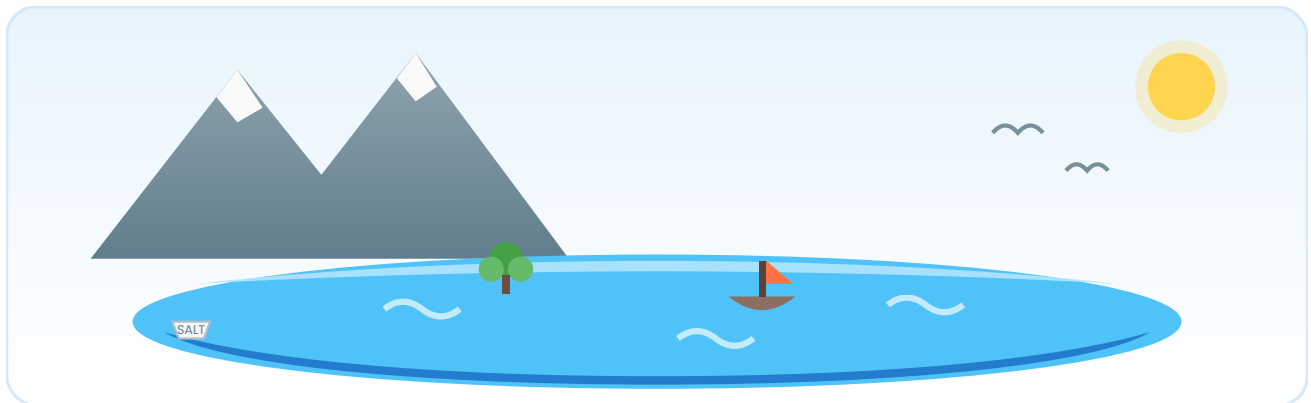


LAKES *of* INDIA

STATE-WISE · ALL IMPORTANT LAKES & RAMSAR SITES

Natural · Man-made · Freshwater · Saline · Lagoons · High-Altitude Lakes

**44**

Lakes with Profile
Diagrams

19

Ramsar Sites
Covered

23

States & UTs
Covered

150+

Exam Pointers
& Facts

Location · Type & Formation · Area · Depth · Inflow/Outflow · Ramsar Status · Wildlife

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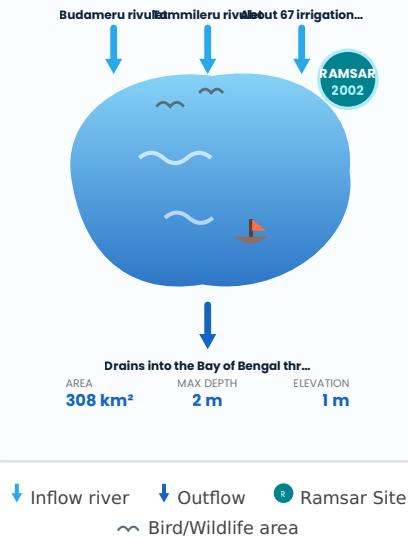
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Kolleru Lake

Andhra Pradesh

LAKE PROFILE (schematic)



Location

Eluru district (erstwhile Krishna and West Godavari districts), near Eluru and Kaikaluru — Andhra Pradesh

Large shallow freshwater lake in the low-lying tract between the Krishna and Godavari deltas; acts as a natural flood-balancing reservoir for the two deltas

Type & Formation

Natural shallow freshwater lake (delta depression)

Key Statistics

308 km² AREA

2 m MAX DEPTH

1 m ELEVATION

Inflow & Outflow

Inflows: Budameru rivulet, Tammileru rivulet, About 67 irrigation drains/channels from the Krishna and Godavari systems

Outflow: Drains into the Bay of Bengal through the Upputeru channel/river

RAMSAR SITE (2002) — Designated 19 Aug 2002 (RSIS lists 90,100 ha); Wildlife Sanctuary since Nov 1999 over 308 km² (up to the +5 ft contour) - 308 km² is the exam-standard...

Wildlife & Protected Areas

- **Spot-billed (grey) pelican** — Vulnerable species; Atapaka Bird Sanctuary at Kolleru (near Kaikaluru) is a famous pelica...
- **Migratory birds** — Painted storks, ibises and waterfowl from as far as Siberia and Eastern Europe winter her...

