

Pallikaranai Marshland

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Pallikaranai Marshland Latest News

Decades of urbanisation and indiscriminate dumping have reduced the Pallikaranai marsh to a fraction of its original extent.

About Pallikaranai Marshland

- **Location:** It is a **freshwater marsh and partly saline wetland** situated about 20 kilometres south of the city of Chennai, **Tamil Nadu**.
- It serves as an aquatic buffer of the flood-prone **Chennai and Chengalpattu districts**.
- It encompasses 65 wetlands, through two outlets, viz., Okkiyam Madavu and the Kovalam Creek, and falls into the Bay of Bengal.
- On its eastern periphery, the **Marsh is flanked by the Buckingham Canal**.
- It is one of the **Ramsar sites in India**.
- **Fauna**

- The diverse ecosystem of the marshland supports some 115 bird species, ten mammals, 21 reptiles, ten amphibians, 46 fish, nine molluscs, five crustaceans, and seven butterfly species.
- These include notable species such as Russell's viper (*Daboia siamensis*) and birds such as the glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), grey-headed lapwings (*Vanellus cinereus*), and Pheasant-tailed jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*).
- **Threats:** It continues to face significant anthropogenic pressures, including encroachments and sewage discharge.

Source: TH

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