



Proposed Eco-Restoration Interventions:

The following interventions will be implemented in consultation with the local community:

Survey and Demarcation: The first step is to accurately survey and demarcate the area, including the removal of any encroachments.

Physical Cleanup: This involves removing excessive aquatic vegetation (de-weeding), desilting the main water body, and clearing natural drainage channels.

Habitat Improvement: Mounds will be constructed to create new habitats, and borrow pits will be reclaimed. Specific habitat improvement works for species like the Indian softshell turtle will also be undertaken.

Vegetation Management: The plan focuses on managing both aquatic and terrestrial vegetation to promote a healthy ecosystem.

Water Management: This is a crucial aspect of the plan, which includes building a water channel from the Saraswati Canal to Brahma sarovar, installing a tube well, and preventing the disposal of village wastewater into the ponds.

Community and Infrastructure: The plan also includes the development of an interpretation center, a recreation park, and ghats for religious ceremonies. Watchtowers and signboards will be installed to aid in monitoring and visitor information.

Conservation and Monitoring: The introduction of fish fingerlings will help stabilize the ecosystem, and regular monitoring and assessment of avifauna will track the progress of restoration efforts.



GOLDEN JUBILEE BRHAMA SAROVAR

VILLAGE THANA DISTRICT, KURUKSHETRA



Brahma sarovar, Village Thana, Kurukshetra:

Brahma sarovar, also known as Brahmsar Teerth, is a significant **palustrine wetland** located in Thana village, Kurukshetra district, Haryana. This 102-acre marshy wetland is not only an ecological hotspot but also a site of immense cultural and religious importance, mentioned in ancient texts like the Mahabharata Van Parv. It is situated approximately 50 km from Kurukshetra city, just 1.5 km off the Pehowa-Kaithal Highway. The wetland's unique status as a "sacred grove and pond" has provided it with natural protection for generations, and its restoration is crucial for preserving its rich biodiversity and heritage.



Cultural and Religious Significance: Mentioned in ancient scriptures, Brahma sarovar is a key pilgrimage site.⁴ The local community considers the wetland sacred, performing religious ceremonies and festivals on its banks.⁵ The presence of very old temples and historical monuments, along with a belief in the water's curative properties, reinforces its deep cultural value. This strong community connection has historically protected the site from commercial exploitation.



Rich Biodiversity:

The Brahma sarovar wetland is a biodiversity hotspot within the Semi-Arid Biogeographic zone.

Floral Diversity: The area supports 20 plant species from 13 families. While the surrounding land has sparse vegetation with species like *Salvadora oleoides* and *Acacia nilotica*, the wetland itself is home to luxuriant aquatic plants like the Lotus, which, while beautiful, can sometimes choke the water body. The presence of five species of *Ficus* trees provides a crucial food source for birds, and plants like *Millettia pinnata* offer roosting sites for bats.

Faunal Diversity: A survey of the area has recorded a variety of fauna. **Mammals** like the Indian flying fox and Indian palm squirrel are present, as is the highly protected **Indian softshell turtle**. The wetland is also a paradise for birdwatchers, with **49 recorded bird species** from 28 families, including resident and migratory birds.



Significance of the Area:

Brahma sarovar's importance lies in its multifaceted value:

Ecological Significance: The wetland plays a vital role in regulating the local climate, recharging groundwater, and preventing soil erosion. It serves as a refuge for a wide array of wildlife, including **migratory and resident birds amphibians, reptiles, and fish**. It is an important center for ornithological recreation, attracting many bird species. The wetland also provides a critical habitat for the Indian softshell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*), a species listed as vulnerable by the IUCN and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

