

# Current Affairs

## UPSC Prelims 2024

**LECTURE-17**

**By Kinshuk Sir**



Chabahar port

2008

2003

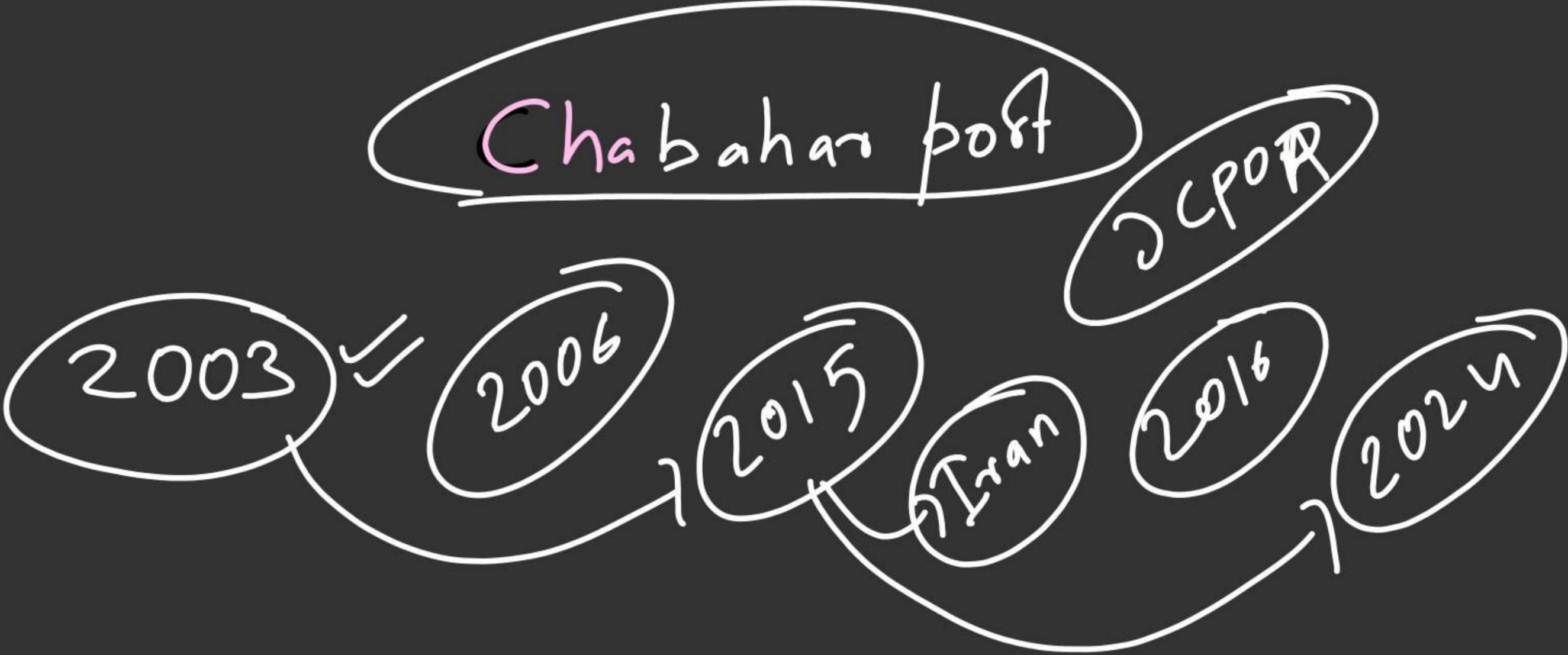
2006

2015

Iran

2016

2024



- ① Connectivity with Central Asia and Europe
- ② India - Iran relations <sup>(INSTC)</sup> <sub>↳ Russia</sub>
- ③ Energy Security
- ④ Control over Strait of Hormuz
- ⑤ Controlling / Monitoring the developments at Gwadar port

## Challenge

- frequent changes in policies of US
- Slow implementation on India's side.
- Changing geo-politics of West Asia/  
Middle East



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**CURRENT AFFAIRS  
DISCUSSION**

## ❖ **Bail Provisions in India-GSII**

- **Why in news:**The Supreme Court on May 10 granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the liquor policy case till June 1, 2024 to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.
- **What is the case:** Excise policy case: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) took Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal into custody on in relation to the ongoing Delhi liquor policy case.

# Bail provisions

## Types of bail

⇒ ① Regular bail

② Interim bail

③ Anticipatory bail

→ Police has arrested

→ Special circumstances

→ bail in advance

→ not arrested yet

bailable  
offence

→ Crimes of petty  
nature

Non bailable

→ Crimes of grave

nature  
→ Wisdom of Court  
→ Session Court

## ❖ **Bail Provisions in India-GSII**

- **What Is Bail:**
- **Bail refers to the provisional release of the accused in a criminal case in which the court is yet to announce the judgment.**
- **Types of Bail In India: Depending upon the stage of the criminal matter, there are commonly three types of bail in India:**
- **Regular bail- A regular bail is generally granted to a person who has been arrested or is in police custody.**
- **A bail application can be filed for the regular bail under section 437 and 439 of CrPC.**

## ❖ **Bail Provisions in India-GSII**

- **Interim bail-** This type of bail is granted for a short period of time and it is granted before the hearing for the grant of regular bail or anticipatory bail.
- **Anticipatory bail-** Anticipatory bail is granted under section 438 of CrPC either by session court or High Court.
- **An application for the grant of anticipatory bail can be filed by the person who discerns that he may be arrested by the police for a non- bailable offence.**

## ❖ **Bail Provisions in India-GSII**

- **Conditions For Grant of Bail In Bailable Offences: Section 436 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, lays down that a person accused of bailable offence under IPC can be granted bail.**
- **Conditions for bail in bailable offence are:**
- **There are sufficient reasons to believe that the accused has not committed the offence.**
- **There is sufficient reason to conduct further enquiry in the matter.**
- **The person is not accused of any offence punishable with death, life imprisonment or imprisonment up to 10 years.**

## ❖ **Bail Provisions in India-GSII**

- **Conditions For Grant of Bail In Non-Bailable Offences:**
- **Section 437 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973** lays down that the accused does not have the right to apply for bail in non-bailable offences.
- **It is discretion of the court to grant bail in case of non-bailable offences.**

### ❖ The magpies of Himalaya – GS III

- **Why in news:** The captivating Himalayan magpies have attracted more focus as researchers explore their habitats and behaviors, embellishing the mountainous landscapes from Kashmir to Myanmar with their vibrant presence.
- **About:**
- Magpies, belonging to the Corvidae family, are known for their noisy, inquisitive nature, alongside crows, jays, and ravens, often appearing in folklore.
- IUCN status: "least concern"



