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- Oil & gas drilling,
- Oil Spills
- Shipping lanes etc.

- Protection Status:

IUCN Red List	Endangered
CITES	Appendix II
WPA, 1972	Schedule I



Environment

Whale Shark

Why in News?

Recently, fishermen in Odisha rescued a whale shark.

About Whale Shark:

- Whale sharks are the **largest shark**, and also the **largest of any fishes** alive today.
- They travel large distances looking for food to sustain their huge size, and also to reproduce.
- The whale sharks are called '**filter feeder shark**' since they do **not eat** meat like any other sharks but filter sea water and feed on tiny planktons.
- They could be as large as 20m.
- Habitat: Found in all the tropical oceans of the world.
- Common Threats:

Science and Technology

Quasar:

Why in News?

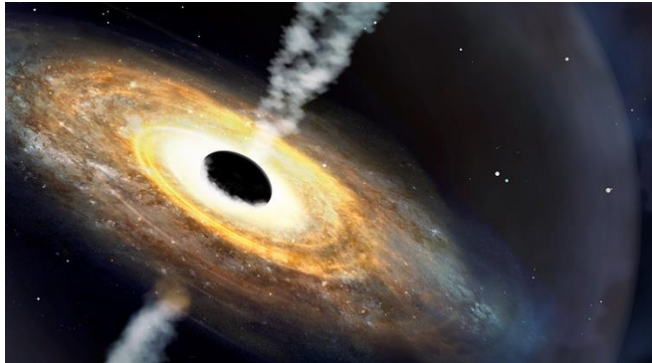
Recently, an the most distant 'Radio-Loud' Quasar with the help of European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope (ESO's VLT).

About Quasar:

- Quasars are very luminous objects in faraway galaxies that emit light at radio frequencies.
- Apart from radio waves and visible light, quasars also emit UV rays, infrared waves, X-rays, and gamma-rays.
- Most quasars are larger in size than our solar system.

Related Information:

- Black hole refer to point in space where matter is so compressed and create a gravity field from which even light cannot escape.
- Quasars are formed by the energy emitted by materials swirling around a blackhole right before being sucked into it.



Security

Air Independent Propulsion for Diesel Electric Submarines

Why in News?

Recently, DRDO successfully conducted the final development test of **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)** System, required for **diesel electric submarines**.

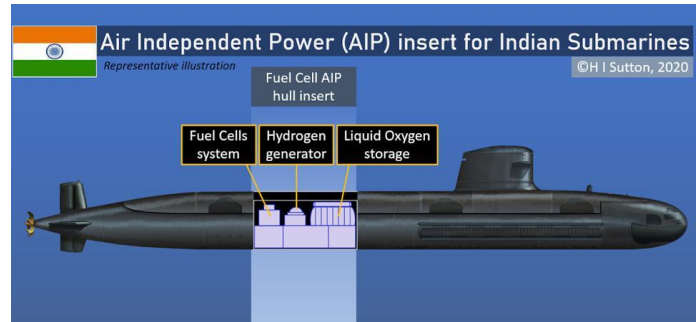
About AIP:

- The conventional type of submarine use **diesel-electric** engines, requiring them to surface almost every day to get **atmospheric oxygen** for combustion of fuel.
- When equipped with **Air Independent Propulsion** system, this submarine will need to surface only **once a week** to take in oxygen.
- The AIP, is one of the key missions of the **Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL)**, DRDO.
- The AIP equipped submarines will surface **much less frequently**, thereby **increasing** their **lethality** and **stealth** multifold.

- The fuel cell-based AIP of NMRL is **unique** as hydrogen is generated onboard.

About Fuel Cell Based AIP:

- In a fuel cell based AIP, an electrolytic fuel cell releases energy by **combining hydrogen and oxygen**, with only water as



the by-product.

- These cells are highly efficient, and also do not have moving parts, thereby ensuring low acoustic emissions of sound from submarine.

International Relations

Uighur Muslims

Why in News?

Recently, several Uighur Muslim women staged an International Women's Day march demanding closure of mass incarceration camps in China's Xinjiang Province.

About Uighar Muslims

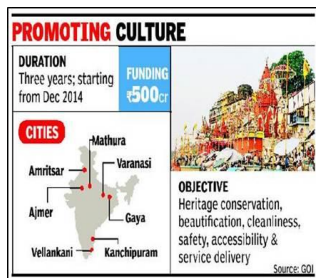
- The Uighurs are predominantly **Muslim minority Turkish** ethnic group, of Central and East Asian origin.



- Their language is similar to Turkish, and hence they find themselves culturally and ethnically close to **Central Asian** nations.
- Currently, the largest population of the **Uighur ethnic community** lives in Xinjiang province of China.
- Uighurs also live in the neighbouring Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

News In Short

PRASHAD Scheme



- Recently, The foundation stone was laid down for development of **Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple**, Dongargarh, **Chhattisgarh** under PRASHAD Scheme
- It is a Central **Sector** Scheme
- It is under **Ministry of Tourism** in 2014-15
- It aims for Integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.
- Also, Infrastructure development like entry points, last mile connectivity, Money exchange facilities, first aid centres nearby, etc

Singorgarh Fort

- Recently, the conservation works of Singorgarh Fort was inaugurated by the President of India.
- Location: Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a hill-fort of Gondwana Kingdom.
- Gond ruler Sasngram Shah had conquered the Singorgarh fort from Chandel rulers in early 16th century.