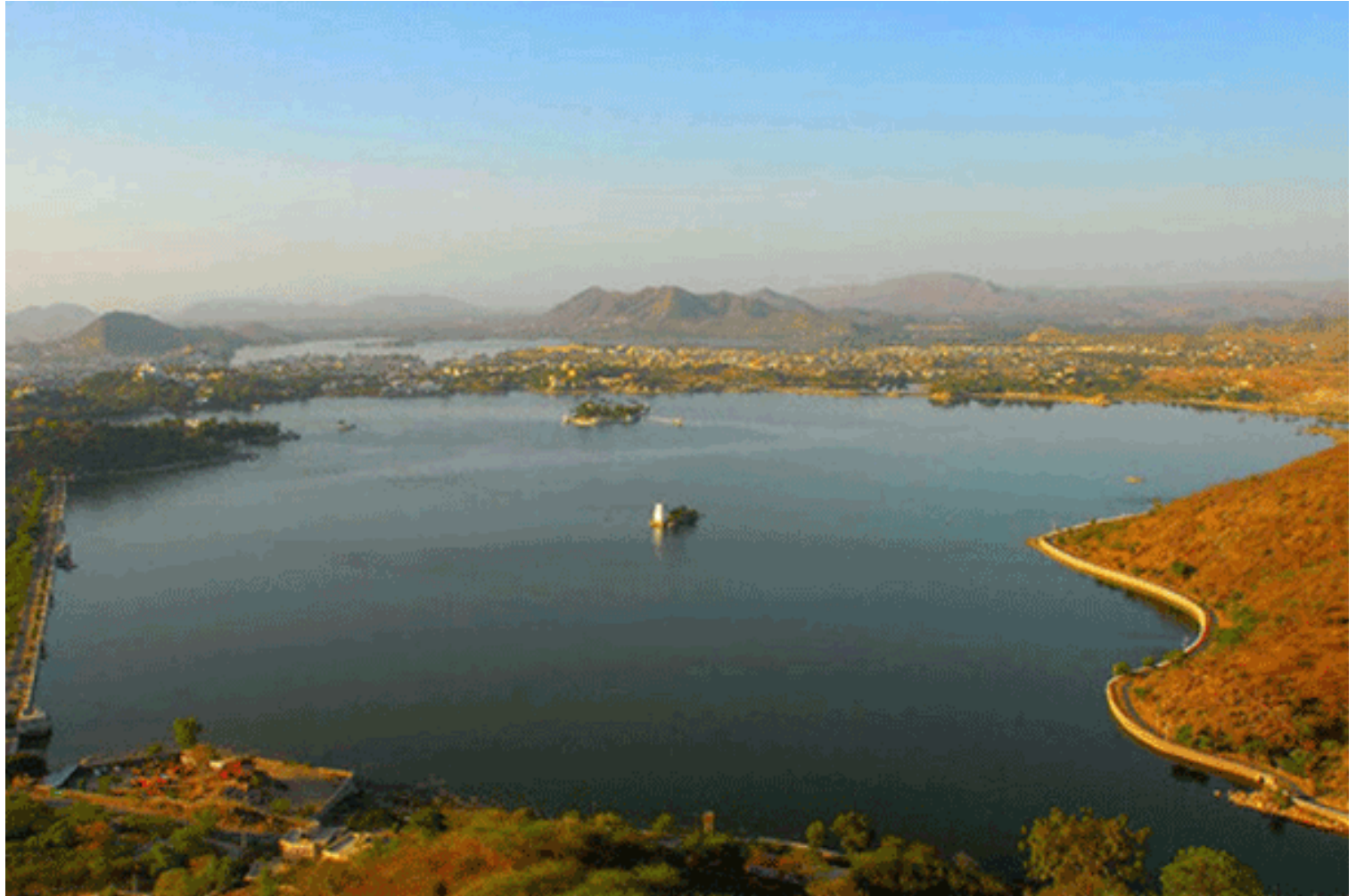


Wetland City Accreditation (WCA)

By IASToppers | 2024-01-06 15:15:00



Wetland City Accreditation (WCA)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change recently submitted proposals for **Wetland City Accreditation** under the [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#) for Indore, Bhopal and Udaipur.



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About Wetland City Accreditation (WCA):

- WCA was introduced by the **Ramsar Convention** after **172 Contracting Parties** unanimously agreed to prioritize the conservation and wise utilization of wetlands within their territories.
- It was approved during **COP12 held in 2015** as a voluntary accreditation scheme to recognize **natural or human-made** wetlands in **urban and peri-urban** environments.
- This would showcase commitment to **environmental sustainability** and strengthen a positive relationship with these **valuable ecosystems**.
- The **first three Indian cities' nominations** were submitted for WCA based on the proposals received from respective **State Wetlands Authorities** and Municipal Corporations.
- The wetlands situated in and around these cities are crucial for **flood regulation, livelihood opportunities**, and recreational and cultural values.
- WCA will generate **public awareness** about conservation of wetlands and help in the implementation of [Amrit Dharohar](#) across the country.

Nominated Indian cities:

1. Indore:

- Founded by the **Holkars**, Indore is the cleanest city in India and the recipient of India's [Smart City Award 2023](#) for its best sanitation, water and urban environment.
- **Important wetland:** Sirpur Lake is a Ramsar Site recognised for water bird congregation and is being developed as a Bird Sanctuary.
- A strong network of more than 200 wetland mitras is engaged in bird conservation and sensitising local community to protect the [Sarus Crane](#).

2. Bhopal:

- One of the cleanest cities in India that has proposed conservation zones around the wetlands in its draft **City Development Plan 2031**.
- **Important wetland:** Bhoj Wetland, a Ramsar Site is the city's lifeline, equipped with the world-class wetlands interpretation centre, Jal Tarang and a Lake Conservation Cell.
- More than 300 [wetland mitras](#) are engaged in wetland management and conservation of vulnerable Sarus Crane.

3. Udaipur:

- The **Lake City of Rajasthan** is surrounded by five major wetlands that help maintain the microclimate, provide a buffer from extreme events and highlight culture and identity.
- **Important Wetlands:** Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai.