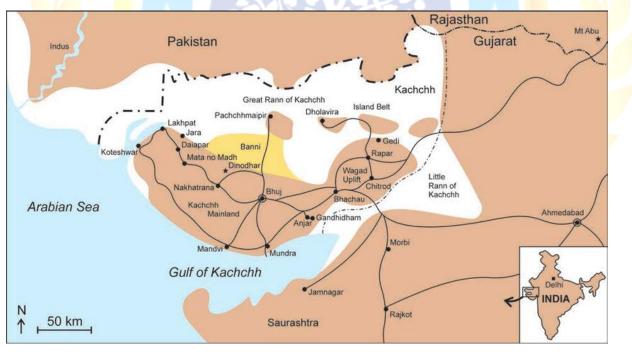


PLACES IN NEWS : RANN OF KUTCH

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.

P.L. RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY | 1447/C, 3rd floor, 15th Main Road, Anna Nagar West, Chennai-40. Ph.No.044-42323192, 9445032221 Email: plrajmemorial@gmail.com Website: www.plrajiasacademy.com Telegram link: https://t.me/plrajias2006 YouTube: P L RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY



- 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.



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