contemporary affairs covering critical topics
-  Value added material and concise handouts
-  Schemes and Indices
-  Dynamic Assessment & Feedback



Mode: **Offline/Online**



[Scan to Know More](#)

VAJIRAM & RAVI

Institute for IAS Examination

A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar,
New Delhi-110060 Ph.: 41007400, 41007500

New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar,
Chennai-600040 Ph.: 044-4330-2121
Visit us at: www.vajiramandravi.com