



June - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Hockey India (HI) and the Tamil Nadu Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for hosting the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025 in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Jasprit Bumrah became the first Asian player to claim 150 Test Cricket wickets in the SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia), surpassing Wasim Akram.
- ❖ 'Woman! Life! Freedom!' a book written by Chowra Makaremi, is originally published in French which documented the 2022 uprising in Iran.
- ❖ Delhi is set to launch its first artificial rain pilot project using cloud seeding technology, in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur and IMD.
- ❖ The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) is setting up its first overseas nano fertiliser plant in Brazil.
- ❖ India became the world's third-largest producer of electricity from the wind and solar energy in 2024, overtaking Germany.
- ❖ Prime Minister of India's visit to Croatia marked a historic moment and he is becoming the first Indian PM to visit the country since diplomatic ties were established in 1992.
- ❖ G Sampath Kumar was appointed as Nippon Koei India's first-ever Indian Managing Director.
- ❖ For the first time, a high-tech locomotive built in Bihar is being exported to the West African nation of New Guinea.
- ❖ Japan's second-biggest auto carmaker Honda has successfully tested an experimental reusable rocket.

TAMIL NADU

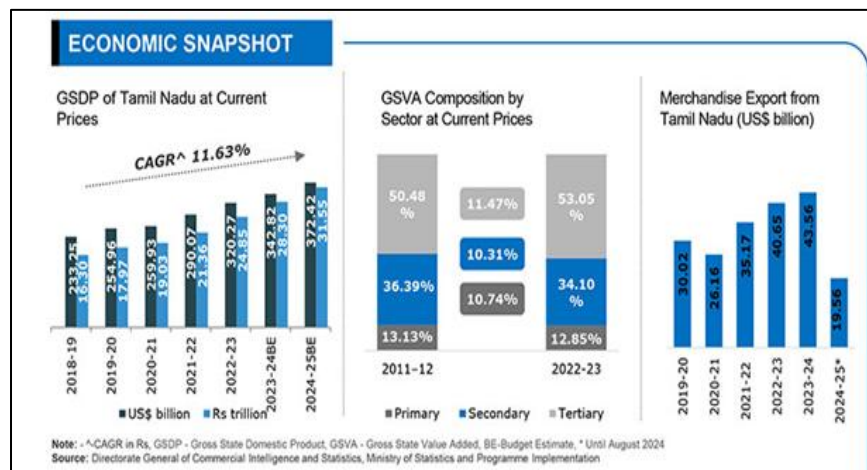
Mercury contamination in Cuddalore district

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has constituted a four-member technical expert committee.
- ❖ It aims to carry out the detailed inspection and analyse water and soil samples to identify source of mercury contamination in ground water samples in Neyveli and Parangipettai in Cuddalore district.

- ❖ The earlier report showed that the level of mercury exceeded the acceptable limit of 0.0001 mg/L in some of the locations at Neyveli and Parangipettai.



Tamil Nadu economic statistics 2025



- ❖ The DMK government has allocated funds to the tune of ₹6,626 crore for the MSME sector in the last year.
- ❖ It is almost twice the ₹3,617.62 crore allocated for the sector during the 10 years of the previous AIADMK regime.
- ❖ Considering the contribution of the MSMEs to the economy of Tamil Nadu, this financial year, ₹1,918.22 crores have been allocated to this sector.
- ❖ With more than 35 lakhs registered MSMEs, Tamil Nadu ranks third in India.
- ❖ Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh ranked ahead of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It has created employment opportunities for 2.47 crore people.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is ranked third in India with exports of US\$30.50 billion.
- ❖ In manufacturing sector, Tamil Nadu's contribution to India's total production is 11.90%.

