



Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries Recognised as Ramsar Sites

[Source: DTE](#)

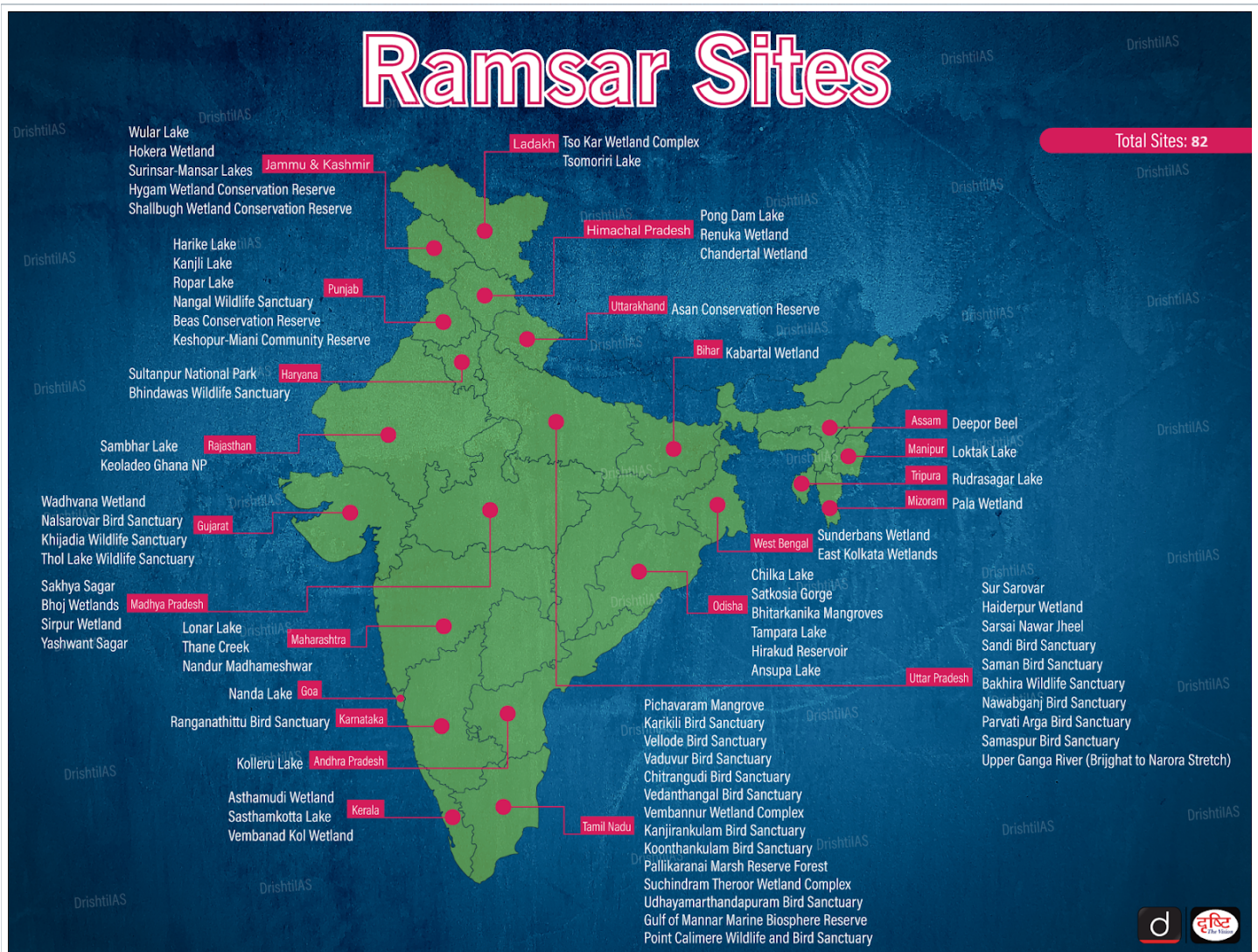
Why in News?

Recently, on [World Environment Day](#), the [Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries](#) in Bihar have been recognised as **wetlands of international importance** under the [Ramsar Convention](#).

- This brings the total number of such wetlands in **India to 82**.

What are the Key Characteristics of Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries?

- **Geographical Setting:**
- Both the bird sanctuaries are built on [human-made wetlands](#) primarily developed for irrigation through the construction of the **Nakti Dam**.
 - Both sanctuaries were designated as Bird Sanctuaries in 1984 due to their importance as **wintering habitats** for migratory species.
 - The catchment area features [dry deciduous forests](#) surrounded by hills.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
 - These wetlands provide habitats for over 150 species of birds, mammals, fish, aquatic plants, reptiles, and amphibians.
 - They host globally threatened species such as the endangered [Indian elephant](#) and the vulnerable native [catfish](#).
 - According to the [Asiatic Waterbird Census 2023](#), the Nakti Bird Sanctuary reported 7,844 birds, the highest in the survey, followed by the Nagi Bird Sanctuary with 6,938 birds.



Note:

- The [Kanwar Lake](#) in Bihar's Begusarai district was designated as the state's first Ramsar Site in 2020.

What is 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**.

RAMSAR CONVENTION

About

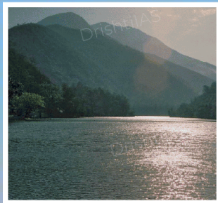
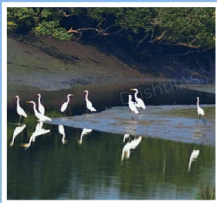
- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
- Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- **Largest Ramsar Site in World:** Pantanal: South America

Montreux Record

- Adopted in Montreux (Switzerland) in 1990.
- Identifies Ramsar sites that need priority conservation attention at national or international level.

Wetlands

- A place in which the land is covered by water – salt, fresh, or somewhere in between – either seasonally or permanently.
- Take many forms including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains.
- **World Wetlands Day: 2nd February**



India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- **Total Number of Ramsar Sites: 82**
 - Chilika Lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Harike Lake (Punjab), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (Jammu and Kashmir), etc.
- **Related Framework in India**
 - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands.
 - The 2017 Rules decentralise wetlands management and provide for the constitution of the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority.

Key Facts

- **Largest Ramsar Site:** Sunderbans, West Bengal
- **Smallest Ramsar Site:** Vembannur Wetland Complex, Tamil Nadu
- **State with the maximum number of Ramsar Sites:** Tamil Nadu (14)
- **Wetlands in Montreux Record:**
 - Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
 - Loktak Lake: Manipur



Note

- **World Wetlands Day** is celebrated every year on the **2nd February** across the globe.
- **India's Initiatives for Ramsar Sites:**
 - [Wetlands \(Conservation and Management\) Rules, 2017.](#)
 - [National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems \(NPCA\)](#)
 - [Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme](#)
 - [National Wetland Conservation Programme \(NWCP\)](#): It was launched in 1985, to tackle threats to vulnerable wetland ecosystems and enhance their conservation.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2022)

Wetland/Lake	Location
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1. Hokera Wetland : Punjab
2. Renuka Wetland : Himachal Pradesh
3. Rudrasagar Lake : Tripura
4. Sasthamkotta Lake : Tamil Nadu

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Ans: (b)

Q. Consider the following pairs: (2014)

Wetlands	Confluence of rivers
1. Harike Wetlands :	Confluence of Beas and Satluj/Sutlej
2. Keoladeo Ghana :	Confluence of Banas National Park and Chambal
3. Kolleru Lake :	Confluence of Musi and Krishna

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)