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My contact with civilscafe started with the free mains Answer writing in the telegram channel..Thoufeek sir and Tojin sir helped me in this giving individual and thorough feedback which helped me improve my answer writing even before prelims.. The interview guidance also helped me in boosting my confidence and finding expected questions..

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QUICK FACTS – PLACES IN NEWS

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SURESHOT PRELIMS FINAL PUNCH**Quick Facts - Places in NEWS****1. Bhasan Char Island**

Bhasan Char, also known as **Char Piya**, is an island in Hatiya Upazila, **Bangladesh**. Until 2019 it was known as **Thengar Char**. It is located in the Bay of Bengal, specifically developed to accommodate 1,00,000 of the 1 million Rohingya who have fled from neighbouring Myanmar.

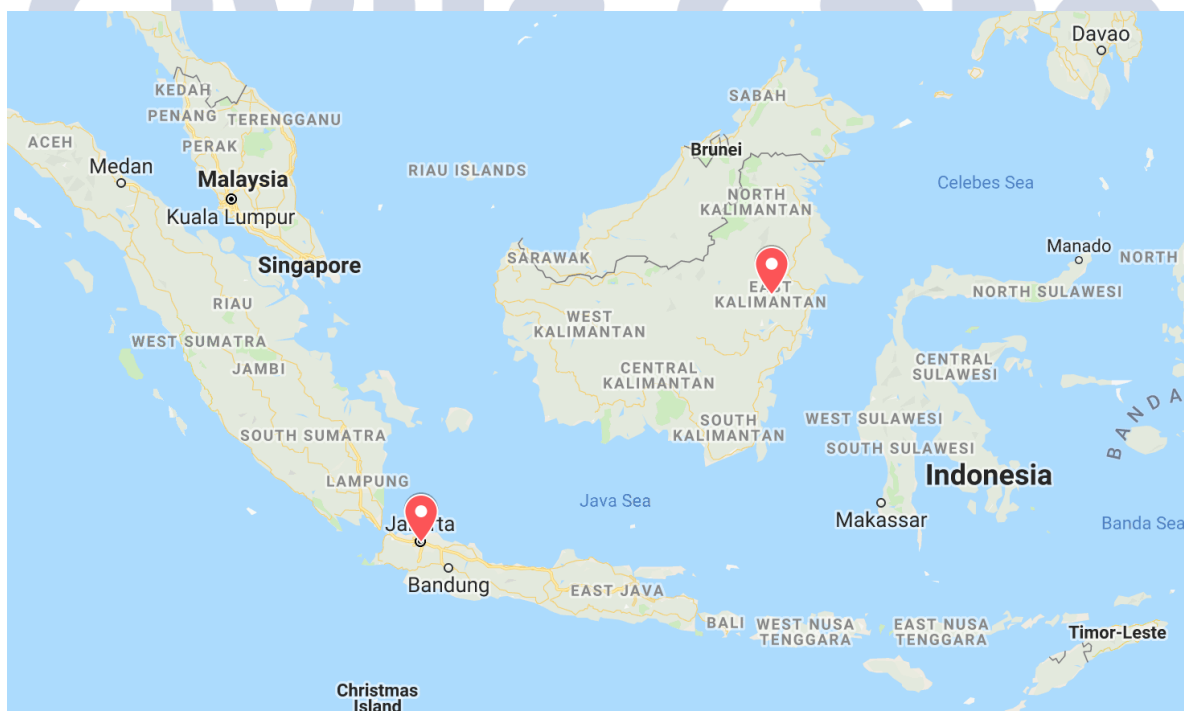
**2. Kachin Hills**

Kachin Hills is located in northern **Myanmar's Kachin State**. It is inhabited by an ethnic **Kachin people** who are also found in neighbouring Yunnan Province, China, and Arunachal Pradesh, Assam in Northeastern India. Kachin people are often used interchangeably with the main subset, called the **Jingpo people in China**.



3. East Kalimantan

The capital of **Indonesia** is being shifted from Jakarta to East Kalimantan, and will be called **Nusantara** (situated to the **east of Borneo island**). **East Kalimantan is shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.** East Kalimantan is an area with immense water resources and habitable terrain.

