

Plastic rust

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Why in news?

- Plastic rust, a form of plastic pollution never-before-seen on Earth's coastlines, was found on shoreline rocks in Madeira, Portugal.

What is plastic rust?

- Plastic Rust is a **layer of plastic encrusted onto ocean rocks.**
- In 2016, researchers first observed blue and grey plastic patches on Madeira.
- The single patch discovered three years ago now covers 10 percent of its shore.
- The artificial crust is **replacing natural crusts and films, making it difficult for barnacles and snails to adhere to their preferred habitat.**
- The snails may be unknowingly ingesting plastic as they feed on algae perched on the plastic rust.