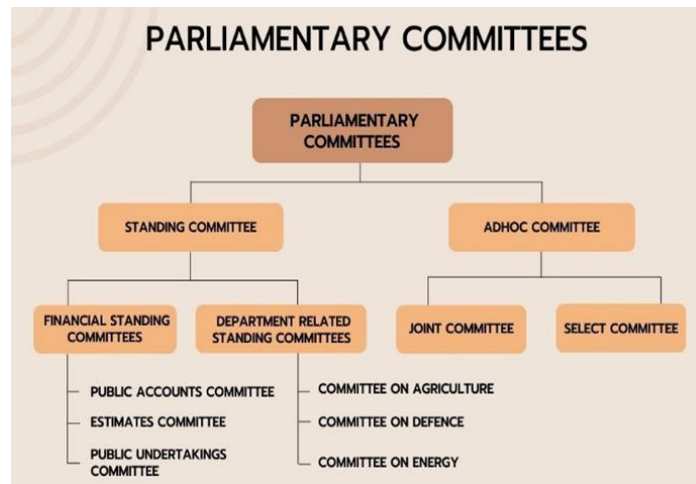


- ❖ The present Government created 14 industrial parks.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks first in the production of motor vehicles, readymade textiles and leather goods.
- ❖ It ranks second in the production of textile machinery and electronic goods.
- ❖ Out of 14.9 lakh women workers in India, Tamil Nadu alone has 6.3 lakh women in the workforce,
- ❖ It is 42% of the total and 30% of the entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu are women.

NATIONAL

Estimates Committee Completes 75 Years

- ❖ The Lok Sabha Speaker has inaugurated the National Conference of Estimates Committees in Mumbai.
- ❖ It is commemorating the 75 years of Parliamentary Estimates Committee.
- ❖ On April 10, 1950, the Committee was established.
- ❖ It aims to ensure strict financial oversight in India's parliamentary system.
- ❖ It scrutinizes government expenditure, estimates and promoting administrative efficiency, economy, and accountability.



'Pratibha Setu' Platform

- ❖ The Pratibha Setu is a centralized digital platform launched by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ❖ Pratibha Setu stands for 'Professional Resource and Talent Integration – Bridge for Hiring Aspirants'.



- ❖ It was officially launched in June 2025.
- ❖ It aims to bridge the gap between the talent and opportunity by facilitating the sharing of profiles of meritorious, non-recommended candidates.
- ❖ These candidate profiles are made accessible to government departments, public sector undertakings (PSUs), and private employers for potential recruitment.
- ❖ Pratibha Setu is rebranded and upgraded version of the earlier Public Disclosure Scheme (PDS).
- ❖ The PDS was launched in August 2018 following a decision by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- ❖ Under the original scheme, the UPSC began publicly sharing the biodata of non-recommended but willing candidates.
- ❖ The new platform serving as a modern talent integration bridge for aspirants who clear CSE stages but do not make the final list.

In a major move to support talented UPSC aspirants, the Commission has launched a new platform called "**Pratibha Setu.**"

It will help candidates who cleared all UPSC stages but missed the final merit list connect with job opportunities in government and private sectors.

With their consent, their profiles will be shared with potential employers.

Earlier known as the Public Disclosure Scheme, this revamped platform aims to ensure deserving candidates don't miss out on good career options.

INTERNATIONAL

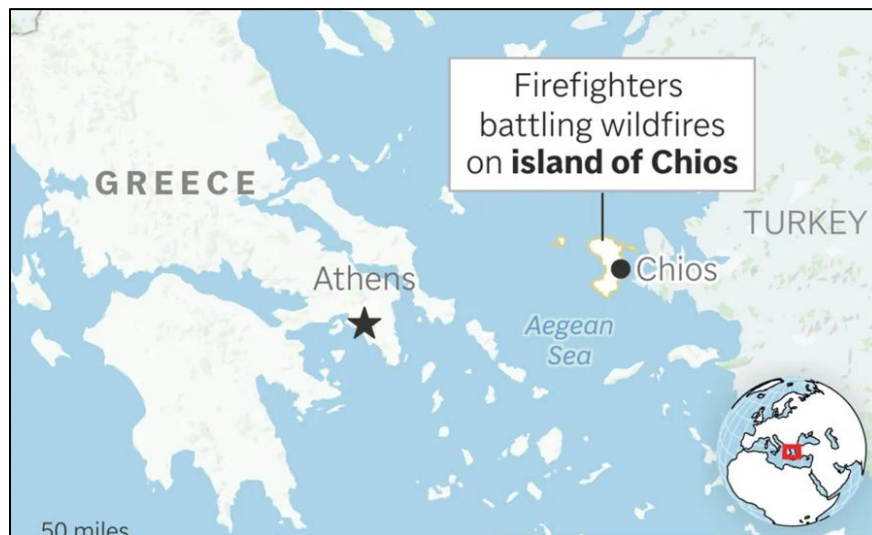
Assisted Dying bill 2025 – UK

- ❖ The U.K. House of Commons have passed a bill to allow terminally-ill people to end their lives.
- ❖ The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is colloquially known as the Assisted Dying bill.

