



PLACES IN NEWS : RANN OF KUTCH

The Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat faces threats from human activity and environmental issues.

Rann of Kutch

- The Rann of Kutch is a **vast salt marsh region** straddling the India-Pakistan border, primarily **located in Gujarat, India**, with a smaller portion extending into **Pakistan's Sindh province**. It started forming about **150-200 million years ago**.
- It is divided into **two parts**: the **Great Rann of Kutch to the north** and the **Little Rann of Kutch to the southeast**.
- The Rann of Kutch is a unique ecosystem, **bordered by the Thar Desert to the north** and the **Arabian Sea to the south**.
- Originally, waters from the Arabian Sea entered this region. Later, geological shifts led to the formation of a landmass that separated the Kutch basin from the sea.
- **During monsoons**, the Little Rann turns into a shallow wetland. About 75 elevated pieces of land turn into islands, called **bets** by the local **Agariya and Maldhari communities**.
- Historically, the region has been inhabited since the Neolithic period, with influences from the **Indus Valley Civilization** and various Indian empires like the Maurya and Gupta dynasties.



Human activity

- **Salt Production:** The region is significant for salt production, providing 30% of India's total salt output.



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- **Threat:** Large-scale cattle grazing harms the delicate balance of the ecosystem.
 - Further, irrigation canals that bring water to the southern rim of the Little Rann add salinity to the soil.

