**ENVIRONMENT**

**GEOTHERMAL ENERGY**

**WHY IN NEWS**?

India’s 1st geothermal energy project to be undertaken in Puga valley by ONGC.

**BACKGROUND**

**Geothermal energy refers to energy obtained from the heat trapped within the earth’s surface.**

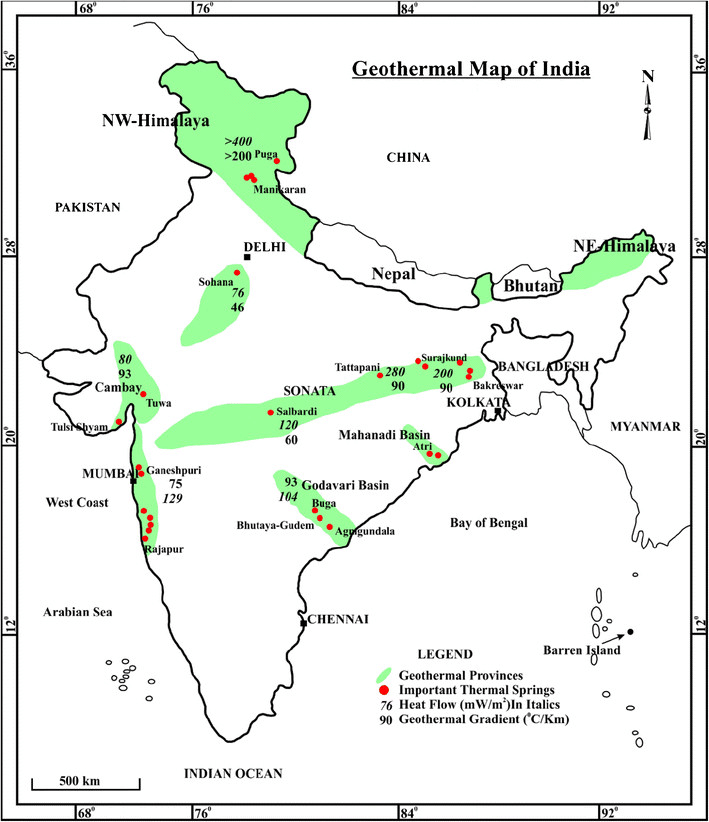
**It is available in the form of hotsprings spread and steam trapped in rocks which can be used to run a turbine and generate electricity.**

**INDIA AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY**

**According to the GSI India has an estimated geothermal energy potential of 10GW.**

**It has identified 7 major provinces in the country from where the geothermal energy can be tapped.**

* Himalayan (Puga, Chhumathang),
* Sahara valley(Delhi ridge)
* Cambay basin,
* Son-Narmada-Tapi (SONATA) lineament belt,
* West Coast,
* Godavari basin and
* Mahanadi basin



**ADVANTAGES**

* Available year round
* Clean source of energy
* Minerals obtained from these springs like silica etc can be used for other production and commercial uses
* Ensures energy availability in hilly regions

**DISADVANTAGES**

* May lead to instability in fragile tectonic zones
* Limited range: Only available in certain areas
* May lead to harmful leaching of chemicals.