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(Part -3)

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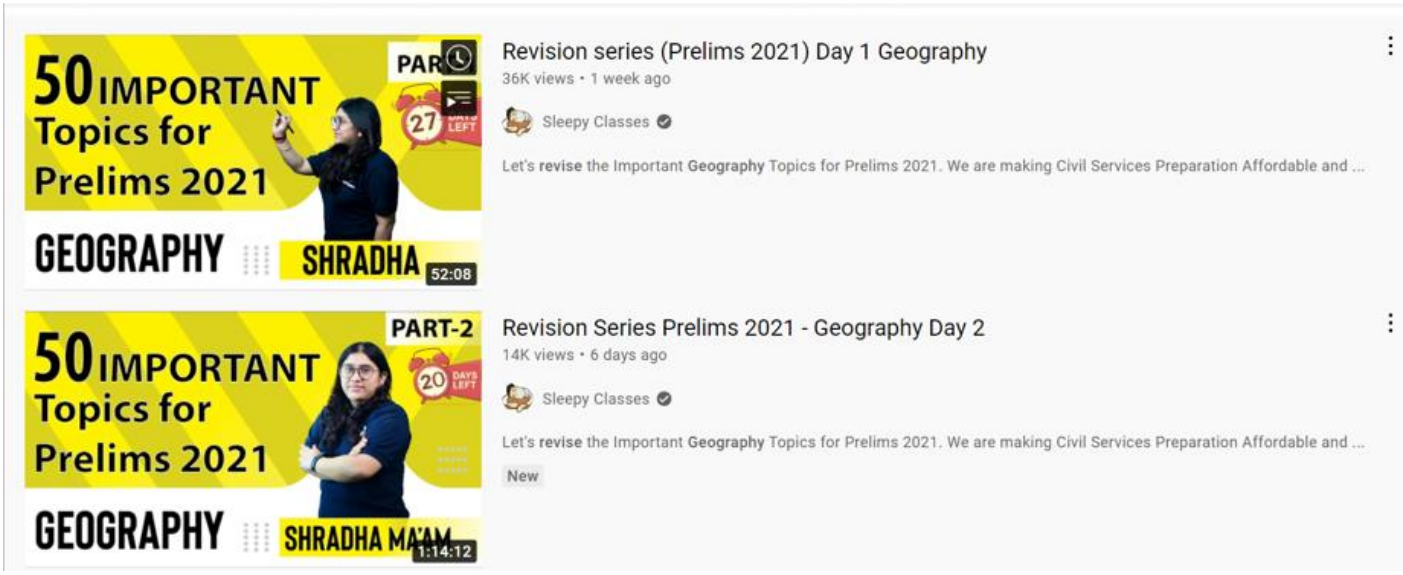


