



# 09.06.2026 NEWS

## RECOGNITION AND THREATS!

- » India's 100th Ramsar Site
- India's 100th Ramsar Site has been recognized as the Jayaprakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It was adopted in 1971 at the city of Ramsar in Iran. Countries that sign this agreement are required to take measures to protect and conserve areas classified as wetlands.
- India signed the convention on 1 February 1982. A total of 173 countries are parties to the agreement.
- The first site designated under the Ramsar Convention was the Cobourg Peninsula in Australia in 1974.
- The Rio Negro Site in Brazil, covering about 120,000 square kilometers, is the largest Ramsar site in the world.
- Brazil also has the largest area protected under the Ramsar Convention, with about 267,000 square kilometers. It is followed by Bolivia, Canada, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Russian Federation, each having over 100,000 square kilometers of Ramsar-designated wetlands.
- » J.P.Narayan
- India has the highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia. Globally, India ranks third after the United Kingdom (176 sites) and Mexico (144 sites).
- The number of Ramsar sites in India has increased from 20 to 100 over the last 11 years. Out of these, 58 sites received recognition during the last four years.

- The Jayaprakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary, now the 13th Ramsar site in Uttar Pradesh, is also the 2,595th Ramsar site in the world. Located in Ballia district, the sanctuary contains a natural lake that serves as an important wintering ground for birds migrating along the Central Asian Flyway.
- The lake also functions as a vital source of irrigation and groundwater recharge for nearby agricultural lands. During the monsoon season, nearly 25,000 hectares of land become inundated, creating an extensive natural wetland habitat.
- » Tamil Nadu
  - Among India's 100 Ramsar sites, Tamil Nadu ranks first with 20 Ramsar sites, a matter of pride for the state.
  - Most recently, the Sakkarakottai and Therthangal Bird Sanctuaries in Ramanathapuram district were designated as Ramsar sites.
  - Tamil Nadu's first Ramsar site was the Point Calimere (Kodiakkara) Bird Sanctuary in Nagapattinam district, recognized in 2002. Since then, the state has undertaken several wetland conservation initiatives and has emerged as a model for the rest of India.
  - Ramsar recognition helps protect biodiversity and livelihoods. These sanctuaries provide environmental education opportunities for students and researchers and promote eco-tourism for nature enthusiasts.
  - Despite international recognition, many Ramsar sites across India face serious and continuing threats due to : Urbanization, Industrialization, Expansion of agriculture, Inadequate infrastructure.
  - Wetlands are among the most threatened ecosystems on Earth. Studies indicate that since 1970, nearly 400 million hectares of wetlands have been lost worldwide, and about one-fourth of the remaining wetlands are already degraded.
  - Even with Ramsar status, protecting these sites remains a major challenge. Problems such as encroachment, discharge of domestic and industrial wastewater into water channels feeding wetlands, and inadequate conservation planning continue to persist.
  - Wetlands: The Kidneys of the Earth : Wetlands, marshes, swamp forests, and mangrove ecosystems are often called the "Kidneys of the Earth" because they naturally filter and purify water.
  - Just as damaged kidneys threaten human life, the destruction of wetlands threatens the health and survival of the planet.