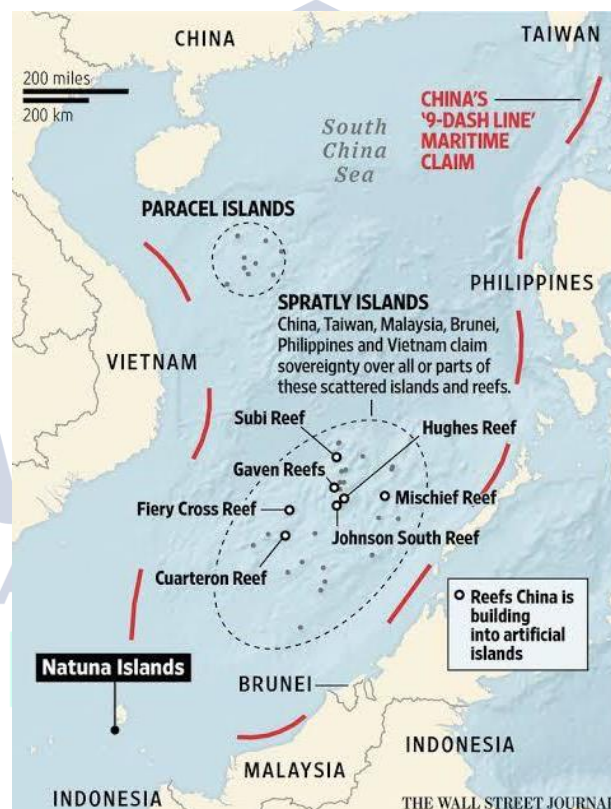


Other countries that have changed capitals

- **Brazil** changed its capital city **from Rio De Janerio to Brasilia**, a more centrally-located city, in 1960.
- In 1991, **Nigeria** changed the country's capital from **Lagos to Abuja**.
- **Kazakhstan** moved its capital city **from Almaty to Nur-Sultan** in 1997.
- **Myanmar** changed its capital from **Rangoon to Naypyidaw** in 2005.

4. South China Sea

It is connected by **Taiwan Strait** with the East China Sea and by **Luzon Strait** with the Philippine Sea.



Bordering states & territories: **the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam.**



5. Taiwan Strait:

It is a 110-mile-wide channel that separates mainland China from the island of Taiwan. It is also known as the **Formosa Strait** or the **Tai-hai** (the Tai Sea). The Taiwan Strait makes up **part of the South China Sea**, and its northern portion is linked to the **East China Sea**. The strait borders the south eastern part of China and runs along the eastern part of China's Fujian Province.

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6. West Bank

It is a **landlocked territory** near the **Mediterranean coast** of Western Asia, bordered by **Jordan** to the east and by the **Green Line separating it and Israel** on the south, west and north. West Bank also contains a significant section of the **western Dead Sea** shore.

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7. Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip is an entirely artificial creation that emerged in 1948 when roughly three-fourths of **Palestine's Arab population** was displaced, in some cases expelled, during the course of Israel's creation. And most of the refugees were sort of scattered across the region in neighboring countries like Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Some went to the West Bank, which came

under Jordanian rule after 1948. And a very large number went to the Gaza Strip, which is this tiny little **coastal strip between Egypt and Israel**.

8. Golan heights

Israeli PM recently said the country intends to double the amount of settlers living in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights with a multimillion-dollar plan meant to further consolidate Israel's hold on the territory.

Golan Heights refers to the **border region captured from Syria by Israel** during the Six-Day Middle-East War of 1967.

It is bounded by the **Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee** on the west, **Mount Hermon** on the north, the seasonal **Wadi Al-Ruqqad** on the east, and the **Yarmouk River** on the south.



9. Diego Garcia

It is an island of the **British Indian Ocean Territory**, an overseas territory of the United Kingdom. It is the largest of 60 small islands comprising the **Chagos Archipelago**.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to find it and it was then settled by the French in the 1790s and transferred to British rule after the Napoleonic Wars.

In 1965, Britain separated the Chagos Islands from Mauritius and set up a **joint military base with the United States on Diego Garcia**. Britain insists the islands belong to London and has renewed a lease agreement with the United States to use Diego Garcia until 2036.



10. Panjshir Valley

It is a valley in **north-central Afghanistan**, near the **Hindu Kush mountain range**. It is divided by the Panjshir River. The valley is home to Afghanistan's largest concentration of ethnic **Tajiks**.

Panjshir means '**Five lions**'. There is a legend that in the 10th century 5 brothers built a dam for king Mahmood Ghazni in the valley to prevent floods from damaging people's homes. Hence it was named valley of 5 lions (after those 5 brothers).

Afghanistan: Panjshir, stronghold of Taliban resistance



11. South Col Glacier

Recent studies have found that SCG has lost more than 54m of thickness in the last 25 years. It is thinning 80 times faster than it first took the ice to form on the surface.

The South Col is a sharp-edged col between **Mount Everest and Lhotse**, in Nepal. The glacier sits around nearly 7,906m (25,938 ft) above sea-level.