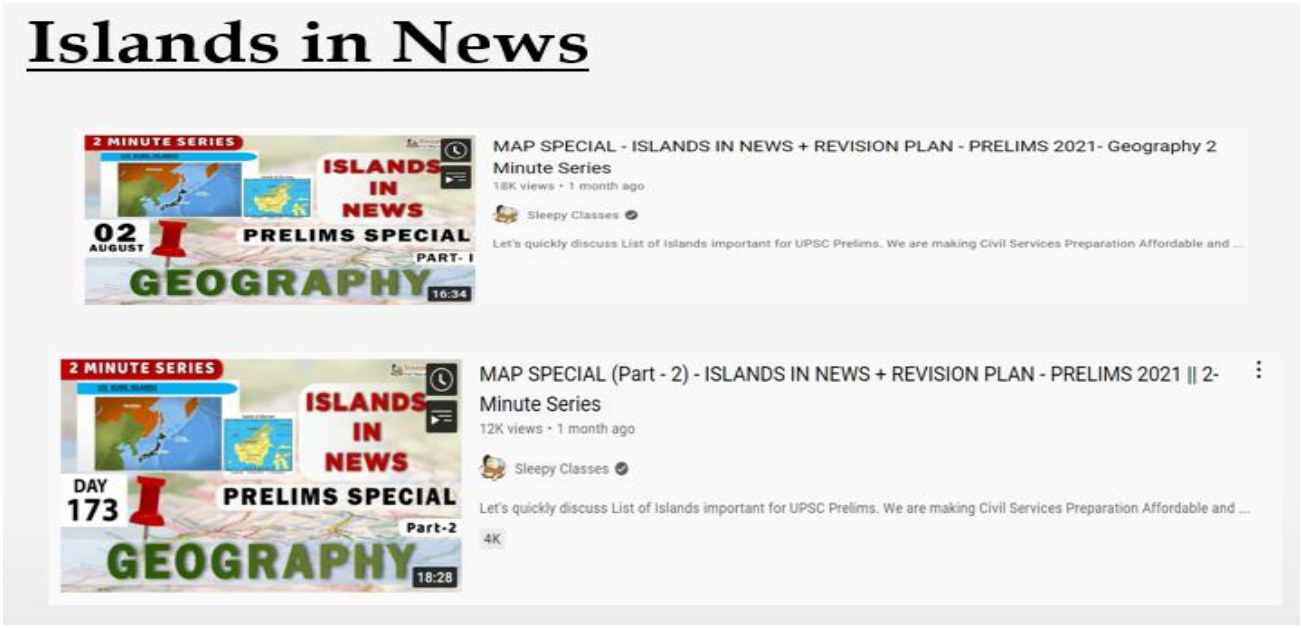
Environmental Tipping Points

- Tipping points', are the thresholds beyond which the earth's systems are no longer able to stabilize.

Such tipping points include

- Melting of Greenland ice.
- Collapse of Antarctic glaciers.
- Destruction of Amazon forests.
- Melting of all the permafrost.

Islands in News



Tree City of the World- 2020 – Hyderabad

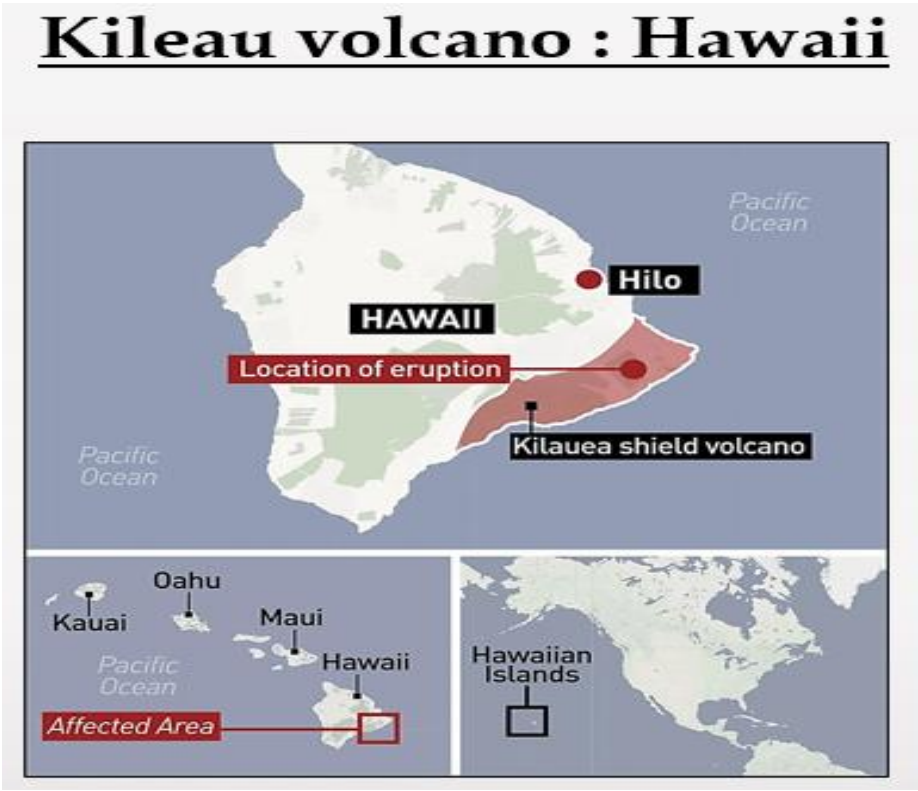
- It is the only City in India to get this recognition so far.
- Tree Cities of the World is a worldwide programme managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Arbor Day Foundation in the US, whereby municipalities of any size can apply to earn the designation "Tree City of the World".
- The programme was launched at the first World Forum on Urban Forests held in October 2018 in Mantua, Italy, in 2018 by the FAO and Arbor Day Foundation.
- The aim is to celebrate and recognise cities and towns of all sizes throughout the world which have shown a commitment to maintaining their urban forests.
- Hyderabad - Haritha Haram programme and Urban Forest Parks.
- Telangana government to increase the green cover of the State from the present 25.16 to 33% of the total geographical area.
- Forest blocks in and around cities are developed into Urban Forest Parks (UFP) under this programme.

Solar Gigwatt Club

- Nations with installed capacity to produce 1 GW of solar power form the 'gigawatt club', an unofficial tag.

