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Crude Spillage in Burhi Dihing River

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Why in News

A stretch of **Dihing or Burhi Dihing** in **Eastern Assam's Dibrugarh district** witnessed fire following the spillage of crude oil which was being **transported to Digboi refinery**.

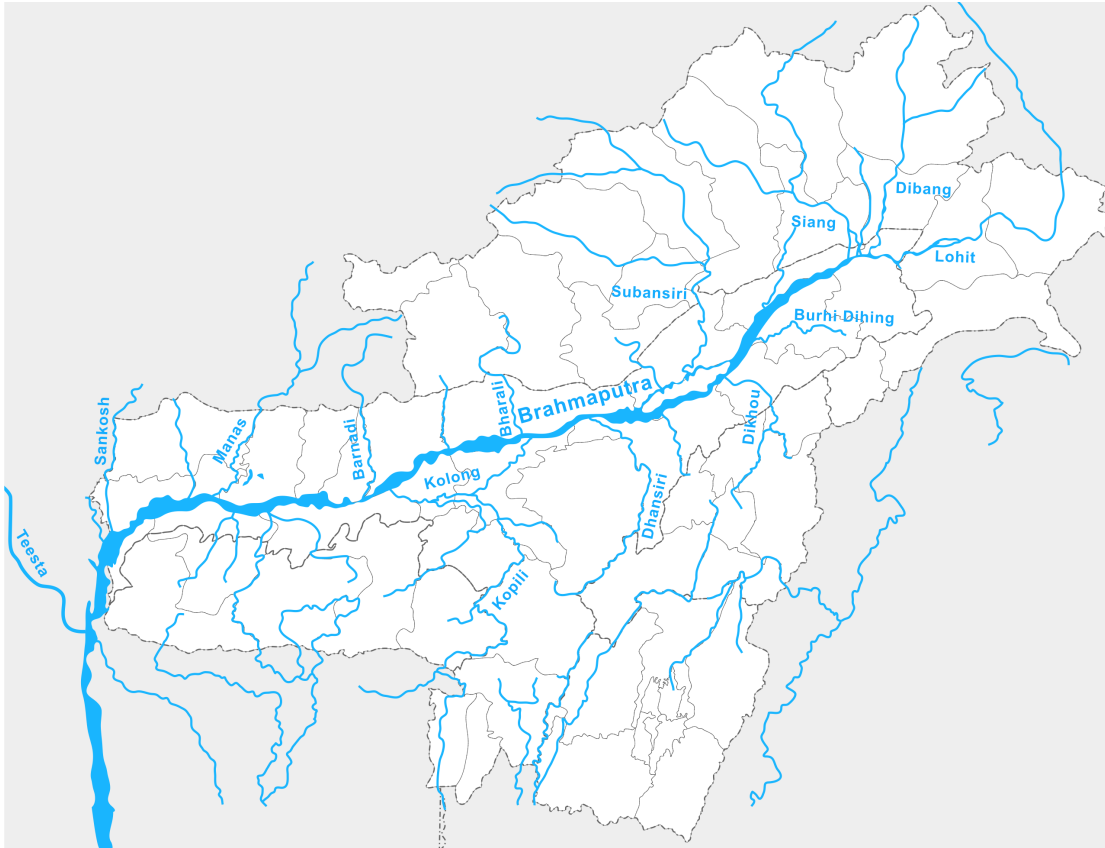
Assam is an ecologically sensitive state, spillage of crude or processed oil in river bodies threatens aquatic life.

Oil Spill

An oil spill is the release of a liquid petroleum hydrocarbon into the environment, especially the marine ecosystem, due to human activity, and is a form of pollution.

Dihing River

- Dihing or Burhi Dihing is a large **tributary** of the **Brahmaputra** River in Upper Assam.
- The river originates in the **Eastern Himalayas (the Patkai Hills)** in **Arunachal Pradesh** and flows through Tinsukia and Dibrugarh Districts in Assam to its confluence with the Brahmaputra at Dihingmukh.
- It creates a number of oxbow lakes in the area.
- **Other Tributaries of the Brahmaputra River:** Dibang River, Lohit River, Dhansiri River, Kolong River, Kameng River, Manas River, Beki River, Raidak River, Jaldhaka River, Teesta River, Subansiri River.



Digboi Oil Refinery

- It is **India's oldest operating** refinery and one of the oldest operating refineries in the world.
- It is situated in Tinsukia district of Assam.
- The historic Digboi Refinery has been termed as the "**Gangotri of the Indian Hydrocarbon sector.**"

Oxbow Lake

- An oxbow lake is a lake that starts out as a **curve, or meander**, in a river. The U-shaped lake forms along the side of the river as the river finds a different, shorter, course.
- Water does **not** flow into or out of oxbow lakes hence they often become **swamps or bogs**, and dry up as their water evaporates.
- A **meander** is a curve in a river. Meanders form a snake-like pattern as the river flows across a fairly flat valley floor.
- **Meanders** are typical of the **middle** and **lower course** of a river. This is because vertical erosion is replaced by a sideways form of erosion called **lateral erosion**, plus **deposition** within the floodplain.



Source: TH