

Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Conservation

Why in news?

Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, TN welcomes thousands of migratory birds species this season, thanks to excellent water levels and ideal nesting conditions.

- It is one of the *oldest water bird protected areas* in the country as well as in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- **Established** It was granted legal protection in 1798 and is a protected area established in 1936.
- Location Chengalpattu District of Tamil Nadu.
- Vedanthangal, literally means 'the hamlet of a hunter'.
- More than 40,000 birds have been recorded in the sanctuary during the migratory season every year.
- **Habitat type** Seasonal wetland ecosystem with a large irrigation tank.
- Important species Includes including the black-headed ibis, Eurasian spoonbill, black-crowned night heron, painted stork, Cormorants, Flamingos, Pelicans, moor hens, herons, kingfishers, sandpipers, white ibis, swans and grey wagtails, etc.
- The best season time is between October and March, when a large number of migratory birds visit.
- International recognition This site is also recognized internationally, as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and a Ramsar wetland site (2022).
- **Unique feature** This Sanctuary is the community-led conservation—local villagers historically protected the birds, recognizing their role in fertilizing agricultural lands.

References

1. Times of India | Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary

- 2. Ramsar site | Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- 3. Chengalpattu district | Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary

