



Chilika Lake: Odisha

Why in News

As per the **water bird status survey-2022** conducted in the [Chilika lake](#), nearly **11 lakhs water bird and wetland dependent species** visited the lake.

- Chilika Lake is the **largest brackish water lake and wintering ground of the birds** in the Indian subcontinent.



Key Points

▪ About Chilika Lake:

- Chilika is **Asia's largest and world's second largest lagoon**.
- In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the **first Indian wetland** of international importance under the [Ramsar Convention](#).
- Major attraction at Chilika is [Irrawaddy dolphins](#) which are often spotted off Satapada Island.
- The large **Nalabana Island (Forest of Reeds)** covering about 16 sq km in the lagoon area was declared a bird sanctuary in 1987.
- **Kalijai Temple** - Located on an island in the Chilika Lake.
- Chilika lake hosts birds migrating from thousands of miles away from the **Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea, remote parts of Russia, Kirghiz steppes of Mongolia, Central and South East Asia, Ladakh** and the Himalayas.
- The birds find the **vast mud-field** and **abundant fish stock** here suitable to congregate.

▪ Migratory Species in India:

- India is a temporary home to several **migratory animals and birds**.

- The important among these include **Amur Falcons, Bar-headed Geese, Black-necked cranes, Marine turtles, Dugongs, Humpback Whales, etc.**
- India has also launched the **National Action Plan** for the conservation of migratory species under the Central Asian Flyway as India is a party to **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**.

Source: TH

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