

Kinshasa Floods & Democratic Republic of Congo

Prelims - Current events of International Importance | World Geography

Mains (GS I) - Geography of the World | Important Geophysical phenomena

Why in News?

The flooding disaster in Kinshasa was a symptom of recent land use change, which has occurred rapidly in the city, turning it into a sprawling urban settlement without the necessary drainage infrastructure.

- **Kinshasa** - It is the capital of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- The city is the most densely populated city in the DRC, the most populous city and 3rd-largest metropolitan area in Africa.
- The **Ndjili River** and its tributary (Lukaya) flows through the city.
- At least 2% of the population live in areas prone to flooding. Urban infrastructure, especially flood-related, is non-existent or inadequate.
- Local rains combined with runoff from torrential rains coming from neighboring Congo Central Province overwhelmed the city's small urban tributaries.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- It is a country located in **Central Africa**.
- **Nomenclature** - Refers to the **Congo River**, which drains a large basin that lies mostly in the republic.
- It has a coastline on the **Atlantic Ocean** but is otherwise landlocked.
- By land area, it is the 2nd-largest country in Africa and the 11th-largest in the world.
- **Bordered countries** - Congo is bounded to the
 - North by the Central African Republic and South Sudan
 - East by Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania
 - Southeast by Zambia; and to the southwest by Angola
 - West are the country's short Atlantic coastline, the Angolan exclave of Cabinda, and Congo (Brazzaville).
- **Geographical features** - The lowest point occurs at Lake Mai-Ndombe and the highest point is reached in the hills of **Mobayi-Mbongo and Zongo** in the north.
- The volcanic **Virunga Mountains** stretch across the Western Rift Valley north of **Lake Kivu**.
- The **Mitumba Mountains** stretch along the Western Rift Valley
- **Important Lakes** - Albert, Edward, Kivu, Tanganyika, and Mweru.
- **Natural Resources** - Boasts vast deposits of industrial diamonds, cobalt, and copper; one of the largest forest reserves in Africa; and significant hydroelectric potential.
- **Economy** - It is one of the poorest countries in the world.

- **Society** - DRC ranks **164** out of 174 countries on the 2020 Human Capital Index.
- DRC has one of the highest stunting rates (42% of children under age five), and malnutrition is the underlying cause of almost half of the deaths of children under the age of five. It has very high fertility rate.

Reference

[Down to Earth | Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

