

2 New Ramsar Sites in India

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently announced that the number of Ramsar sites in India has reached 103.

- **Recent addition**

- Sukhna Wetland – Chandigarh (Union Territory).
- Sauj Jheel – Uttar Pradesh.

2 New Ramsar Sites in India				SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT	
Sukhna Wetland		Chandigarh, (Union Territory)	Sauj Jheel		Uttar Pradesh
	Wetland	Sukhna Wetland			Ramsar Site
	Location	Chandigarh, Union Territory			Location
	Ramsar Site number	2602			Ramsar Site number
	Wetland type	Peri-urban reservoir			Wetland type
	Geographical setting	Foothills of the Outer Himalayas			Geographical setting
	Important flyway	Central Asian Flyway			Surroundings
	Major ecological function	Regulates sediment and water flows from the catchment			Nearby Ramsar Site
	Habitat types	Open water, littoral vegetation, scrub and forest			Bird conservation status
	Major challenges	Sediment inflow and invasive species			Waterbird population
					Designated an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by BirdLife International
					Regularly supports more than 30,000 individuals

Sukhna Wetland, Chandigarh

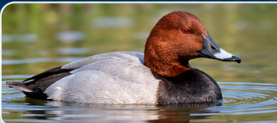
- The site is situated at the periphery of Chandigarh, within the foothills of the Outer Himalayas, also known as the Shivalik Hills.
- The site covers approximately 565 acres.
- It represents a significant urban wetland ecosystem that supports biodiversity within a rapidly developing urban environment.

- **Habitat for Birds**

- The area supports both resident waterbirds and migratory bird species.
- It is situated along the **Central Asian Flyway**, a major migratory route for avian species.
- The site provides essential feeding, breeding, roosting, and wintering habitats.


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Sukhna Wetland's Important Species

	Species	Conservation status mentioned in the report
	Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>)	Vulnerable
	Pallas's fish eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucoryphus</i>)	Endangered
	Black pond turtle (<i>Geoclemys hamiltonii</i>)	Endangered

- **Habitat Diversity** - The wetland encompasses the following habitat types:
 - Open-water habitats
 - Shoreline vegetation
 - Scrub and forest habitats
 - Shallow littoral habitats that provide essential resources for wetland-dependent wildlife
- **Major Conservation Challenges**
 - **Siltation** - The accumulation of sediments reduces the lake's storage capacity
 - **Catchment erosion** - Soil erosion within the catchment area increases sediment inflow
 - **Invasive species** - Non-native species may alter native habitats and disrupt ecosystem functioning
 - **Urban pressures** - Water quality and recreational activities require ongoing management to mitigate negative impacts

Sauj Jheel - Uttar Pradesh.

- It is a **shallow lake** surrounded by farmland in the floodplain of the Ganga River.
- It is part of a larger wetland network that supports ecological connectivity in the region and is **located near Saman Bird Sanctuary**.
- **Wetland Vegetation**
 - Sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*)

- Wild sugarcane (*Saccharum spontaneum*)
- These plant species provide essential nesting, breeding, shelter, and food resources for wildlife.

 Sauj Jheel's Important Waterbird Species  SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT			
 Species	 Scientific name	 IUCN status	
	Sarus crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>	Vulnerable
	Greater spotted eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>	Vulnerable

- **Ecological connectivity**

- This wetland forms part of a larger network within the Ganga floodplain.
- It supports ecological connectivity across the landscape.
- The wetland offers essential habitat for waterbirds and other species that rely on wetland ecosystems.

- **Proposed Conservation Measures**

- **Seasonal Fishing Restrictions** - Implement a seasonal fishing ban to protect aquatic fauna during critical periods.
- **Sustainable Fishing Practices** - Restrict the use of fine-mesh fishing nets to reduce the capture of juvenile fish and non-target aquatic organisms.
- **Wetland Habitat Protection** - Control cattle access to minimize disturbance, trampling, and degradation of wetland habitats.

Reference

[Ramsar | New Ramsar Sites in India](#)



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