

UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · [UJIYARI.COM](https://ujiyari.com)

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Glaw Lake: India Crosses 100 Ramsar Sites

4 August 2026 ·

ENVIRONMENT

GEOGRAPHY

GS3

GS1

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotesFree UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →

ADVERTISE

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Glaw Lake: India Crosses 100 Ramsar Sites

4 August 2026 · 6 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced on August 3, 2026 that Glaw Lake in Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh, has been designated India's 101st Ramsar Site of International Importance. It is the first Ramsar site in Arunachal Pradesh.

THE SITE

ATTRIBUTE	DETAIL
Name	Glaw Lake
State and district	Arunachal Pradesh, Lohit district
Protected area	Within the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary
Biogeography	Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot
Elevation	Approximately 1,168 metres
Area	Approximately 8 sq km
Type	High-altitude freshwater lake
Hydrology	A primary headwater source of the Kamlang river
Flora	Over 150 tree species; 49 wild orchid species
Fauna	The landscape supports four big cat species : tiger, leopard, clouded leopard and snow leopard . The site also holds the Critically Endangered white-bellied heron
Significance	India's 101st Ramsar site; Arunachal Pradesh's first

Kamlang is one of a small number of Indian landscapes credited with four resident big cat species, tiger, leopard, clouded leopard and snow leopard, and the snow leopard is the counter-intuitive member of that list. The site also holds the **Critically Endangered white-bellied heron**, one of the world's rarest herons, which is the single strongest Prelims hook here.

THE RAMSAR FRAMEWORK

ELEMENT	DETAIL
Full name	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat
Adopted	1971 , at Ramsar, Iran
Entry into force	1975
India acceded	1982
India's first sites	Chilika (Odisha) and Keoladeo (Rajasthan) , both 1981 designations effective on accession
The list of threatened sites	The Montreux Record , for sites where ecological character has changed or is likely to change
India on the Montreux Record	Keoladeo National Park and Loktak Lake
India's trajectory	26 sites in 2014 to 101 in 2026
Domestic law	Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 , under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

Ramsar is notable among environmental treaties for being the **oldest of the modern multilateral environmental agreements** and for covering a single ecosystem type rather than a theme.

WHAT DESIGNATION DOES AND DOES NOT DO

This is the analytical heart of the item, and the place where most answers are weak.

What it does. A Contracting Party undertakes to designate at least one wetland for the List, to promote its conservation and wise use, to formulate and implement planning to promote conservation of listed sites, and to inform the Secretariat if the ecological character of a listed site has changed or is likely to change. The designation also confers international visibility, which can be mobilised domestically, and creates a reporting obligation that produces a paper trail.

What it does not do. Ramsar designation creates **no domestic legal protection by itself**. It does not restrict land use, it does not prohibit construction, and it carries no enforcement mechanism. A Ramsar site in India is protected to the extent that Indian law protects it, principally through the Wetlands (Conservation and

Management) Rules, 2017, and through whatever protected-area status it independently holds. Glaw Lake is comparatively well placed here, since it already lies inside a tiger reserve and wildlife sanctuary and therefore carries Wildlife (Protection) Act protection independent of the Ramsar listing.

Wise use is the Convention's organising concept, and it is not the same as preservation. It means the maintenance of the ecological character of a wetland through ecosystem approaches within the context of **sustainable development**, which expressly contemplates human use rather than exclusion.

THE QUESTION THE COUNT RAISES

Moving from 26 sites to 101 in twelve years is a genuine diplomatic and administrative achievement, and India now has one of the largest networks of Ramsar sites in Asia. But a count is an input measure.

The harder questions are whether each designated site has an approved and funded **management plan** under the 2017 Rules, whether the state wetland authorities that the Rules require are constituted and functional, whether ecological character is being monitored against a documented baseline, and whether the two Indian sites on the **Montreux Record** are being restored.

This is the same structural point that arises with protected-area coverage and with the 30x30 target: an area-based target is politically legible and easy to report, while the outcome it stands **proxy** for is harder to measure and easier to leave unmeasured. A hundred well-managed wetlands and a hundred listed wetlands are different things, and only one of them is in the public record.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3: Conservation; biodiversity; environmental pollution and degradation.

GS Paper 1: Important geophysical phenomena; distribution of natural resources; salient features of India's physical geography.

Prelims pointers:

- **Glaw Lake**, Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh: India's **101st** Ramsar site, the state's **first**. Inside **Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary**. About **1,168 m** and **8 sq km**. Headwater of the **Kamlang** river. Over 150 tree species, 49 wild orchid species, four big cat species (tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, snow leopard), and the Critically Endangered white-bellied heron.
- The **Ramsar Convention, 1971**, was signed at **Ramsar, Iran**, and entered into force in 1975. **India acceded in 1982**.
- India's first Ramsar sites: **Chilika (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo (Rajasthan)**.
- The **Montreux Record** lists sites whose ecological character has changed or is likely to change. India's entries are **Keoladeo National Park** and **Loktak Lake**.

- Domestic implementation is through the **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**.
- **Wise use** means maintaining ecological character through ecosystem approaches within sustainable development; it is not preservation.
- India moved from **26 sites in 2014 to 101 in 2026**.

UPSC RELEVANCE

India's 101st Ramsar site and Arunachal Pradesh's first, announced 3 August 2026 by Bhupender Yadav. Lohit district, inside Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, Eastern Himalaya hotspot. About 1,168 m elevation, about 8 sq km. Headwater of the Kamlang river. 150+ tree species, 49 wild orchid species, four big cat species (tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, snow leopard), and the Critically Endangered white-bellied heron.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, adopted 1971 at Ramsar, Iran; in force 1975; India acceded 1982. India's first two sites were Chilika and Keoladeo.

the register of listed sites facing or likely to face change in ecological character. India has two entries, Keoladeo National Park and Loktak Lake.

Ramsar listing creates no domestic legal protection on its own. Protection in India flows from the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and from any independent protected-area status.

maintenance of ecological character through ecosystem approaches within sustainable development. It contemplates human use, not exclusion.

Sources: Press Information Bureau, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Source: Glaw Lake: India Crosses 100 Ramsar Sites — Ujjayanti.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

RELATED EDITORIALS

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Fires That Make Their Own Weather: Europe's New Fire Regime](#)

3 Aug

THE HINDU

[Beyond the Fence: OECMs and the Case for a National Conservation Estate](#)

3 Aug

DOWN TO EARTH

[Every Degree Costs a Harvest: Rice Yields and the Arithmetic of Warming](#)

1 Aug

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Built and Blocked: How Transmission Bottlenecks Are Curtailing India's Renewable Energy](#)

31 Jul

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[Access and Benefit Sharing \(ABS\)](#)

The framework for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising...

KEY TERM

[Agasthyamalai BR](#)

A UNESCO-designated biosphere reserve in the southern Western Ghats...

KEY TERM

[Agri-Photovoltaic](#)

A dual land-use technology that integrates elevated solar panels with...

KEY TERM

[Agroforestry](#)

A land-use system that deliberately integrates trees and shrubs with...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/08/04/glaw-lake-101st-ramsar-site-2026/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](#)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com