

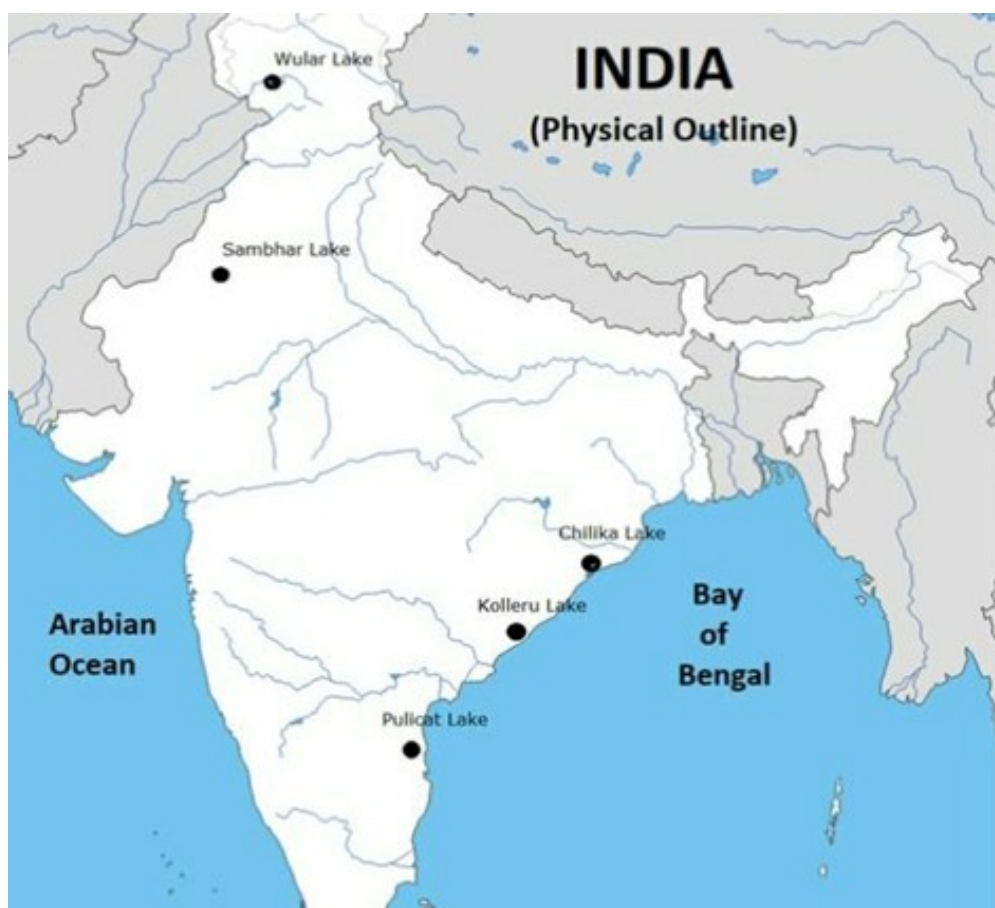
Sambhar Lake

***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.
 - 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. [Indian Express | Sambhar Lake turns pink](#)
2. [Rajasthan Tourism | Sambhar Lake](#)