



# Haryana Undertakes Wetland Verification | Haryana | 07 Oct 2025

## Why in News?

The Haryana government has instructed all deputy commissioners (DCs) to complete the **ground verification** and digital boundary demarcation of **1,881 wetlands identified across** the state, following the **Supreme Court's directive**.

- This order comes after the Supreme Court's warning regarding non-compliance with the deadline, with the court issuing an ultimatum for environment secretaries of non-compliant states to appear before it on 7th October 2025.

<p><b>2018</b>   Petition seeking accurate mapping and notification of wetlands filed in SC</p> <p><b>Dec 11, 2024</b>   SC directs all states/UTs to expedite wetland boundary demarcation using SAC digital maps, validated through ground truthing</p> <p><b>Jan 7, 2025</b>   Wetland management committees instructed to report progress on wetland mapping to respective DCs</p> <p><b>Jun 25</b>   Review meeting held under secretary, MoEFCC, directing Haryana and other states to accelerate demarcation</p> <p><b>Aug 19 &amp; Sept 19</b>   SC sets a 2-month deadline for completion of wetland demarcation. Environment secretaries may have to appear in court if work is delayed, SC says</p>		<p><b>Sept 1</b>   District-wise list of 1,881 water bodies circulated for verification</p> <p><b>Sept 13</b>   Addl chief secretary (environment &amp; climate change), Haryana, issues letter directing all DCs to complete ground</p>	<p>truthing and boundary marking, and submit reports to state wetland authority by Sep 15</p> <p><b>Oct 7</b>   Next SC hearing where secretaries of non-compliant states/UTs may be required to appear</p>
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## Key Points

- **Objective:** Wetland demarcation and protection are crucial for environmental preservation and will form the basis for their legal notification under the [Wetlands \(Conservation and Management\) Rules, 2017](#).

- **Ground truthing**, the verification of **satellite data accuracy**, is essential to correctly **identify and protect water bodies** that were previously excluded from earlier satellite-based maps.
- **Categories:**
  - **Man-Made Wetlands:** Total 25,606 wetlands covering 23,527.1 hectares, making up 63.61% of the total wetland area. These are mainly artificial ponds, tanks, and waterlogged areas.
  - **Natural Wetlands:** Total 13,141.1 hectares, constituting 35.53% of the wetland area, playing a **critical role in biodiversity** and ecological balance.
- **District-wise Distribution:** Wetland distribution in Haryana's districts varies, with **Panchkula having the highest share** at 2.95%, followed by Yamunanagar at 2.20%, Faridabad at 1.72%, while the **smallest share is in Mahendragarh** (0.16%) and Kurukshetra (0.08%).

## Wetlands and Ramsar Convention

- **About Wetlands:** They are **areas of marsh, fen, peatland**, or water (natural or artificial) with water that is static or flowing, including marine areas with a depth not exceeding six meters.
  - Wetlands are an **ecotone**, having land transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- **About Ramsar Convention:** It was **adopted in 1971** in Ramsar, Iran, and provides a global framework for wetland conservation and wise use. India joined it in 1982.
  - The **Montreux Record** (threatened list) lists wetlands with deteriorating ecological character due to human activity or pollution.