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THE TIMES OF INDIA

India's first wetland conservation centre comes up in Chennai

TNN | Feb 3, 2021, 05.51 AM IST



Coinciding with the World Wetland Day, India on Tuesday got its first specialised institution - Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) - in Chennai which will work as a knowledge hub for various stakeholders for conserving wetlands that occupy 4.6% of the country's total land area.

The CWCM has been set up as a part of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai.

It will assist the national and state/UT governments in the design and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks, management planning, monitoring and targeted research for conservation of wetlands,

said the environment ministry in a statement.

At present, India has 42 sites designated as wetlands of international importance under Ramsar convention, covering a surface area of 1.08 million hectares.

The year 2021 also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), on the occasion, launched community-based programmes to raise awareness

about conservation and rejuvenation of 10 wetlands in each of over 50 districts along the river under its flagship 'Namami Gange' mission.

The 'Namami Gange' is the first of its kind programme where wetland conservation is integrated with the river basin management plan.