

# November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

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**1. Government of India decided to save the 20 wetlands as they are congregation sites for several migratory water bird species.**

- What is Central Asian Flyway?
- What does India's newly launched Central Asian Flyway Action Plan say?
- Why wetlands must be conserved? What are their significance?

### **GS paper 3 ( Conservation )**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

HT correspondent . ( 2018, November , 23). We have to save India's natural commons. Hindustan Times. Retrieved from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/we-have-to-save-india-s-natural-commons-is-important/story-eMUAtlSyCM3Lta6eFoJMvL.html>

### **What is the context about?**

- The Union environment ministry has identified 20 wetlands and nine wetland clusters for conservation as they are congregation sites for several migratory water bird species.
- These wetlands include Keoladeo in Rajasthan, Coringa in Andhra Pradesh, Bhitarkanika in Odisha, Point

Calimere in Tamil Nadu, Sunderbans in West Bengal, Harike in Punjab, Gulf of Mannar, and Nal Soravari in Gujarat.

- ❑ These wetlands will be protected as part of the Centre's Central Asian Flyway Action Plan launched recently.



### **What is Central Asian Flyway?**

- ❑ The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans and the associated island chains.
- ❑ The Flyway comprises several important migration routes of waterbirds, most of which extend from the northernmost breeding grounds in the Russian Federation (Siberia) to the southernmost non-breeding (wintering) grounds in West and South Asia, the Maldives and the British Indian Ocean Territory.
- ❑ The birds on their annual migration cross the borders of several countries. Geographically the flyway region

covers 30 countries of North, Central and South Asia and Trans-Caucasus.

### **What does India's newly launched Central Asian Flyway Action Plan say?**

- The plan states that the boundaries of these wetland clusters will be demarcated and notified under the Wetlands Rules 2017. Additional water will also be allocated whenever needed to maintain the ecological health of these wetlands.
- The action plan proposes that scientists undertake and publish national inventories of the stopover and wintering sites of migratory birds and their population status; implement single-species action plans for 20 species which includes Greater Flamingo, Great Knot, Lesser Flamingo, Eurasian Curlew, European Roller, White-headed Duck, Yellow-Breasted Bunting, and Ferruginous Duck.
- The action plan states that threats to migratory birds such as feral dogs, sand and boulder mining, and land use changes will be assessed, periodic disease surveillance will be carried out.
- It again says, impact of night light and electrocution risks evaluated, and local communities encouraged to participate in the conservation of these bird species.
- It states that the CAF includes several important migration routes over the high Himalayan passes.

## Why wetlands must be conserved? What are their significance?

- ❑ Hydrology of wetlands is extremely crucial for flood mitigation purposes with their abilities of water logging, cope with heavy rainfall and passes to the coasts and onwards to the ocean in a uniquely optimal manner.
- ❑ Wetlands, surrounding marshlands and network of tanks are richly interwoven in line with agrarian life and provide immense support for the farmers in many ways.
- ❑ Plays a crucial role in water cycle, nutrient cycle and carbon cycle management. They are vital for improving water quality, vegetative land cover and carbon sequestration through soils.
- ❑ Supports mitigation efforts of climate change. For example, impact of floods can be minimised with sound wetlands and mangroves arrest coastal erosion and provide natural bulwarks against cyclone and tsunamis by acting as break waters.
- ❑ Wetland are extremely crucial for biodiversity and wildlife conservation as many other animals, avian life, both endemic and migrants - depend on their ecosystems which bare rich aquatic life.
- ❑ Macrophytes and algae not only cultivates fisheries including cramps, moluscus, crustaceans etc., but also helps in purification of water resources by absorbing

heavy metals and carbon with the process of denitrification, detoxification and oxygenation of water.