



Sambhar Lake

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Why in news?

Over **40 migratory birds**, belonging to two to three different species, have been **found dead around Sambhar Lake in Jaipur** district recently, prompting concerns among the officials.

About Sambhar Lake:

- It is the **country's largest inland saline water body**, which attracts thousands of migratory birds every year.
- The death of more than 20,000 birds due to avian botulism, which migrate annually to the lake had made international headlines in 2019.
- The lake receives water from six rivers: **Mantha, Rupangarh, Khari, Khandela, Medtha and Samod**.
- Sambhar has been designated as a **Ramsar site** (recognized wetland of international importance) because the wetland is a key wintering area for tens of thousands of **pink flamingos** and other birds that migrate from northern Asia and Siberia.

Why there is need to conserve wetland?

NEED FOR CONSERVATION		PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES WITHIN WETLANDS	
WHAT IS WETLAND	<p>➤ Land area covered by water, either temporarily/seasonally or permanently (marsh, fen and peatland come under this category)</p>	<p>➤ It has characteristics of a distinct ecosystem</p>	<p>➤ Any kind of encroachment</p> <p>➤ setting up of any industry</p> <p>➤ Expansion of existing industries</p> <p>➤ Solid waste dumping</p> <p>➤ Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements</p> <p>➤ Poaching</p> <p>➤ Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within 50 metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past 10 years</p>
WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT	<p>➤ Play a key role in hydrological cycle and flood control, water supply, providing food, fibre and raw materials</p>	<p>➤ Wetlands support lakhs of migratory birds from colder regions of the world in summers, apart from mangroves that protect coastlines and filter pollutants</p>	
WETLANDS IN NUMBERS	Isro had in 2011 prepared a national wetlands atlas on the basis of satellite images		
It mapped 2,01,503 wetlands	They comprise around 4.63% of the geographic area of India	No. of wetland sites in India under Ramsar Convention 37	
INDIA'S PROMINENT WETLANDS	Chilika lake areas (Odisha) Wular lake (J&K) Renuka (Himachal Pradesh) Sambhar lake (Rajasthan) Deepor Beel (Assam) East Kolkata wetlands (West Bengal) Nal Sarovar (Gujarat) Harike (Punjab) Rudra Sagar (Tripura) and Bhoj wetland (Madhya Pradesh)		