- ❖ It will only apply to people in England and Wales who have less than six months to live.



Chios Wildfire 2025



- ❖ A massive wildfire has been spread on the Greek island of Chios.
- ❖ Three severe forest fires broke out in the areas of Kofinas, Agia Anna and Agios Makarios.
- ❖ Chios is located in the eastern Aegean.
- ❖ It is prone to wildfires during Greece's hot and dry summers.


New Trilateral Dialogue 2025

- ❖ China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh have held their first-ever trilateral meeting in Kunming, capital of China's Yunnan province.
- ❖ This marks China's second recent trilateral initiative in the region.
- ❖ Similar dialogue was held with China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan last month.
- ❖ The three countries focused on strengthening regional cooperation and discussed various strategic and developmental issues.



ECONOMY

RBI's New Project Finance Norms 2025

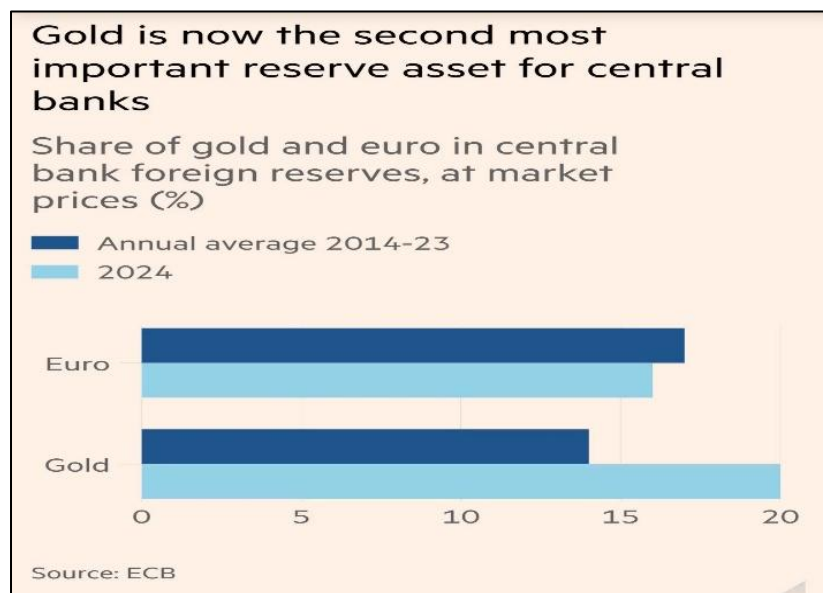
New rules (Mandated general provision in RBI's final guidelines)			
Construction phase (%)		Operational phase (%) (After commencement of repayment of interest and principal)	
CRE:	1.25	CRE:	1.0
CRE-RH:	1.0	CRE-RH:	0.75
Others:	1.0	Others:	0.4

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued final guidelines on project finance, offering regulatory clarity for the NBFC sector.



