



Completion of Largest Arctic Expedition

Why in News

Year-long [MOSAiC Expedition](#) began from Norway and concluded at the port of Bremerhaven, Germany.

- It was a \$150 million project organized by the **Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany**.

Key Points

- The **Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC)** is an international research expedition to study the physical, chemical, and biological processes that coupled the Arctic atmosphere, sea ice, ocean, and ecosystem.
- MOSAiC is the **first year-round expedition** into the **central Arctic exploring the Arctic climate system**.
- During the **year-round operation of research**, the distributed regional network of observational sites were set up on the sea ice surrounding the ship **icebreaker RV Polarstern**.
 - The icebreaker **RV Polarstern** is a German Research Vessel which is mainly used for research in the Arctic and Antarctica.
- The results of MOSAiC will contribute to enhance understanding of the regional and global consequences of Arctic climate change and sea-ice loss and improve weather and climate predictions.
- **Significance:**
 - The region's sea ice has been steadily shrinking in recent decades, and summer ice coverage this year was the second lowest since satellite measurements began in 1979.
 - Warming has also caused [sharp declines](#) in older and thicker ice.
 - The information is collected about the ocean, ice, clouds, storms and ecosystems of the Arctic would prove invaluable in helping scientists understand the region, which is [warming faster](#) than any other part of the planet.

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