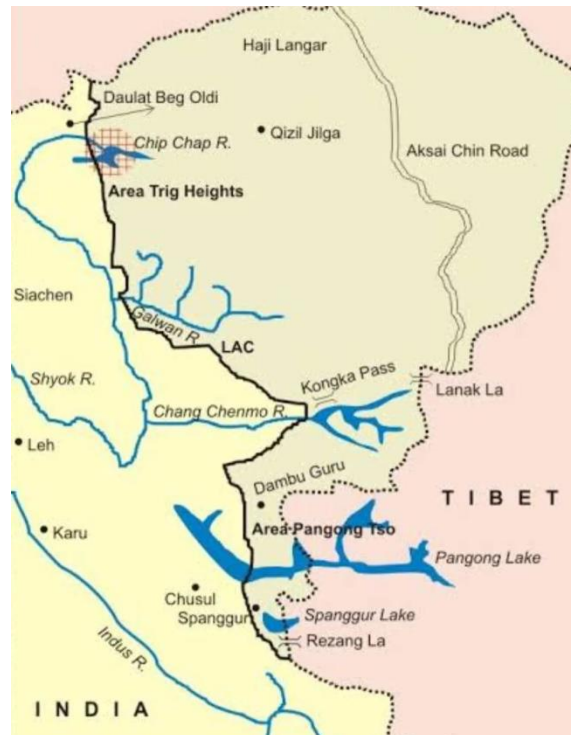
12. Pangong Tso

Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is an endorheic lake spanning **eastern Ladakh and West Tibet**. Approximately 50% of the length of the lake lies within the Tibetan Autonomous Region. It is a disputed region between **India and China**.

During winter the lake freezes completely, despite being **saline water**. The lake is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.

The **Karakoram Range** ends on the northern side of the Pangong Tso. **The Kailash Range** originates from the southern bank and runs northwest to southeast for over 60 km.





13. Hot Springs

The 'Hot Springs' point in **Ladakh** is one of the four points where the Indian and Chinese armies went face-to-face during the standoff .

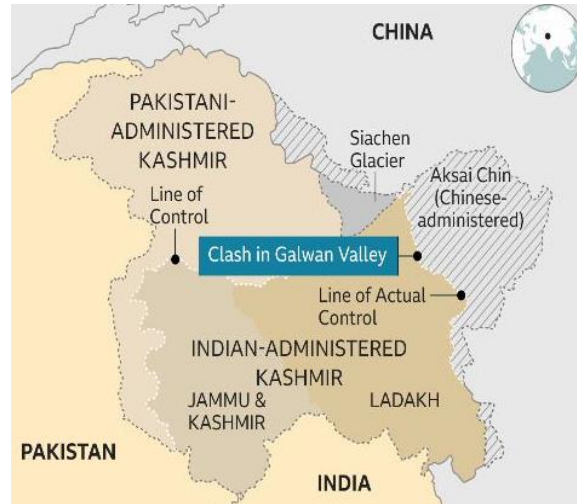
Traditionally known as **Kyam**, is a campsite and the location of an Indian border check-post – **Patrol Point-15** – at the **Chang Chenmo river valley** in Ladakh near the contested border with China.

The spot was so named due to the presence of a hot spring in the area. It lies to Southeast of Galwan Valley. It is close to **Kongka La**, a pass that marks the Line of Actual Control. The pass also marks the border between two of China's most sensitive provinces — **Xinjiang to the north and Tibet to the south**.

14. Galwan Valley?

The valley refers to the land that sits between steep mountains that buffet the Galwan River. There was a minor face-off between **Indian and Chinese troops** in the no-patrolling zone at Galwan Valley in **eastern Ladakh**.

The valley is strategically located **between Ladakh in the west and Aksai Chin** in the east (currently controlled by China). At its western end are the **Shyok river** and the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulet Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road.



15. Kalapani

Located in the easternmost corner of **Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district**. Shares a border on the north with the **Tibet Autonomous Region of China** and **Nepal** in the east and south. It is wedged in between **Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani**.

The area is in India's control but Nepal claims the region. The area is the largest territorial dispute between **Nepal and India** consisting of at least 37,000 hectares of land in the High Himalayas.



16. Zojila tunnel

Zojila tunnel will provide all-year connectivity between **Srinagar valley and Leh**. It is set to be **Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel**.

It will connect **Srinagar, Dras, Kargil and Leh via a tunnel** through the famous Zojila Pass. Located at more than 11,500 feet above sea level, it will make the travel on the **434-km Srinagar-Kargil-Leh Section of NH-1** free from avalanches, enhance safety and reduce the travel time from more than 3 hours to just 15 minutes.



17. Pensilungpa Glacier

Located in Zaskar, Ladakh. It is retreating due to an increase in the temperature and decrease in precipitation during winters.

