

Pallikaranai Marshland: Urban Development vs. Ecological Preservation

A report highlights the ongoing conflict between rapid urban development and the preservation of Chennai's vital Pallikaranai marshland.

The Pallikaranai marshland is a significant natural reserve in Chennai, crucial for the city's ecology, now facing threats from urban expansion.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Chennai's** first modern city expansion occurred along its **southern stretch**, impacting the **marshland**.
- The government's decision to locate the **IT corridor** in **south Chennai** led to rapid development around the **Pallikaranai marshland**.
- Decades of **urbanisation** and **indiscriminate dumping** have significantly reduced the original extent of the **Pallikaranai marsh**.
- Even in its diminished form, the **Pallikaranai marsh** continues to serve as a vital **ecological buffer** for the city.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The Pallikaranai marshland is a **freshwater marsh** located in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

It is one of the last remaining natural **wetlands** in the **Chennai metropolitan area**.

The Pallikaranai marshland was designated as a **Ramsar site** in **July 2022**, recognizing its international importance.

It serves as a vital habitat for numerous species of **migratory birds** and diverse **aquatic life**.

The marshland plays a crucial role in **flood control** and **groundwater recharge** for the surrounding areas of Chennai.

The **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** is responsible for the management and protection of the Pallikaranai marshland.

The **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, provides a legal framework for the conservation of such ecologically sensitive areas.

The **Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986**, is a comprehensive central legislation for environmental conservation in India.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Chennai's Pallikaranai marshland faces significant threats from urban development and pollution.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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