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## Rajasthan

### Star Rating of Mines Award – 2025

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma presented Star Rating Awards to outstanding mines.



#### ➔ Main Point

- Venue:** Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.
- Organiser:** Indian Bureau of Mines (Ministry of Mines)
- Seven-star category award winners:** Kammatharu (Sandur), Noamandi (Tata Steel) and Naokari (Ultra Tech) etc.

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- In the Five-star category, a total of 95 mines received this honour, of which 17 mines have been receiving this honour for the first time and 15 for five consecutive years.
- This initiative is an important step towards promoting sustainable development, transparency and excellence in the mining sector.

## ❖ Facts for Prelims:

### Mining Sector in Rajasthan:

- ◆ Rajasthan is one of the richest states in India in terms of mineral resources, with deposits of 81 types of minerals, of which 58 are metallic and non-metallic minerals that are mined.
- ◆ Rajasthan is the only producer of lead and zinc ores, selenite and wollastonite, and leads the country in the production of silver, calcite and gypsum.
- ◆ Rajasthan tops the national production of ball clay, phosphorite, ochre, steatite, feldspar and fire clay.
- ◆ Rajasthan is a major producer of dimensional stones such as marble, sandstone and granite as well as cement-grade and steel-grade limestone.
- ◆ The minerals produced here account for 12 per cent of the country's total mineral production value.

## National Camel Racing Championship 2025

### ➔ Why in News?

- The first edition of the 'National Camel Race Championship 2025' was held in Pushkar on July 6, 2025.



### ➔ Main Point

- **Organiser:** Under the joint aegis of Camelids Sports India Federation and Rajasthan Camel Race Association.
- **Objective:** To give national recognition to the rich folk traditions and rural sports heritage of Rajasthan.
- **Participants:** 50 male and female participants from 8 states across the country participated.

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## ❖ Facts for Prelims:

### International Camel Festival:

- ◆ International Camel Festival is organised in Bikaner every year.
- ◆ Camels have always been an integral part of Bikaner's culture and history. The Bikaner Army had a Camel Corps called 'Ganga Risala', which played an important role in both the World Wars as well as conflicts with Somaliland, Egypt and China.

### Other important points:

- ◆ Camel was officially declared as the state animal by the Government of Rajasthan in 2014 with the aim of conservation, enhancement of camel population and prevention of poaching.
- ◆ Rajasthan Camel (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration) Bill was passed by the state government in 2015.
- ◆ On October 2, 2016, the Rajasthan government announced the Camel Development Scheme.

## Two day National Workshop on Wetland Management – Udaipur

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, a two-day national workshop on wetland management was organized in Udaipur.



### ➔ Main Point

- **Organiser:** Rajasthan State Wetland Authority and Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- On March 13, 2024, the 'Rajasthan Wetland Authority' was constituted by the Government of Rajasthan.
- It is a statutory authority under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, which aims to implement policies related to the conservation and management of wetlands in the state.

## Wetlands of Rajasthan included in the Ramsar Sites list:



Sr. No.	Wetland Sites	Year of inclusion
1.	Keoladeo Ghana National Park (Bharatpur)	1981
2.	Sambhar Lake (Jaipur)	1990
3.	Khichan (Phalodi)	2025
4.	Menar (Udaipur)	2025

- **Note:** Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Udaipur (Rajasthan) are the first two Indian cities to be recognized as wetland cities under the Wetland City Accreditation Programme of the Ramsar Convention. The recognition has been granted due to their commitment to the conservation of both natural and man-made wetlands within their urban areas.

## Ramsar Convention on Wetlands:

- It is an intergovernmental treaty adopted on 2 February 1971 and entered into force on 21 December 1975.
- The treaty provides a framework for the conservation and use of wetlands and their resources for sustainable development. It is the only treaty that focuses on a single ecosystem.
- India became a member of the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982.
- From 1982 to 2013, 26 sites were added by India to the list of Ramsar sites but at present the total number of Ramsar sites in India is 91.
- World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2 February.

## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Kabir Vani Yatra organized in Japan</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Kabir Vani Yatra was started in Osaka, Japan on July 5, 2025 by Malang Sanstha of Bikaner.</li><li>◆ <b>Organiser:</b> Osaka University and Indian Ocean Studies Programme, Japan.</li><li>◆ For the first time in Japan, a cultural presentation based on the words and philosophy of Sant Kabir was organised.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Malhar Mahotsav – Jaipur</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Malhar Mahotsav is being organized by Jaipur-based Jawahar Kala Kendra from July 2 to 4, 2025.</li><li>◆ Malhar Mahotsav is a music festival dedicated to celebrating the arrival of the monsoon season through classical Indian music. The festival is held annually at the Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK) in Jaipur.</li></ul>



3.

## Van Mahotsav at Mukundra



- ◆ Recently, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the Van Mahotsav at Mukundra Hills Sanctuary in Kota under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Abhiyan'.

4.

## National Junior Wushu Championship - Rajasthan won 20 medals



- ◆ Rajasthan Wushu team won a total of 20 medals including 7 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals in the 24th Junior National Wushu Championship held at Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad.
- ◆ Rajasthan team secured overall third position in this Championship.

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## National

### India's first Quantum Valley Tech Park

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Andhra Pradesh government announced to set up 'India's first Quantum Valley Tech Park' in Amaravati.



#### ➔ Main Point

- The announcement was made based on the discussions held during the Quantum Valley workshop in Vijayawada.
- This initiative is an important part of the National Quantum Mission.
- The Andhra Pradesh government has announced to set up the park in collaboration with IBM (International Business Machines) and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
- This move is a strategic initiative towards promoting quantum research, innovation, employment generation and foreign investment.

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## Key Objectives:

- Establishment of a self-reliant quantum ecosystem in India.
- Promotion of quantum research in areas such as cryptography, material science and life sciences.
- Promote practical application of quantum computing in energy, supply chain, public services and governance.
- Development of human resources, global investment attraction and encouragement of high-tech talent.

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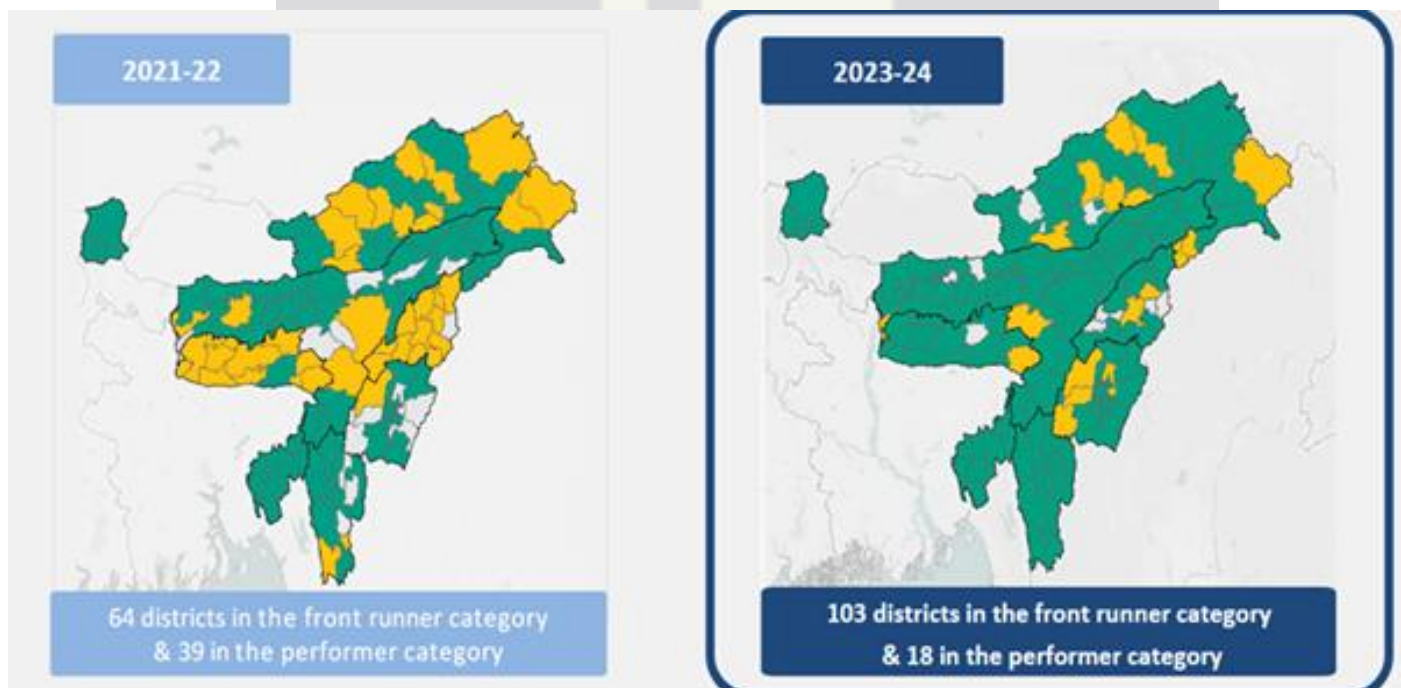
CIVIL  
SERVICES

