

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS (DCA)

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INDIA'S EMERGING DROUGHT STRESS: MONSOON VARIABILITY AND AGRICULTURAL RISKS

Context

- As the southwest monsoon begins withdrawing, drought conditions have spread across over half of India, with persistent soil-moisture stress raising concerns for **kharif yields, rabi sowing and water security**.

About Drought in India

- Drought is a **prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall leading to water shortage**, with impacts varying across meteorological, agricultural and hydrological systems.
- In India, drought assessment increasingly combines rainfall, **soil moisture, vegetation health, reservoir storage and groundwater conditions**.
- India is particularly vulnerable because **55–60% of its net sown area is rainfed**.
- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and the Ministry of Agriculture emphasise drought monitoring, early warning, contingency crop planning and efficient water management.

India's Emerging Drought Stress

- Monsoon Variability:** The key concern is not merely seasonal rainfall deficiency but its **uneven temporal and spatial distribution**.

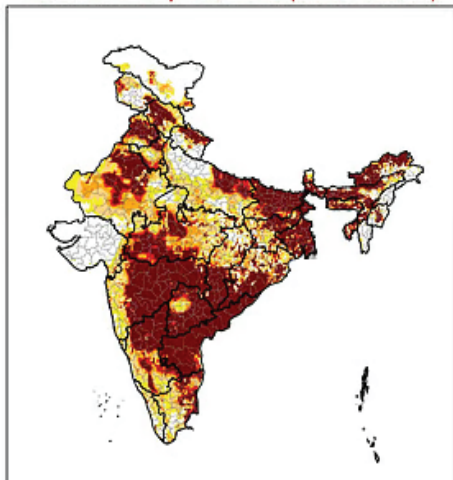
- Repeated alternation between wet and dry spells has produced prolonged periods of soil drying.
- Thus, short rainfall episodes have not necessarily translated into drought recovery where antecedent soil-moisture deficits remain.
- Extent and Spread of Drought:** According to the **IIT Gandhinagar India Drought Monitor**, around **52.5% of India's area** was under dry or drought conditions by September 16, up from **38.9% about a month earlier**. Regional stress was particularly high in:
 - Western India:** 79% of the area under dry/drought conditions;
 - Southern India:** 67%;
 - Northeast:** 62%;
 - Northwest:** 47%;
 - East:** 42%;
 - North:** 41%;
 - Central India:** 40%
- Rainfall Deficit and Spatial Variability:** Between June 1 and September 22, 2026, India received **706.9 mm rainfall against a normal 832.4 mm, a 15% deficit**.
 - About **41% of the country experienced deficient seasonal rainfall**.
 - Regional deficits** included **Rayalaseema** (43%), **Coastal Andhra Pradesh** (37%), **Marathwada** (36%), **Karnataka interiors** (32% each) and **Kerala** (28%).

All India Experimental Agricultural Drought Forecasts

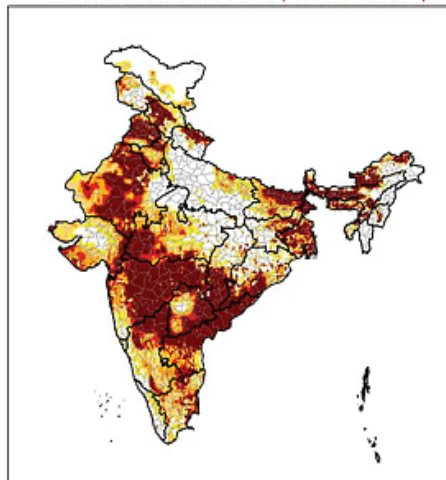
(Rootzone (0-100 cm) Soil Moisture Drought Category Forecasts)



Predicted 28 Sep-4 Oct 2026 (3-Weeks Ahead)



Predicted 5-11 Oct 2026 (4-Weeks Ahead)



Category	Description	Percentile Threshold
ND	Normal	≥30th
D0	Abnormally Dry	≤ 30th
D1	Moderate Drought	≤ 20th
D2	Severe Drought	≤ 10th
D3	Extreme Drought	≤ 5th
D4	Exceptional Drought	≤ 2nd

- **El Niño and Monsoon Uncertainty:** A strengthening **El Niño** adds uncertainty to rainfall and temperature patterns.
 - ♦ Its interaction with other ocean-atmosphere phenomena can influence monsoon variability.
 - ♦ Recent research highlights the role of ENSO in modifying drought characteristics and agricultural productivity.