The Zaskar Range is a mountain range in the UT of Ladakh that separates Zaskar from Ladakh. **Marbal Pass** and many other passes which connect Ladakh with Kashmir are in this area. The **Zojila Pass** is in the extreme northwest of the Zaskar range.

18. Umling La

At 5,793m (19,005ft) above the sea level, Umling La is one of the highest motorable roads in the world. **Located in the Ladakh region**, the 54 km long road passing through Umling La Pass connected the villages of

Chisumle and Demchok and took six years to be **built by BRO under Project Himank.**



19. Cattle Island

Cattle island is one of three islands in the **Hirakud reservoir**. It has been recently selected as a sightseeing destination by **Odisha** Forest and Environment Department. The island is a **submerged hill**, and before the construction of Hirakud Dam it was a developed village.

20. Char Chinari

The iconic island Char Chinari in the middle of **Dal Lake (Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir)**.

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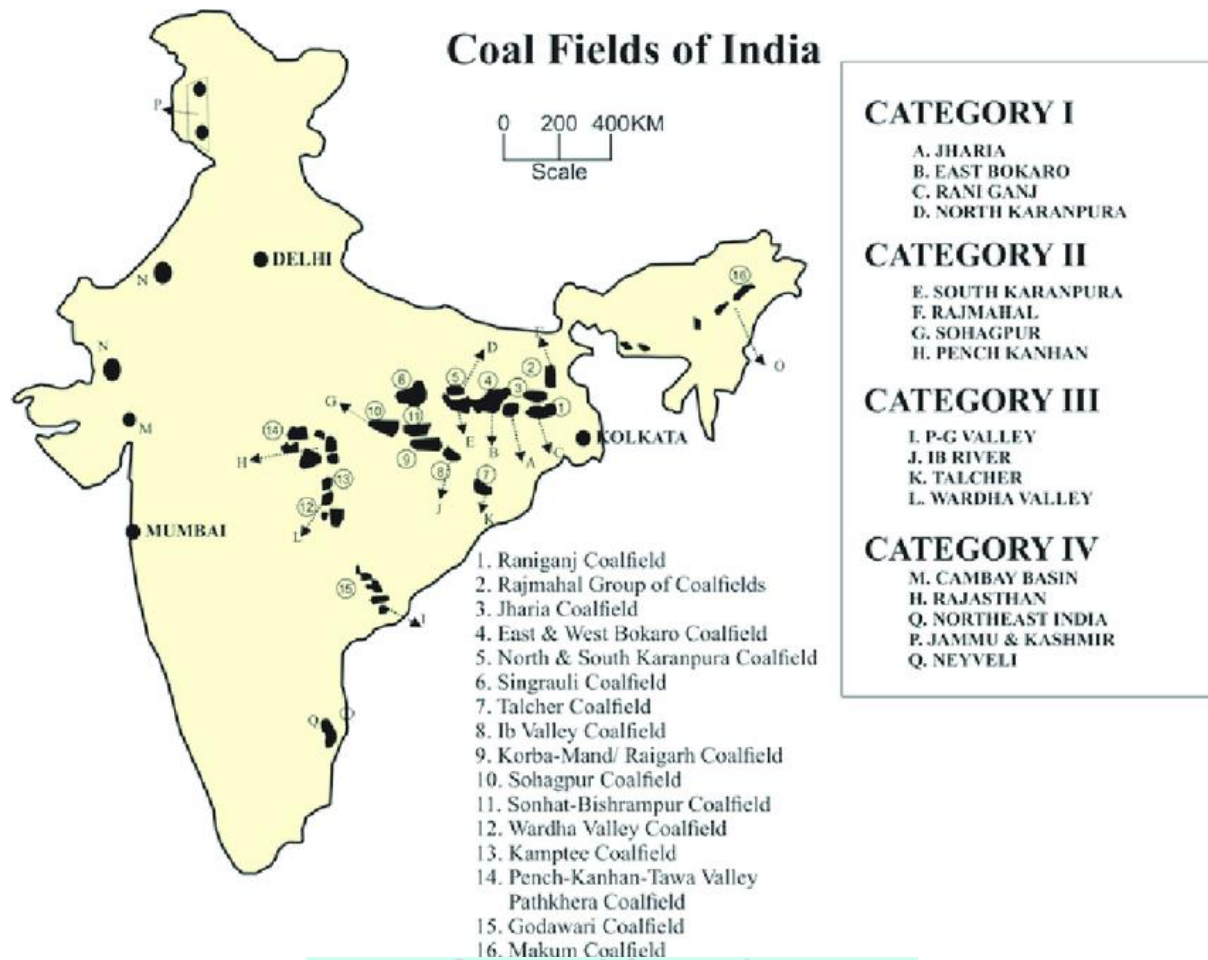
Recently, two tall chinari trees were planted on the picturesque island with the Zabarwan hills in the backdrop. The 2014 floods left two mighty chinars damaged. The island owes its name to chinari trees, as Char Chinari means four Chinars.



