

# Ballai's Surha Tal UP's 13th Ramsar site; set to get ₹5cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** Uttar Pradesh has added a new internationally recognised wetland to its eco-tourism map after Jayaprakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary at Surha Tal in Ballia was declared a Ramsar Site.

The recognition is expected to raise the sanctuary's profile among birdwatchers, nature enthusiasts and overseas tourists, while also reinforcing conservation measures for the wetland ecosystem.

With the latest addition, Uttar Pradesh now has 13 Ramsar Sites. India's total Ramsar wetlands have reached 100, reflecting an expanding national network of internationally important wet-

lands.

To improve visitor facilities, the Uttar Pradesh Eco Tourism Development Board is developing tourism infrastructure worth over Rs 5 crore in the Surha Tal area. Planned works include an open-air theatre, a birdwatching tower, an interpretation gallery, pathways, a children's area, a multipurpose hall, kiosks, ghat development, horticulture and landscaping, signage and other visitor amenities aimed at supporting regulated tourism.

Tourism and culture minister Jaiveer Singh said the Ramsar tag underlines Uttar Pradesh's growing prominence in biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism.