

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

22-09-2026

State of Global Water Resources 2025 Report

World Meteorological Organization WMO

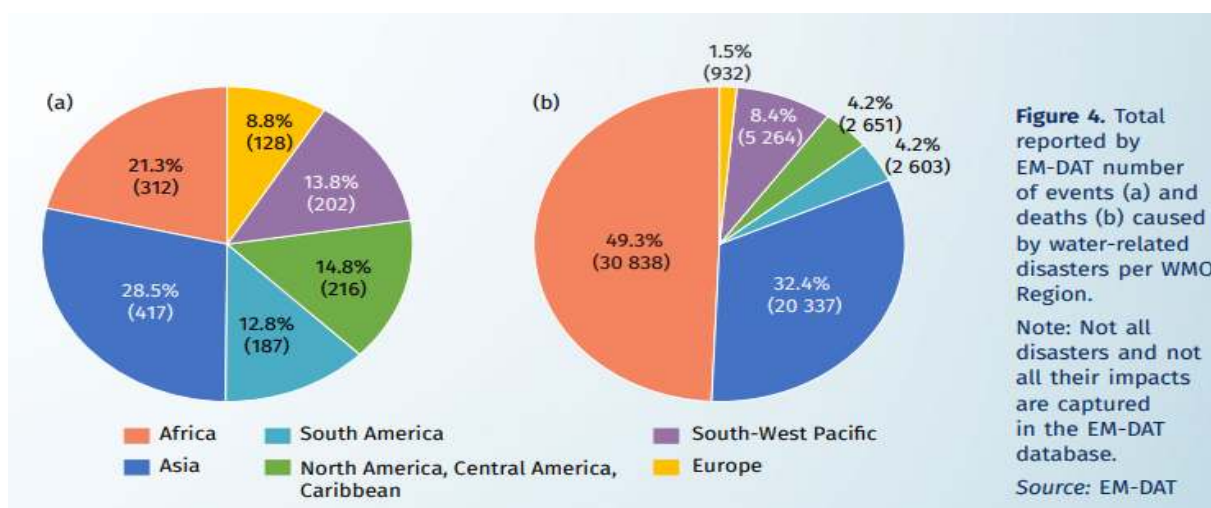
State of Global Water Resources 2025

Rivers across the globe in 2025 had one of the driest years in more than three decades.

The WMO State of Global Water Resources Report shows...



Why in News: The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** released the **State of Global Water Resources 2025 Report**, highlighting persistent groundwater deficits, declining terrestrial water storage and widespread abnormal river flows.



Global Water Trends

- **42% of global land area** recorded below-normal water storage in 2025.
- **2025 was among the driest years for global rivers in 35 years**, with normal flows across only **36% of global river-basin area**.
- Global terrestrial water storage has shown a declining trend since **2014–2016**.

Glacier and Groundwater Stress

- Global glaciers lost about **408 gigatonnes of ice** during the 2025 hydrological year, contributing roughly **1.1 mm to global sea-level rise**.
- Every major glaciated region recorded ice loss for the **fourth consecutive year**.
- **34% of groundwater observation stations** recorded below-normal to much-below-normal levels in 2025, compared with **25% in 2024**.
- Persistent groundwater deficits during **2022–2025** were observed in parts of the Americas, Europe, Middle East, India, southern Africa and Australia.

India-Specific Findings

- India recorded **below-normal terrestrial water storage**, particularly in northern India.
- **Ganges, Godavari, Krishna and Indus** recorded above-normal to much-above-normal discharge in 2025.
- Despite higher river flows, India continued to experience **persistent groundwater deficits during 2022–2025**, especially in northwestern India.
- India also recorded above- to much-above-normal reservoir inflows and soil moisture during the assessed periods.

Visegrád Group



"Historic Occasion": S Jaishankar Meets Visegrad Group Ministers In New York

The first meeting of the foreign ministers of the Visegrad Group and India was held on Monday on the margins of the 81st session of the UN...



Why in News: The four members of the **Visegrád Group (V4)** supported **India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council** at their first foreign ministers' meeting with India.

Composition and Origin

- The **Visegrád Group**, also called **Visegrád Four (V4)**, comprises **Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia**.
- It was established in **1991** to promote cooperation among the participating Central European states.
- The group takes its name from **Visegrád, Hungary**, where the leaders initially met.



Institutional Features

- The V4 is an **informal intergovernmental forum** whose decisions are taken by **consensus**.
- It has **no permanent institutional structure**, and its presidency rotates annually.
- Meetings are held at levels ranging from heads of government to ministers and technical officials.

Areas of Cooperation

- Cooperation covers **military, economic, cultural and energy affairs**.
- The group also engages non-member countries through **"V4+" formats**.
- **Slovakia** became a separate member after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in **1993**.

Outer Space Treaty

Hindustan Times

No country owns the Moon — not even the US, despite Trump's claim. Whether it can be mined is another matter | Hindustan Times



US President Donald Trump posted 'The Moon Is Ours' on Truth Social, but the 1967 Outer Space Treaty rules out any country owning lunar...

Why in News: Recent remarks regarding ownership of the Moon have renewed attention to the **1967 Outer Space Treaty**, which prohibits national appropriation of outer space and celestial bodies.

Legal Framework

- The treaty is formally called the **Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies**.
- It was adopted in **1967** with the **United States, United Kingdom and Soviet Union** as initial signatories.
- **India and China** are among the major spacefaring countries that are parties to the treaty.

Core Principles

- Outer space shall be free for **exploration and use by all States** and for the benefit of all countries.
- Outer space, the Moon and other celestial bodies are **not subject to national appropriation** through sovereignty, occupation or use.
- States cannot place **nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction** in orbit or on celestial bodies.
- The Moon and other celestial bodies must be used for **peaceful purposes**.

State Responsibility

- States remain responsible for **national space activities**, including those conducted by non-governmental entities.
- States are **liable for damage caused by their space objects**.
- States must avoid **harmful contamination** of outer space and celestial bodies.
- Space stations, installations and equipment on celestial bodies must be open to representatives of other States Parties on a **reciprocal basis**.

Scrub Typhus

TH The Hindu

Coimbatore Corporation reviews dengue, scrub typhus prevention in hostels

Coimbatore Corporation held a meeting with hostel managements and representatives on Tuesday to review dengue and scrub typhus prevention...



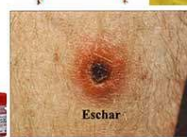
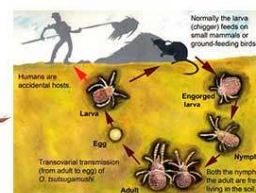
Why in News: A recent death in Tamil Nadu due to **scrub typhus** has highlighted the risks associated with this bacterial infection.

Causative Agent and Transmission

- Scrub typhus is caused by the bacterium ***Orientia tsutsugamushi***.
- It is transmitted through the bite of infected **larval mites or chiggers**.
- It is **not generally a contagious disease** transmitted directly between people.

Scrub Typhus

Etiology, Epidemiology
Signs and Symptoms
Pathogenesis, Diagnosis
and Treatment



Clinical Features

- Symptoms usually appear within about **10 days** and include fever, chills, headache, body pain and muscle pain.
- A dark, scab-like lesion called an **eschar** may develop at the bite site.
- Severe untreated cases can cause **ARDS, shock, meningitis and kidney failure**.

Treatment and Comparison

- There is currently **no vaccine** for scrub typhus.
- Recommended antibiotics include **doxycycline and azithromycin**.
- **Epidemic typhus** is caused by *Rickettsia prowazekii* and transmitted by body lice.
- **Murine typhus** is caused by *Rickettsia typhi* and transmitted by fleas.

Parbati-II Hydroelectric Project

Why in News: Water leakage from the **Parbati-II Hydroelectric Project** in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district affected nearby houses and agricultural fields.

TT The Tribune

Himachal: Parbati-II faces scrutiny after water discharge

The Directorate of Energy has taken serious note of the sudden discharge of water from the Parbati Hydroelectric Project-II in Kullu...



Geographical Setting

- The project is a **run-of-the-river hydroelectric project** on the **Parbati River**, a major tributary of the Beas.
- It is located in **Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh**, near the Manikaran Valley.
- An **83.7-metre-high concrete gravity dam** near Pulga diverts water towards Sainj Valley.

Capacity and Benefits

- The project has an installed capacity of **800 MW**, comprising four **200-MW units**.
- Expected annual generation is approximately **3,074 million units (MU)**.
- **NHPC** is developing and owns **100%** of the project.
- Himachal Pradesh receives **12% free power**, with an additional **1%** allocated to the Local Area Development Fund.

Engineering Features

- Water is carried through a **31.56-km headrace tunnel (HRT)** to the powerhouse at Siund.
- The **31.56-km HRT** is **described as India's longest hydroelectric tunnel**.
- Water from five nalas further augments the flow through the headrace system.

Other Important News of the day

Places News

in

Sea of Japan



North Korea fires ballistic missiles into sea, Japan and South Korea confirm launch

North Korea fired an apparent ballistic missile into the East Sea on Sunday, with Japan and South Korea confirming the launch.



Why in News: North Korea recently fired two missiles into the **Sea of Japan**, bringing the strategically important marginal sea into focus.

Geographical Location

- The **Sea of Japan**, also called the **East Sea**, is a **marginal sea of the western Pacific Ocean**.
- It is bounded by **Russia and Sakhalin Island** in the north, North Korea in the west, South Korea in the southwest and the Japanese archipelago in the east and south.
- Major Japanese islands bordering it include **Hokkaidō, Honshū and Kyūshū**.

Marine Connections

- It connects with the **East China Sea** through the **Tsushima and Korea Straits**.
- It connects with the **Sea of Okhotsk** through the **La Perouse and Tatar Straits**.
- The **Kanmon Strait** connects it with the Inland Sea of Japan, while the **Tsugaru Strait** connects it with the Pacific Ocean.



Physical Features

- The **Dohoku Seamount**, an underwater volcano, is identified as its deepest point.
- Its relatively warm waters contribute to Japan's mild climate.
- Due to its near-enclosure, it experiences **very limited tidal influence** and has high dissolved oxygen supporting biological productivity.

Defence

Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026



INDIA- MONGOLIA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT COMMENCES AT PITHORAGARH

The 18th edition of the India - Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT, an annual platoon-level exercise conducted alternately in...



Why in News: The **18th edition of Exercise Nomadic Elephant** commenced at the Foreign Training Node in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.

Bilateral Framework

- **Exercise Nomadic Elephant** is an annual joint military exercise between **India and Mongolia**.
- The exercise is conducted **alternately in India and Mongolia**, with the previous edition held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.

Operational Objective

- The exercise aims to enhance joint capabilities for **counter-insurgency operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a UN mandate**.
- It strengthens **interoperability, tactical coordination and exchange of operational best practices** between the two armies.

	Training Components ➤ The 2026 edition includes Cordon and Search Operations, Room Intervention Drills and Special Heliborne Operations. ➤ Training also covers cyber security, drones and counter-drone systems. ➤ The drills are designed to improve joint operations in realistic operational scenarios.
Science and Technology	Dermatophytes TH The Hindu <u>Why scientists are rethinking the chemical 'arms race' against fungi</u> New research is showing that fungi are protected from antifungals by genetic mutations as well as by making more copies of protective genes,...  Why in News: Dermatophytes are a group of fungi responsible for dermatophytosis, commonly affecting human skin, hair and nails. Biological Characteristics ➤ Dermatophytes are fungi that obtain nutrients from keratin present in skin, hair and nails. ➤ They generally colonise keratinised tissues rather than living tissues. ➤ Major genera include Trichophyton, Microsporum and Epidermophyton. Transmission ➤ Anthropophilic species spread primarily from humans to humans. ➤ Geophilic species are transmitted from soil, while zoophilic species originate from animals. ➤ Transmission can also occur indirectly through fomites such as hairbrushes, hats and upholstery. Disease and Risk Factors ➤ Infections caused by dermatophytes are called dermatophytosis. ➤ Tropical climates, overcrowding, occlusive footwear, community showers and sports participation can increase infection prevalence. ➤ Common manifestations include skin lesions, nail infections and hair involvement. ➤ Invasive or disseminated infection is rare but can occur particularly in immunocompromised individuals.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Sowa-Rigpa Working Group

PIB

Sowa-Rigpa Working Group Holds First Meeting Under PCIM&H

The first meeting of the Sowa-Rigpa Working Group, constituted under the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)...



Why in News: The first meeting of the **Sowa-Rigpa Working Group** under the **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)** was held on **18 September 2026** in **Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh**, to develop Sowa-Rigpa Pharmacopoeias and Formularies.

Institutional Framework

- The meeting was chaired by **Dr. Kousthubha Upadhyaya**, Director, PCIM&H.
- **Four Sowa-Rigpa experts**, including **Dr. Padma Gurmet**, Director, National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, participated in the meeting.
- **PCIM&H** is a subordinate office under the **Ministry of Ayush**.

Standardisation and Quality Assurance

- The Working Group will prepare a **step-wise action plan** for developing Pharmacopoeias, Formularies and other statutory and non-statutory documents.
- The initiative aims to establish **quality standards, regulatory requirements and quality assurance** for Sowa-Rigpa medicines.

Regulatory Significance

- The work will be undertaken under the **PCIM&H framework** and in accordance with the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** and its rules.
- PCIM&H develops **Pharmacopoeias and Formularies** and functions as the **Central Drug Testing-cum-Appellate Laboratory** for Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.
- The initiative seeks to further **standardise Sowa-Rigpa** within India's regulatory framework for traditional medicines.