State of Global Water Resources 2025 Report

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

Recent UN report, has warned of persistent groundwater decline in India, particularly due to over-extraction exceeding natural recharge.

Global Groundwater Situation

- Persistent groundwater deficits from 2022 to 2025 were documented in the following regions:
    - Americas

    - Europe
    - Middle East
    - India
    - Southern Africa
    - Australia
- **Over-abstraction** was recognized as a significant contributing factor in multiple regions.
- In 2025, nearly **two-thirds of monitored wells globally exhibited conditions that deviated from** their historical norms.
- **Key findings**
- **Rivers –** The year 2025 ranked among the **driest years for global rivers in over 30 years.**
- **Terrestrial Water Storage –** Global terrestrial water storage has exhibited a **declining trend since the period 2014 to 2016.**
- In 2025, terrestrial water storage in northern India was below normal levels.

Terrestrial Water Storage (TWS) – *It is defined as the total water stored on and beneath the land surface, encompassing the following components such as surface water, soil moisture, groundwater, and snow or ice.*

It indicates comprehensive freshwater depletion rather than solely groundwater loss.

- **Glaciers –** For the **4th consecutive year**, all major glaciated regions recorded **ice-mass loss**.
- **Freshwater Storage –** The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has identified a **long-term decline in global freshwater storage**.

Reference

Down To Earth | WMO Report on Ground Water

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