→ Kashmir to Myanmar ✓  
→ Rhododendron

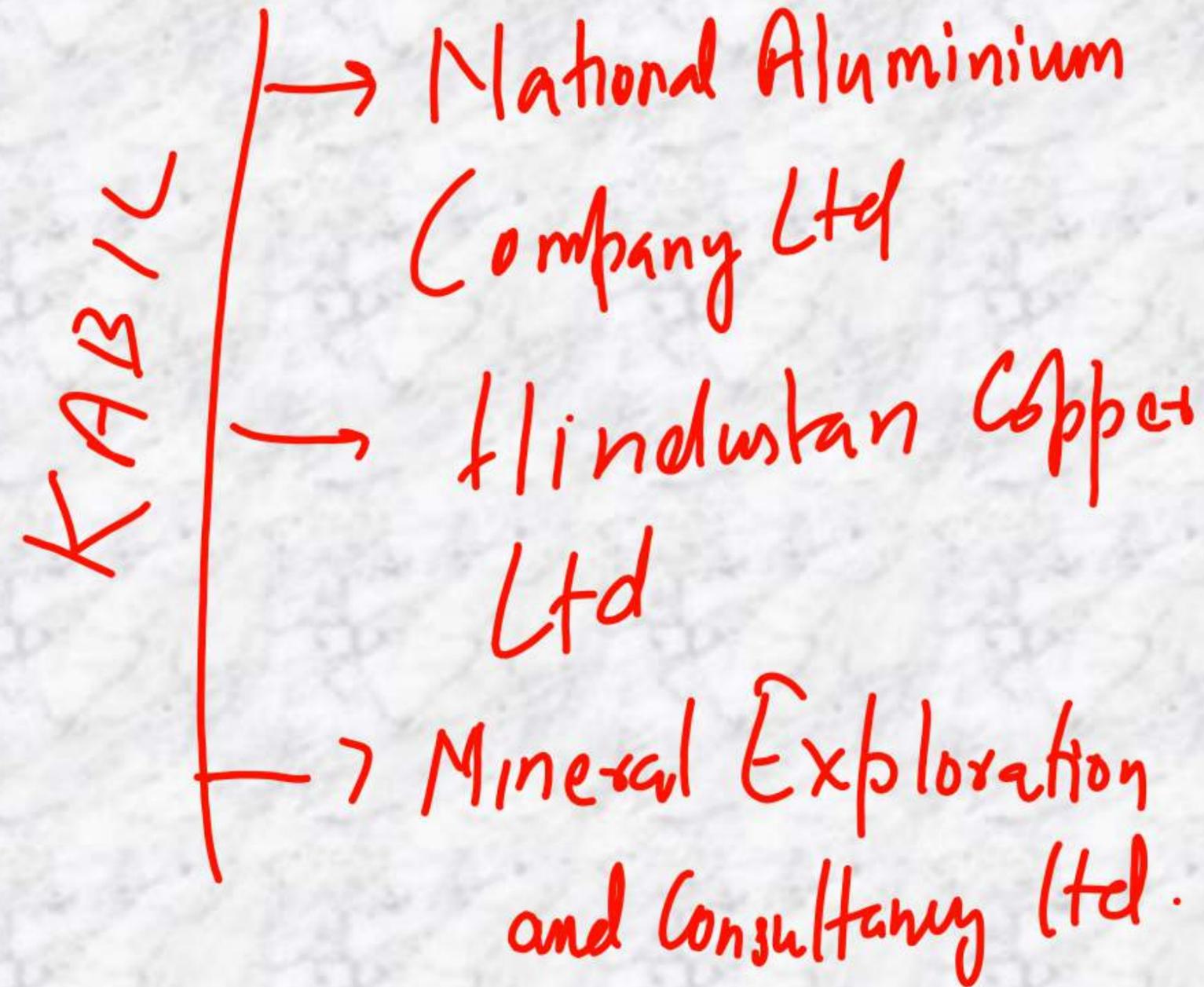
### ❖ The magpies of Himalaya – GS III

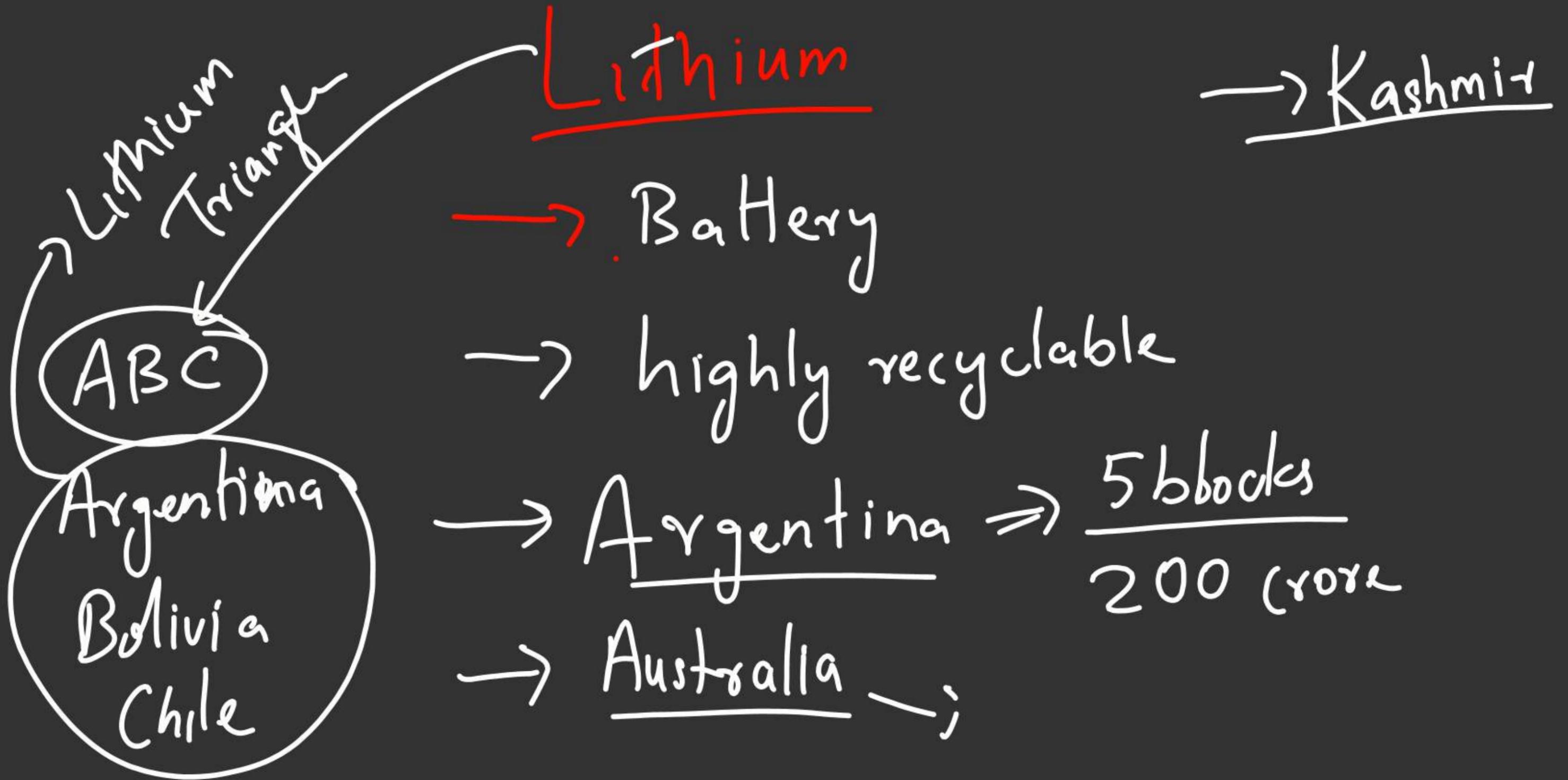
- **Types:** In the Himalayas, various magpie species like:
  - Blue, gold-billed
  - Gold-billed magpies
  - Red-billed magpies are commonly found at lower elevations, often near human settlements.
- **Habitat:** Trekking corridors in Western Sikkim offer excellent opportunities for observing magpies.
- **Characteristics:** Magpies construct nests in rhododendron trees using twigs and grass, exhibiting diverse social behaviors ranging from solitary to flocking.
- **Threat:** Human encroachment in forested areas



## ❖ Lithium Quest- GSIII

- Why in news: Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) hopes to acquire a lithium block in Australia this year.
- About KABIL:
- KABIL is owned by three public sector undertakings – National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco), Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd (MECL).





Khanij Bidesh India Limited

KABIL

RSU

## ❖ **Lithium Quest- GSIII**

- **Importance of Lithium:**
- **Lithium is the most important mineral for the energy transition.**
- **A fundamental component of lithium-ion batteries, which power electric vehicles and battery energy storage systems.**
- **About deal: It aims to identify, acquire, develop, process, and commercialise strategic minerals from overseas locations for supply in India, with a focus on battery minerals like Lithium and Cobalt.**
- **The government had earlier said that India would pump in about Rs 200 crore to explore and develop five lithium mines in Argentina.**

### ❖ Lithium Quest- GSIII

- **Lithium Triangle:** Argentina is part of the 'lithium triangle' along with Chile and Bolivia with more than half of the world's total lithium resources



### ❖ Oleander flower - GSIII

- **Why in news:** The temples in Kerala have banned offerings of 'Arali' flowers (oleander) in sacred rituals after a decision by two major temple administration boards following the death of a woman in Alappuzha district
- **About oleander:** In Kerala, oleander is known as 'Arali' and 'kanaveeram', and grows in different colours and varieties
- **Why oleander is banned:** The decision was made after incidents were reported in Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta.



