

What are tetrapods?

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In news— Recently, removal of tetrapods along the Mumbai coast led to unusual vibrations during high tide.

What are tetrapods?

- **Tetra pod in Greek means four-legged.** These are **four-legged concrete structures that are placed along coastlines** to prevent erosion and water damage.
- **Tetrapods were first used in France in the late 1940s** to protect the shore from the sea.
- They are **typically placed together to form an interlocking** but porous barrier that dissipates the power of waves and currents.
- These are **large structures, sometimes weighing up to 10 tonnes, and interlocked tetra pods act as a barrier** that remains stable against the rocks when buffeted by waves.
- Tetrapods, each weighing about 2 tonnes, were placed along Marine Drive in the late 1990s to break and dissipate waves and maintain the reclaimed shoreline in South Mumbai.
- They were temporarily removed to help carry out reclamation for the ongoing Coastal Road Project – 10.58 km of coastal road from Princess Street in Marine Drive to the Worli end of the Bandra-Worli Sea Link.