

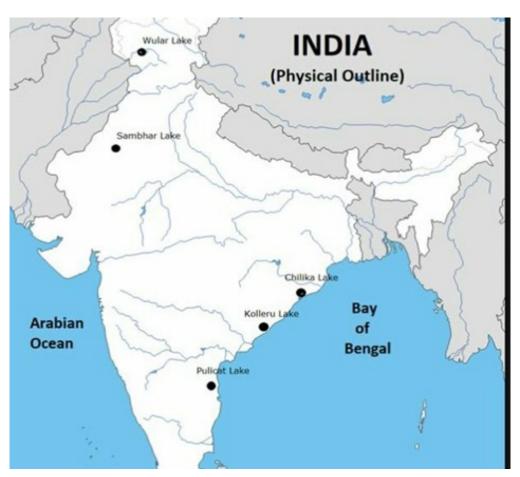
## **Sambhar Lake**

**Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance | Ecology & Environment

## Why in news?

A blush of pink has swept across Rajasthan's Sambhar Salt Lake, where thousands of migratory flamingos have gathered in a spectacular seasonal display.

• Location - It is situated about 80 km southwest of *Jaipur, Rajasthan*.



## **Features**

• Salt Lake - It is *India's largest inland salt water lake*, represents the depression of the Aravalli Range.

- Ramsar Site It is a wetland of 'international importance' under the Ramsar Convention, *declared in 1990*.
- **Size** The area occupied by this lake differs from season to season, so roughly it is between 190 and 230 sq km.
  - $\circ$  During peak summers (dry time), the depth measures as low as 60 cm but during the monsoons, it goes up to 3 m.
- **History** It found its mention in the Mahabharata as the land of demon king Vrishparva.
  - The town of sambhar was founded by **Raja Vasudev of the Chauhan dynasty** in 551 AD, later ruled by Sindhias, Marathas,
    Mughals, and Rajputs; leased to the British in 1870.
- **Drainage** It is fed by the rivers like Luni, Jawai Samaod, Khari, Mantha, Khandela, etc.
- **Vegetation** The vegetation present in the catchment area is mostly xerophytic type, a plant adapted for growth under dry conditions.
- **Fauna** Famous for migratory birds, especially flamingos, pelicans and the waterfowls are commonly sighted at the Sambhar Lake.
  - Other species: coots, stilts, sandpipers, and redshanks.
  - Wildlife around the lake includes blue bulls (nilgai) and foxes.
- Temples & Sacred Sites -
  - **Shakambhari Mata Temple** Legend says the goddess turned a plain of precious metals into salt to prevent feuds.
  - Devayani Kund Site of Devayani's marriage to King Yayati, known as "Little Pushkar."
  - Bhairana Dadu Dwara Temples (Naraina) Seat of Dadu Dayal Maharaj, mystic saint of Nirguna Bhakti tradition.

## References

- 1. <u>Indian Express | Sambhar Lake turns pink</u>
- 2. Rajasthan Tourism | Sambhar Lake

