



## Place in News - Sir Creek

**Context:** The Defence Minister of India has issued a warning to Pakistan regarding a decisive response to any provocations in the Sir Creek area, referencing the increasing military buildup in this disputed territory.



**About Sir Creek:**

Sir Creek is a tidal estuary that spans 96 kilometers, formerly known as Ban Ganga, located within the Indus River Delta. It is characterized by a marshy, uninhabited area where seawater intermingles with river water, resulting in an unstable and ecologically sensitive environment.

**Located in:**

- It is situated along the India–Pakistan border, delineating the Kutch region of Gujarat (India) from the Sindh province (Pakistan). The creek flows into the Arabian Sea, thereby directly affecting the maritime boundaries and fishing zones of both countries.

**Features:**

- The creek is a narrow, muddy, and shifting waterway that is susceptible to alterations in its course due to tidal movements. This region is part of the Indus Delta wetlands, which serve as a habitat for migratory birds and diverse marine life. Control over Sir Creek is vital as it influences the delineation of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and the continental shelf, which are



essential for determining rights related to fishing, oil, and gas exploration.

### **History of the Dispute:**

- The dispute traces back to a resolution made in 1914 between the Government of Bombay (during British India) and the Ruler of Sindh. Pakistan's assertion is based on the resolution that established the boundary along the eastern bank, thereby allocating the entire creek to Sindh (and subsequently to Pakistan post-1947). Conversely, India's position is grounded in the thalweg principle (which states that the boundary runs through the center of the navigable channel), suggesting that the border should be mid-stream. Following the Partition in 1947, Gujarat remained with India while Sindh became part of Pakistan, leading to a contested boundary. In 1968, an international tribunal resolved much of the Rann of Kutch border, yet the status of Sir Creek remained unresolved.