### ❖ Oleander flower - GSIII

- **Toxic nature:** According to some studies, oleander, a tough and pretty shrub, grows well in tropical and subtropical areas. The studies suggest that inside their leaves and flowers, **oleanders have cardenolides, which can affect the functioning** of the hearts of animals.
- **Substitute for oleander:** Flowers like tulsi, thechi (Ixora), jasmine, jamanti (hibiscus), and rose will be used instead of oleander in temples.

Cardenolides



### ❖ India's stakes in Chabahar-GSIII

- **Why in news:** India and Iran have signed a 10-year contract to develop and operate the Iranian port of Chabahar, which New Delhi envisages as a strategic trade route to landlocked Central Asian republics, allowing it to bypass rival Pakistan.
- **Importance of Chabahar port:** "Chabahar Port's significance transcends its role as a mere conduit between India and Iran. It serves as a vital trade artery connecting India with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries,"



**❖ India's stakes in Chabahar-GSIII**

- **Historical background:**
- **Though India announced its plan to invest in the strategic Chabahar Port in 2003, a formal agreement was signed between New Delhi and Tehran only in 2015.**
- **India began helping to develop Chabahar port by building new cargo berths and terminals in 2016 after Washington eased sanctions on Iran – they were reimposed by the Trump administration in 2018.**

## ❖ **India's stakes in Chabahar-GSIII**

- **Strategic importance of Chabahar for India:**
- **Chabahar is India's first major overseas port venture.**
- **It is an important part of its strategy to improve links with resource-rich Central Asian republics and Afghanistan, access to which has been hampered due to the decades long hostile relations between India and Pakistan.**
- **Location:**
- **The port of Chabahar is located on the Makran coast of Sistan and Baluchistan Province, next to the Gulf of Oman and at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.**
- **It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian Ocean.**

## ❖ India's stakes in Chabahar-GSIII



❖ **Humboldt glacier**

- Venezuela is thought to be the first nation in modern times to have completely lost all of its glaciers
- Its remaining glacier — the Humboldt, or La Corona, in the Andes — had become "too small to be classed as a glacier".
- Hence, the glacier has been reclassified as an ice field.
- Latest studies have found that the Humboldt glacier has shrunk to an area of less than 2 hectares. Hence, its classification was downgraded from glacier to ice field as the US Geological Survey says a commonly accepted guideline for a glacier is around 10 hectares