Implications for Agriculture & Overall Economy

- The stress is already visible in kharif sowing.
 - ♦ By September 11, kharif acreage stood at **1,096.49 lakh hectares**, compared with **1,112.54 lakh hectares** a year earlier.
 - ♦ Paddy acreage declined by nearly **17 lakh hectares**.
- **Persistent soil-moisture deficits** can reduce **crop yields, livestock productivity and farm incomes**, while raising demand for irrigation and government support.
 - ♦ Lower reservoir and groundwater recharge may constrain **rabi sowing**, affecting food prices, rural employment and agricultural GDP.
- The vulnerability is significant because the Agriculture Ministry and ICAR had identified **315 districts** as potentially vulnerable to El Niño-related farm distress, including **111 high-priority districts** with irrigation coverage below 25%.

Way Forward

- Strengthen **district-level drought early-warning systems** integrating rainfall, soil moisture, groundwater and satellite data.
- Promote **millets, pulses and drought-tolerant crop varieties** through climate-resilient agriculture.
- Expand **micro-irrigation, watershed development and rainwater harvesting**.
- Adopt **contingency crop planning** based on real-time monsoon conditions.
- Improve reservoir operation and groundwater recharge for **rabi resilience**.
- Strengthen crop insurance, weather advisories and targeted livelihood support in vulnerable districts.
- Shift from rainfall-deficit assessment alone towards **impact-based drought monitoring**.

About Indian Summer Monsoon

- It is a **seasonal reversal of winds** that brings the bulk of India's annual rainfall. It is central to agriculture, water resources and the economy.
- **Southwest Monsoon:** Normally begins over **Kerala around 1 June** and advances northwards, covering most of India by July. It generally accounts for about **75% of India's annual rainfall**.
- **Two Branches:**
 - ♦ **Arabian Sea Branch:** It brings rainfall to the west coast and northern/northwestern India.
 - ♦ **Bay of Bengal Branch:** It moves towards Northeast India and then westward along the Himalayan foothills and the Ganga plains.
- **Monsoon Variability:** Rainfall is highly uneven spatially and temporally, with **active and break phases**. Factors such as **El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)**, **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**, **Himalayan–Tibetan conditions** and **intra-seasonal atmospheric circulation** influence its performance.
- **Withdrawal:** The southwest monsoon normally begins withdrawing from **northwestern India in September**, progressing southwards and generally retreating from the country by October.
 - ♦ The **Northeast Monsoon** subsequently becomes important, particularly for **Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining southeastern peninsular India**, mainly during October–December.

Source: DTE

NEED FOR THE QUALITY CONTROL ORDER (QCO) REASSESSMENT

Context

- To enable Indian firms to grow, integrate into global value chains and compete internationally, the **Quality Control Order (QCO) reassessment exercise** needs to move forward.

What are Quality Control Orders (QCOs)?

- QCOs are legal instruments issued under the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 2016**.
 - ♦ They make it mandatory for both domestic and imported products to conform to specified Indian Standards.

- Products covered under QCOs cannot be sold in the Indian market without BIS certification, ensuring consumer safety, fair trade practices, and protection from substandard imports.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- The Bureau of Indian Standards is the National Standards Body of India under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**, Government of India.
- It is established by the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016** which came into effect in **2017**.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **Functions:**
 - ♦ **Formulation of Indian Standards (IS)** across many sectors.
 - ♦ **Product Certification Schemes**, both voluntary and compulsory.
 - ♦ **Release of Quality Control Orders (QCOs):** Making compliance with certain Indian Standards mandatory for some products.
- **The schemes operated by BIS are,** Product Certification (ISI mark), Management Systems Certification, Hall Marking of Gold and Silver Jewellery/Artefacts and Laboratory Services for the benefit of the industry and in turn aiming at consumer protection.

India's Quality Ecosystem

- India has over **22,300 standards**, with around **94%** harmonised with international ISO and IEC standards.
- India ranked **10th** in the **Global Quality Infrastructure Index 2026**.
- More than **700 products** are under mandatory quality certification, while hundreds more are covered under **voluntary certification**.
- **India's quality ecosystem comprises;**
 - ♦ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for standard-setting,
 - ♦ Quality Council of India (QCI),
 - ♦ National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL),
 - ♦ National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB),
 - ♦ Export Inspection Council (EIC),
 - ♦ Sectoral regulators such as FSSAI and CDSCO, conformity assessment and

certification bodies, testing laboratories, and market surveillance mechanisms etc.

Why Existing Arrangements Are Inadequate

- **Fragmented Institutional Framework:** Responsibilities for standards, certification, regulation, accreditation, and enforcement are spread across multiple ministries and agencies.
 - ♦ **Lack of coordination** creates regulatory overlaps and accountability gaps.
- **Overlapping Roles of BIS:** The Bureau of Indian Standards performs standard-setting, certification, and some regulatory functions.
 - ♦ Such concentration of functions may **create conflicts between promotion, certification, and enforcement roles**.
- **Weak Market Surveillance:** Regulations become ineffective if non-compliant products continue to circulate in markets.
 - ♦ Surveillance capacities remain uneven across states and sectors.
- **Export-Quality Challenges:** Export quality regulation is fragmented among agencies such as Export Inspection Council, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, commodity boards, and other regulators.
 - ♦ Promotion and regulation often coexist within the same institutions, creating potential conflicts.
- **Limited International Recognition:** Compliance with Indian standards does not automatically ensure acceptance in foreign markets.
 - ♦ Indian certifications often require additional verification abroad, increasing export costs.

Government Initiatives Promoting Quality

- **Quality Control Orders (QCOs):** Introduced to ensure that products meet prescribed quality and safety standards. It covers sectors such as steel, chemicals, electronics, footwear, and toys.
- **Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Scheme:** Encourages MSMEs to adopt quality manufacturing practices while minimising environmental impact.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** Supports domestic manufacturing while incentivising firms to achieve global quality benchmarks.
- **National Quality Mission:** Promotes quality consciousness across industries and public institutions.

- **One District One Product (ODOP):** Encourages standardisation, branding, and quality enhancement of local products.

Way Ahead

- **Improve Testing Infrastructure:** Expand accredited laboratories and certification facilities to strengthen quality assessment and compliance.
- **Establish a National Authority on Quality:** Create a dedicated apex body to provide a whole-of-government approach to quality governance by coordinating standards, certification, accreditation, regulation, and enforcement across sectors.
- **Streamline Export Certification:** Rationalise multiple export-certification agencies to reduce duplication and simplify compliance for exporters.
- **Separate Key Functions:** Standard-setting, certification, regulation, and enforcement should be handled independently to enhance transparency and accountability.
- **Enhance Global Integration:** Increase participation in international standard-setting bodies and pursue mutual recognition arrangements for Indian certifications.

Conclusion

- India's next phase of quality reforms should move beyond merely increasing the number of standards and certifications.
- The focus must shift toward building a **credible, trusted, and internationally recognised quality governance system** that supports consumer protection, export competitiveness, and the goal of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

Source: TH

3RD NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ANTI-NARCOTICS TASK FORCE (ANTF)

Context

- The Union Home Minister inaugurated the **3rd National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Heads of States/UTs in New Delhi**.

About

- He also laid the foundation stones for new **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Zone complexes** in **Lucknow and Dehradun**.

- The two-day conference was organised by the **NCB** and saw participation of **ANTF heads from 36 States and Union Territories**.

The Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF)

- It is a dedicated **State/Union Territory-level mechanism** for combating **drug trafficking and strengthening coordination** among agencies involved in enforcement of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.
- **Each State/UT has a dedicated ANTF**, generally headed by an Additional Director General (ADG) or Inspector General (IG)-level police officer.
- They facilitate coordination between **State Police, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and other Central and State enforcement agencies**.
- Their activities include **intelligence gathering, investigation, interdiction of drug trafficking and action against illicit drug networks**.
- **Role of NCB:** The NCB is the **central nodal agency** for drug-law enforcement and coordinates the activities of Central and State agencies.

Drug Trafficking in India as per the NCB Annual Report 2025

- **Myanmar Emerged as Alternative Source:** Following the 2022 Taliban-imposed ban on drugs in Afghanistan, **Myanmar** has emerged as an alternative source of global opium supply.
 - ♦ Myanmar's illicit opium cultivation expanded by approximately **56% between 2021 and 2023**.
 - ♦ **Myanmar's Golden Triangle** has expanded as both an opiate supplier and a dominant methamphetamine hub.
- **North-East India Most Impacted:** The northeastern States of Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland are bearing the sharpest frontline exposure due to the enhanced production of drugs in Myanmar.
- **Porous Border Mechanisms:** The Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the India-Myanmar border, have created conditions under which these States have transitioned from peripheral transit zones to active staging grounds for distribution of narcotics.
- **Drug Trafficking Through Afghanistan:** The drone-based drug trafficking from across the

Pakistan border has seen a five-fold increase over the past five years.

