

Menar bird village to be declared wetland

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In news– Recognised as the “bird village” following community-driven conservation efforts, Menar **in Udaipur district in Rajasthan** is set to be notified as the state’s new wetland.

About the wetland-

- **The two lakes in the village – the Brahma and Dhandh play host to a large number of migratory birds in the winter season** every year.
- With the status of wetland, the two lakes will be strengthened for increasing vegetation of aquatic plants and protecting biodiversity.
- The **volunteers known as Pakshi Mitras (friends of birds)** were **maintaining the lakes** as a safe haven for birds.
- **More than 150 species of local and migratory birds inhabit the two lakes** in the winter season, including **greater flamingo, white-tailed lapwing**, pelican, marsh harrier, bar headed goose, common teal, greenshank, pintail, wagtail, green sandpiper and red-wattled lapwing.
- **The district administration has also formulated a management plan for systematic development of the lakes**, while an action plan is under way to get Menar notified as a wetland at the earliest.
- The fresh water lakes supporting the ecosystem of the region will be protected with the application of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2019.
- **At present, Rajasthan has two wetlands recognised as Ramsar sites – Keoladeo Ghana** in Bharatpur district and **Sambhar Salt Lake** in Jaipur district.