



Vembanad Lake: Kerala

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Why in News

Kerala houseboats in Vembanad Lake are about to begin soon amid a robust vaccination drive.

This is the **largest lake in Kerala and the longest Lake in India.**



Key Points

- Vembanad Lake is **also known as** Vembanad Kayal, Vembanad Kol, Punnamada Lake (in Kuttanad) and Kochi Lake (in Kochi).
- Spanning several districts of Kerala and covering a territory of more than 2033.02 km².
- The lake has its **source in four rivers**, Meenachil, Achankovil, Pampa and Manimala

- It is **separated from the Arabian Sea by a narrow barrier island** and is a **popular backwater stretch** in Kerala.
- **Vallam Kali (i.e Nehru Trophy Boat Race)** is a **Snake Boat Race** held every year in the month of August in Vembanad Lake.
- In 2002, it was **included in the list of wetlands of international importance**, as defined by the **Ramsar Convention**.
It is the **second-largest Ramsar site in India** only after the **Sundarbans** in West Bengal.
- The Government of India has identified the Vembanad wetland under the **National Wetlands Conservation Programme**.
- The **Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary** is located on the east coast of the lake.
- In 2019, **Willingdon Island**, a seaport located in the city of Kochi, was carved out of Vembanad Lake.
- One of the most outstanding features of this lake is the 1252 m long **saltwater barrier, Thanneermukkom**, which was built to stop saltwater intrusion into Kuttanad.

Source: TH