



Sambhar Lake: Rajasthan

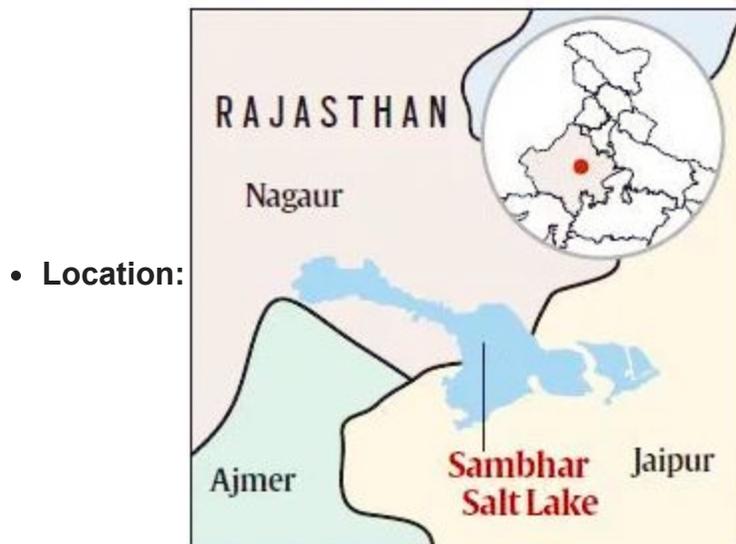
 drishtiias.com/printpdf/sambhar-lake-rajasthan

Why in News

The State Government of **Rajasthan** will identify new tourist points at **Sambhar Salt Lake**.

The Lake forms **part of the desert circuit** in the Centre's **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**. The **Scheme** was launched by the **Ministry of Tourism** in 2014 -15 for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.

Key Points



Situated about 80 km southwest of **Jaipur**, in east-central **Rajasthan**.

- **Features:**
 - **Salt Lake:** It is the **largest inland salt lake in India**. It represents the **depression of the Aravalli Range**.
The lake's **salt supply was worked by the Mughal dynasty (1526–1857)** and it was **later owned jointly by the Jaipur and Jodhpur princely states**.
 - **Ramsar Site:** It is a **wetland of 'international importance'** under the **Ramsar Convention**, declared in **1990**.
 - **Size and Depth:**
 - The **area occupied** by this lake **differs from season to season**, so roughly it is between 190 and 230 sq km.
 - Also, being **an extensive saline wetland**, the **depth** of the lake also **fluctuates from season to season**. During peak summers (dry time), the depth measures as low as 60 cm but during the monsoons, it goes up to 3 m.
 - **Rivers:** It receives water from **six rivers**, namely Samaod, Khari, Mantha, Khandela, Medtha, and Roopangarh.
 - **Vegetation:** The vegetation present in the catchment area is **mostly xerophytic type**.
Xerophyte is **a plant adapted for growth under dry conditions**.
 - **Fauna: Flamingoes, pelicans and the waterfowls** are commonly sighted at the Sambhar Lake.
 - In 2019, almost **22,000 migratory birds died** at the Lake due to **avian botulism**, a neuromuscular illness.
 - Before 2020's winter season, the Rajasthan government **decided to build temporary shelters for migratory birds** near the Lake.
 - **Production of Salt:** It is known for the **production of brine/salt** and also houses one of the largest salt manufacturing units in the country.
 - **Other Nearby Places:** Shakambari Devi temple, Sambhar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **Rajasthan Government's Latest Plan:**
 - New tourist points for **witnessing the flora and fauna and having a glimpse of salt harvesting** will be identified at Lake.
 - A "**salt train**", which transported salt from the pans to a nearby refinery, will also be restarted.
 - New destinations around the lake, including **salt museum, caravan park, bicycle track and gardens**, will be finalised.
 - The **illegal salt production in the lake will be stopped** through action against unauthorised borewells and pipelines laid in the region, while **encroachments on the land will be removed** with the help of police.

Source: TH