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News: Persian Gulf

Persian Gulf

- Persian Gulf is an arm of the Arabian Sea located between the southwestern Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.
- Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman (Musandam exclave) and Iran border the Persian Gulf.
- It is connected to the Gulf of Oman in the east by the Strait of Hormuz.
- The Strait of Hormuz is situated between Qeshm Island and the Iranian coast in the north and the Musandam Peninsula of the Arabian Peninsula in the south.

Strategic Importance

- Persian Gulf countries are major producers of crude oil and natural gas.
- Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia are members of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries).
- United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



Strait of Hormuz

- Strait of Hormuz separates **Iran & Oman** linking the **Persian Gulf** to the **Gulf of Oman & the Arabian Sea**.
- Most crude exported from **Saudi, Iran, UAE, Kuwait & Iraq** is shipped through **this waterway**.
- Nearly all the **Liquefied Natural Gas** exported from the biggest LNG exporter **Qatar** is also shipped through this way.



News: Sugar

- Recently, India has emerged as the world's largest producer and consumer of sugar and the world's 2nd largest exporter, due to the record production of more than 5000 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) of sugarcane.

Sugar

- Sugarcane is a **low-land tropical, plantation, and cash crop** which are grown in the regions having **high temperature and heavy rainfall**.
- This crop is usually grown in **regions have monsoonal type of climate**. Some major producers include India, Java, Formosa, Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados.
- **India is the top country with sugar cane production** in the world beating Brazil in 2022. However, **Brazil is the largest exporter** of Sugar in the world. **India is also the largest consumer** of sugar in the world.
- India accounts for about **19 percent of the world's production of sugarcane**. But it occupies only 2.4 percent of total cropped area in the country.
- This industry provides employment for more than 4 lakh persons directly and a large number of farmers indirectly.

- The **sugar industry is a seasonal industry** because of the seasonality of raw materials.
- The development of the industry on modern lines dates back to 1903 when a sugar mill was started in Bihar. Subsequently, sugar mills were started in other parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- In 1950-51, 139 factories were in operation. The number of sugar factories rose to 662 in 2010-11.
- Sugarcane is a **weight-losing crop**. The ratio of sugar to sugarcane varies between 9 to 12 percent depending on its variety.
- Its **sucrose content begins to dry during haulage** after it has been harvested from the field.
- **Better recovery of sugar is dependent upon its being crushed within 24 hours of its harvesting.**
- **Sugar factories hence are located within the cane producing regions.**
- **Maharashtra has emerged as a leading sugar producer** in the country and produces more than one-third of the total production of the sugar in the country.
- **Uttar Pradesh is the second-largest producer** of sugar. The sugar factories are concentrated in two belts – the Ganga-Yamuna doab and the Tarai region.
- The major sugar-producing centers in the Ganga -Yamuna doab are Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Baghpat, and Bulandshahr districts; while

Kheri Lakhimpur, Basti, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Bahraich are important sugar-producing districts in the Tarai region.

- The **crop yield is low in Northern India than in Southern India**. Uttar Pradesh's yield is low, but in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu the yield is high.