Water Rail at TS Chanakya wetland, Navi Mumbai: a rare sighting after eight years

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11 November 2026: A rare Water Rail has been sighted at the TS Chanakya wetland off Palm Beach Road in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. According to local reports, this is the bird's appearance in the area after about eight years; the wetland offers favourable conditions for migratory waterbirds.

About the Water Rail

Classification: A bird of the rail family (Rallidae); scientific name Rallus aquaticus.

Features: Adults are 23-28 cm long; the body is laterally flattened, allowing easy passage through reed beds. Mainly brown upperparts, blue-grey underparts, black barring on the flanks, long toes, a short tail and a long reddish bill. Elusive by nature, it freezes or runs for cover rather than flying when threatened.

Conservation status: Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

Habitat and distribution

Breeding range: Well-vegetated wetlands across Europe, Asia and North Africa; northern and eastern populations are migratory.

In the Indian subcontinent: A summer visitor to Kashmir; winters in eastern Pakistan and the northwestern plains of India; occasionally wanders into western Uttarakhand and Rajasthan.

Why TS Chanakya matters

Location: A wetland in Nerul, Navi Mumbai, near Palm Beach Road; an important stopover and foraging site for migratory waterbirds. Conserving such wetlands amid urban expansion is vital

for biodiversity.

Quiz: Test your knowledge

Q1: Consider the following statements about the Water Rail: 1. Its scientific name is Rallus aquaticus. 2. It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List. 3. It was recently sighted at the TS Chanakya wetland, Navi Mumbai. How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one(b) Only two(c) All three(d) None

Answer and explanation: (b) Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong - its IUCN status is 'Least Concern'.

Q2: Where is the TS Chanakya wetland, where the Water Rail was sighted, located?

(a) Chennai(b) Navi Mumbai (Nerul), near Palm Beach Road(c) Porbandar(d) Kochi

Answer and explanation: (b) The TS Chanakya wetland lies off Palm Beach Road in Navi Mumbai; the bird was recorded here after about eight years.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In short: The Water Rail (Rallus aquaticus) is a rare rail-family bird sighted at Navi Mumbai's TS Chanakya wetland after about eight years; its IUCN status is 'Least Concern'.

Question: What is the scientific name of the Water Rail?

Rallus aquaticus - family Rallidae.

Question: Where is it found in India?

It is a summer visitor to Kashmir; it winters in eastern Pakistan and the northwestern plains of India, occasionally wandering into western Uttarakhand and Rajasthan.

Question: What is its IUCN status?

Least Concern.

Sources:

Times of India: Water rail bird spotted at TS Chanakya wetland in Navi Mumbai (11 November 2026)

Newsband: Rare Water Rail spotted at T S Chanakya wetland after eight years (12 November 2026)

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