

What are 'carbon bombs'?

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In news— A group of environmentalists, lawyers, and activists have come together to identify and 'defuse carbon bombs'— coal, oil and gas projects that have the potential to contribute significantly to global warming.

What are 'carbon bombs'?

- It is an oil or gas project that will result in at least a billion tonnes of CO₂ emissions over its lifetime.
- Whenever coal, oil, or gas is extracted it results in pollution and environmental degradation.
- Further, **carbon emissions take place in particularly large amounts when fuel is burned.**
- The usage of the term 'carbon bombs' picked up after an investigative project of The Guardian from May 2022.
- The project reported the plans of countries and private companies all over the world to engage in 195 'carbon bomb' projects, **identified world over, including in the US, Russia, West Asia, Australia and India.**
- According to the report, they will collectively overshoot the limit of emissions that had been agreed to in the Paris Agreement of 2015.
- Apart from coal, oil, and gas operations, the report highlighted the threat of methane, which "routinely leaks from gas operations and is a powerful greenhouse gas, trapping 86 times more heat than CO₂ over 20 years".
- The report criticised reliance on fuel from conventional sources and not making use of emerging green sources of energy.

Plan for 'defusing' carbon bombs-

- The network working towards this goal is called **Leave It**

In the Ground Initiative (LINGO).

- **Its mission is to “leave fossil fuels in the ground and learn to live without them.”**
- It believes the root of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, and the 100% use of renewable energy sources is the solution.
- **LINGO has listed carbon bomb projects from all over the world.**
- This includes the Carmichael Coal Project owned by the Adani Group, Gevra Coal Mines in Chhattisgarh owned by Coal India, and Rajmahal Coal Mines in eastern Jharkhand owned by Eastern Coalfields.
- **LINGO aims to organise ground support for protesting such projects**, challenge them through litigation, and conduct analysis and studies for the same