



## Salt Pans Land

[Source:IE](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the Centre approved the transfer of **256 acres of salt pan land** in Mumbai to the **Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd (DRPPL)** for building rental housing for **slum dwellers**.

- Environmentalists raised ecological concerns about construction on **salt pan lands**.

### What are 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.



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- The diagram shows a brown island labeled 'ISLAND' in the center. A yellow line, representing the '20m NDZ', encircles the island. A blue line, representing the 'LTL to 12NM (CRZ IVA)', extends from the yellow line outwards. The area between the yellow and blue lines is labeled 'SEA'. A vertical line with a downward arrow points from the blue line to the text 'Not to scale'. The text 'as per CRZ Notification 2019' is located at the bottom left of the diagram.
- as per CRZ Notification 2019
- 20m NDZ
- ISLAND
- SEA
- LTL to 12NM (CRZ IVA)
- Not to scale
- 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.
- What is the Significance of Salt Pans?**

## What is the Significance of Salt Pans?

- **Environmental:** Alongside **the coastal mangroves, salt pans** form a vital **ecological barrier** that **mitigates flooding risks**.
- **Economic:** Salt pans provide **employment for a large number of workers**, especially in rural and coastal areas. Labourers engage in activities like harvesting, processing, and transporting salt.
- **Raw Material:** Salt produced in salt pans is essential for various industries, including **chemical production (e.g., chlorine, caustic soda), agriculture (as animal feed)**, and water treatment.
- **Tourism Attraction:** Some salt pans, especially those with scenic landscapes, have become tourist destinations, adding economic value through **ecotourism and cultural tourism**.

### What are Welfare Schemes the Government Initiated for Salt Workers?

- **Scheme for Grant of Rewards to the Children of Salt Labourers:** It provides financial rewards to students for their educational development.
- **Namak Mazdoor Awas Yojana (NMAY):** It provides for the construction of houses for salt workers. It promotes cooperative societies in the salt industry.
- **Salt Commissioner's Organization (SCO):** It **monitors the development of the salt industry**, including planning, facilitating technology upgradation, and conducting training

programs for salt workers.

## **UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)**

### **Prelims**

**Q. Among the following, who are the Agaria Community?(2009)**

- (a)** A traditional toddy tappers community of Andhra Pradesh
- (b)** A traditional fishing community of Maharashtra
- (c)** A traditional silk-weaving community of Karnataka
- (d)** A traditional salt pan workers community of Gujarat

**Ans: (d)**

### **Mains**

**Q.** The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain. **(2016)**

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