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## North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goals Index 2023-24

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the second edition of the North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index Report (2023-24) was released by NITI Aayog.



### ➔ Main Point

- The index has been developed by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MODONER) with technical support from UNDP.
- The index reflects the commitment to address development challenges in social, economic and environmental dimensions and also ensures that no one is left behind in the Northeast region in the process of development.
- Based on the SDG India Index methodology of NITI Aayog, the index serves as an important tool to monitor development progress at the district level in the Northeast region to aid decision making.

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- All the 121 districts of the Northeast region have been classified into four categories-
  - **Achiever:** Score – 100
  - **Front Runner:** Score – 65 and 99
  - **Performer:** Score – 50 and 65
  - **Aspiring:** Score – less than 50.
- All districts of Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura have achieved the status of Front Runner but no district is included in the Aspiring or Achiever category.
  - The district with the highest score is Hnahthial district of Mizoram (Score – 81.43).
  - The district with the lowest score in the entire region is Longding of Arunachal Pradesh (Score – 58.71).

## State-wise highest and lowest scores of districts within states:

- **Arunachal Pradesh:** Lower Dibang Valley (73.36) to Longding (58.71)
- **Assam:** Dibrugarh (74.29), South Salmara-Mankachar (59.71)
- **Manipur:** Imphal West (73.21), Phirzawl (59.71)
- **Meghalaya:** East Khasi Hills (73.00), East Jaintia Hills (63.00)
- **Mizoram:** Hnahthial (81.43), Lawngtlai (67.71)
- **Nagaland:** Mokokchung (78.43), Zunheboto (63.36)
- **Sikkim:** Gangtok (76.64), Gyalshing (71.14)
- **Tripura:** Gomati (78.79), Dhalai (72.29)

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Top 10 districts in overall performance index of Northeast region:

Rank	District	State	Score
1st	Hnahthial	Mizoram	81.43
2nd	Champhai	Mizoram	79.86
3rd	Gomati	Tripura	78.79
4th	Mokokchung	Nagaland	78.43
5th	West Tripura	Tripura	77.64
6th	Kohima	Nagaland	76.93
7th	South Tripura	Tripura	76.71
8th	Gangtok	Sikkim	76.64
9th	Kolasib	Mizoram	76.50
10th	Dimapur	Nagaland	76.29

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## International

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Argentina

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, during his 5-nation visit.