Changing Rainfall Pattern - North East

- An aspect of warming that influences rainfall is drying of the land, which increases the frequency and intensity of dry periods and Droughts.
- Increase in moisture and the drying up together change the rainfall patterns in unpredictable ways.
- Increased snowfall in the Eurasian region also impacts monsoon rainfall in NE India as the excessive snowfall in Eurasia causes cooling of the atmosphere of the region, which triggers events eventually leading to a weak summer monsoon season there.
- During the monsoon, rainfall patterns in NE differed significantly from one Sunspot epoch to another, suggesting differential intensification of the seasonal trough of low pressure over the country.
- Sea surface temperatures over the subtropical Pacific Ocean, which vary in a cycle and each phase of which lasts a decade. The peak comes every 20 years and is known as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO).
- It may have an impact on the monsoon rainfall in NE.
- PDO is also being influenced by global warming as it decreases the difference of temperatures among the layers of the ocean.



Volcanoes in News

La-Palma Volcano

- The Cumbre Vieja volcano in La Palma, one of Spain's Canary Islands, erupted.

Decade Volcanoes

- A volcano may be designated a Decade Volcano if it exhibits more than one volcanic hazard (people living near the Decade Volcanoes may experience tephra fall, pyroclastic flows, lava flows, lahars, volcanic edifice instability and lava dome collapse); shows recent geological activity; is located in a densely populated area (eruptions at any of the Decade Volcanoes may threaten tens or hundreds of thousands of people, and therefore mitigating eruption hazards at these volcanoes is crucial); is politically and physically accessible for study; and there is local support for the work.
- They are named Decade Volcanoes because the project was initiated in the 1990s as part of the United Nations–sponsored International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

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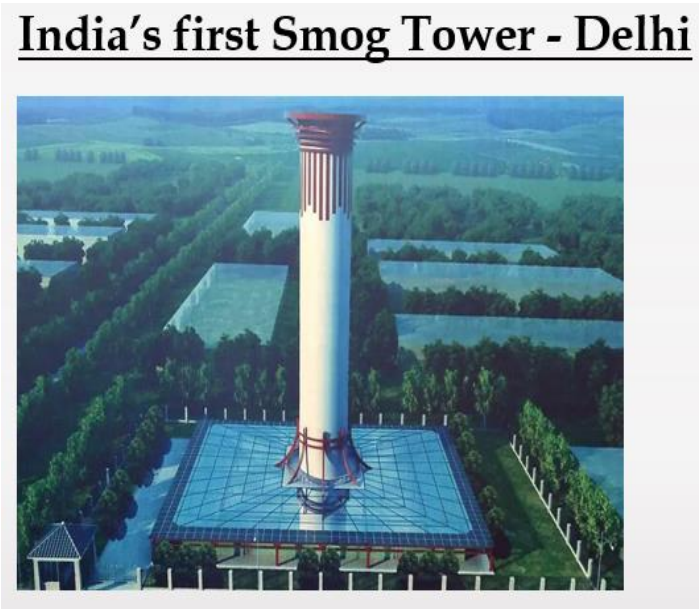
India's first Smog Tower - Delhi



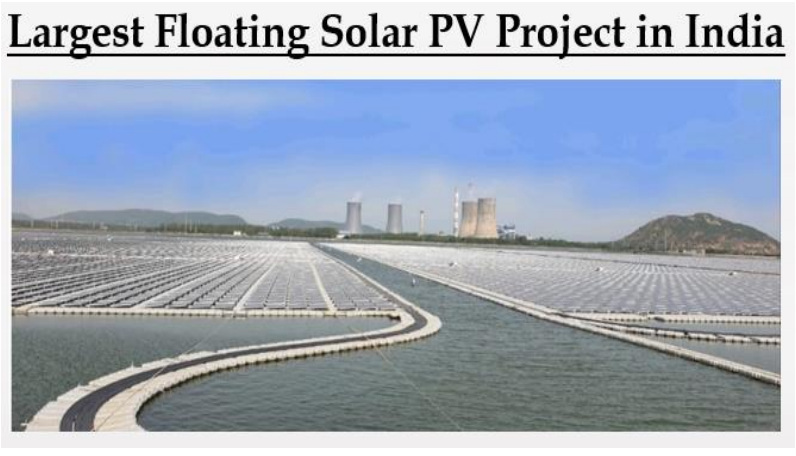
- It will draw in polluted air from the top and release filtered air near the ground through fans fitted on the sides.

Sukhet Model

- Sukhet model' of Madhubani district- Bihar.
- Under this project, garbage and dung from houses are collected door-to-door and then converted in to vermicompost (organic manure).
- From the income generated from the sale of organic manure, every family is provided LPG cylinders every two months in exchange of the waste and cow dung.

