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MAP OF THE DAY INDIA 20/02/26

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Kamaraj IAS Academy

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MAP OF THE DAY BHARAT

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Indus River Delta

- The **Indus River Delta** forms where the **Indus River** flows into the **Arabian Sea**, mostly in **Sindh, Pakistan**, with a small portion in the **Kutch region of India**.
- The total **delta area** is approximately **41,440 km² (16,000 sq mi)**, and the **width at the mouth** is about **210 km (130 mi)**.
- The **active delta area** is around **6,000 km² (2,300 sq mi)**.
- The delta contains the **largest arid mangrove forests** in the **world**.
- The delta is a **Ramsar site (2002)** and a **designated wetland**, containing **17 major creeks** and numerous **minor creeks**.
- **Major estuaries** of the delta are home to the **Indian Ocean humpback dolphin**.
- **Population** of the active delta was estimated at **900,000 in 2003**.
- Since **1883**, the delta has **shrunk by 92%**, from **12,900 km²** to **nearly 1,000 km²** in **2018**, due to **erosion** and **sea intrusion**.
- Since the **1940s**, **large-scale irrigation projects** on the Indus have reduced **water flow** to the delta.
- The **2010 Pakistan floods** temporarily replenished **freshwater** in the delta ecosystem.
- The **Macedonian fleet** of **Alexander the Great** anchored in the delta and was damaged by a **tsunami in 325 BC**.
- In **December 2010**, all **mangrove forests** in the delta were declared **Protected Forests** under the **Forest Act, 1927**.
- A **Mangrove Conservation Committee** was established to ensure **sustainable conservation**.
- The **total delta area** is estimated between **29,524 km²** and **41,440 km²**, with the **active delta** around **4,762–6,000 km²**.
- By **1994**, water flow into the delta dropped to **43×10⁹ m³**, with annual silt discharge of **100 million tonnes**.
- Water allocation to **Punjab** has further reduced delta flow since **1904**.

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