World Wetlands Day

Why in News?

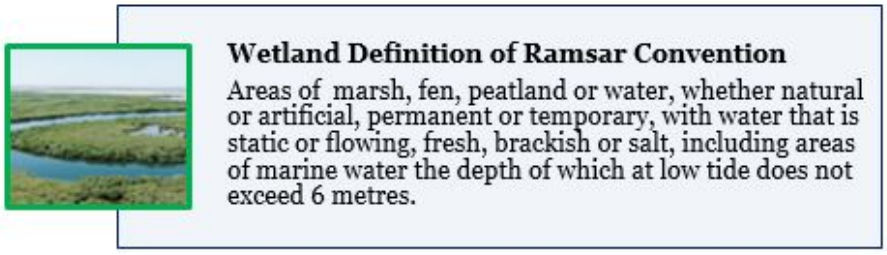
India announced new Ramsar sites on World Wetlands Day recently.

World Wetlands Day, 2025

- February 2 is annually marked as World Wetlands Day.
- **Aim -** To spread awareness about conserving one of the most critical ecosystems on the planet.
- **Theme, 2025 -** "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future".
- **Wetlands -** Wetlands are regions covered by water either perennially or seasonally, such as marshes and lakes.
- They are vital reservoirs of biodiversity, aid water conservation and provide habitat for numerous migratory birds, aquatic species, and plant life.
- They also help recharge groundwater, control floods and support fisheries and local communities.
- From the point of view of climate change mitigation, wetlands are ***important carbon sinks***, absorb more carbon from the atmosphere than they release.

Ramsar Convention

- Ramsar Convention is an ***international treaty*** that aims to conserve wetlands and their resources.
- It was the ***first modern treaty*** between nations to conserve natural resources
- It was signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar and came into force in **1975.**



- These sites receive international support for conservation and management.
- **Pillars -** Provides a framework for national action and international cooperation
- Protects sites of global importance
- Ensures the sustainable use and conservation of wetlands
- **Main bodies of the Ramsar Convention -** The Conference of the Parties (COP) and Standing Committee.
- There are currently over 2,400 Ramsar Sites around the world.
- **Ramsar sites in India -** India has ***89*** Ramsar sites. Tamil Nadu has the most Ramsar sites at ***20***.

- India recently announced ***4 new Ramsar sites*** under the global agreement Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Newly Added Ramsar Sites, 2025	
Udhwa Lake	Jharkhand
Theerthangal	Tamil Nadu
Sakkarakottai	Tamil Nadu
Khecheopalri	Sikkim

Reference

The Indian Express | World Wetlands Day

