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Gujarat Launches Rs 2.94 Crore Plastic Waste Project Around Nalsarovar Ramsar Site

11 August 2026 ·

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Gujarat Launches Rs 2.94 Crore Plastic Waste Project Around Nalsarovar Ramsar Site

11 August 2026 · 3 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*Gujarat's Forest Department launched a **Rs 2.94 crore** plastic waste management project on **August 11, 2026**, covering villages around the **Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary**, a Ramsar-designated wetland, funded by Japan's **JICA** and implemented through the Nalsarovar Wildlife Division at Sanand.*

WHAT THE PROJECT COVERS

The project spans **5 villages in Ahmedabad district** and **2 villages in Surendranagar district** surrounding Nalsarovar, and forms part of the wider “**Project for Eco-Restoration in Gujarat.**” Segregation and collection of plastic waste is carried out by community volunteers called “**Swachhta Praharis**” (“cleanliness guardians”), organised under **Eco-Development Committees (EDCs)**, a community-based conservation model built on the Joint Forest Management approach used widely in Indian wildlife-sanctuary buffer zones.

WHY NALSAROVAR'S RAMSAR STATUS MATTERS

Nalsarovar is designated as a **Ramsar site** under the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971)**, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands recognised for their ecological, economic, and cultural value. Ramsar designation obliges signatory countries, India included, to maintain the ecological character of listed wetlands and promote their wise use, making unmanaged plastic pollution around such a site a direct conservation concern rather than a routine municipal waste issue. India's Ramsar site count has grown steadily in recent years; the exact current tally should be verified against the latest Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change figures before citing a specific number in an exam answer.

THE COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION MODEL

Eco-Development Committees are a recognised institutional mechanism under India's Joint Forest Management framework, giving local communities living around protected areas a formal, incentivised stake in conservation outcomes, whether through livelihood support, employment in conservation-linked work, or,

as here, direct roles in waste management. The “Swachhta Prahari” volunteer model extends this logic specifically to plastic-waste segregation and collection, addressing a pollution source that conventional forest-department enforcement alone struggles to manage at the village level.

REGULATORY BACKDROP

The project operates against the backdrop of India’s **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016** (as subsequently amended), which impose extended producer responsibility obligations and phased restrictions on identified single-use plastic items. Community-level segregation infrastructure of the kind being built around Nalsarovar is a practical complement to these top-down regulatory restrictions, addressing the last-mile collection gap that determines whether plastic waste rules translate into cleaner ecologically sensitive sites on the ground.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3: Wetland conservation and the Ramsar Convention, 1971; community-based conservation models (Joint Forest Management, Eco-Development Committees); the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016; environmental governance funded through bilateral development cooperation (JICA).

Mains angle: “Community-based institutions like Eco-Development Committees are often more effective than top-down regulation in managing pollution around ecologically sensitive sites. Examine with reference to a recent example.” Use the Nalsarovar plastic-waste project.

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

NALSAROVAR PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT:

Launched August 11, 2026; outlay Rs 2.94 crore

Funded by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

Coverage: 5 villages, Ahmedabad district + 2 villages, Surendranagar district

Implemented via the Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary Wildlife Division, Sanand

Community volunteers: “Swachhta Praharis”, organised under Eco-Development Committees

Part of the “Project for Eco-Restoration in Gujarat”

CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK:

Nalsarovar: designated Ramsar site; Ramsar Convention adopted 1971

Governing plastic-waste statute: Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (as amended)

Sources: PIB, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, The Hindu

Source: Gujarat Launches Rs 2.94 Crore Plastic Waste Project Around Nalsarovar Ramsar Site — Ujiyari.com | Free
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