

India Adds 4 New Ramsar Sites, Raising Total to 89

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In a significant boost to wetland conservation, India has added **four new Ramsar sites**, bringing the total to **89**. Ahead of **World Wetlands Day**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** announced the inclusion of:

- **Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary** (Tamil Nadu)
- **Therthangal Bird Sanctuary** (Tamil Nadu)
- **Khecheopalri Wetland** (Sikkim)
- **Udhwa Lake** (Jharkhand)

With this, **Tamil Nadu now has the highest number of Ramsar sites (20)**, while **Sikkim and Jharkhand celebrate their first-ever Ramsar designations**.

Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** highlighted that **India remains the country with the highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia** and ranks **third globally**.

☐☐ **Newly Added Ramsar Sites: A Closer Look**

1☐ **Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu**

☐☐ **Location:** Ramanathapuram district

☐☐ **Why it's important:**

- A vital freshwater wetland supporting **migratory and resident birds**.
- Enhances **groundwater recharge** and **flood control**.
- Home to species like **herons, egrets, and storks**, making it a birdwatcher's paradise.

2☐ **Therthangal Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu**

☐☐ **Location:** Sivaganga district

☐☐ **Why it's important:**

- A critical habitat for **migratory birds during winter**.
- Supports **rare and endangered bird species**.
- Helps **maintain the local microclimate** and acts as a **natural water reservoir**.

3 Khecheopalri Wetland, Sikkim

Location: West Sikkim district

Why it's important:

- A **sacred lake** revered by **Buddhists and Hindus**.
- Rich in **medicinal plants** and **Himalayan flora**.
- Supports **high-altitude biodiversity**, including **otters and migratory birds**.
- A major **eco-tourism** and **spiritual tourism** site.

4 Udhwa Lake, Jharkhand

Location: Sahibganj district

Why it's important:

- Jharkhand's **first-ever Ramsar site** and the **only freshwater oxbow lake** in the state.
- A critical stopover for migratory birds like **bar-headed geese, northern pintails, and ruddy shelducks**.
- Supports **local fishing communities** and helps with **flood control**.

India's Growing Commitment to Wetland Conservation

This achievement underscores India's **dedication to preserving vital ecosystems**, promoting **biodiversity**, and ensuring **climate resilience**. As wetlands play a crucial role in **water security, carbon sequestration, and sustainable development**, this milestone reinforces India's global leadership in conservation. 🌱🌱🌱

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