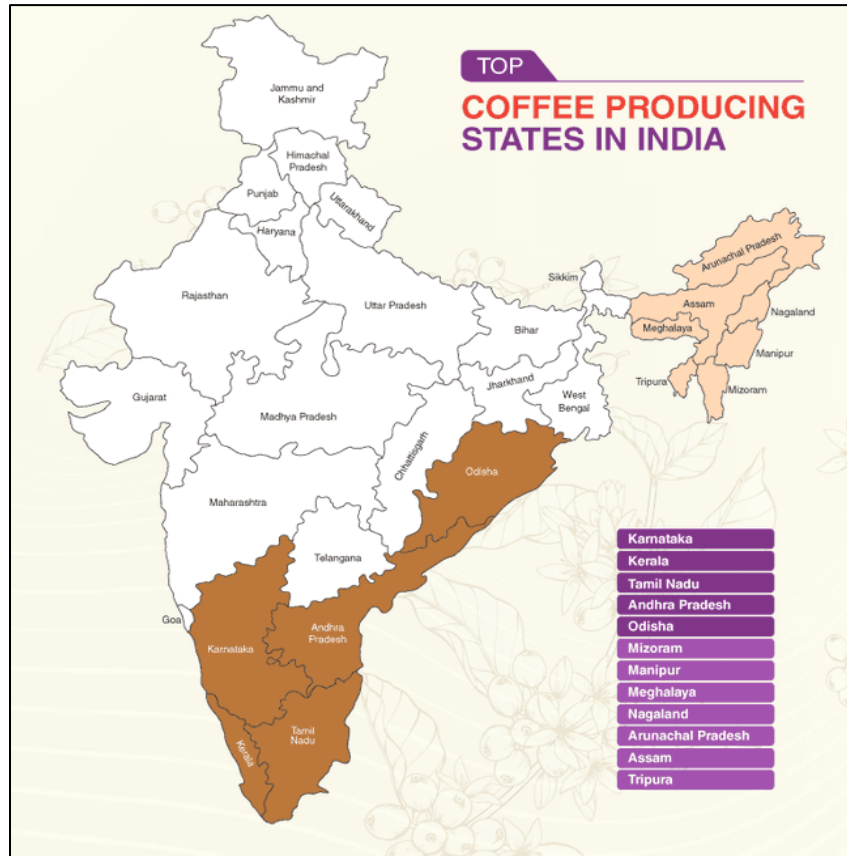
- ❖ These norms apply to loans sanctioned on or after 1st October 2025.
- ❖ The final version eases the provisioning requirements.
- ❖ The RBI has adopted a principle-based resolution approach, with a standardized guidelines across all regulated entities.
- ❖ Standard asset provisioning for new under-construction loans is set at 1%, and 1.25% for commercial real estate projects.
- ❖ It is much lower than the initially proposed 5%.

World's Second-Largest Reserve Asset



- ❖ Gold has overtaken the euro to become world's second-largest foreign exchange reserve asset.
- ❖ Gold now holds 20% of global reserves, surpassing the euro's 16%.
- ❖ The US dollar remains the dominant reserve currency.
- ❖ It is accounting for 46% of global holdings.
- ❖ The Central banks have significantly increased gold purchases in recent years—over 1,000 tonnes annually for the past three years.
- ❖ It is more than double the previous decade's average of 400–500 tonnes.
- ❖ Global official gold reserves have reached 36,000 tonnes.
- ❖ It is almost nearing the historic peak of 38,000 tonnes set in 1965 during the Bretton Woods era.
- ❖ As per World Gold Council data, the Reserve Bank of India held 876.18 tonnes of gold as of December 2024.

India's Coffee Exports

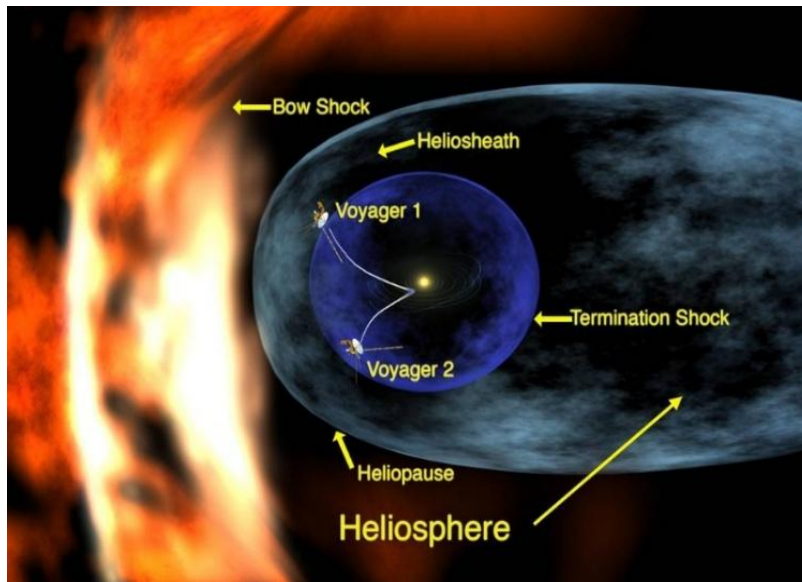


- ❖ India's coffee exports have surged by 125% over the past 11 years.
- ❖ Now it reaching \$1.8 billion in 2023–24.
- ❖ This is a rise from \$800 million in 2014–15.
- ❖ It elevated India to the 5th largest coffee exporter globally.
- ❖ India is currently the 7th largest producer of coffee.
- ❖ India exports over two-thirds of its annual production of more than 3.5 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ Around 75% of India's coffee is made up of Arabica and Robusta beans, primarily grown in the Western and Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ Karnataka leads national production with 248,020 metric tonnes in 2022–23, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Europe remains the top export destination, with key markets including Italy, Germany, Belgium, along with Russia, UAE, US, South Korea, and Japan.
- ❖ Brazil continues to be the world's largest coffee producer, maintaining global dominance.

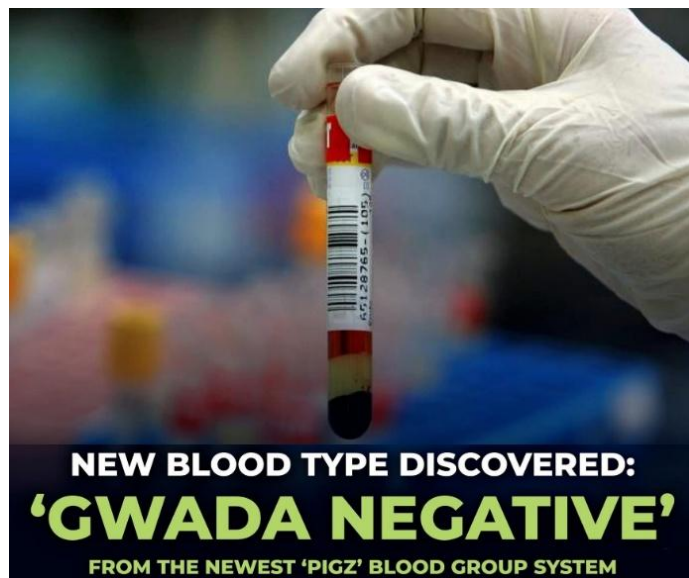
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Voyager 1 - Wall of Fire

- ❖ Voyager 1 has encountered a region dubbed a “wall of fire” at the edge of our solar system.
- ❖ The “wall of fire” is a thin shell of the superheated plasma located near the heliopause.
- ❖ Temperatures in this very zone ranges between 30,000 and 50,000 of the Kelvin (approximately 90,000°F).