#### ➔ Main Point

- The Prime Minister's visit to Argentina is the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister in the last 57 years. Earlier, Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister had visited Argentina in the year 1968 as part of her visit to South American countries.
- The Prime Minister visited the memorial of Argentine freedom fighter General Jose de San Martin and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

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## Key Agreements:

- Discussion on enhancing cooperation in key areas including trade and commerce, technology, defense, space, health and pharmaceuticals.
- The Prime Minister requested Argentina's support in expanding the India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement.
- The India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) aims to promote trade between India and the South American trade bloc by providing tariff concessions. The agreement, which came into force in June 2009, covers India and the Mercosur member countries: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- With its large reserves of shale gas, oil and other conventional energy resources, Argentina can become an important energy partner for India. Also, Argentina's rich reserves of critical minerals such as lithium, copper and rare earth elements can empower India's clean energy transition and industrial development.

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## Poverty and Equity Brief Spring 2025 – Report

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the World Bank released the 'Poverty and Equity Brief Spring 2025' report.



### ➔ Main Point

- According to the report, India is among the top four countries that have made significant progress in increasing social equality, based on the Gini index score.
  - Only the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Belarus are ahead of India.
- India's global position in terms of equality:**
- **Improvement in Gini score:** Decreased from 28.8 in 2011-12 to 25.5 in 2022-23.
  - India is now in the 'moderately low inequality' (Gini score 25-30) category and is close to the 'low inequality' threshold.

- India has performed better than G-7 and G-20 countries like China (35.7) and the US (41.8).
- **Decline in poverty:** People earning less than \$2.15/day fall from 16.2% in 2011-12 to 2.3% in 2022-23; 171 million people rise above the poverty line.
- According to the new World Bank benchmark (\$3/day), the extreme poverty rate is 5.3% in 2022-23.

## Gini Index:

- The Gini index is an economic index that measures the inequality in the distribution of income or wealth in a country.
- Its value ranges from 0 to 1 (or 0 to 100 in percentage).
- 0 = perfect equality (all incomes are equal)
- 1 = perfect inequality (all incomes are held by one person)
- This index is usually constructed based on the Lorenz curve.
- The lower the Gini index, the more equal the society.

## Science and Technology

### Pocket sensor to detect toxic SO<sub>2</sub>

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, scientists at the Bengaluru-based Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) have developed a pocket sensor that detects toxic SO<sub>2</sub>.



#### ➔ Main Point

- This sensor is developed by combining 'nickel oxide (NiO)' and 'neodymium nickel (NdNiO<sub>3</sub>)'.
- It can accurately detect sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) as low as 320 parts per billion (ppb).
- The sensor has a user-friendly threshold alert system (green: safe, yellow: warning) that monitors in real time.
- Its sensitivity and convenience make it suitable for public health monitoring in industrial and urban areas.

#### Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>):

