



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			➤ 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		
➤ Land area covered by water, either temporarily/seasonally or permanently (marsh, fen and peatland come under this category)		➤ It has characteristics of a distinct ecosystem			
WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT					
➤ 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			
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)			



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