- ♦ **The South Asian arm of the drug trade via Afghanistan** flows through Pakistan into India via both the land frontier in Punjab and Rajasthan, and the maritime frontier along the Gujarat and Maharashtra coastlines.

Why is India Targeted by Drug Trafficking?

- **Geographic Location:** India is situated at the intersection of the illicit drug flows from two key drug-producing regions, the so-called **Golden Crescent** (encompassing the border regions of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran) and the **Golden Triangle** (including Myanmar, Laos and Thailand), and has been historically affected by heroin flows from both directions.
- **Extensive Land and Maritime Borders:** India shares over 15,000 km of land borders and a coastline of over 11,000 Km.
 - ♦ Porous borders with Myanmar, Nepal, and Bangladesh facilitate cross-border smuggling through difficult terrain and informal routes.
- **Growing Domestic Market:** India is no longer only a transit country but also a significant consumer market.
- **Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Base:** India is one of the world's largest producers of pharmaceuticals and precursor chemicals.
 - ♦ Diversion of precursor chemicals can aid the illegal manufacture of synthetic drugs if regulatory oversight is weak.
- **Narco-Terrorism:** Drug trafficking finances terrorist organisations and insurgent groups. Proceeds from narcotics have been used to fund anti-India activities, especially along the western border.
- **Expanding Maritime Trade:** India's busy ports and growing container traffic create opportunities to conceal narcotics among legitimate cargo.
- **Difficult Terrain and Border Challenges:** Dense forests, mountains, deserts, and riverine stretches make surveillance difficult.
- **Regional Instability:** Political instability and weak law enforcement in parts of neighbouring countries enable cultivation, production, and trafficking of narcotics into and through India.

Impact of Drug Abuse

- **Economic Impact:** Drug abuse lowers productivity, increases healthcare costs, and weakens human capital.

- **Health Impact:** It causes mental disorders, spreads HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, and leads to physical deterioration.
- **Social Impact:** It disrupts families, fuels domestic violence, and results in social isolation and stigma.
- **National Security Impact:** Drug trade fosters narco-terrorism, organised crime, and youth involvement weakens national integrity.

Government Initiatives

- **Three Year Roadmap:** The Union Home Minister outlined a **three-year roadmap** to make India **drug-free by 2029. The road map is based on four pillars.**
 - ♦ **First** is intelligence and operation-based enforcement; **second**—precursor and synthetic drugs control; **third**—demand and harm reduction; and **fourth**—capacity building and coordination.
 - ♦ **BSF, CISF, Indian Coast Guard, Customs and DRI** will carry out risk-based profiling and install scanners at land borders, ports, airports and cargo for sharper surveillance.
 - ♦ **The CBI, Ministry of External Affairs and Interpol** will bring back the fugitives.
 - ♦ **The Enforcement Directorate, Financial Intelligence Unit and the banking system** will catch the money trail.
- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act):** It prohibits the production, possession, sale, and consumption of illicit drugs and prescribes penalties for violations.
- **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan:** Launched in 2020, this campaign aims to create awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free India.
- **350 Integrated Rehabilitation Centers for Addicts (IRCAs)** are supported by the Government to provide treatment for the drug victims, preventive education, awareness generation, motivational counseling, detoxification/de-addiction, after care and re-integration into the social mainstream.
- **Kashi Declaration: It is a five-year roadmap** for drug-free India, signed during the Youth Spiritual Summit in **Varanasi.**
 - ♦ **India** has set a national goal of achieving a **Drug-Free India by 2047.**
- **India has signed Bilateral Agreements with 27 countries,** Memorandum of Understanding

with 16 countries and Agreements on Security Cooperation with 02 countries for combating illicit trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) and Chemical Precursors as well as related offences.

- **DarkNet Monitoring Cell** under **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** tracks online drug sales.
- To monitor the investigation of important and significant seizures, a **Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) under the Chairmanship of Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** has been set up.

Conclusion

- The growing drug menace in India poses a grave threat to public health, societal well-being, and national security.
- However, sustained success will require coordinated efforts across government, civil society, and communities, with a strong emphasis on prevention, rehabilitation, and youth empowerment to build a truly *Nasha Mukta Bharat*.

Source: PIB

NEWS IN SHORT

BIOVIGILANCE PROGRAMME OF INDIA

In News

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has approved the Biovigilance Programme of India.

