

Siliserh Lake Declared Ramsar Site

Introduction

Siliserh Lake, located in **Alwar district of Rajasthan**, has been designated as a **Ramsar Site**, making it **India's 96th wetland of international importance**. Along with Siliserh, the **Kopra Reservoir in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh** has also been added to the global Ramsar list.

This recognition reflects India's growing commitment to **wetland conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable water management**.

Ramsar Convention: Background

- The **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands** was adopted in **1971** in Ramsar, Iran.
- It aims at the **conservation and wise use of wetlands** through local, national, and international cooperation.
- Ramsar Sites are selected based on **ecological, botanical, zoological, limnological, or hydrological importance**.
- India became a signatory to the Convention in **1982**.

Why Siliserh Lake is Important

1. Ecological and Environmental Significance

- Siliserh Lake plays a crucial role in:
 - **Biodiversity conservation**
 - **Groundwater recharge**
 - **Climate resilience**, especially in the semi-arid Aravalli region
- Wetlands like Siliserh act as **natural buffers against floods and droughts** and help in **carbon sequestration**.

2. Rich Biodiversity

- The lake supports **over 100 species of birds and animals**.
- **Migratory birds** such as cranes visit the lake seasonally.
- **Resident species** include kingfishers and other wetland-dependent fauna.

- Functions as:
 - A **feeding ground**
 - A **breeding and nesting habitat**
 - Its proximity to the **Sariska Tiger Reserve** enhances its ecological value as part of the **Aravalli ecosystem corridor**.
-

3. Hydrological Importance

- Originally built to **supply drinking water to Alwar city**.
 - Continues to contribute to **regional water security**.
 - Historic **aqueduct systems** around the lake showcase early water-management practices.
-

4. Historical and Cultural Significance

- Constructed in **1845** by **Maharaja Vinay Singh**, the then ruler of Alwar.
 - The lake reflects a blend of:
 - **Traditional engineering**
 - **Heritage conservation**
 - Enhances the cultural landscape of Rajasthan's water bodies.
-

Significance of Ramsar Status

Strengthened Conservation

- Brings **international recognition** and technical support.
- Encourages:
 - Scientific management
 - Habitat restoration
 - Regulation of pollution and encroachments

Alignment with Global Commitments

- Supports India's commitments under:
 - **Ramsar Convention**
 - **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
 - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially SDG-6 (Clean Water) and SDG-15 (Life on Land)
-

Tourism and Sustainable Livelihoods

- Ramsar status is expected to:
 - Promote **eco-tourism and birdwatching**
 - Create **local employment opportunities**
 - Emphasis on:
 - **Community participation**
 - **Sustainable tourism models**
 - Union Environment Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** described the recognition as a **collective achievement of local communities**, stressing balanced development and conservation.
-

Kopra Reservoir (Chhattisgarh) - Brief Mention

- Located in **Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh**.
 - Recognised for its:
 - Wetland biodiversity
 - Role in supporting local livelihoods
 - Highlights **geographical spread of Ramsar sites beyond traditional wetland regions**.
-

Challenges and Way Forward (Mains Value Addition)

- **Challenges:**
 - Pollution

- Unregulated tourism
- Climate change impacts

- **Way Forward:**

- Integrated wetland management
- Community-based conservation
- Monitoring through remote sensing
- Linking Ramsar sites with **river basin planning**

UPSC Prelims Quick Facts

- **Ramsar Convention:** 1971
- **Siliserh Lake:**
 - Location: Alwar district, Rajasthan
 - Built in: 1845
 - Builder: Maharaja Vinay Singh
 - Near: Sariska Tiger Reserve
 - Status: India's **96th Ramsar Site (2025)**
- **Kopra Reservoir:** Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh

Conclusion

The inclusion of Siliserh Lake as a Ramsar site underscores the increasing recognition of **wetlands as ecological assets rather than wastelands**. It strengthens India's wetland conservation framework while integrating **heritage, biodiversity, water security, and sustainable development**, making it a highly relevant topic for both **UPSC Prelims and Mains**.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Youtube](#)

