

# Wular Lake

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## About Wular Lake

- Wular Lake is the largest lake in the Jammu and Kashmir territory, in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent. It is sited in Bandipora district in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The lake basin was formed as a result of tectonic activity and is fed by the Jhelum River.
- Located in the Indian-held sector of the territory, the lake is 10 miles (16 km) long and 6 miles (10 km) wide.
- It lies at the north end of the Vale of Kashmir, 20 miles (32 km) north-northwest of Srinagar.
- Its area varies from 12 to 100 square miles (30 to 260 square km) according to the season.
- The lake controls the flow of the Jhelum River.
- The Tulbul Project is a “navigation lock-cum-control structure” at the mouth of Wular Lake.
- In addition, much of the lake has been drained as a result of willow plantations being built on the shore in the 1950s.
- Wular has considerably shrunk over the past eight decades. Official records show that 27 sq m of the lake has silted up and turned into a land mass.

## Tulbul Project

- The Tulbul Project is a “navigation lock-cum-control structure” at the mouth of Wular Lake.
- According to the original Indian plan, the barrage was expected to be of 439 feet long and 40 feet wide, and would have a maximum storage capacity of 300,000 acre·ft of water.
- **Aim of the Project:** To regulate the release of water from the natural storage in the lake to maintain a

minimum draught of 4.5 feet in the river up to Baramulla during the lean winter months.

- The project was conceived in the early 1980s and work began in 1984.
- There has been an ongoing dispute between India and Pakistan over the Tulbul Project since 1987, when Pakistan objected that it violated the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

## **The Jhelum River**

- The Jhelum river rises from the Sheshnag Lake near Verinag at the foot of Pir Panjal range.
- The river flows through Srinagar and the beautiful Wular Lake.
- It merges into Chenab in Pakistan.
- It is a tributary of the Chenab River and has a total length of 813km
- The Kishenganga (Neelum) River, the largest tributary of Jhelum, joins it.
- It ends in a confluence with the Chenab in Pakistan.