Largest Floating Solar PV Project in India

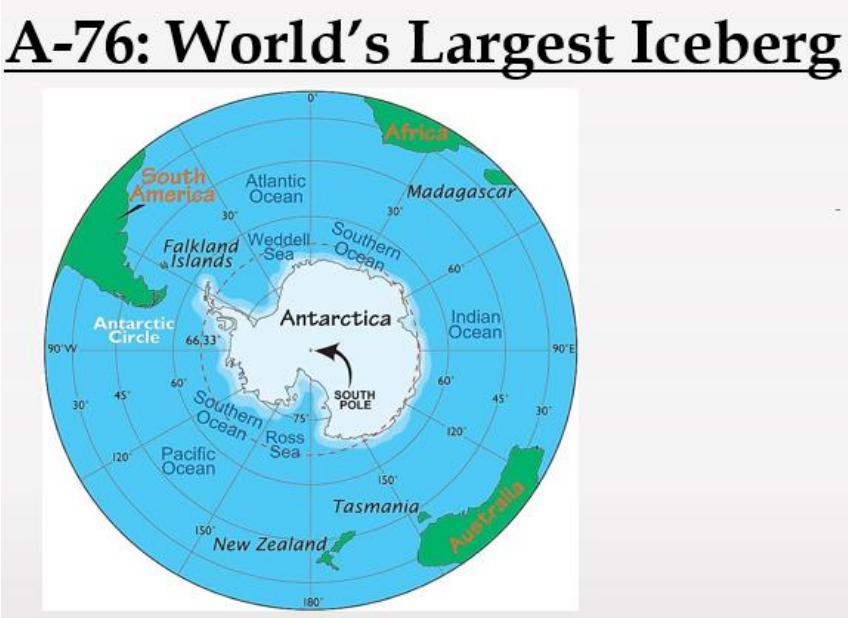
- The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd, has commissioned the largest floating solar PV project of 25MW on the reservoir of its Simhadri Thermal Station in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



Baihetan Dam

- World's Second Biggest Hydropower Dam.
- A tributary of the Yangtze (the longest river in Asia).
- China's pledge in 2020 to reach carbon neutrality by 2060.

A-76: World's Largest Iceberg



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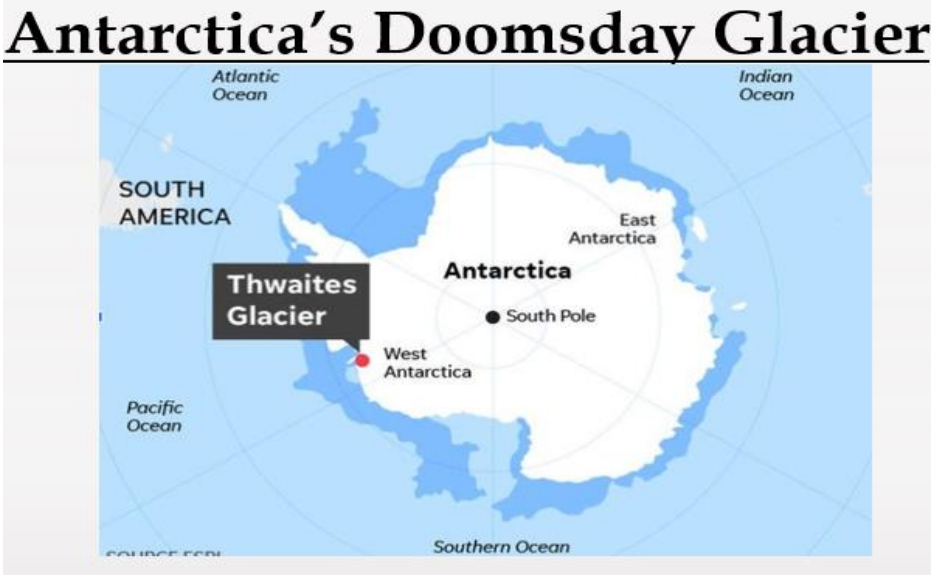
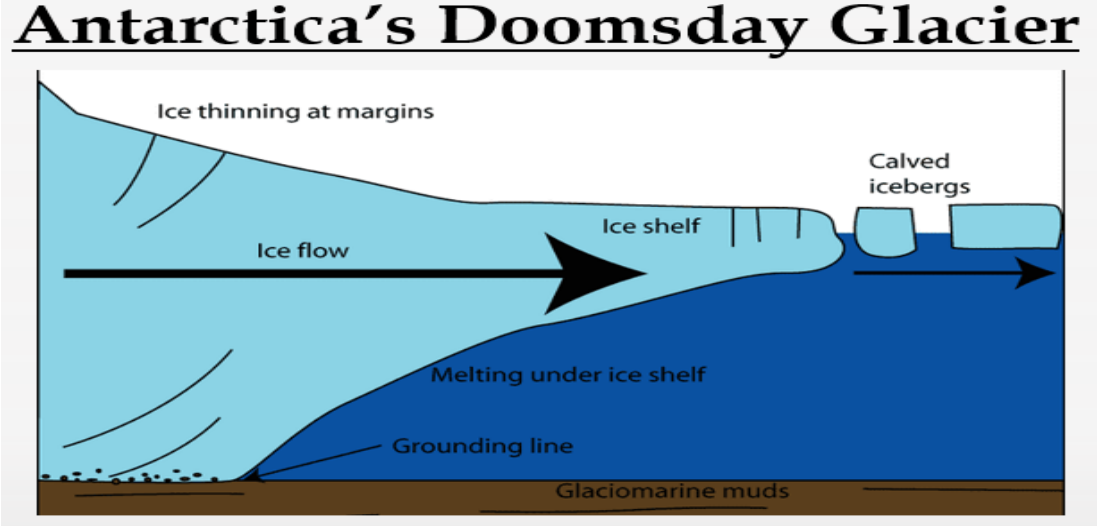
- A giant slab of ice has sheared off from the frozen edge of Antarctica into the Weddell Sea, becoming the largest iceberg currently afloat in the world.
- Iceberg Calving - Ice calving, also known as glacier calving or iceberg calving, is the breaking of ice chunks from the edge of a glacier.
- Hydrofracturing + Calving of Glaciers.