Biovigilance Programme of India

- It will monitor and prevent **adverse events linked to medicines and biological products** used in organ and tissue transplantation.
- It will also cover products administered to **both organ and tissue donors and recipients**.
- It will be led by the **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)**.
 - ♦ Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) is an **autonomous institution** of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which sets standards for all drugs that are manufactured, sold and consumed in India.
- It will complement the **Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI)**, which monitors adverse drug reactions, and the *Materiovigilance*

Programme of India (MvPI), which tracks adverse events associated with medical devices.

Source: IE

PBSHABD

In News

- Prasar Bharati's PBSHABD user base reached 3,600 media organisations in two years and free access extended **until March 2027**.

Background

- Prasar Bharati is **India's autonomous public service broadcaster** which was formed on 23 November 1997 under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 with **Akashvani and Doordarshan as its two elements**.
- Its mandate includes the promotion of fair and balanced flow of information in the public interest. The core of this position has been news collection.
- Prasar Bharati News Service (PBNS) was initially an internal news wire providing content to **Akashvani and Doordarshan**.
- In March 2024, its scope was broadened to turn this internal news resource into a news-sharing service.

PBSHABD

- It stands for **Prasar Bharati – Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination**.
- It was launched by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)** in 2024 in New Delhi.
- It is a news feed service of Prasar Bharati, open to media users round the clock.
- It supplies timely, authentic and ready-to-use news content from India and the world.
- It has text, video, audio, photos and infographics in **15 Indian languages spanning approximately 50 categories** for media organisations to use.
- Its users are registered media organisations, digital publishers and content creators. Newspapers, news television channels and digital news publishers form the bulk of this base.

Source: PIB

DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GRAMEEN KAUSHALYA YOJANA 2.0

In News

- The Government is creating a more responsive, technology-driven, and outcome-oriented skilling ecosystem through **DDU-GKY 2.0**.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) introduced **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in 2014** under the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission**.
- It is a placement-linked skilling program for rural youth, with a focus on sustainable livelihoods for rural youth.
- It has been delivering placement-linked vocational training to rural youngsters in the age group of 15-35 years from disadvantaged homes for more than a decade.
- It also fosters social inclusion by ensuring coverage for SC/ST communities (50%), women (33%), and persons with disabilities (5%). Over

the last decade, the initiative has developed to focus more on employment outcomes and post-placement support.

Upgraded Version

- In May 2025, the Government released the **improved DDU-GKY 2.0** Guidelines, which further enhanced the framework around training, placements, employment sustainability, and post-placement support.
- It offers training in several industries like aerospace and aviation, agriculture, beauty and wellness, green jobs, healthcare, textiles and others based on industry requirements.
- The Union Budget 2026-27 has kept the focus on rural skilling with an allocation of 750 crore for DDU-GKY.



Two specific programs are underway under DDU-GKY 2.0

- **Roshni:** It is meant for the unique needs of the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) impacted districts notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - ♦ There is a need for training in home skills and a 40% reservation for women candidates.
 - ♦ The program has now been extended to Aspirational Districts for local infrastructure, education, health, natural resources and traditional skills.

- **Himayat:** This is a particular DDU-GKY initiative for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. It serves rural and urban youth, BPL and APL populations and fosters wage, self, and gig work. The scheme is 100 per cent nationally sponsored and implemented with the help of the States through the specialised Mission Management Units.

Importance

- DDU-GKY 2.0 represents an important step towards building a skilled, empowered, and self-reliant rural workforce for the future.

- It also promotes India's vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 that aims to transform the country into a global economic and knowledge hub.

Source: PIB

GAZA BOARD OF PEACE

Context

- The US-backed Board of Peace has proposed a six-month, **\$2.45-billion recovery programme for Gaza**, covering projects related to infrastructure, housing, healthcare, economic revival, digital services and security.

What is the Board of Peace?

- The Board of Peace (BoP) is an **international organisation** established to promote **peace, stability, reconstruction and effective governance** in conflict-affected regions, with its immediate and major focus on the post-war transition in Gaza.
- U.S. President Donald Trump** proposed the Board as part of his framework for achieving a lasting peace in Gaza following the **Israel– Hamas conflict**.
 - He serves as the Chairman** of the Board of Peace.
- The Board's framework received international backing through **UN Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025)**, which endorsed the broader Gaza peace and transitional framework.
- Members:** The organisation has brought together a group of countries as founding members, including the United States, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and the UAE, among others.

Source: HT

BRICS AND THE CHANGING GLOBAL TAX ARCHITECTURE

Context

- The BRICS tax heads meeting has highlighted the grouping's effort to develop common positions on international taxation and strengthen the voice of large developing economies in ongoing negotiations for a new global tax framework.

