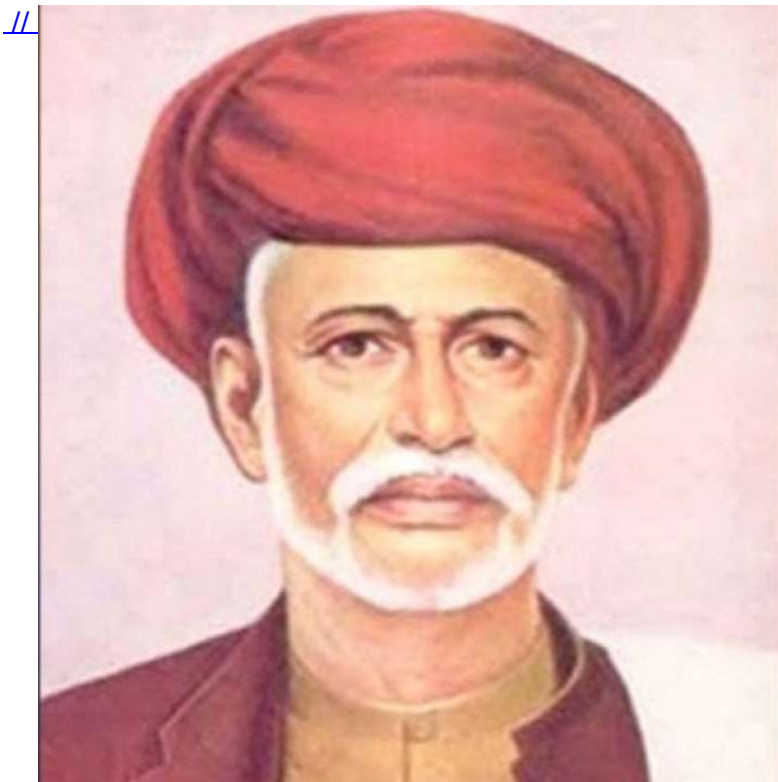




Birth Anniversary of Jyotiba Phule | Maharashtra | 12 Apr 2025

Why in News?

The [Prime Minister](#) of India paid tribute to [Mahatma Jyotirao Phule](#) on his **birth anniversary** and praised him as a **true servant of humanity**.



Key Points

- **About Jyotiba Phule:**
 - He was born on **11th April, 1827**, and emerged as a pioneering social reformer who **challenged Brahmanical orthodoxy**, fought for the **rights of Dalits and women**, and laid the foundation for India's **social justice movements**.
- **Social Reforms:**
 - Phule and his wife [Savitribai](#) opened **India's first girls' school in 1848** and later started **night schools (1855) for workers, farmers, and women** in Pune.
 - Phule opposed **caste oppression**, criticized Brahminical figures like **Chiplunkar and Tilak**, and **supported the British** to uplift the oppressed and women.
 - Phule founded **Satyashodhak Samaj (1873)** to fight caste hierarchy and, in **Gulamgiri**, compared caste oppression to [American slavery](#).
 - "Deenbandhu," a Marathi weekly newspaper, was founded in 1877 and served as a platform for Satyashodhak Samaj
 - Viewed it as an **upper-caste effort** to restore Brahmin rule.
 - He advocated **compulsory education** for lower castes and economic upliftment

to dismantle caste hierarchies.

▪ **Major Publications:**

- **Tritiya Ratna (1855), Powada: Chatrapati Shivajiraje Bhosle Yancha (1869), Gulamgiri (1873), Shetkarayacha Aasud (1881).**
- **Death: 28th November, 1890.** His memorial is built in **Phule Wada, Pune, Maharashtra.**

Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) | Maharashtra | 12 Apr 2025

Why in News?

The Maharashtra government approved the allocation of 256 acres of **salt pan land** in Mulund, Kanjurmarg, and Bhandup for the **Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP)** to rehabilitate ineligible [slum dwellers](#).

- Environmental concerns were raised as this violated the **Internal Policy Guidelines (IPG) of 2012**, which **prohibited construction activities on salt pan land**.

