



# Sultanpur National Park

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**Context:** Recent reports indicate a rise in **migratory bird numbers** at Sultanpur National Park as winter approaches, highlighting its continuing importance as a wetland ecosystem along the Central Asian Flyway.

## Location & Geography

Situated in **Gurgaon district, Haryana**, about **46 km from Delhi**.

Total area: **1.42 sq. km**, with a **core area of 1.21 sq. km** encompassing Sultanpur Lake/Jheel.

**Wetland Type:** Seasonal freshwater lake with fluctuating water levels; fed by the **Yamuna's Gurgaon canal** and overflow from agricultural lands.

## Historical Significance

Formerly known as **Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary**.

Gained prominence in the late 1960s due to conservation efforts by **Peter Michel Jackson** and **Dr. Salim Ali**.

Recognised as a **Ramsar Site in 2021**.

Designated as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** by BirdLife International.

## Flora

- Vegetation: **Tropical and dry deciduous**.
- Key species: **Dhok, Khair, Tendu, Ber, Jamun, Banyan, Neem, Berberis, Acacia nilotica, Acacia tortilis**.

## Fauna

### Birds

- Over **320 species** recorded; vital wintering ground along the **Central Asian Migratory Flyway**.
- **Winter Migrants:** Greater Flamingos, Northern Pintails, Eurasian Wigeons, Common Teals, Bar-headed Geese.
- **Resident Birds:** Indian Peafowl, Red-wattled Lapwings, Cattle Egrets, White-throated Kingfishers.
- **Rare/Threatened Species:** Sarus Crane, Black-necked Stork, Indian Courser.

### Other Fauna

- **Mammals:** Nilgai, Sambar, Golden Jackals, Wild Dog, Striped Hyenas, Indian Porcupine, Mongoose.

## Ecological Importance

**1Migratory Corridor:** Part of the **Central Asian Flyway**, supporting long-distance bird migration.

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**2Biodiversity Hotspot:** Habitat for both resident and migratory species, including threatened birds.

**3Wetland Ecosystem Services:**

oFlood control

oWater purification

oCarbon sequestration

**4Research & Education:** Provides opportunities for **ornithological studies and ecotourism.**