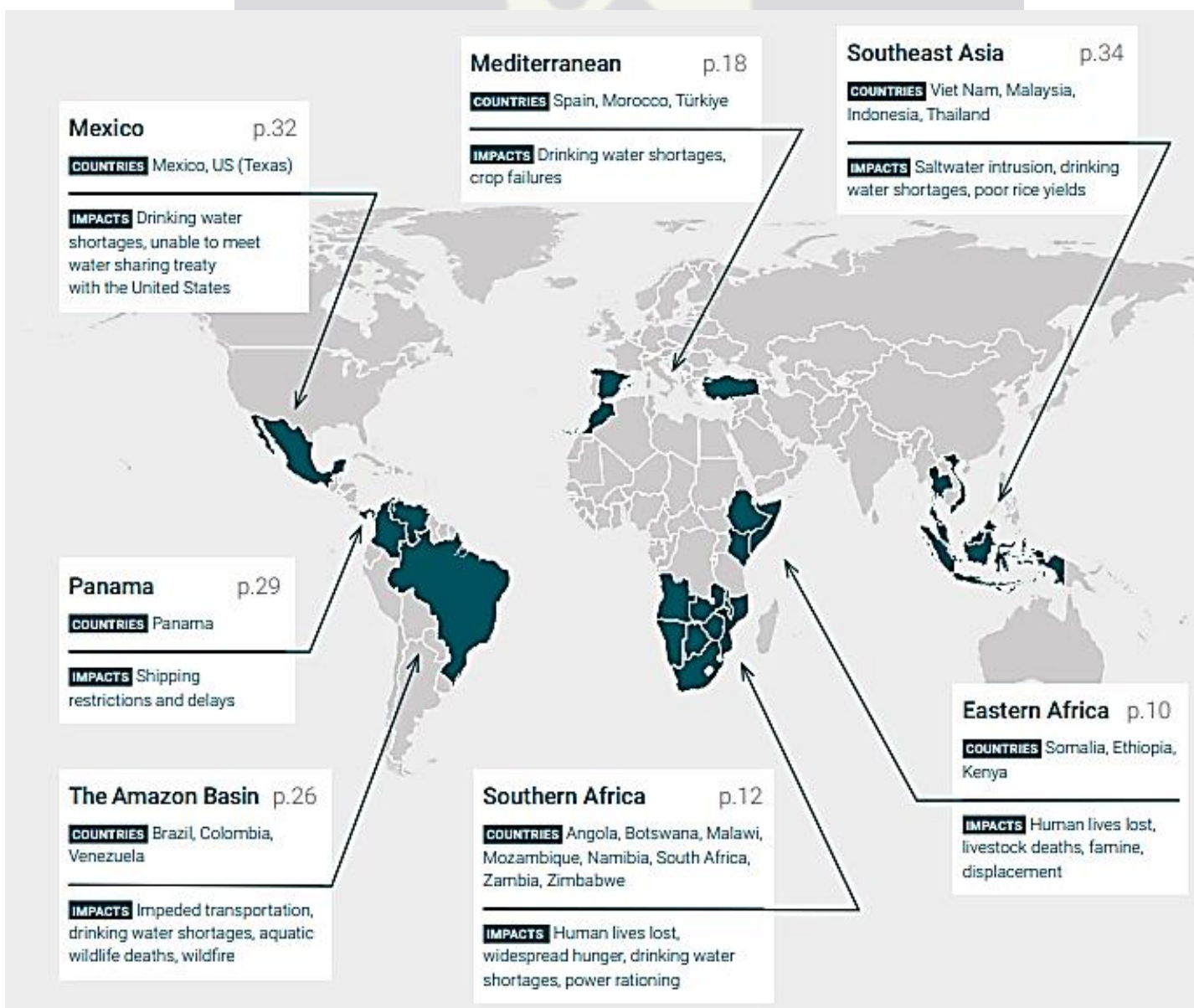
- It is a colorless, water-soluble and toxic gas, which is mainly emitted from vehicles and industrial activities.
- Even mild exposure can cause respiratory problems such as asthma attacks and long-term lung damage.

## Environment and Ecology

### Drought Hotspots in the World 2023-2025 Report

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the report 'Drought Hotspots in the World 2023-2025' was released in collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the American National Drought Mitigation.



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## ➔ Main Point

- **Global drought crisis:** Drought has taken a serious form in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean region, it has been called a ‘slow moving disaster’.
- **Hunger emergency in Africa:** More than 90 million people in eastern and southern Africa are starving; more than 70 percent of maize crop destroyed in Zimbabwe.
- **Energy supply disrupted in Zambia:** Water flow of the Zambezi River in Zambia reduced by 80 percent; services affected by 21 hours of daily power cuts.
- **Olive oil crisis in Spain:** Production reduced by 50 percent due to two years of drought; oil prices rise sharply in Europe.
- **Blockage of Panama Canal:** Number of ships dropped from 38 to 24 due to water crisis; impact on global trade and food supply.
- **Ecological crisis in the Amazon:** Communities isolated by record low water levels; river dolphin deaths and ecosystem damage.
- **Social impacts:** Child marriage rates double in Ethiopia due to drought-induced poverty; school dropouts increase in Zimbabwe.
- **Wildlife loss:** 100+ elephants killed in Zimbabwe; 200+ river dolphins killed in Amazon due to water shortage and heat.

