

Kichan and Menar Wetlands

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Kichan and Menar Wetlands Latest News

Recently, the Union environment ministry announced that two new wetlands — Kichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur — from Rajasthan have been designated as Ramsar sites.

About Menar Wetland

- It is a **freshwater monsoon wetland** complex **located in Rajasthan**.
- It is formed by three ponds, **Braham talab, Dhand talab and Kheroda talab**, and agricultural land that connect the latter two.
- During the monsoon season the farmland floods, providing habitat for species of water birds.
- Among the notable bird species at the Site are the **critically endangered white-rumped vulture** (*Gyps bengalensis*) and **long-billed vulture** (*Gyps indicus*).
- Over 70 plant species are found, including mango trees (*Mangifera indica*) around Braham talab that host a large colony of **Indian flying fox** (*Pteropus giganteus*).

- The Site is recognized as one of the best examples of **community-led conservation in Rajasthan**, with residents of the nearby Menar village playing a key role in conserving wildlife by preventing poaching or fishing.

About Khichan Wetland

- It is located in the **northern Thar Desert, Rajasthan**.
- It comprises two water bodies, **Ratri nadi (river) and Vijaysagar talab** (pond), riparian habitat and scrub land.
- This desert ecosystem supports **drought-resistant plant species** that provide habitat for over 150 species of birds.
- It is especially recognized for hosting large wintering flocks of **migratory demoiselle cranes** (*Anthropoides virgo*), making up over 22,000 individuals each year.
- The Site attracts bird-watchers, tourists, students and scientists, drawn primarily by the large seasonal gathering of the cranes.

Kichan and Menar Wetlands FAQs

Q1: Which is the smallest wetland in India?

Ans: Renuka Wetland

Q2: Which ministry is related to wetlands in India?

Ans: Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Q3: Which was the first Ramsar site in Rajasthan?

Ans: Keoladeo National Park

Source: [HT](#)

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