



# 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
<b>WHAT IS WETLAND</b> ➤ Land area covered by water, either temporarily/seasonally or permanently (marsh, fen and peatland come under this category)			➤ Any kind of encroachment ➤ setting up of any industry ➤ Expansion of existing industries ➤ Solid waste dumping ➤ Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements ➤ Poaching ➤ 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
<b>WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT</b> ➤ It has characteristics of a distinct ecosystem ➤ Play a key role in hydrological cycle and flood control, water supply, providing food, fibre and raw materials ➤ Wetlands support lakhs of migratory birds from colder regions of the world in summers, apart from mangroves that protect coastlines and filter pollutants			
<b>WETLANDS IN NUMBERS</b> Isro had in 2011 prepared a national wetlands atlas on the basis of satellite images			
It mapped <b>2,01,503</b> wetlands	They comprise around <b>4.63%</b> of the geographic area of India	No. of wetland sites in India under Ramsar Convention   <b>37</b>	
<b>INDIA'S PROMINENT WETLANDS</b> 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)			