CHAR CHINAR - A MINI ISLAND IN DAL LAKE

21. Deucha Panchami coal block:

Deucha Panchami coal block of **Birbhum Coalfield Area is World's Second Largest Coal Block situated in West Bengal.** This coal mine is the largest coal mine or coal block in Asia, due to the number of coal reserves.



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22. Nord Stream 2 Pipeline:

This is a 1,200-km pipeline that runs from **Ust-Luga in Russia to Greifswald in Germany through the Baltic Sea**. It will carry 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year. It was decided to build this pipeline in 2015.

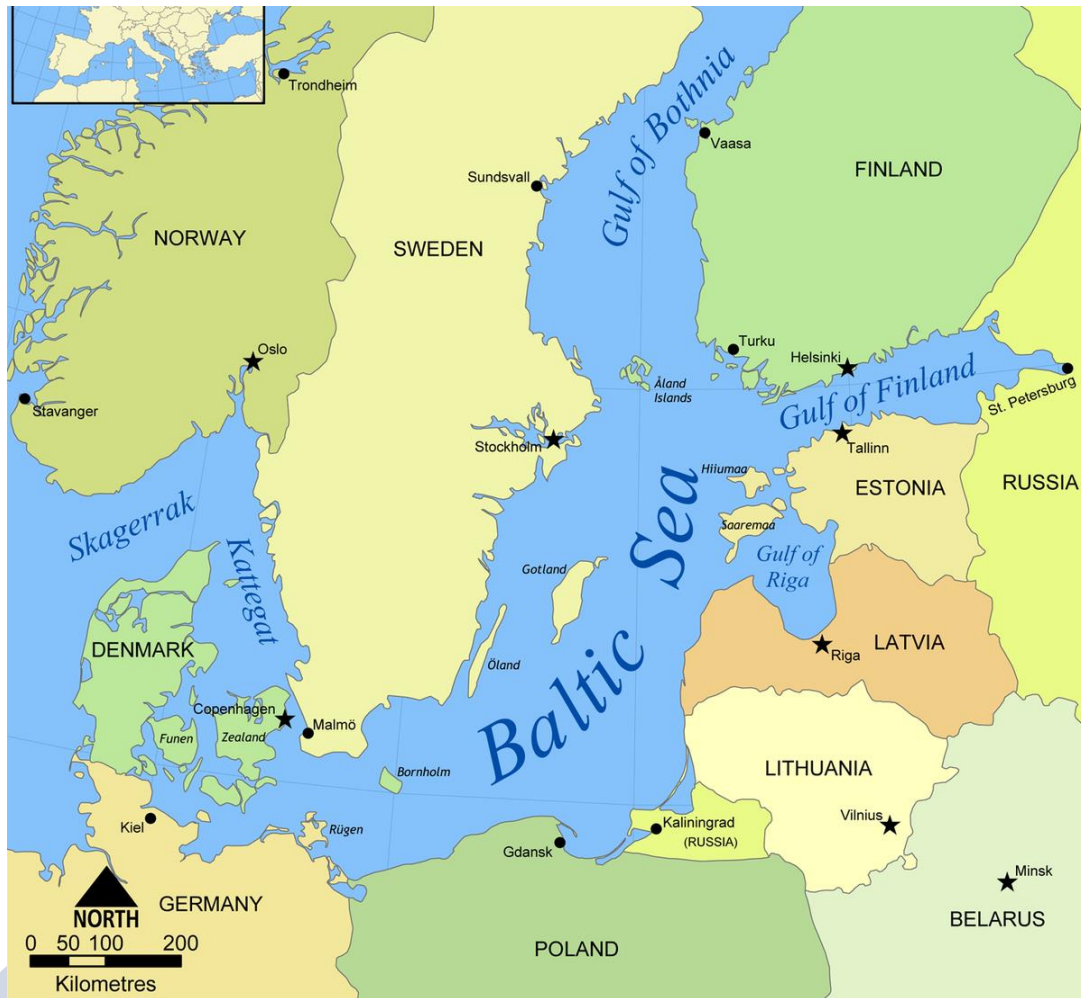
Nord stream 1 system is already completed and together with NS2P, it will supply 110 billion cubic metre of gas a year to Germany.

Final approval of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline has been put on hold because of Russia's actions in Ukraine.



23. Baltic Sea

The Baltic Sea is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean, enclosed by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, **Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia**, Sweden and the North and Central European Plain.



