

Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZs)

By IAS Toppers | 2024-05-24 15:20:00



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The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has **halted** the Chennai Shoreline Renourishment and Revitalization Project in the **CRZ II zone** due to prohibited activities such as constructing cycle tracks and food courts.

- This project aimed to achieve **Blue Flag certification** for beaches.



[Ref: The Print]

About Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ):

- **Introduced** in 1991 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- **Revised** through notifications in 2011 (reviewed by Shailesh Nayak Committee) and 2019 to address evolving environmental and developmental needs.
- The **2019 CRZ Notification** requires states to update their Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs), originally created under the 2011 notification.
- The **CRZ stretches** include coastal areas of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers, and backwaters affected by tidal actions up to **500 meters from the high tide line (HTL)** and **100 meters along the banks** of tidal-influenced water bodies.

Institutional Mechanism:

- **National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA)** oversees at the Union level.
- **State/Union Territory Coastal Zone Management Authorities (SCZMAs/UTCZMAs)** manage implementation at the state/UT level.
- **District Level Committees (DLCs)** operational in each district with a coastal stretch.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** MoEF&CC handles CRZ clearances for ecologically sensitive areas (CRZ-I) and aquatic regions (CRZ-IV), while SCZMAs manage urban (CRZ-II) and rural (CRZ-III) areas. Local communities, particularly fishing communities, play a role in managing ecologically sensitive zones.