



International Day for Biological Diversity 2025

Why in News?

The [Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change \(MoEFCC\)](#), along with the **National Biodiversity Authority**, **Rajasthan Forest Department**, and **Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board**, hosted a national-level event to mark the [International Day for Biological Diversity 2025 \(22nd May\)](#) in **Udaipur, Rajasthan**.

Note: India **ranks among the 17 mega-diverse countries**, covering a land area of 329 million hectares and hosting over 100,000 animal species and 55,000 plant species.

Key Points

International Day for Biodiversity (IDB)

- It is **observed annually on 22nd May** to raise awareness about the importance of conserving biological diversity worldwide.
 - The **Convention on Biological Diversity** was **adopted on this date in 1992** by the **United Nations**.
- The **theme for 2025** is **'Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development'**.
- In **2000**, the [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) officially proclaimed **22nd May** as IDB.
 - UNCBD** is a **legally binding treaty** to conserve biodiversity.
 - India is a party to the convention** and enacted the [Biological Diversity Act, 2002](#).
- The UNGA designated the years **2011-2020** as the [United Nations Decade on Biodiversity](#), aiming to advance the implementation of a strategic plan for biodiversity.

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Highlights of the Event

- Launch of National Campaign:**
 - A **fortnight-long campaign** on **'Ending Plastic Pollution'**, as part of the lead-up to

the [World Environment Day 2025 \(5th June\)](#) was inaugurated.

- The campaign aims to intensify public engagement and policy discourse on [plastic waste elimination](#).
- An **exhibition on Biodiversity and Bioresources**, showcasing [India's indigenous biodiversity](#), medicinal plants, [traditional crop varieties](#), and conservation innovations was also inaugurated.

▪ **India's Global Commitment to Biodiversity Conservation:**

- India's proactive role in advancing the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(KMGBF\)](#), highlighted during the [16th Conference of Parties \(COP16\)](#) to the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) in 2024.
- India demonstrated its leadership in Biodiversity Conservation by:
 - Submitting Updated **National Biodiversity Targets** (September 2024)
 - Releasing a revised [National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan \(NBSAP\)](#) on 30th October, 2024.
 - India's conservation achievements include:
 - Expansion of protected wetlands with **89 Ramsar sites** covering 1.35 million hectares.
 - **49 Biodiversity Heritage Sites** notified under the [Biological Diversity Act, 2002](#)
- The success of the ['Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign](#), launched on [World Environment Day 2024](#), which led to 142 crore trees planted globally, involving citizens in environmental stewardship was highlighted during the event.

▪ **Resources and Publications Released during the Event:**

- Updated NBSAP 2024-2030
- India's Seventh National Report (NR7) to the CBD
- Compendium on India's Biodiversity Heritage Sites
- Brochure on the 2025 Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations under the [Biological Diversity Act, 2002](#)

Ramsar Sites in Rajasthan

- [Keoladeo National Park \(Bharatpur\)](#), a globally recognised wetland and bird sanctuary, also known as the [Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary](#).
- [Sambhar Lake](#), located across the **Jaipur, Ajmer, and Nagaur districts**, is India's largest inland saline lake and an internationally recognised Ramsar site.
 - Designated in 1990, the lake holds **ecological significance for its unique biodiversity**, serving as a vital **wintering habitat** for migratory birds—including **flamingos, pelicans, and several other species**.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

- The Kunming-Montreal GBF was adopted during the **15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity** in December 2022.
 - It aims to support the achievement of [sustainable development goals](#) and build on previous strategic plans.
 - The framework sets **four goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030**, covering planning, monitoring, reporting, finance, and capacity development.
 - Target 3 of the GBF aims to **increase protected areas to at least 30% of the world's terrestrial area by 2030, compared to the current 16%**.
- It ensures that by 2030 at least 30% of areas of degraded **terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems** are under effective restoration.

India's Initiatives Related to Biodiversity Conservation

- [India Business & Biodiversity Initiative \(IBBI\)](#)
- [Wetland \(Conservation and Management\) Rules 2010](#)
- [National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem](#)
- [Wildlife Crime Control Bureau](#)

- [Biological Diversity Act, 2002](#)

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