24. English Channel

It is a part of the Atlantic Ocean. It separates the island of **Britain** (part of the UK) from northern **France** and **joins the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean**. It's approximately 350 miles long, and at its narrowest in the **Strait of Dover**.



25. Red sea

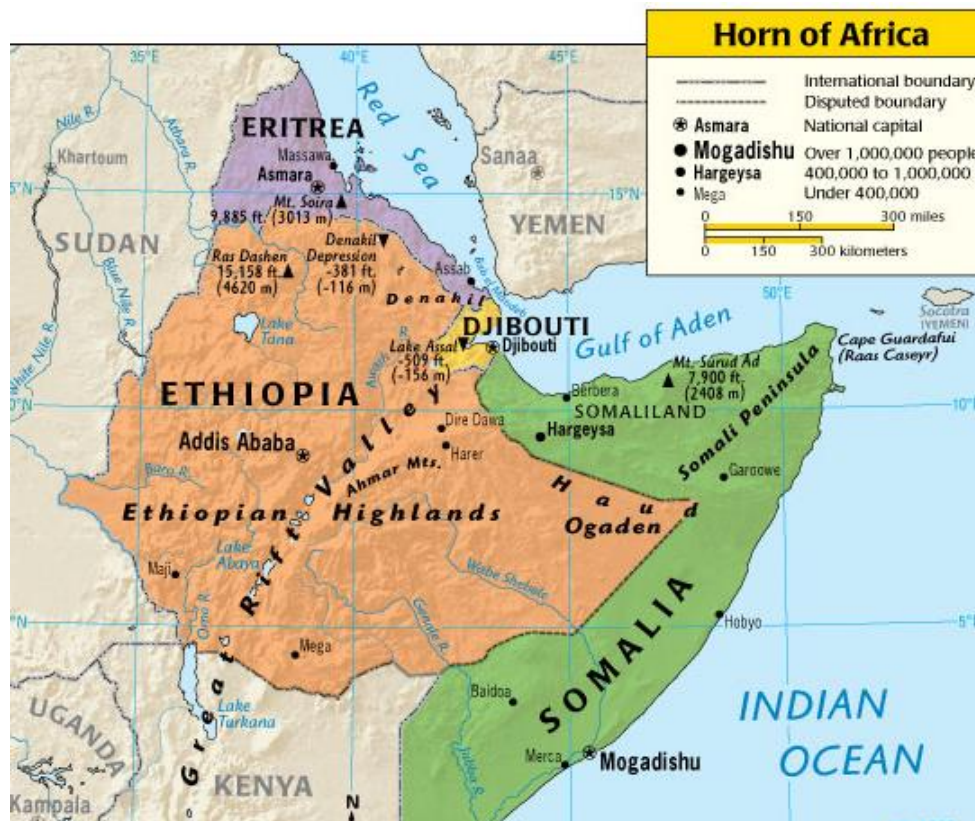
The Red Sea (also **the Erythraean Sea**) is a seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean, lying **between Africa and Asia**. The connection to the ocean is in the south through the **Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden**. To the north lie the **Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez**. The sea is underlain by the **Red Sea Rift** which is part of the Great Rift Valley.



26. Horn of Africa

Easternmost extension of African land and includes the region that is home to the countries of **Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia**. It juts hundreds of kilometres into the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, lying along the southern side of the Gulf of Aden.

The **Bab-el-Mandeb** is a strait between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula, and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa. It connects the **Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden**.



27. Gulf Of Aden

Gulf of Aden, also known as the **Gulf of Berbera**, is a deepwater gulf between **Yemen** to the north, the **Arabian Sea** to the east, **Djibouti** to the west, and the **Guardafui Channel, Socotra (Yemen), and Somalia** to the south.

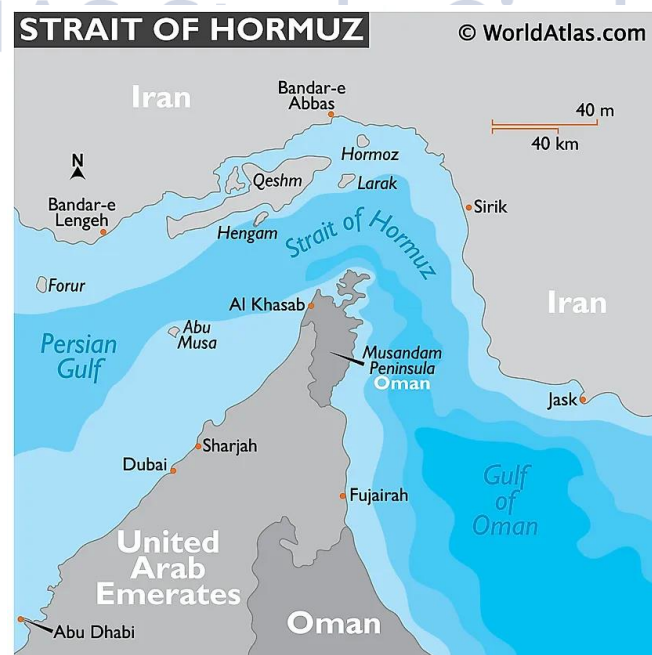
It connects with the **Red Sea through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait**, and it connects with the **Arabian Sea** to the east. To the west, it narrows into the **Gulf of Tadjoura in Djibouti**.