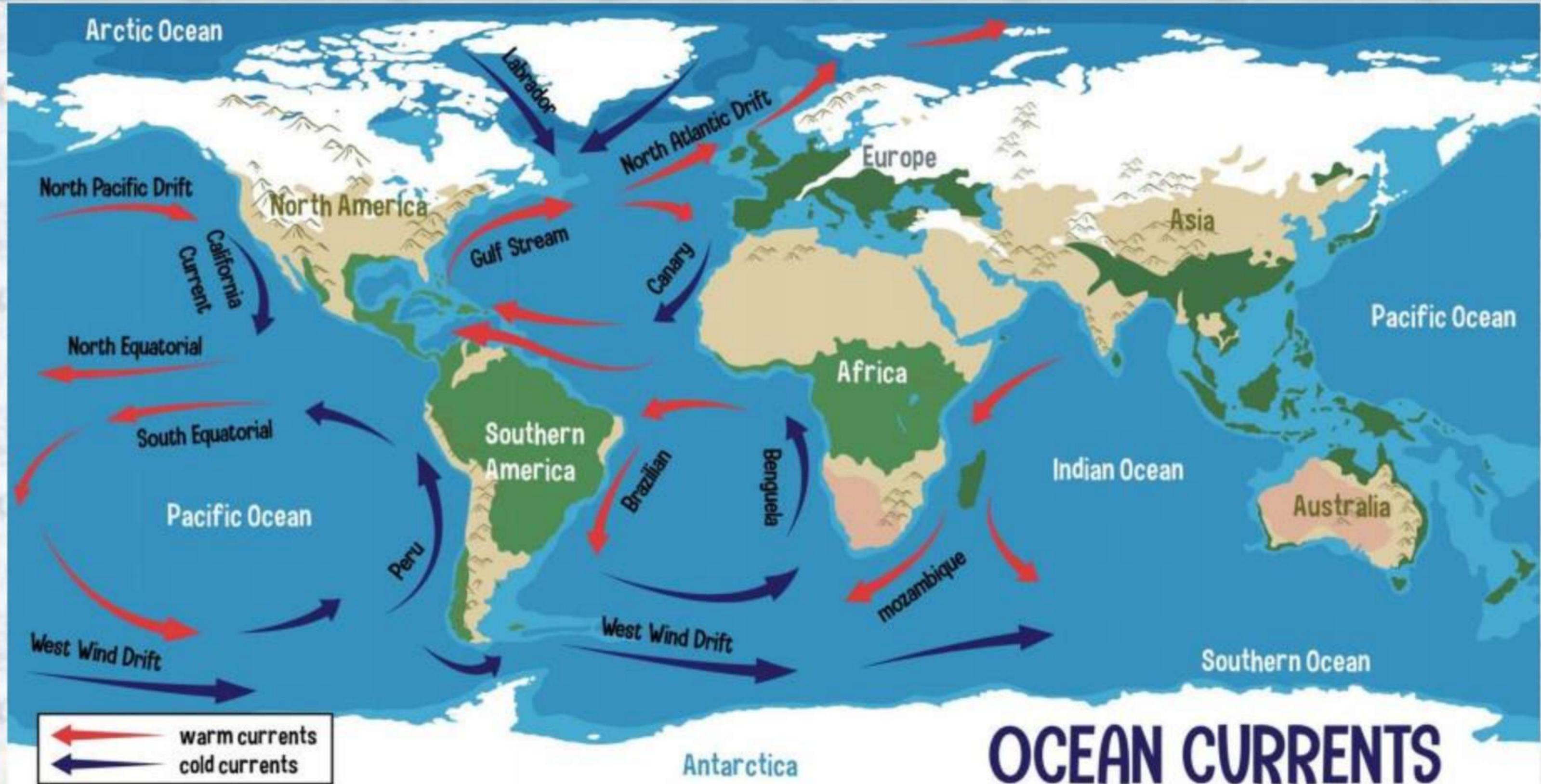




Gran chaco



South America Physical features © Lizard Point Consulting lizardpoint.com



# OCEAN CURRENTS

## ❖ Anendophasia

- This is a relatively rare condition, estimated to affect about 1 in 10 people, and is characterised by the experience of not having an 'inner voice.'
- Nothing to do with a conscience, an inner voice is the sound you imagine inside your head when you are consciously thinking.
- Like, for instance, framing a sentence in your mind before typing it out.



## ❖ Sinking Cities

- Some cities are sinking due to increasing sea levels slowly encroaching on their coasts, while others are sinking because of excessive groundwater pumping that creates a change in pressure and volume that causes land to sink.
- Nearly half of China's major cities are sinking because of water extraction and the increasing weight of their rapid expansion
- Some famous cities: Jakarta, Dhaka, Houston, Venice, Bangkok, Miami
- Other factors that are influencing subsidence include urban transportation systems and mining for minerals and coal.



→ Over-exploitation of underground water.



## Where is China facing the most subsidence?



Source: Science Journal

# WORLD'S SINKING CITIES

Excessive fluid withdrawal is causing a great number of cities across the world to sink.



\*These are a few of the reported cases of sinking cities and not a comprehensive list.



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