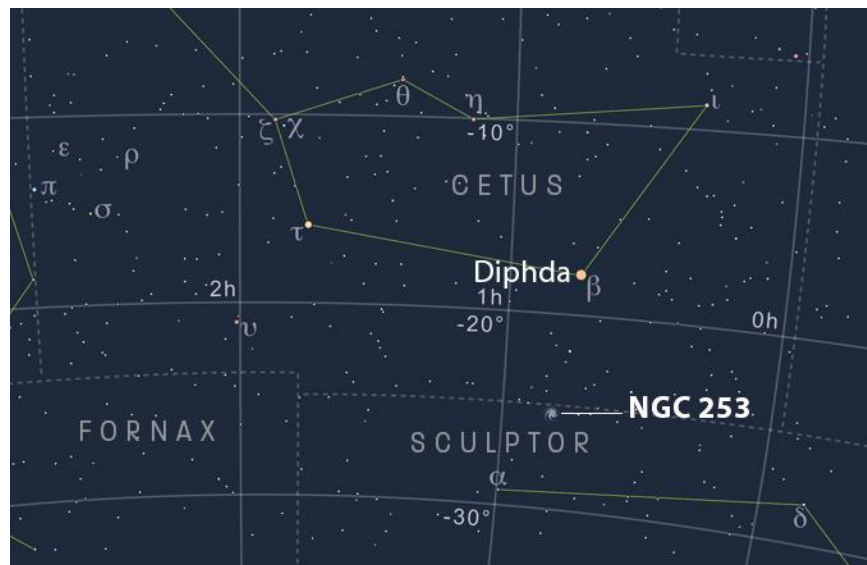


Gwada Negative blood group



- ❖ France has identified a completely new blood group system.
- ❖ It is now officially recognised by the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT).
- ❖ It is named EMM-negative and colloquially dubbed “Gwada negative”.
- ❖ The newly classified blood group system, officially registered by ISBT as ISBT042.
- ❖ It is defined by the absence of the EMM antigen.
- ❖ EMM antigen is normally found on the red blood cells and is considered a high-incidence antigen.

Ultra-Detailed Map of Sculptor Galaxy



- ❖ The Astronomers at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) created the most detailed map ever of this galaxy.
- ❖ It was covering up to 65,000 light-years.
- ❖ The Sculptor Galaxy is also known as NGC 253.
- ❖ It is one of the brightest and dustiest spiral galaxies visible from Earth.
- ❖ It is located about 11 million light-years away in the constellation Sculptor.
- ❖ It is also called the Silver Coin or Silver Dollar Galaxy.
- ❖ NGC 253 is a starburst galaxy, currently undergoing intense star formation.
- ❖ The new data led to the discovery of 500 previously unknown planetary nebulae within the Sculptor Galaxy.
- ❖ The Sculptor Galaxy shares many structural and size similarities with our own Milky Way.

ENVIRONMENT

Herpetofauna survey at PTR

- ❖ The recent survey in Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) have added five new amphibian species and three new reptile species to the region's records.
- ❖ A total of 67 amphibian species and 82 reptile species were documented during the survey.
- ❖ Amphibian diversity is notable, with 53 out of 67 species (around 80%) endemic to the Western Ghats.
- ❖ Among reptiles, there are 12 species on the endangered list.