Antarctica's Doomsday Glacier





- It contains enough water to raise the world sea level by more than half a metre.
- melting already contributes 4% to global sea-level rise each year.
- It is important for Antarctica as it slows the ice behind it from freely flowing into the ocean. Because of the risk it faces — and poses — Thwaites is often called the Doomsday Glacier.

- Grounding Line - place below a glacier at which the ice transitions between resting fully on bedrock and floating on the ocean as an ice shelf.
- When glaciers melt and lose weight, they float off the land where they used to be situated. When this happens, the grounding line retreats.
- That exposes more of a glacier's underside to seawater, increasing the likelihood it will melt faster. This results in the glacier speeding up, stretching out, and thinning, causing the grounding line to retreat ever further.

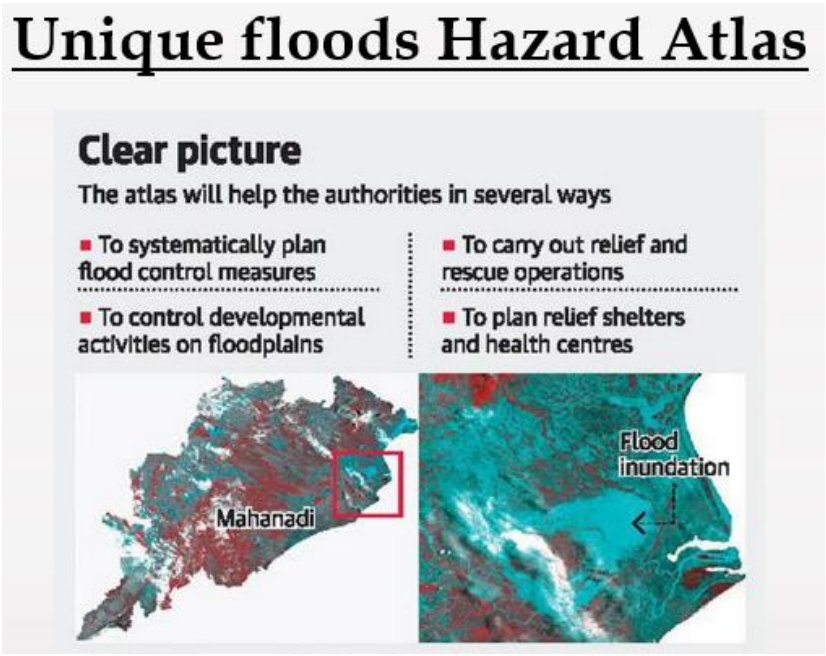
Effect of Dust on Monsoon

- Dust swarms from the desert when lifted by strong winds can absorb solar radiation and become hot.
- This can cause heating of the atmosphere, change the air pressure, wind circulation patterns, influence moisture transport and increase precipitation and rainfall. A strong monsoon can also transport air to West Asia and again pick up a lot of dust. The researchers say this is a positive feedback loop - Dust swarms can influence moisture transport, increase precipitation, rainfall.
- The dust aerosols from deserts in West China such as the Taklamakan desert and the Gobi Desert can be transported eastward to eastern China and can influence the East Asia summer monsoon.

Declining Rainfall in Cherrapunji

- The team analyzed daily rain gauge measurements during 1901–2019, and noted that the changes in the Indian Ocean temperature have a huge effect on the rainfall in the region.
- They also analyzed satellite data and add that there was a reduction in the vegetation area in northeast India in the past two decades, implying that human influence also plays an important role in the changing rainfall patterns – Jhum Cultivation.