28. Strait of Hormuz

It is the waterway that separates **Iran and Oman**, linking the **Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.**

On the north coast lies **Iran**, and on the south are the **UAE and Musandam**, an enclave of Oman. The Strait is 21 miles (33 km) wide at its narrowest point.



29. Suez Canal

It is an artificial sea-level waterway running north to south across the **Isthmus of Suez in Egypt, to connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.**

The canal separates the African continent from Asia. It provides the shortest maritime route between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans. It is one of the world's most heavily used shipping lanes, carrying over 12% of world trade by volume.



30. Barbados

Barbados has elected its first-ever president to **replace the United Kingdom's Queen Elizabeth as head of state** in a decisive step towards shedding the Caribbean island's colonial past.

It is a former British colony that gained independence in 1966, the nation of just less than 300,000 had long maintained ties with the British monarchy.

But calls for full sovereignty and homegrown leadership have risen in recent years. It has sometimes been called **“Little England”** for its loyalty to **British customs**. It is the Caribbean's easternmost island.



31. Honduras

Leftist **Xiomara Castro** was sworn in as the **first woman President of Honduras**. Honduras is a Central American country.

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It is bordered to the west by **Guatemala**, to the southwest by **El Salvador**, to the southeast by **Nicaragua**, to the south by the **Pacific Ocean at the Gulf of Fonseca**, and to the north by the **Gulf of Honduras**, a large inlet of the **Caribbean Sea**.



32. Qeqertaq Avannarleq

It is a tiny, uninhabited and previously **unknown island** discovered recently off the coast of **Greenland**. It has now become the new northernmost piece of land on Earth. Before this, Oodaaq was marked as the Earth's northernmost terrain.

LOCATION OF MOST NORTHERN ISLAND

The northernmost island in the world has been discovered by accident, according to scientists who were collecting samples off coast of Greenland



33. Vorukh

It is a **jamoat** (administrative division in the Central Asian country of Tajikistan) in northern **Tajikistan**. It is an exclave surrounded by **Kyrgyzstan** that forms part of the city of Isfara in the **Sughd Region**.

It was recently in the news due to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan border tension.



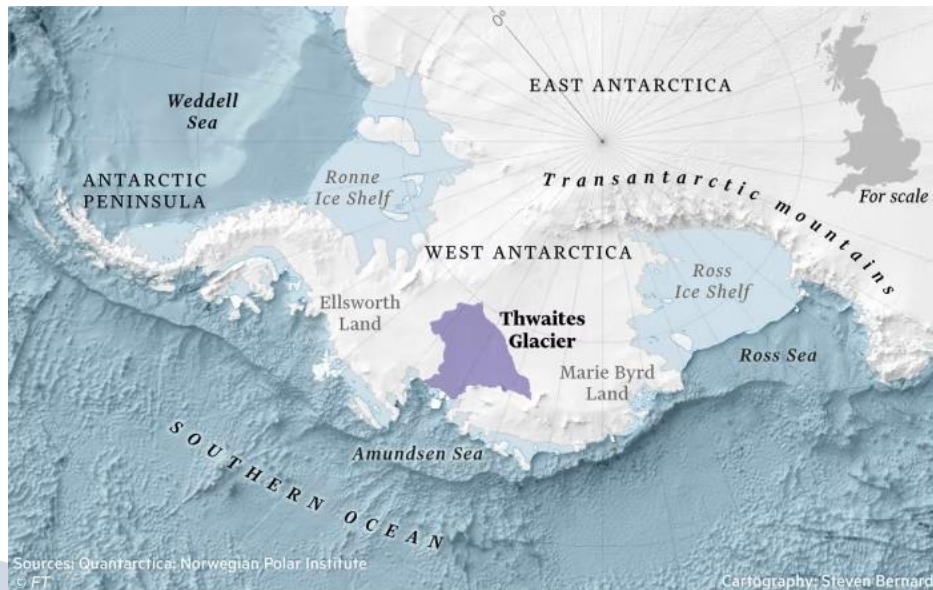
34. Dahla Dam

It is **Afghanistan's** second-biggest dam located in Kandahar Province built on the **Arghandab River**. The Taliban has captured it after months of fierce fighting.