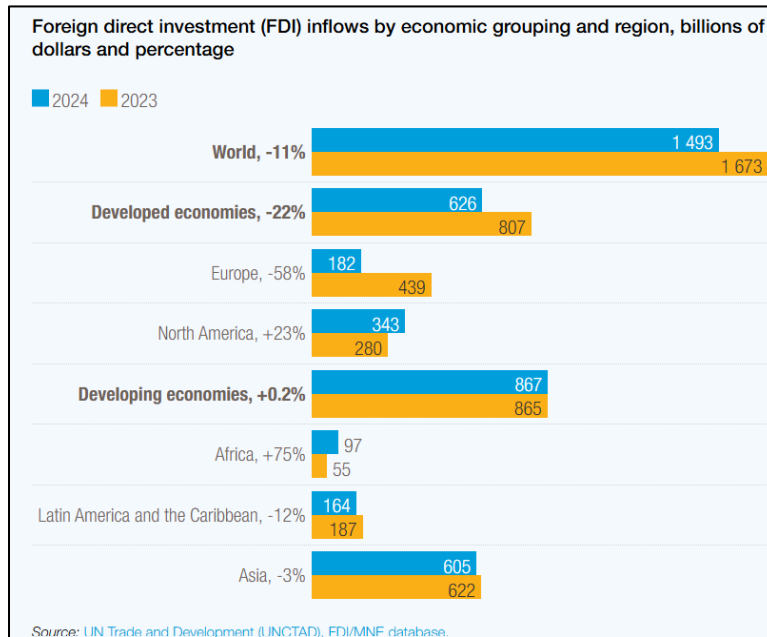


REPORTS AND INDICES

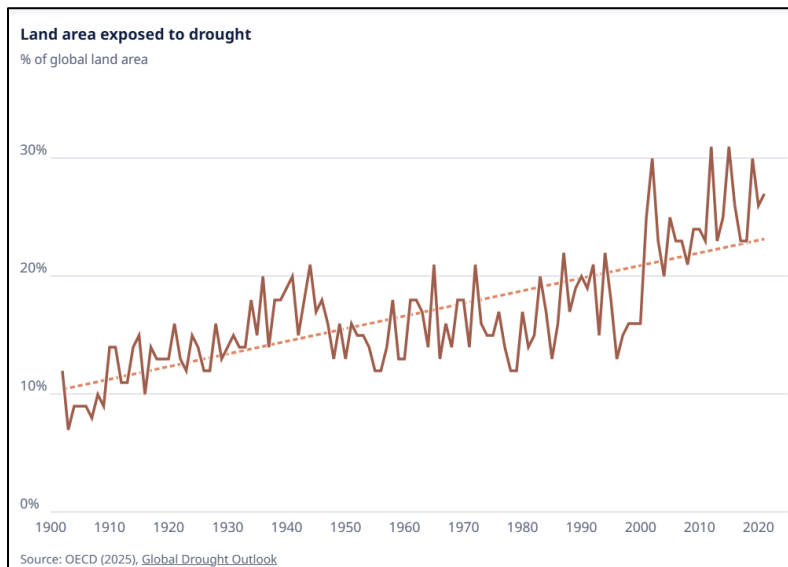
World Investment Report 2025

- ❖ The World Investment Report 2025 was released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ❖ Global foreign direct investment (FDI) declined 11% in calendar year 2024 to \$1.5 trillion.
- ❖ This was marking a second consecutive year of double-digit contraction.
- ❖ The international project finance deals collapsed 27%.
- ❖ FDI inflows into developing Asia fell 3% in 2024.
- ❖ China saw one of the steepest drops, with the inflows are plunging 29% and India recorded a smaller 2% decline.
- ❖ The Asean bloc attracted a record \$225 billion in FDI, up 10% year-on-year.
- ❖ The infrastructure investments had dropped 35%, renewable energy fell 31%, and spending on water, sanitation and hygiene contracted 30%.

- ❖ Agrifood investments declined 19%.
- ❖ Only health and education bucked the trend, posting a 25% increase.



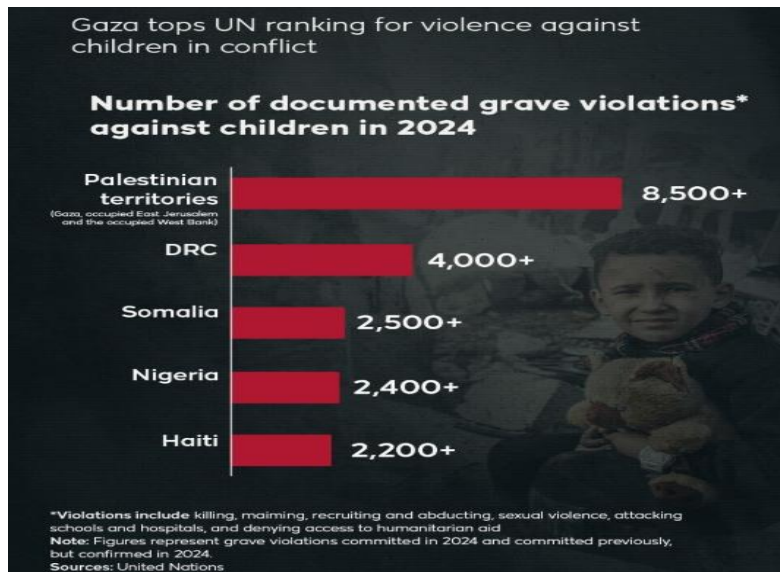
Global Drought Outlook Report 2025



- ❖ The latest Global Drought Outlook 2025 report was published by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- ❖ Spain is one of the OECD countries that most exposed to the intensification of drought.

- ❖ The average economic impact of a drought in 2025 is already at least double that of 2000.
- ❖ It is expected to increase by a further 35% by 2035.
- ❖ Droughts are responsible for 34% of disaster-related deaths.

