



## Oussudu Lake

Vulnerability assessment study conducted in Oussudu lake, Puducherry had shown concern over rising plastic pollution in water bodies.

The report had highlighted that the canals have become **dumping grounds** for used plastic bags, thermocols, cups, plates, pipes and bottles.

### Threats from Plastic Pollution

- The dumping of plastic items had **interrupted free flow of monsoon run-off**.
- Around two-thirds of all forms of plastic getting accumulated, degrades slowly and **leaches into the land and water**.
- Plastic causes **serious environmental pollution**, affecting the basic life support systems such as soil, water and air.
- Plastic pollution also results in **health ailments** such as eye irritation, vision failure, difficulty in breathing, liver dysfunction and cancer,

### Recommendations

- Prior to **Plastic Ban**, it is necessary to adopt **daily usage of alternative packing items**.
- Encourage people to **identify and manufacture** alternative packing items.
  - Hoteliers should be encouraged to **shift to banana leaf**, teak leaf, vanathula leaf and mantharai leaf for serving and packing food.
- **Skill development** in producing alternate packing materials should be encouraged.
- Enforcement of **rules and regulations** for the production and use of plastic

### About Oussudu Lake

- The Ousteri Lake also referred to as Oussudu Lake is a man-made lake situated about 10 km from Puducherry.
- It is recognized as one of the **important wetlands of Asia** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (**IUCN**).
- The structure of the lake is complex consisting of **water, wetland and mudflats**.
- Lake acts as the **single largest catchment of fresh water** in Puducherry.
- The vegetation of the lake (ranges from small herbs to trees) supports **migratory avifauna** as well as **native birds** during summer and winter.

### Conservation Efforts

- Under the government's renovation plan the region near the lake will be make **litter free** so that it becomes favourable of the migratory birds.
- The lake region will be declared as **no horn and plastic free zone**.

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