



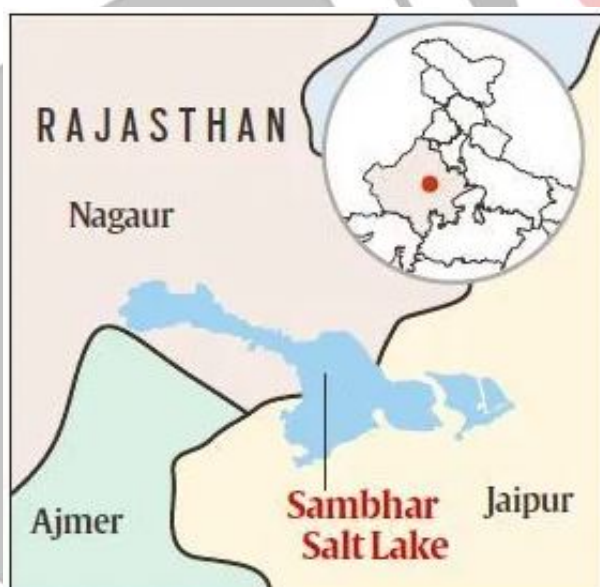
Temporary Shelters for Migratory Birds: Sambhar Lake

Why in News

Recently, the **Rajasthan government** has decided to **build temporary shelters for migratory birds** near the **Sambhar Lake** (near Jaipur) before 2020's winter season.

Key Points

- Every year, a large number of birds **from the cold northern regions of Central Asia** come to Sambhar Lake.
- In **2019, more than 20,000 migratory birds** died due to **avian botulism** in the lake.
- Rajasthan High Court **took suo motu cognisance** of the mass death and asked the expert committee to carry out an **investigation** and make recommendations.
- The Court has constituted a **seven-member expert committee to study the impact of salt-forming** and **identify any illegal salt mining** in the lake.
- It has suggested the state government seek **the centre's support for more funds** for creating an infrastructure for the **safety and security of birds**.



Sambhar Lake [//](#)

- It is **India's largest inland saline water body** located near **Jaipur in Rajasthan**.
- It is surrounded on all sides by the **Aravali hills**.
- It is the **source of most of Rajasthan's salt production**.
- Sambhar has been designated as a **Ramsar site** (recognised wetland of international importance) because the **wetland** is a **key wintering area for tens of thousands of flamingos and other migratory birds**.

Avian Botulism

- It is a **neuro-muscular illness** caused by **Botulinum** (natural toxin) that is produced by bacteria, ***Clostridium botulinum***.
 - The bacteria is commonly found in the **soil, rivers, and seawater**. It affects both **humans and animals**.
 - The bacteria also **need anaerobic** (absence of oxygen) **conditions and do not grow in acidic conditions**.
- The illness **affects the nervous system of birds**, leading to **paralysis** in their legs and wings.
- The outbreaks of avian botulism **tend to occur when average temperatures are above 21 degrees celsius**, and during [droughts](#).

[Source: TH](#)

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