Indonesia's 'Ring of Fire'

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Geography*

Why in News?

Recent eruptions of Mount Anak Krakatau in Indonesia have caused significant disruptions to air travel.

Anak Krakatau

- **Anak Krakatau** means **"Child of Krakatoa."**
- Anak Krakatau emerged in the **Sunda Strait, located between the islands of Java and Sumatra**.
- The volcano is part of the same volcanic system as the historic **Krakatoa (Krakatau)** volcano.
- Ongoing volcanic activity at Anak Krakatau demonstrates the persistent volcanism of the **Sunda Arc**.

- Indonesia contains over **100 active volcanoes**, representing the highest concentration of active volcanoes in any country worldwide.
- Situated along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, Indonesia is highly susceptible to frequent **volcanic eruptions and seismic activity**.

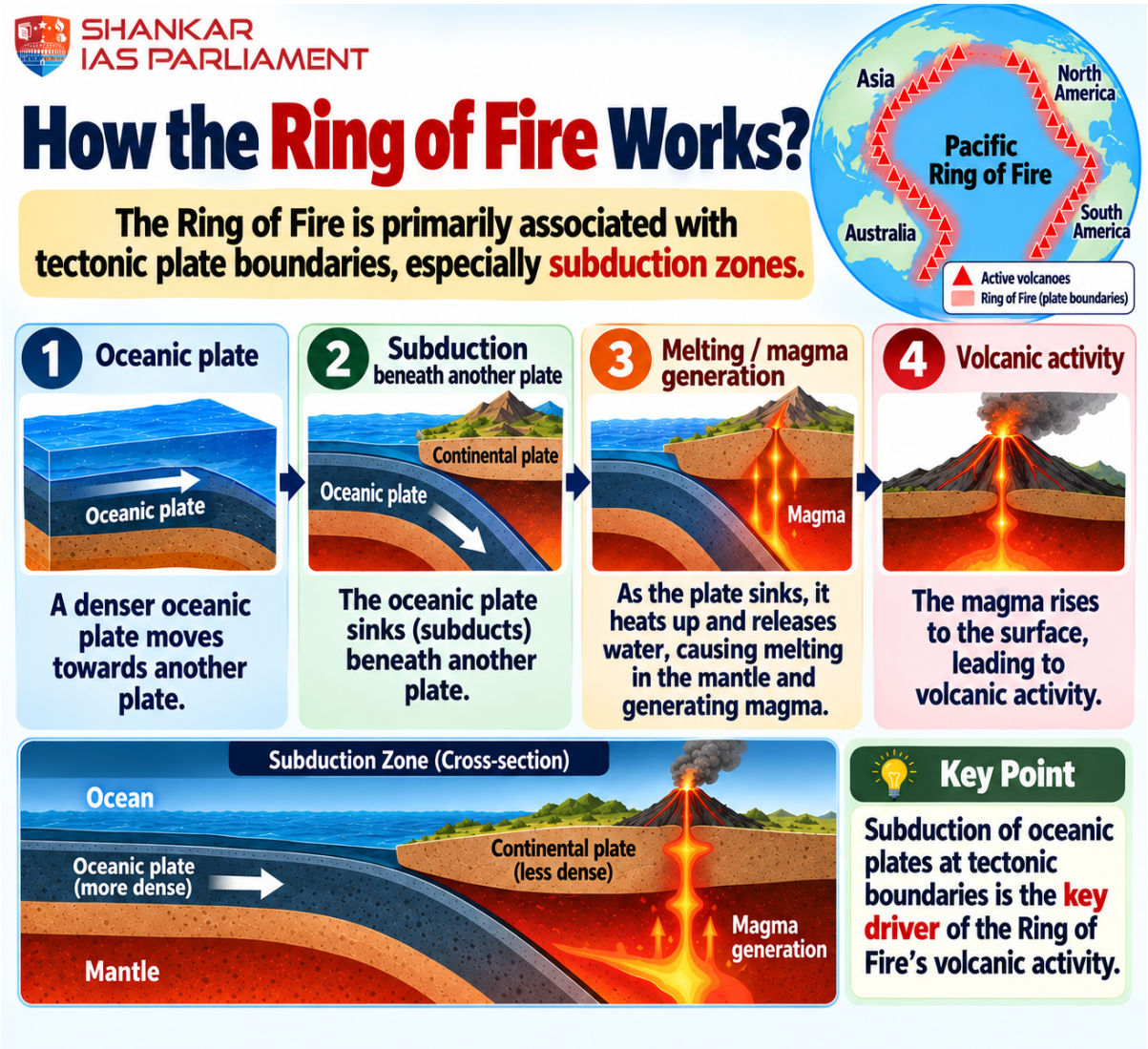
"*According to the Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program,* ***Indonesia, United States, and Japan*** *rank among the countries with the largest numbers of active volcanoes.*"

Pacific Ring of Fire

- The **Ring of Fire** is a horseshoe-shaped region that encircles a significant portion of the **Pacific Ocean**.
- This region is characterized by the following features:
  - Frequent seismic activity
  - A high concentration of **active volcanoes**
  - Intense tectonic processes
- It primarily associated with tectonic plate boundaries, especially subduction zones.
- Indonesia is located at the intersection of several major tectonic plates, specifically the

Indo-Australian, Eurasian (Sunda), and Pacific plates.

- This tectonic setting creates active **subduction zones**, leading to geological hazards such as **earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and a higher risk of tsunamis.**



Reference

[Economic Times | Indonesia's 'Ring of Fire']

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