

Avian Botulism

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About Avian Botulism:

- It is caused by the ingestion of a toxin produced by the **bacterium Clostridium botulinum**, which leads to paralysis and can be fatal for birds.
- These bacterial spores are **widespread in wetland sediments** and are found in most wetland habitats, including invertebrates such as insects, molluscs, and crustaceans, as well as in many vertebrates, including healthy birds.
- There are seven types of botulism toxins (A-G). Wild birds are affected by type C and type E.
- Environmental conditions thought to contribute to toxin production include **high water temperatures and low oxygen levels** in the water.

Key facts about Sambar Lake

- It is the largest **saltwater lake** in India.
 - It is located in the districts of **Nagaur and Jaipur in Rajasthan.**
 - It covers an area in excess of 200 sq.km., surrounded on all sides by the Aravalli hills.
 - The water from **two major ephemeral streams**, namely Mendha and Runpangarh, along with numerous rivulets and surface runoff feed the lake.
 - It was **designated as a Ramsar site** in the year 1990.
 - Several migrating birds visit the waterbody during the winter.
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Q1: What is Bacteria?

These are microscopic single-celled prokaryotic organisms that play a crucial role in the ecosystem and have a significant impact on human health. Bacteria can be found all over the world, including the top of the mountains or the deeper trenches in the oceans.

News: Extreme weather may have triggered avian botulism, leading to 600 bird deaths in Rajasthan

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