Annual report on Children in Armed Conflict 2025



- ❖ Last year, 41,370 grave violations against children were documented and verified by the United Nations.
- ❖ This is a 25% surge in “grave violations” against the children under the age of 18 from 2023.
- ❖ The United Nations has kept Israel on its “blacklist” of countries committing the abuses against children in armed conflict for a second straight year.
- ❖ It also kept the Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups on its blacklist for a third year.
- ❖ In Haiti, the UN has put gang, the Viv Ansanm coalition, on the blacklist for the first time.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

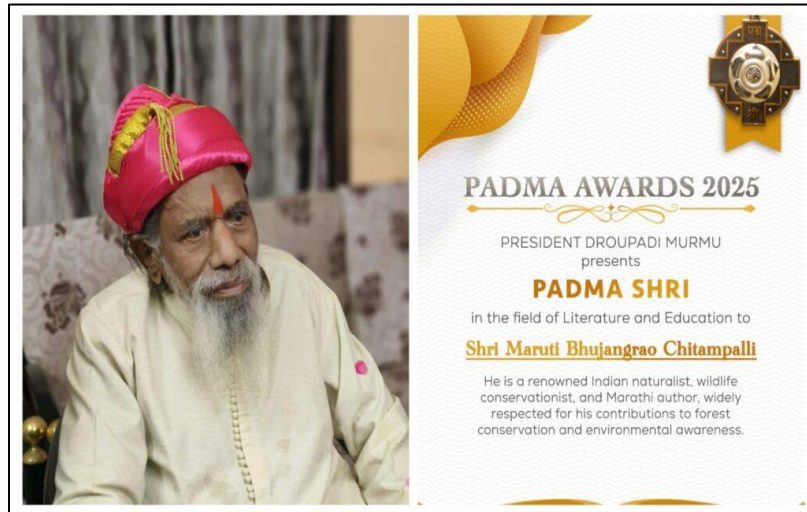
Sahitya Akademi awards 2025

- ❖ The Sahitya Akademi announced the names of 23 writers for its ‘Yuva Puraskar’ and 24 for ‘Bal Puraskar’ awards.
- ❖ The Yuva Puraskar would be given in 23 languages.

- ❖ The awardees include Advait Kottary in the English, Parvati Tirkey in Hindi, Latshmihar for Tamil and Prasad Suri for Telugu.
- ❖ There is no Yuva Puraskar in Dogri this year.
- ❖ Other winners include Suprakash Bhuyan for Assamese, Sudeshna Moitra for Bengali, R. Dileep kumar for Kannada, and Akhil P. Dharmajan for Malayalam.
- ❖ The Akademi has also announced the names of 24 authors for its Bal Sahitya Puraskar.
- ❖ Sreejith Moothedath is named for Malayalam, Vishnupuram Saravanan for Tamil and Gangisetti Sivakumar for Telugu.
- ❖ Sahitya Akademi is the only institution that undertakes literary activities in 24 Indian languages, including English.



Maruti Chitampalli



- ❖ Highly Noted environmentalist, wildlife expert, and Padmashree awardee Maruti Chitampalli of Maharashtra, passed away.
- ❖ He is fondly known as ‘Aranya Rishi’.
- ❖ Very fluent in 13 languages, he had used his linguistic prowess to engage with tribal communities and collect valuable ecological and environmental data.
- ❖ His diaries laid the foundation for his scientific works like
 - ‘Pakshikosha’ (Encyclopaedia of Birds),
 - ‘Pashukosha’ (Encyclopaedia of Animals), and
 - ‘Matsyakosha’ (Encyclopaedia Fish).

SPORTS

Mascot for 2025 Para Athletics Championships

- ❖ The 2025 World Para Athletics Championships will be held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The event is set to welcome the athletes from over 100 countries, making it the biggest Para sport event ever hosted in India.
- ❖ The official mascot, named ViraaJ, a lively young elephant with a blade prosthesis released recently.
- ❖ ViraaJ symbolizes strength, resilience, and optimism, reflecting the spirit of Para athletes.



MISCELLANEOUS

First printed Sanskrit grammar



- ❖ Prime Minister of India received a reprint of Vezdin's Sanskrit grammar from his Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic.
- ❖ The first printed Sanskrit grammar was written in Latin in 1790 by the Croatian scientist and missionary Filip Vezdin (1748-1806).
- ❖ Filip Vezdin came to Malabar as a missionary in 1774 and later became the Vicar-General on the Malabar Coast.
- ❖ He is credited with publishing the first printed Sanskrit grammar in 1790.
- ❖ A plaque to commemorate him was unveiled in Trivandrum in 1999.

