

FLORA

- Typha
- Phragmites

FAUNA

- Geese
- Shovellers
- Red-crested Pochards
- White-eyed Pochards
- Common Teals
- Egrts, Wigeons
- Coots
- Greylags

DOs

- ✓ Get necessary permission before visiting
- ✓ Maintain a safe distance from all wildlife
- ✓ Appreciate the wetland and local regulations
- ✓ Neither visit alone nor in a group of too many
- ✓ Respect wildlife's private space
- ✓ Take nothing and leave only puddled footprints
- ✓ Tune down

DON'Ts

- x Don't litter and ensure that waste is disposed only in bins earmarked for the purpose
- x Don't throw away plastic bags
- x Don't collect any form of fauna or flora from any locations
- x Don't take photographs of people without their consent
- x Don't damage plants by walking, driving, or landing on extensive moss beds or lichen-covered areas
- x Don't make noise to avoid frightening wildlife



HYGAM

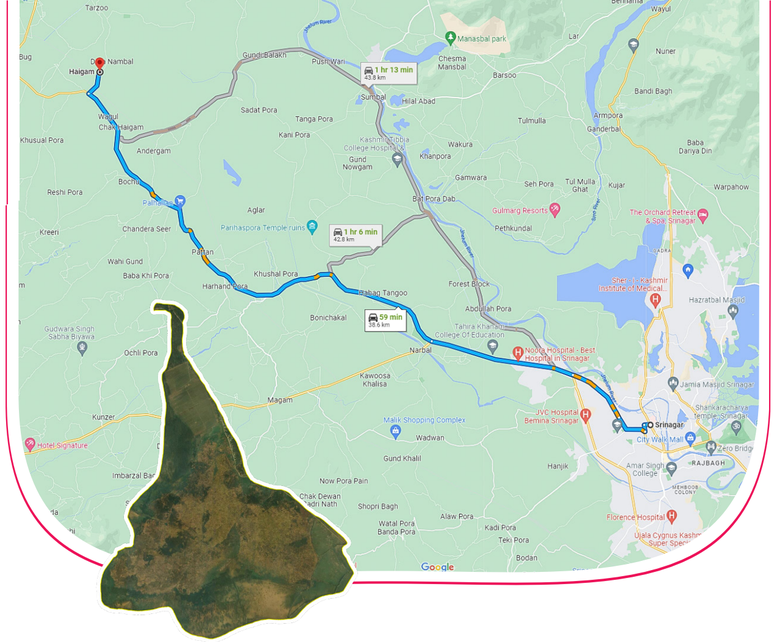
WETLAND CONSERVATION RESERVE

IBA IMPORTANT BIRD AREA SITE NUMBER IN-JK-05

Ramsar SITE NUMBER 2496



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION,
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR



Latitude
34º 15 N

Longitude
74º 31 E

Altitude
1580 metres (5200 feet)

Area
7.62 sq km

Distance
40 km from Srinagar

Best time to visit
October to April

How to reach
By road: Taxi from Srinagar

How to reach
By train: Hamre Railway Station

Located in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on the flood plains of River Jhelum, the Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve or Hygam Rakh was notified as a game reserve for duck shooting in 1945. It is the largest remaining reed bed in Kashmir valley, being of major ornithological importance. This conservation reserve is named after Hygam, a village situated in the nearby area. The Government of India (GoI) has designated Hygam Wetland as Ramsar sites to boost conservation efforts in J&K.

Hygam Wetland is one of the famous wetlands in Baramulla district and drains into Wullar Lake and its main water sources are Ningli Nallah and Babakul.

The Hygam Wetland has dense settlement around and people of the area are involved in reed and fishery business.

The wetland is surrounded all around by villages. The wetland is bounded in the north by Sopore-Sonawari road. To its south, it is surrounded by villages of Goshbugh and Sukhul. To the east of the wetland is the human habitation of Aakhanpora and to the west it is bounded by village Hanjipora. The wetland is fed by a perennial stream of Ballakul, which enters the wetland in its south, while Ningli Nallah and other tributaries such as Hanjipora Kul and Trambgund Kul enter the wetland along its western boundary. The water table keeps on fluctuating through the seasons. The water from this wetland in emergencies is used for irrigation of the fields of the local villagers residing along the peripheries. It is also used by the locals for grass cutting and partially grazing their livestock. Nymphoides spp. and potomogeton are very much sought after as fodder for the domestic livestock.



Flora and Fauna

The Rakh is largely covered by a dense growth of reed and other emergent species. Dominant species include Typha angustata, Phragmites communis, Phalaris arundinancea, Sparganium erectum, Scirpus species, Carex species, and Eleocharis palustris. Open water areas have a floating community of water lilies Nymphaea, Nymphoides, and Trapa natans, and beds of Potamogeton crispus, and Potamogeton nodosus. Some 183 species of phytoplankton have been recorded with Chlorophyceae predominating.

The wetland is host to scores of birds, both local and migratory.

The wetland is a major wintering area for migratory ducks, Geese and Waders. The lake is also an important breeding area for a variety of waterfowl notably Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis, Little Bittern Ixobrychus inimiz, Little Egret Egrettagarzetta, Water Rail Rallus aquaticus, Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropusand Whiskered Tern Hydrophasianus chirurgus and Chlidonias hybridus. The kingfishers Ceryle rudis and Alcedo atthis are common and the warbler Acrocephalus stentoreus is particularly abundant in the reed-beds. Palla's fish-eagle Haliaeetus leucoryphus is resident in the area.

Mammals known to occur in the area include Common Otter Lutra lutra and Golden Jackal Canis aureus; amphibians include Rana cyanophyctis and Bufo viridis. The wetland supports a rich fish fauna with large populations of Cyprinus carpio, Crossocheilus species, Puntius conchonius, and Gambusia affinis.