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## Drought hotspots:

- Areas that are affected by frequent or extreme drought events. Lack of rainfall, lack of water sources and high temperatures are common in these areas, severely impacting agriculture, water supply and livelihoods.

## Major drought hotspots in the world:

Regions/Countries	Description
Sahel region (Africa)	The region is just south of the Sahara Desert and includes countries like Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad etc. It faces frequent droughts and desertification.
Horn of Africa	Part of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. Faces frequent crop failures and water crisis.
Southern Africa (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique)	Extremely low rainfall due to El Niño effect.
Australia (especially the Murray-Darling Basin)	Affected by long-lasting droughts and water crisis, especially for farming.
California (United States)	Periodic droughts occur here, which affect water supply, agriculture and forest fires.

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<b>Brazil (Northeast region)</b>	The region is historically affected by droughts and the climate here is extremely dry.
<b>Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan)</b>	Water crisis and drought are common due to the drying of the Aral Sea and misuse of irrigation.
<b>India (Bundelkhand, Vidarbha, Rajasthan)</b>	Over-dependence on monsoon and climate change leads to frequent droughts.
<b>Iran and Iraq</b>	Faced frequent droughts due to depletion and over-exploitation of water sources.
<b>Chile (Central Chile)</b>	"Mega Drought" has been going on here for decades, affecting agriculture and water supply.



## Sports

### World Boxing Cup – 2025 (Kazakhstan)

#### ➔ Why in News?

- The Indian boxing team finished the competition with its best performance with a total of 11 medals at the World Boxing Cup 2025 held in Astana, Kazakhstan. The competition was held from 30 June to 7 July 2025.



**World Boxing Cup 2025 Kazakhstan :  
India Wins 11 Medals, with 3 Gold**

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World Boxing Cup 2025 Kazakhstan : India Wins 11 Medals, with 3 Gold



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## ➔ Main Point

- The Indian team won 3 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze medals in the World Boxing Cup 2025. (In the last edition (Brazil), the Indian team won a total of 6 medals - 1 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze)
- India sent a total of 20-member team to the competition. In which two-time world youth champion Sakshi won the first gold medal of the tournament by defeating Yocelyn Perez in the final of the 54 kg weight category.
- **India's performance in the competition**

Player Name	Weight Category	Medal
Nupur	Women 80+ kg	Gold
Sakshi	Women 54 kg	Gold
Jasmine Lamboria	Women 57 kg	Gold
Pooja Rani	Women 80 kg	Silver
Meenakshi	Women 48 kg	Silver
Abhinash Jammwal	Men 65 kg	Silver
Jugnu	Men 85 kg	Silver
Hitesh Gulia	Men 70 kg	Silver
Sanju	Women 60 kg	Bronze
Narendra Barwal	Men 90+ kg	Bronze
Nikhil Dubey	Men 75 kg	Bronze

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## Other important points:

### World Boxing Cup

- **Established** – April, 2023
- **Objective:** Boxing remains an Olympic sport.
- **Events:** Organises the World Boxing Cup every calendar year, a ranking tournament for the best male and female boxers in the world.
- **To be held in 2025:** 1st in Brazil and 2nd in Kazakhstan.
- **Note:** Boxers earn ranking points based on their performance in both competitions. The top boxers qualify for the World Boxing Cup Finals to be held in New Delhi in November 2025.
- **Member countries:** 55 national boxing federations.
- **Headquarters:** Renens, Switzerland.
- **President:** Boris van der Vorst.

## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sanjog Gupta</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Recently, Sanjog Gupta from the Indian media sector has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the International Cricket Council (ICC).</li><li>◆ Sanjog Gupta will replace Australia's Geoff Allardice who resigned from his post due to personal reasons before the Champions Trophy.</li><li>◆ Gupta was earlier the CEO of Sports and Live Experiences at JioStar.</li></ul>