

Ramsar sites in India

April 1, 2020

Why in news?

10 more wetlands in India have been declared as Ramsar sites.

▪ Ramsar convention:

- The Ramsar Convention is the **only global treaty that focuses specifically on wetlands.**
- It was **signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.**
- It has **170 nations as signatories.**
- The convention **entered into force in India on 1 February 1982.**
- The contracting parties agree to manage all their wetlands based on the **concept of “wise use.”**
- Wise use means the **maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland and allowance of sustainable use for the benefit of people and the environment.**
- The Ramsar Convention works closely with six other organizations known as **International Organization Partners (IOPs)**. These are:
 - *Birdlife International*
 - *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*
 - *International Water Management Institute (IWMI)*
 - *Wetlands International*
 - *WWF International*
 - *Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)*
- The **2nd of February each year is World Wetlands Day**, marking the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971. **“Wetlands and Biodiversity”** is the theme for 2020.

▪ Manteaux accord:

- The Monteux Record is a **register of wetland sites**

on the “**List of Wetlands of International Importance**”, where **changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur** as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.

- It is the principle tool under the Ramsar convention for highlighting wetlands sites in need of priority conservation status.
- It was established in the 4th meeting of Conference of Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention at Monteux, Switzerland in **1990**.
- **Keoladeo National Park-Rajasthan, Loktak Lake – Manipur** are two wetland sites of India included in Monteux Record.