

Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary

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Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary Latest News

Recently, the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) was designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site.

About Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary

- **Location:** It is located in the state of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The sanctuary is also **known as Surha Tal**.
- It is a **natural perennial oxbow lake** which serves as a critical wintering ground for avian species **traveling along the Central Asian Flyway**.
- It is a **freshwater wetland** in the middle stretch of the **Ganga River basin**.
- It was **originally formed from a meander of the Ganga** and receives freshwater inflow through three channels.
- It is characterized by floodplains, extensive marshes, seasonally flooded areas and rice paddies.
- It attracts several migratory and resident bird species due to its **rich avifaunal biodiversity**.

- **Fauna:** It supports a rich diversity of other species, including 221 plant species, 66 fish species, seven reptile species, and three amphibian species.
 - Notable fish include the **vulnerable Wallago attu and Bagarius bagarius**.

Key Facts about Ramsar Convention

- It was **adopted in 1971** in the city of Ramsar in Iran and came into force in 1975.
- It was the first **intergovernmental agreement** focused exclusively on **a specific ecosystem, i.e. wetlands**.
- The convention rests on the **three main pillars**:
 - **Conservation** of wetlands of international importance,
 - **Promotion** of the wise use of all wetlands within a country's territory
 - **International co-operation** on shared wetland systems and migratory species
- The Convention has 172 signatory countries. They are obligated to create wetland reserves and promote the wise use of wetland habitats.
 - **India joined it in 1982**, initially designating the **Chilika Lake** in Odisha **and Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan**.

Source: **HT**

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