



New island rules: IPZ 2019

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified Island Protection Zone (IPZ) 2019 for Andaman and Nicobar.

Purpose

- Changes in the IPZ are aligned with the Niti Aayog's proposal for holistic development in the Islands.
- The government's planning to open up the [blue economy](#) and sustainable harnessing of ocean resources.

IPZ 2019

- It **allows eco-tourism projects 20 meters from the high tide line (HTL)** in smaller islands like Baratang, Havelock, and Car Nicobar.
- In case of **larger islands, 50 meters** from the HTL is permitted.
- It allows for eco-tourism activities like mangrove walks, tree huts and nature trails in **island coastal regulation zone(ICRZ) IA** (ICRZ 2018: ICRZ IA, provides areas classified as the most eco-sensitive region of the islands which includes turtle nesting grounds, marshes, coral reefs etc)
- The notification also allows for construction of roads, roads on stilts by reclaiming land in exceptional cases for defense installations, public utilities or strategic purposes in eco-sensitive zones.
- In case construction of such roads pass through mangroves, a minimum three times the mangrove area destroyed during the construction process shall be taken up for **compensatory plantation of mangroves** elsewhere.

Concerns over IPZ 2019

- It brings the norms for Andaman and Nicobar at par with [Coastal Regulation Zone \(CRZ\) 2018](#) norms for other islands close to the mainland and backwater islands where a No Development Zone (NDZ) is only 20 meters from HTL.
- Previously, IPZ 2011 stipulated **an NDZ of 200 meters** from the HTL for all islands.
- **Only pipelines, transmission lines**, trans-harbor links to be laid in the eco-sensitive zone were permitted. **Now road construction is allowed.**

Note:

- **High tide line (HTL)** is defined as line up to which highest high tide reaches in spring tides.
- It is delineated by walking over or remote sensing data or by helicopter survey.
- The **Low Tide Line(LTL)** is the limit up to which the lowest low tide recedes during spring tide.