Nearby Cities / Towns

Eluru • Vijayawada • Kaikaluru • Rajamahendravaram

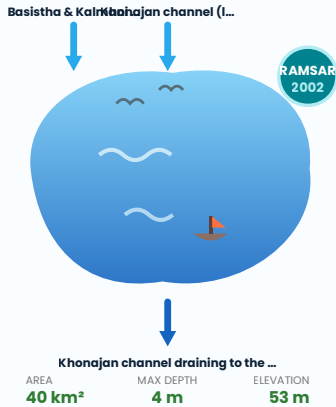
Exam Pointers

- ★ Lies between the deltas of the Krishna and Godavari rivers - a classic Prelims location fact
- ★ One of the largest freshwater lakes in India; often described as Asia's largest shallow freshwater lake
- ★ Fed by Budameru and Tammileru streams; drains to the Bay of Bengal via the Upputeru channel
- ★ Ramsar site (2002) and Wildlife Sanctuary (1999); 'Operation Kolleru' (2006) demolished illegal aquaculture (fish tank) encroachments

Deepor Beel

Assam

LAKE PROFILE (schematic)



↓ Inflow river ↓ Outflow ● Ramsar Site
 ~ Bird/Wildlife area

Location

Kamrup Metropolitan district (SW of Guwahati) — Assam

Permanent freshwater lake in a former channel of the Brahmaputra; only major stormwater basin for Guwahati

Type & Formation

Freshwater floodplain / former-channel (beel) lake

Key Statistics

40 km² AREA

4 m MAX DEPTH

53 m ELEVATION

Inflow & Outflow

Inflows: Basistha & Kalmani rivers, Khonajan channel (links to Brahmaputra)

Outflow: Khonajan channel draining to the Brahmaputra River

RAMSAR SITE (2002) — Ramsar site 19 Aug 2002; Assam's only Ramsar site until 2022

Wildlife & Protected Areas

■ **Waterbirds** — Spot-billed pelican, greater & lesser adjutant storks, Baer's pochard; large aquatic bird...

■ **Asian elephants** — Rajiv Gandhi Orang and Rani-Garbhangra forests nearby bring elephants to the beel

Nearby Cities / Towns

Guwahati

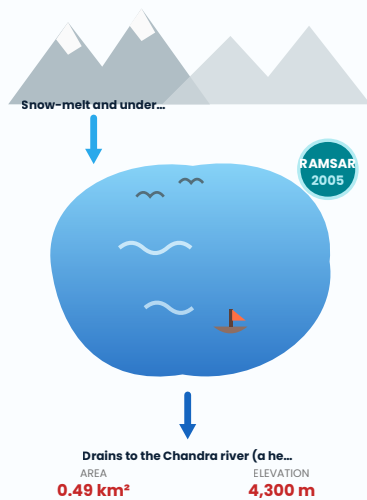
Exam Pointers

- ★ Ramsar wetland and an Important Bird Area on the south-west edge of Guwahati
- ★ Formed in an abandoned channel of the Brahmaputra; key stormwater basin for Guwahati
- ★ Home to spot-billed pelicans and both adjutant stork species

Chandra Tal (Chandratal)

Himachal Pradesh

LAKE PROFILE (schematic)



↓ Inflow river ↓ Outflow ● Ramsar Site
 ~ Bird/Wildlife area

Location

Lahaul & Spiti district (Spiti side, near Kunzum Pass) — Himachal Pradesh

High-altitude lake on the upper Chandra valley where the Himalayan and Pir Panjal ranges converge; on the Samudra Tapu plateau

Type & Formation

Natural freshwater high-altitude lake of glacial origin; crescent-shaped ('Lake of the Moon')

Key Statistics

0.49 km² AREA

4,300 m ELEVATION

Inflow & Outflow

Inflows: Snow-melt and underground **Outflow:** Drains to the Chandra river (a headstream of the Chenab)

RAMSAR SITE (2005) — Chandertal Wetland - Ramsar site 8 November 2005 (49 ha, elevation ~4,337 m per Ramsar sheet); one of India's highest Ramsar sites along with Tso Mor...

Wildlife & Protected Areas

■ **Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary** — Snow leopard, Himalayan ibex, blue sheep (bharal), red fox; birds - snowcock, chukar, gol...

Nearby Cities / Towns

Kunzum Pass (approx. 8-9 km) • Batal • Kaza (Spiti) • Manali (via Atal Tunnel/Rohtang)

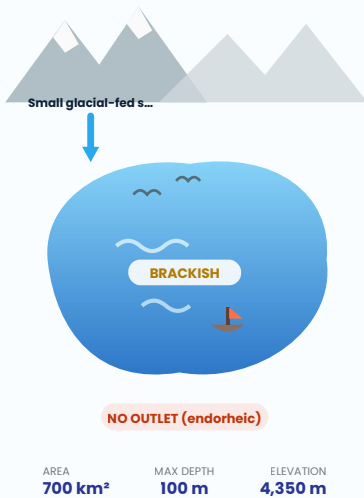
Exam Pointers

- ★ Crescent/moon-shaped lake - name means 'Lake of the Moon'; source region of the Chandra river, which joins the Bhaga at Tandi to form the Chandrabhaga (Chenab)
- ★ Ramsar site since 2005; elevation quoted ~4,270-4,337 m (commonly rounded to 4,300 m) - among the highest wetlands in India
- ★ Mythologically the spot from where Indra's chariot took Yudhishtira to heaven; a stop on the old trade route of Spiti shepherds
- ★ Lies in cold-desert terrain protected as Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary (snow leopard habitat)

