

Manasbal Lake

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Manasbal Lake Latest News

Recently, it was observed that the Manasbal Lake is on the path of ecological recovery with the return of migratory birds.

About Manasbal Lake

- **Location:** It is located in the Ganderbal district of **Jammu and Kashmir**, India.
- The lake lies at an altitude of about 1,585-1,600 metres in **the Jhelum Valley**.
- It is **considered the deepest freshwater lake in India** with a depth of about 13 metres (43 ft).
- The name is derived **from Lake Manasarovar**.
- **Surroundings:** It is surrounded by **Baladar mountains**, **Karewa plateau** in the north and **Ahtung hills** in the south used for limestone extraction.
- **Water Source:** It is being fed **mainly by precipitation** and over 1,200 springs, with outflow regulated into the Jhelum River.

- **Physical Characteristics:** The lake is **monomictic with thermal stratification** from March to November, thermocline depth of 9 metres and surface water temperature ranging from 6°C in winter to 27.5°C in summer.
- **History:** The Mughal garden **Jaroka Bagh** built by Nur Jahan overlooks the lake, while nearby ruins of a 17th century fort and an ancient temple (800-900 AD).
- **Flora:** The lake hosts **macrophytes** (emerged, submerged, floating) and phytoplankton, with plankton biomass.
- **Fauna:** It supports **zooplankton**, benthos and fish species such as **Schizothorax niger**, *S. esocinus*, *Cyprinus carpio* and *Neomacheilus latius*, contributing to local fisheries and economy.

Source: TH

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