35. Doomsday Glacier

Also called the **Thwaites Glacier**, it is located in **Antarctica**. The melting of this glacier has long been a cause of concern because of its high potential of speeding up the global sea level rise happening due to climate change. It contains enough water to raise the world sea level by more than half a metre.



36. Caspian sea



37. Mediterranean sea



VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

1. Mount Sinabung

Located in the Karo plateau of Karo Regency, North Sumatra, **Indonesia**, 40 kilometres from the **Lake Toba supervolcano**. The volcano has been active since 2010 when it erupted after nearly 400 years of inactivity. Indonesia is part of the “**Ring of Fire**” or the **Circum-Pacific Belt** — an area along the Pacific Ocean characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

Indonesia volcano

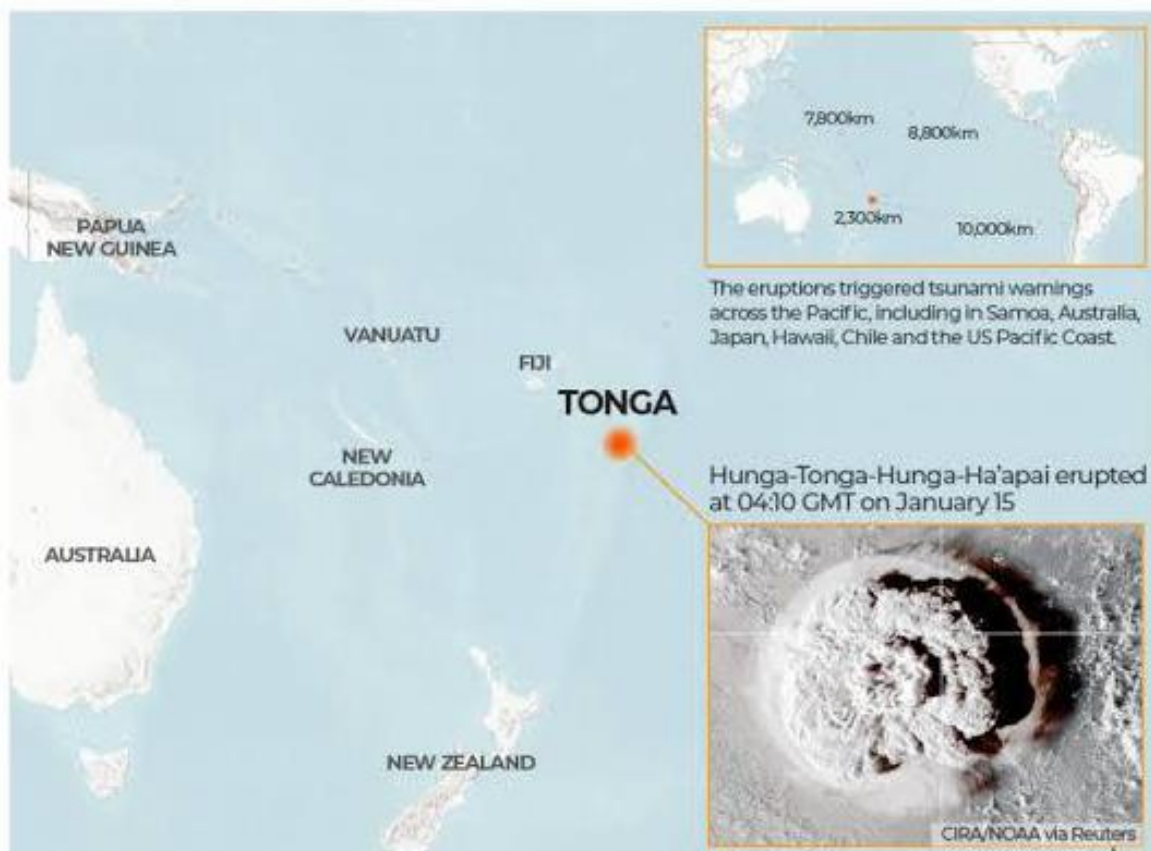


2. Tonga Volcanic Eruption

Recently a volcano erupted in the southern Pacific Island of Tonga, which triggered Tsunami waves around the Pacific. It is an Undersea Volcanic Eruption consisting of two small uninhabited islands, **Hunga-Ha'apai and Hunga-Tonga**. The Tonga Islands occur along the **Ring of Fire**.

Tonga volcano eruption

An **underwater volcano in the South Pacific** erupted on Saturday, causing **significant damage** and sending plumes of smoke 20km into the air.





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