Lonar Crater

Why in News

Recently, the water in the **Lonar lake in the Buldhana district of Maharashtra** was found to be **turning reddish** over the past few days.

> The local administration of the district has requested the **National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur**, to find out the reason behind it.

Key Points

- The colour of water in Maharashtra's Lonar lake, also known as **Lonar crater,** has changed to red.
- It is said to be normal when the lake gets rainwater.
- **Probable Reasons:**
    - **Algal Bloom:**
        - **An algal bloom or algae bloom** is a **rapid increase or accumulation in the population** of algae in freshwater or marine water systems, and is often recognized by the **discoloration in the water.**
        - Change in colour is generally attributed to algal bloom in the lake around the time of monsoon.
    - **Change in Salinity:**
        Due to the evaporation of water, the salinity in the water has increased. Hence, it is believed to be a factor behind the change in colour.
    - **Biological Change:**
        The colour change seems to be a biological change in the Lonar crater as during the **lockdown phase**, there was no disturbance to the lake and naturally it has turned red.

Lonar Lake

- Lonar Lake, also known as Lonar crater, is a notified **National Geo-heritage Monument,** saline, soda lake, located at **Lonar in Buldhana district, Maharashtra.**
  - Geo-heritage refers to the geological features which are inherently or culturally significant offering insight to earth's evolution or history to earth science or that can be utilized for education.
  - **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** is the parent body which is making efforts towards identification and protection of geo-heritage sites.
- It is situated inside the Deccan Plateau—a massive plain of volcanic basalt rock created by eruptions.
- It is believed to have been created over 52,000 years ago when a meteorite hit the Earth.
- It is formed in basaltic rock with a diameter of 1.85 km and depth of 500 feet.

Source: IE