Unique Floods Hazard Atlas

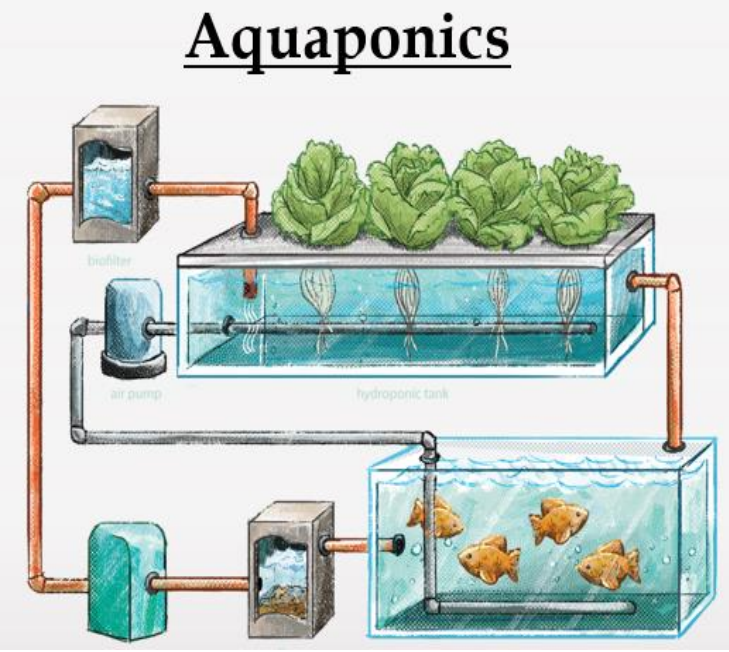


- Odisha has come out with a unique flood hazard atlas aided by satellite imagery, which is expected to help the coastal state manage floods more efficiently.

C40 Clean Air Cities Declaration

- The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is a group of 97 cities around the world that represents one twelfth of the world's population and one quarter of the global economy.
- Created and led by cities, C40 is focused on fighting climate change and driving urban action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks, while increasing the health, wellbeing and economic opportunities of urban citizens.
- C40 World Mayors' Summit - C40 Mayors Summit has provided unique opportunities for the mayors of the world's great cities to showcase their climate leadership on the global stage.
- The C40 group was started in 2005 by the then Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, and got its name in 2006, since it had 40 members that year.
- Which Indian Cities ?

Aquaponics



- Aquaponics is a food production system that couples aquaculture (raising aquatic animals such as fish, crayfish, snails or prawns in tanks) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) whereby the nutrient-rich aquaculture water is fed to hydroponically-grown plants, where nitrifying bacteria convert ammonia into nitrates.

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Madhya Pradesh - number one contributor of Wheat

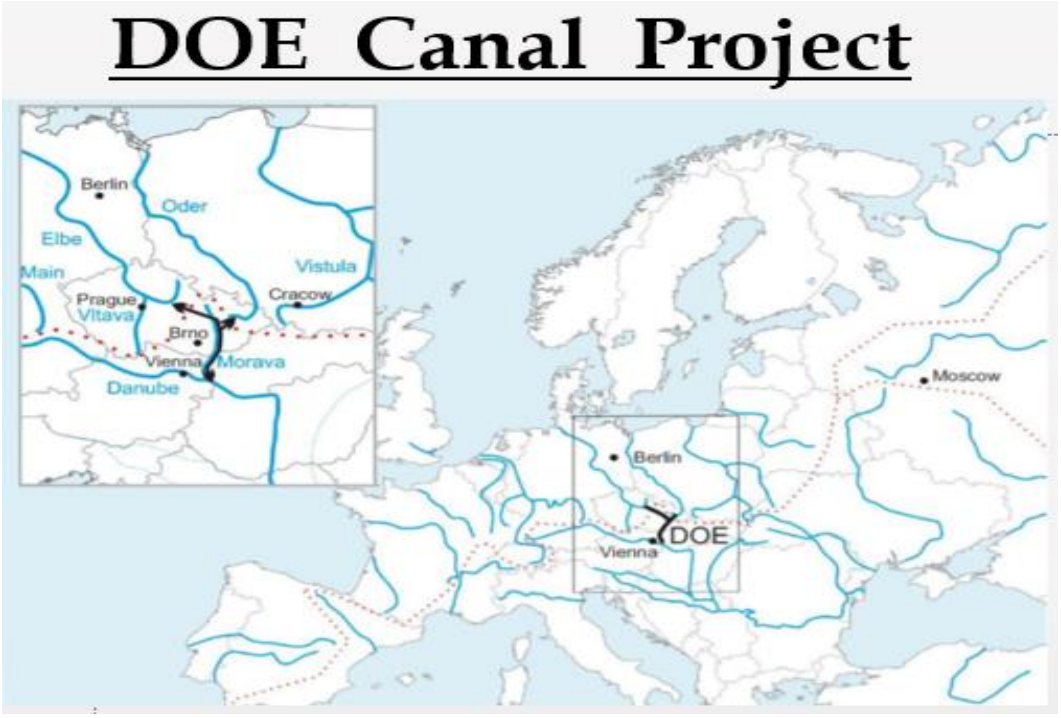
- Madhya Pradesh (MP) surpassed Punjab to become the number one contributor of wheat – 2020.
- Punjab, however, is still a way ahead from MP as far as per hectare productivity of wheat is concerned, which is around 52% more (per hectare) than MP.

