



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary declared India's 99th Ramsar Site

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The Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary has been designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.?

Location and Status:

Located in Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh.

Declared as India's 99th Ramsar Site.

Uttar Pradesh now has 12 Ramsar sites, among the highest in India.

Ecological Importance:

A freshwater perennial wetland in the Gangetic plains.

Supports migratory and resident bird species.

Part of the Central Asian Flyway, an important migratory route.

Acts as:

Feeding and nesting ground for birds

Source of groundwater recharge and irrigation support

Biodiversity Significance:

Hosts hundreds of bird species, including:

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Bar-headed goose

Painted stork

Various migratory ducks

Supports aquatic biodiversity and wetland ecosystem services.

Importance of Ramsar Tag: Recognizes wetlands of international importance.

Promotes:

Conservation and sustainable use

Eco-tourism and local livelihood generation

Climate regulation and water security

Key Facts:

Ramsar Convention: International treaty signed in 1971 at Ramsar (Iran)

Objective: Conservation and wise use of wetlands

India became a party in 1982

Ramsar Sites in India:

Total: 99 (as of 2026)

India ranks among the top countries globally in Ramsar sites

Largest site: Sundarbans Wetland

First sites (1981):

Chilika Lake

Keoladeo National Park

Wetlands Importance:

Act as carbon sinks

Help in flood control and groundwater recharge

Provide habitat for biodiversity

Related Initiatives:

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)

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Amrit Dharohar Initiative (for Ramsar sites conservation)

World Wetlands Day celebrated on 2 February

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