About

- The members focused on international taxation, transfer pricing, revenue statistics, digital tax administration and capacity building, alongside constructive engagement with the **UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation (UNFCITC)**.

- India's BRICS Tax Initiatives:** India is sharing experiences in faceless assessment, pre-filled tax returns, real-time invoice authentication and AI-enabled taxpayer assistance with BRICS partners.

- India established two new working groups on **international taxation and transfer pricing** and **revenue statistics** during its 2026 BRICS tax chairship.
- The BRICS Tax Cross-Learning Lab and Tax Support Network** are intended to strengthen peer learning and institutional cooperation.
- The first in-person **BRICS Young Tax Professionals Capacity Building Programme** was organised in India in April 2026 and has been institutionalised as an annual programme.

UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation

- The UNFCITC is a **proposed global framework** intended to strengthen international tax cooperation and make global tax governance more inclusive and transparent.
- In **2023**, the **UN General Assembly** adopted a resolution initiating the process for a new international tax convention.
- Negotiations began in **2025**, with the process expected to move towards finalisation of the convention and related protocols by **2027**.

Source: HT

INDIA REJECTS OIC GROUP'S REMARKS ON KASHMIR

Context

- India categorically rejected the **references to Kashmir** in the Joint Communique of the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir of the **Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**.

About OIC

- Established:** 1969, in Rabat, Morocco.
- Trigger Event:** Response to the arson attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.
- Headquarters:** Currently in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Membership:** Open to UN member states with a Muslim majority (57 member states as of 2026).
- Goals and Mandate:** Present itself as the "collective voice of the Muslim world". It promotes solidarity and unity among members.
- Membership & Voting:**
 - Full membership requires consensus in the Council of Foreign Ministers.

- Observer status follows a similar process.
- **Decisions:** Preferably by consensus, or by two-thirds majority of those present and voting.
- **Key Organs**
 - **Islamic Summit:** Highest authority, composed of Heads of State, meets every 3 years.
 - **Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM):** Primary decision-making body, meets annually.

Source: AIR

SIANG UPPER MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT

Context

- The Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet has approved an Empowered High-Level Committee to guide and coordinate the pre-feasibility survey for the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP).

About the Project

- **Location:** The project has **three designated sites**, of which **two are in Siang district** and one is in **Upper Siang district**.
- **Capacity of SUMP:** 11,000 megawatts (MW).
- The Union government declared the project a National Project in **2008**, reflecting its strategic importance.

Siang River

- The Siang originates in Tibet, where the river is known as the **Yarlung Tsangpo**.
- It flows eastward for more than **1,000 km** before making a major bend around **Namcha Barwa** and entering Arunachal Pradesh as the **Siang**.
- In Assam, the Siang joins the **Dibang and Lohit rivers** and forms the Brahmaputra.

Source: TH

SATELLITE SMART ANTI-AIRFIELD WEAPONS (SAT-SAAW)

Context

- The Defence Ministry has signed a contract of over **810 crore rupees** with **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** for the procurement of **160 Satellite Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAT-SAAW)** along with associated equipment for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

About Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAT-SAAW)

- The SAT-SAAW is an **air-to-ground precision-guided glide bomb** designed to strike enemy airfields from a long stand-off range.

- The weapon has been designed and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and will have **60 per cent** indigenous content.
- It can be launched from **Jaguar, Hawk and Su-30MKI aircraft**, allowing the IAF to engage airfield targets without having to approach them directly.
 - The delivery of SAT-SAAW is scheduled between 2027-2028 and 2028-2029.
- The indigenous SAAW project was first approved in **2013**, underwent flight testing from **2016 to 2021**, and was officially inducted into the **IAF in 2021**.

Source: AIR

NAOERO

Context

- At the UN General Assembly, President David Adeang announced that **Nauru will be known as Naoero**.
 - The change restores an **ancestral name, language and national identity**.

About Naoero

- Naoero, an island country in the **southwestern Pacific Ocean**. It consists of a **raised coral island located in southeastern Micronesia**, 25 miles (40 km) south of the Equator.
- **Naoero is the third smallest country** in the world. **Vatican City** is the smallest country in the world.



- It is home to about **12,000 people**, and became independent in **1968** after colonial rule under the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and Germany.
- Its international code is changing from **NRU** to **NRO**, and its people will be known as **dei-Naoero** instead of Nauruan.

Source: IT