Pangong Tso

Ladakh (UT)

LAKE PROFILE (schematic)



↓ Inflow river ↓ Outflow ● Ramsar Site
 ~ Bird/Wildlife area

Location

Leh district — Ladakh (UT)

Long, narrow high-altitude lake in the Changthang region, extending from India into Tibet (China) across the LAC

Type & Formation

Endorheic brackish-to-saline high-altitude lake of tectonic origin

Key Statistics

700 km² AREA

100 m MAX DEPTH

4,350 m ELEVATION

Inflow & Outflow

Inflows: Small glacial-fed streams from the Indian side (Spangmik side nallahs and Tibetan-side streams)

Outflow: endorheic (no outlet) - an old outlet to the Shyok river (Indus system) was closed by natural damming

Ramsar status: NOT yet a Ramsar site (only identified/proposed under Ramsar as a wetland of importance); it lies in the Changthang cold-desert wetland complex

Wildlife & Protected Areas

■ **Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary region** — Kiang (Tibetan wild ass), marmots; breeding ground for bar-headed goose and Brahminy duck...

Nearby Cities / Towns

Leh (approx. 150-160 km via Chang La pass) • Tangtse • Spangmik

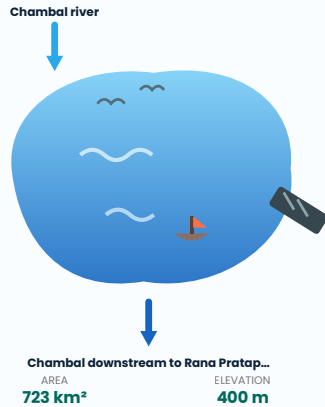
Exam Pointers

- ★ About 134 km long; roughly one-third (western part) in India and two-thirds in China (Tibet) - the LAC passes through it; site of India-China standoffs (2019-2021 'Finger' area friction; Ch...
- ★ Brackish/saline water yet freezes completely in winter; being endorheic (no outlet), evaporation concentrates its salts
- ★ Elevation commonly quoted as ~4,350 m in Indian govt/exam sources (some surveys give ~4,225 m); max depth ~100 m
- ★ Boundary-personnel meeting point Chushul lies to its south; lake famous as shooting site (e.g. '3 Idiots') boosting tourism

Gandhi Sagar

Madhya Pradesh

LAKE PROFILE (schematic)



Location

Mandsaur-Neemuch region (dam in Mandsaur district) — Madhya Pradesh (backwaters extend towards Rajasthan border)

Vast reservoir on the Chambal river on the Malwa plateau, near the MP-Rajasthan border

Type & Formation

Man-made reservoir on the Chambal river (behind Gandhi Sagar Dam)

Key Statistics

723 km² AREA

400 m ELEVATION

Inflow & Outflow

Inflows: Chambal river

Outflow: Chambal downstream to Rana Pratap Sagar, Jawahar Sagar and Kota Barrage

Ramsar status: Not a Ramsar site. MP's Ramsar sites include Bhoj Wetland, Sakhya Sagar, Sirpur, Yashwant Sagar and Tawa Reservoir - Gandhi Sagar is not among them.

Wildlife & Protected Areas

■ **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** — Surrounds the reservoir; chosen as India's second home for reintroduced cheetahs (after K...)

■ **Chambal riverine fauna** — Crocodiles, otters and wintering waterbirds; the National Chambal (gharial) Sanctuary lie...

Nearby Cities / Towns

Mandsaur • Neemuch • Kota (downstream, Rajasthan)

Exam Pointers

★ First and uppermost dam of the Chambal Valley Project cascade: Gandhi Sagar (MP) -> Rana Pratap Sagar (Rawatbhata) -> Jawahar Sagar -> Kota Barrage (all three downstream ones in Rajasthan).

★ Masonry gravity dam, 62 m high, completed 1960; joint MP-Rajasthan project; 115 MW powerhouse.

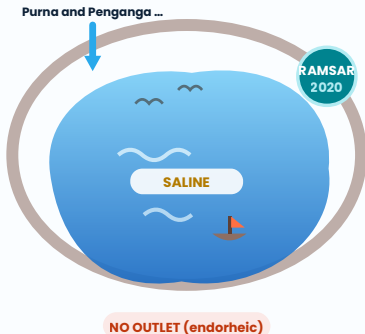
★ One of India's largest reservoirs: gross capacity about 7.32 billion cubic metres; water spread about 723 sq km (some sources cite about 660 sq km).

★ Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is the second cheetah reintroduction site in India under Project Cheetah.

Lonar Lake

Maharashtra

LAKE PROFILE (schematic)



AREA
1.13 km²

MAX DEPTH
6 m

ELEVATION
480 m

Location

Lonar, Buldhana district (Vidarbha region) — Maharashtra

Lies inside a near-circular meteorite-impact crater punched into the basalt of the Deccan Plateau (Deccan Traps)

Type & Formation

Meteorite-impact crater lake — saline AND alkaline (soda) lake

Key Statistics

1.13 km² AREA

6 m MAX DEPTH

480 m ELEVATION

Inflow & Outflow

Inflows: Purna and Penganga streams (as listed by standard sources) plus perennial springs (Dhara, Sitanahani)

Outflow: endorheic (closed basin, no outflow) — evaporation concentrates salts, making it highly saline and alkaline

RAMSAR SITE (2020) — Designated 22 July 2020 (announced Nov 2020); Ramsar area 427 ha; Maharashtra's 2nd Ramsar site after Nandur Madhmeshwar

Wildlife & Protected Areas

■ **Lonar Wildlife Sanctuary (2000)** — ~160 bird species incl. Asian woollyneck and common pochard; 46 reptile and 12 mammal spe...

■ **Haloarchaea (salt-loving microbes)** — Caused the lake to turn PINK in June 2020 (low water level + high salinity) — a favourite...

Nearby Cities / Towns

Lonar • Buldhana • Aurangabad (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar)

Exam Pointers

★ World-famous meteorite-impact crater lake in BASALTIC rock (Deccan Traps, ~65-million-year-old lava); crater diameter ~1.8 km, crater depth ~137-150 m; the lake water itself is shallow.

★ Water is both saline and alkaline — two non-mixing zones: outer neutral (pH ~7) and inner alkaline (pH ~11).

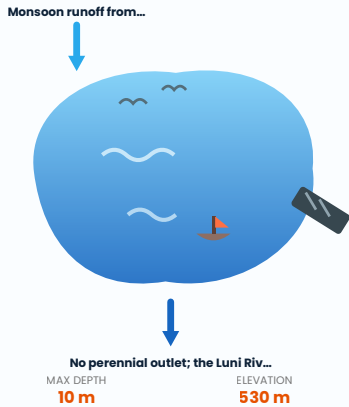
★ Impact age: traditionally ~35,000-50,000 years; newer studies suggest ~5,70,000 years (576,000 +/- 47,000).

★ Notified National Geo-heritage Monument (GSI); Ramsar site 2020; wildlife sanctuary since 2000; ancient temples (e.g., Daitya Sudan) on the crater rim/floor.

Pushkar Lake

Rajasthan

LAKE PROFILE (schematic)



↓ Inflow river ↓ Outflow ● Ramsar Site
 ~ Bird/Wildlife area

Location

Pushkar town, Ajmer district (about 11-14 km north-west of Ajmer city)
 — Rajasthan

Sacred lake in a valley of the Aravallis, separated from Ajmer by the Nag Pahar ('Snake Mountain')

Type & Formation

Sacred lake — an artificial/augmented reservoir (12th-century dam across the headwaters of the Luni River)

Key Statistics

10 m MAX DEPTH

530 m ELEVATION

Inflow & Outflow

Inflows: Monsoon runoff from surrounding Aravalli hills (headwaters of the Luni basin); supplemented by tube wells in recent decades

Outflow: No perennial outlet; the Luni River rises nearby from the Naag Pahar in the Pushkar valley

Ramsar status: Not a Ramsar site; classed as a 'Sacred Lake' in Indian lake classification

Wildlife & Protected Areas

■ **Sacred fish and waterfowl** — Primarily a pilgrimage lake, not a wildlife wetland; fish in the lake are considered sacr...

Nearby Cities / Towns

Pushkar • Ajmer

Exam Pointers

- ★ Ringed by 52 bathing ghats and around 400-500 temples; called 'Tirtha Raj' (king of pilgrimage sites).
- ★ Adjacent Jagatpita Brahma Mandir is the most prominent of the very few Brahma temples in India (popular exam line: 'the only famous Brahma temple').
- ★ Pushkar Fair (Pushkar Camel Fair), one of Asia's largest camel fairs, is held on Kartik Purnima (Oct-Nov) with ritual bathing in the lake.
- ★ Legend: lake created where a lotus fell from Lord Brahma's hand; historically an artificial lake formed by a 12th-century dam on the Luni headwaters. NOTE: surface-area figures vary widely ...