

Sambhar Lake

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Sambhar Lake Latest News

Environmentalists have criticised the proposed 100 MW solar power project near Sambhar Lake, warning that even a relatively small installation could disturb the fragile wetland ecosystem.

About Sambhar Lake

- It is located in the districts of Nagaur and Jaipur in **Rajasthan**.
- It is the **largest inland saltwater lake in India**.
- This saline wetland is **elliptical in shape**, with a length of 35.5 km and a breadth varying between 3 km and 11 km.
- It covers an area in excess of 200 sq.km., **surrounded on all sides by the Aravalli hills**.
- The waters of **five streams feed the lake: Rupangarh and Mendha are the main ones**, and the lesser ones are Samoad, Khari, and Khandela.
- It was designated as a **Ramsar site** in the year 1990.

- The lake is **divided by a 5-kilometer-long dam made of stone**. **East of the dam** are **salt evaporation ponds** where salt has been farmed for a thousand years.
- **Salt Production:** It is known for the production of **brine/salt** and also houses one of the **largest salt manufacturing units in the country**. It accounts for nearly **9% of the country's total salt production**.
- The **specialized algae and bacteria** growing in the lake provide **striking water colours** - colours that also impart their **distinctive hues to the salt that is harvested** - and support the lake's ecology.
- **Fauna:**
 - It is the most important **wintering area for flamingoes** (both *Phoniconaias minor* and *Phoenicopterus roseus*) in India outside the Rann of Kachchh.
 - Other **migratory species like pelicans, common shelduck, redshank**, and common sandpiper, black-winged stilt, Kentish plover, and Ringed plover, Ruff, and Sociable lapwing are also found here.

Source: TOI

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/sambhar-lake/>

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