

# Surha Tal: India's 100th Ramsar Site



## CONTEXT

- Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, has been designated as India's 100th Ramsar Site.

## ABOUT

- Established in 1991,
- The sanctuary is centred around **Surha Tal**, a natural perennial oxbow lake formed by the shifting course of the Ganga River.
- It is located in the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**, near the confluence of the Ganga and Ghaghara rivers.



- It hosts several **migratory birds from Siberia and Central Asia**, including the **Greylag Goose, Pintail, Common Teal, and Bar-headed Goose**.
- Local species include **Sarus crane, Heron, and Cormorant**.

## ABOUT RAMSAR CONVENTION

- A Ramsar site is a **wetland designated as one of international importance under the Ramsar Convention**.

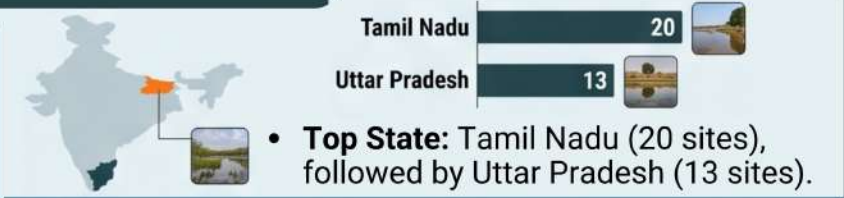
- Ramsar Convention** - It is one of the inter-governmental accords to preserve the wetlands of international importance.

- It was signed on **February 2, 1971** in Ramsar, Iran and came into force in 1975.
- India became a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.**

## RAMSAR FACTS

- Total: 100 sites** (As of June 2026).
- India has the most sites in Asia.**

- 100th Site:** Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Uttar Pradesh (Added June 2026).



- Top State:** Tamil Nadu (20 sites), followed by Uttar Pradesh (13 sites).
- First Sites:** Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) in 1981.
- Sizes:** Sundarban (West Bengal) is the largest. Renuka (Himachal Pradesh) is the smallest.

## MONTREUX RECORD (THREATENED SITES)

- What it is:** A register of Ramsar sites facing ecological danger from pollution or human interference.

- Keoladeo National Park** (Rajasthan)
- Loktak Lake** (Manipur)
- Only two sites**—Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur).

- Removed-** Chilika Lake was removed after successful recovery.