Place in News - Red Sea

Context: Disruptions to undersea internet cables in the Red Sea have caused connectivity issues across Asia and the Middle East, impacting significant subsea systems such as SMW4 and IMEWE, which resulted in slow internet speeds in India and surrounding areas.

About Red Sea:

- A narrow inland sea that is part of the rift valley system situated between northeastern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.
- Recognized for its strategic significance as a global trade and shipping route, it connects to the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal and to the Arabian Sea via the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
- **Adjacent Nations**: Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.
- It stretches approximately 1,930 km south-eastward from Suez (Egypt) to Bab el-Mandeb (Yemen).
- Jordan and Israel have coastlines along the Gulf of Aqaba.

Features:

- **Geology:** Situated in a rift depression, it remains geologically active with ongoing volcanic and seismic activity.
- **Distinct water conditions:** It is one of the hottest and saltiest seas, supporting diverse coral reef ecosystems.
- **Economic significance:** It is one of the busiest maritime corridors in the world, linking Europe, Asia, and Africa.

About Undersea (Submarine) Cables:

- Fiber-optic cables that are laid on the seabed, responsible for transmitting approximately 95% of international data traffic across continents.

Features:

- **Composition:** Composed of bundles of glass fibers encased in protective layers, with each fiber transmitting data through pulses of light.
- **Capacity:** Provides high-speed, low-latency connectivity that facilitates global internet access, cloud services, and international communication.
- **Vulnerability:** These cables are prone to damage from natural disasters, anchor drags, earthquakes, or acts of sabotage.