

Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary

April 22, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary Latest News

Recently, the Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh was designated as a Ramsar site, taking India's total to 99.

About Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary

- **Location:** It is located in the state of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- It is a typical monsoonal **wetland of the Gangetic plains**.
- It is a **fresh water perennial water body** that came into existence after the formation of the **Upper Ganges Canal** in 1852 which flows adjacent to the lake.
- It acts as a crucial **stopover on the Central Asian Flyway**.
- **Vegetation**
 - The submerged **vegetation consists of Hydrilla verticillata**, Ceratophyllum demersum, Vallisneria spiralis, Potamogeton crispus and Najas.

- Free-floating vegetation consists of *Salvinia* and *Azolla*, *Eichhornia crassipes*. Rooted floating vegetation includes *Nymphaea cristata* and *Nymphaea indica*.
- **Fauna:** It is providing a vital habitat for migratory birds such as the **Bar-headed Goose, Painted Stork** and various ducks during the winter season.

What are Ramsar Sites?

- It is a wetland recognized **under the Ramsar Convention** (1971) for its international importance in conserving biodiversity and sustaining ecological balance.
- These wetlands provide **critical habitats** for migratory birds, endangered species, and unique flora and fauna.
- They help in **groundwater recharge**, flood control, and climate regulation, while supporting local livelihoods like fishing and agriculture.
- India currently has **99 Ramsar Sites spread across 28 states** and union territories.

Source: PIB

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/shekha-jheel-bird-sanctuary/>

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