



Migratory Birds in Hokersar Wetland

Why in News?

The [Hokersar wetland](#) in Srinagar has transformed into a **haven for numerous [migratory birds](#)**, drawing the attention of locals and [tourists](#) alike.

Key Points

- **Winter Arrival of Migratory Birds:**
 - Many **migratory birds from foreign countries flock to Hokersar wetland** during winter, making it a popular destination.
 - The wetland serves as a **crucial stopover** along the Central Asian Flyway, **providing food, shelter, and breeding grounds** for avian travelers.
- **Ideal Habitat for Birds:**
 - Hokersar's rich flora and diverse water bodies make it a perfect refuge for species like the [Siberian crane](#), [bar-headed goose](#), and various ducks.
- **Conservation Efforts:**
 - Local authorities and conservation groups are working to **protect Hokersar from threats like [pollution](#) and [encroachment](#)**.
 - Initiatives such as habitat restoration and proactive water management are vital to maintaining the wetland's ecological health.
 - The [Forest Protection Force](#) has been deployed to ensure the safety of the birds and prevent [poaching](#).

Hokersar Wetland

- **Location:**
 - The Hokersar wetland, a [Ramsar site](#), is situated in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. It is **also known as the 'Queen Wetland of Kashmir'**.
- **Geographic Setting:**
 - It is a natural, perennial **wetland that is part of the [Jhelum](#) basin** and is located in the **northwest Himalayan biogeographic province of Kashmir**, at the foot of the snow-draped [Pir Panjal range](#).
- **Water Source:**
 - The wetland receives water from the [Doodhganga River](#), a tributary of the [Jhelum](#).
- **Flora and Fauna:**
 - It is **home to the last remaining reedbeds of Kashmir** and serves as a **critical pathway for 68 waterfowl species**.
 - These birds, **migrating from regions like Siberia, China, Central Asia, and Europe**, include species such as the **little cormorant**, [common shelduck](#), **large egret**, and **great crested grebe**.
 - The wetland is **vital for local biodiversity**, offering food sources, spawning grounds, and nurseries for fish, along with breeding habitats for various species.

