



## Razzaza Lake: Iraq

### Why in News?

Iraq's Razzaza Lake was once a tourist attraction known for its beautiful scenery and an abundance of fish that locals depended on. Now, dead fish litter its shores and the once-fertile lands around it have turned into a barren desert.



### What are the Key Points?

- Razzaza Lake, **also known as Lake Milh, Arabic for Salt Lake**, is **located between Iraq's governorates of Anbar and Karbala**.
- It's the **second largest lake in Iraq** and is part of a wide valley that includes the lakes of Habbaniyah, Tharthar and Bahr al-Najaf.
  - Lake Tharthar is the largest.
- The lake was constructed **as a measure to control floods in the Euphrates and to be used as a huge reservoir for irrigation** purposes.
  - Euphrates River is the **longest river in southwest Asia**. It is one of the two main constituents of the **Tigris-Euphrates river system**. The river **rises in Turkey** and **flows southeast across Syria and through Iraq**.
- Iraqis and tourists frequented the lake as a recreational spot to cool down during Iraq's hot summers.
- In recent years, it has been affected not only by the water shortage but by drought, neglect and increased evaporation during Iraq's hot summers. It has also been hit by pollution due to the diversion of sewage water into the lake and the theft of water quotas allocated to it.

**[Source: IE](#)**

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