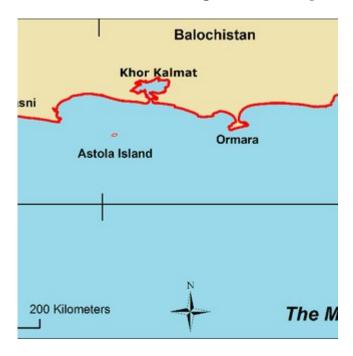


Khor Kalmat Lagoon

Why in News?

Recently, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, the aerial image of Khor Kalmat lagoon appear darker and more vibrant, like blue ink bleeding.

- **Khor Kalmat** It is a *tidal lagoon that fully forms only at high tide*, when waters from the Arabian Sea run through a narrow channel carved into the coastline.
- At low tide, it almost completely empties, leaving behind exposed mudflats.
- Located in <u>Makran Coast in Pakistan's Balochistan province</u>, around 180 miles west of Karachi.
- It is cut off from the rest of the mainland by harsh desert mountains, known as the *Makran Coast Ridge*, which run parallel to much of the country's coast.



- Area It spans around 17 miles at its widest point and includes <u>Makran Coastal</u>
 <u>Range</u>, an arid desert mountain land.
- Supports life It is home to sizable <u>mangrove forests</u>, which are an important nursery for juvenile fish, as well as other marine organisms, such as crustaceans and mollusks.
- At low tide, it provide a hunting ground for wading birds that reside in **Buzi Makola Wildlife Sanctuary**, which lies west of lagoon.
- **Supports livelihood** It provides timber to the few local people who live alongside the lagoon.
- **Threats** Overfishing, deforestation of mangroves and rising temperatures driven by human-caused climate change.

• It is under threat by the potential construction of a proposed *Pakistani Naval Base*.

Reference

Livescience | Pakistan's Khor Kalmat Lagoon