Three Seas Initiatives

- The Three Seas Initiative aims at stimulating more rapid development of the region stretching between the Baltic, Black and Adriatic Seas.
- This is to be achieved through both high level and multi-stakeholder commitment to boosting connectivity among Member States, with special focus on infrastructure, energy and digital interconnectivity.

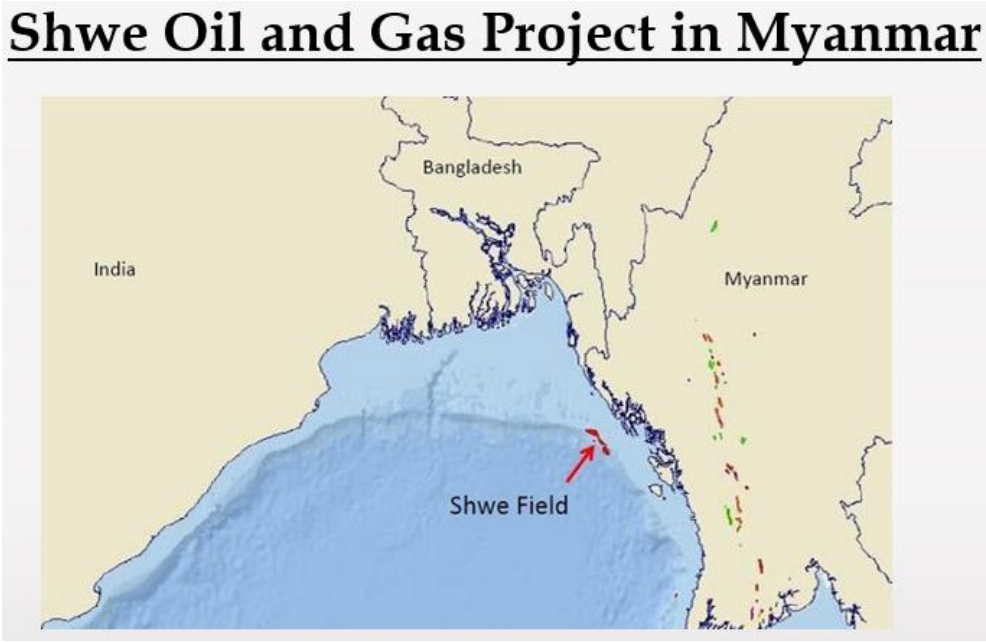
DOE Canal Project

- Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal.
- The Danube Oder Elbe canal is an artificial waterway project that seeks to connect the Rivers Danube, Oder and Elbe and provide a navigable link between the Black Sea and the Baltic and North Sea.



India's First E-Waste Clinic

- India's first e-waste clinic has been inaugurated in Bhopal and will enable segregation, processing and disposal of electronic waste from both household and commercial units.



Barakah Nuclear Power Plant

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) has issued an operating licence for the Arab world's first nuclear power plant, paving the way for it to start production.

World's Second Largest Coal Block

- Deucha Panchami coal block of Birbhum Coalfield Area is World's Second Largest Coal Block situated in West Bengal.
- There are about 2102 million tonnes of coal reserves in Deucha Panchami coal block.
- This coal mine is the largest coal mine or coal block in Asia, due to the amount of coal reserves.