Key Points

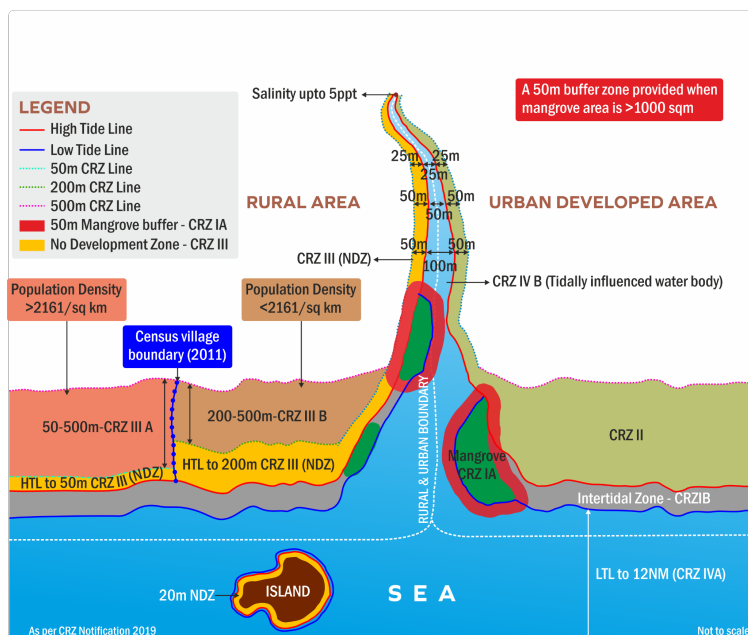
▪ **About the Land:**

- The Officials clarified that the sea has not reached these plots since the construction of the Eastern Express Highway.
- It was emphasized that the **land is no longer designated as a flood buffer zone nor falls under [Coastal Regulation Zone \(CRZ\)](#) restrictions.**
- All necessary environmental clearances will be obtained before initiating construction activities.
- The land lies west of the expressway and is away from **ecologically sensitive [wetlands](#) visited by [flamingos](#).**
 - It was assured that the location poses no risk to wildlife or the surrounding ecosystem.
- The allocation of salt pan lands for affordable housing aligns with Mumbai's Development Plan 2034.

▪ **Salt Pan Lands:**

- **About:**
 - Salt pans are **low-lying tracts of land where seawater periodically flows in, leaving behind deposits of salt and minerals.**
 - This **natural process** plays a critical role in maintaining the **balance of [coastal ecosystems](#).**
- **Protection Status:**
 - Under the **[CRZ Notification of 2011](#)**, these ecologically sensitive areas are **classified under CRZ-1B** and **restrict economic activities except salt extraction and natural gas exploration.**
- **Salt Pans in India:**
 - In Mumbai, a **total of 5,378 acres** have been **designated as salt pan lands.**
 - On a national scale, **around 60,000 acres of salt pan lands** are identified, distributed across states like **Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, and Karnataka.**
 - **Andhra Pradesh has the largest expanse** (20,716 acres), followed by Tamil Nadu (17,095 acres) and Maharashtra (12,662 acres).

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)



- The CRZ was first notified in 1991 by **the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)** under **the Environment Protection Act of 1986**. The CRZ is categorized into five zones: **CRZ-I, CRZ-II, CRZ-III, CRZ-IV, and CRZ-V**.
 - **CRZ-I** are **ecologically sensitive** areas like mangroves, coral reefs, biosphere reserves etc.
 - **CRZ-II** includes built-up areas - **villages and towns** that are already well established.
 - **CRZ-III** are **areas that are undisturbed** and do not fall under either in Category I or II.
- **CRZ-IV** is the **aquatic area** from low tide line up to territorial limits.
- CRZ is **an area near the coastline** that's governed by rules to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. The CRZ includes:
 - It is the land between **the high tide line (HTL)** and **the low tide line (LTL)**.
 - A 100-metre stretch along the banks of **rivers, estuaries, backwaters, and creeks** that are affected by tides.
 - The river banks on either side of estuaries.