



Important Facts For Prelims (30th May 2019)

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New Species of Wasp found in Goa

A new species of wasp from the **genus *Kudakrumia*** has been recently identified by scientists in **Goa**.

- The wasp, ***Kudakrumia rangnekari***, was named after **Goa-based researcher Parag Rangnekar**.
- In India, the wasp is found in **Goa and Kerala** and outside the country it is also found in neighbouring **Sri Lanka**.
- In past also researchers have discovered tribe of **five wasp species named "adikeshavus"** which in Sanskrit means "first one to have long hairs".

Significance of Wasps

- Wasps play a crucial role in ecosystems as pollinators.
- Almost 100 species of **orchids are solely reliant on the action of wasps** for pollination.
- A chemical found in the venom of the tropical social wasp *Polybia paulista*, has been shown to selectively **destroy various types of cancerous cells**.
- Many social wasps are **generalist predators too**, which means they control populations of a wide range of species, That makes them extremely useful, for minimising the need for toxic pesticides.

Mount Agung volcano erupts in Indonesia

Active volcano **Mount Agung erupted** on the Indonesian island of Bali.

- Mount Agung, also known as **Gunung Agung**, is an **active volcano** located on the island of Bali in Indonesia **island arc**.
- It is the **highest point** on the island of Bali.
- Mount Agung is a **stratovolcano built** by a long history of recurrent eruptions.

About Stratovolcano

- A stratovolcano is a tall, conical volcano composed of one layer of hardened lava, tephra, and volcanic ash.
- These volcanoes are characterized by a steep profile and periodic, explosive eruptions.
- The lava that flows from them is highly viscous, and cools and hardens before spreading very far.

- Volcanic activity is common to Indonesia, as the country is situated on the **Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire"** where tectonic plates collide and move often, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity.
- 75% of volcanoes, or more than 750, are located along the **Ring of Fire** and 90% of Earth's earthquakes occur along the plates.
- The volcanoes of Java, Bali, and many other Indonesian islands have been formed by interactions between the **Australia and Sunda tectonic plates**.
- At the Sunda-Java Trench, the **Australia Plate subducts beneath the Sunda Plate** and begins its descent into the mantle.
- **The Australia Plate begins to melt** when it reaches a depth of about 100 miles, and hot and molten materials then begin rising towards the surface and erupt to form the **volcanoes of the Indonesian volcanic arc**.