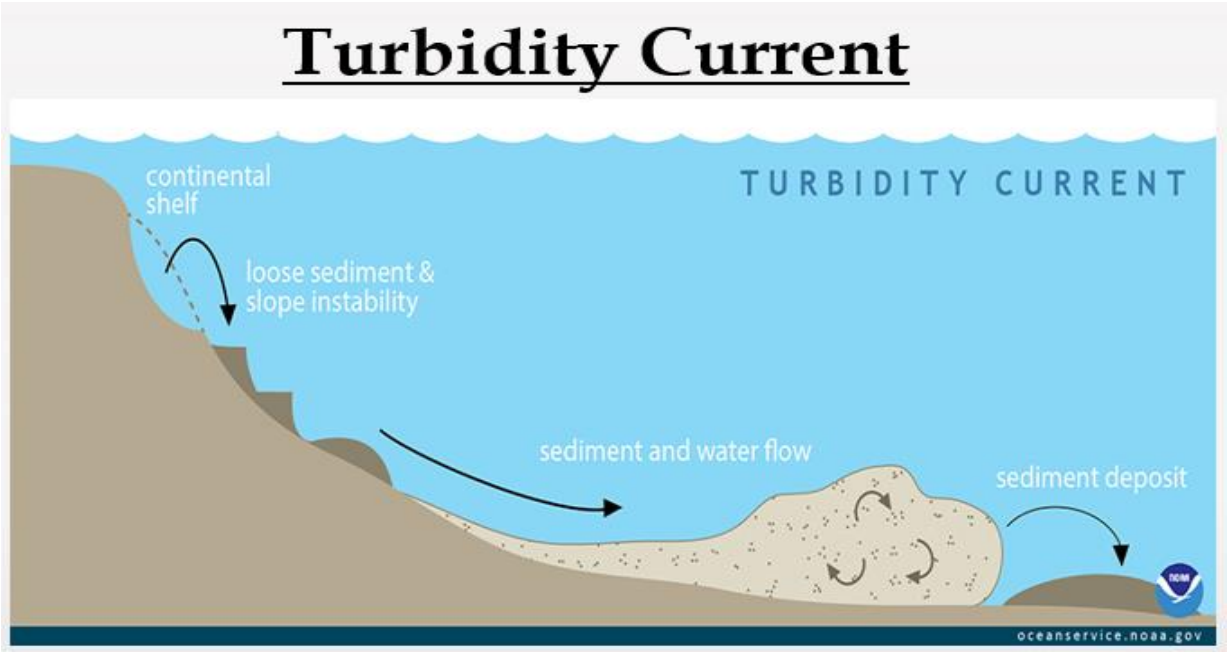
India's First Online Waste Exchange Platform

- The programme was launched for safe disposal of toxic wastes and promote recycling and reuse of toxic wastes---
- Andhra Pradesh

World's Longest Subsea Power Cable

- Lincolnshire - will run between Britain and Denmark to share renewable energy between the two countries.

Turbidity Current



- A turbidity current is an underwater current, usually water laden with heavy sediments, that moves rapidly down a slope.

Hakki Pikki Tribe - Karnataka

- Kshatriya or warrior tribal community who had to migrate to southern India after their defeat with Mughal kings.
- The HakkiPikki, meaning "bird catchers" in Kannada.

New Zealand – Climate Change Rules

- New Zealand's Parliament passed The Zero-Carbon Act, which will commit New Zealand to zero carbon emissions by 2050 or sooner, as part of the country's attempts to meet its Paris climate accord commitments.
- The Act is not a separate legislation but is an amendment to the existing Climate Change Responses Act, 2002.
- According to the New Zealand government, this is the first legislation in the world to make a legally binding commitment to living within 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming.

AgriStack

- a centralised farmer database under 'AgriStack.
- AgriStack will create a unified platform for farmers to provide them end to end services across the agriculture food value chain.
- Under the programme, each farmer will have a unique digital identification (farmers' ID) that contains personal details, information about the land they farm, as well as production and financial details.

Volcanoes in News

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PRE – MIX

1. Geography

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1. With reference to agricultural soils, consider the following statements:
   1. A high content of organic matter in soil drastically reduces its water holding capacity.
   2. Soil does not play any role in the Sulphur cycle.
   3. Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

2 – Minute Series

1. Circular Bioeconomy

Definition:

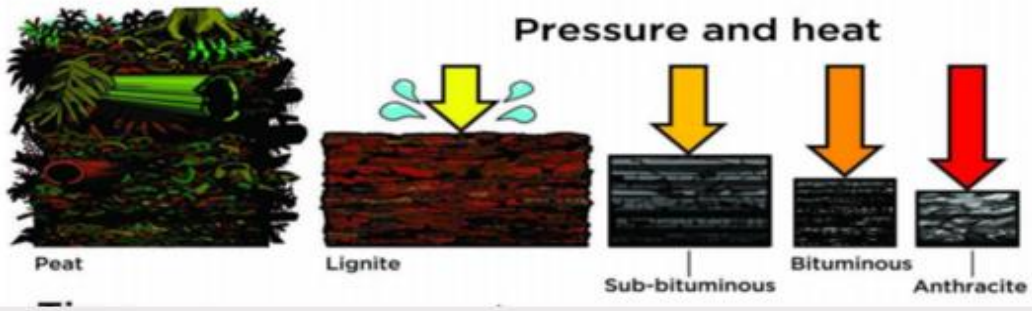
- The "circular bioeconomy" is defined as the intersection of bioeconomy and circular economy.

Bioeconomy

- The bioeconomy means using renewable biological resources (biomass) from land and sea, like crops, forests, fish, animals and micro-organisms to produce food, materials and energy.

Example

Coal



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