

Ministerial Dialogue on 'Accelerating Drought Resilience'

Prelims: Current events of National and International Importance | Environment

Why is in news?

India has called for a shift in global drought policy from reactive response to proactive, technology-enabled resilience at the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP17** in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

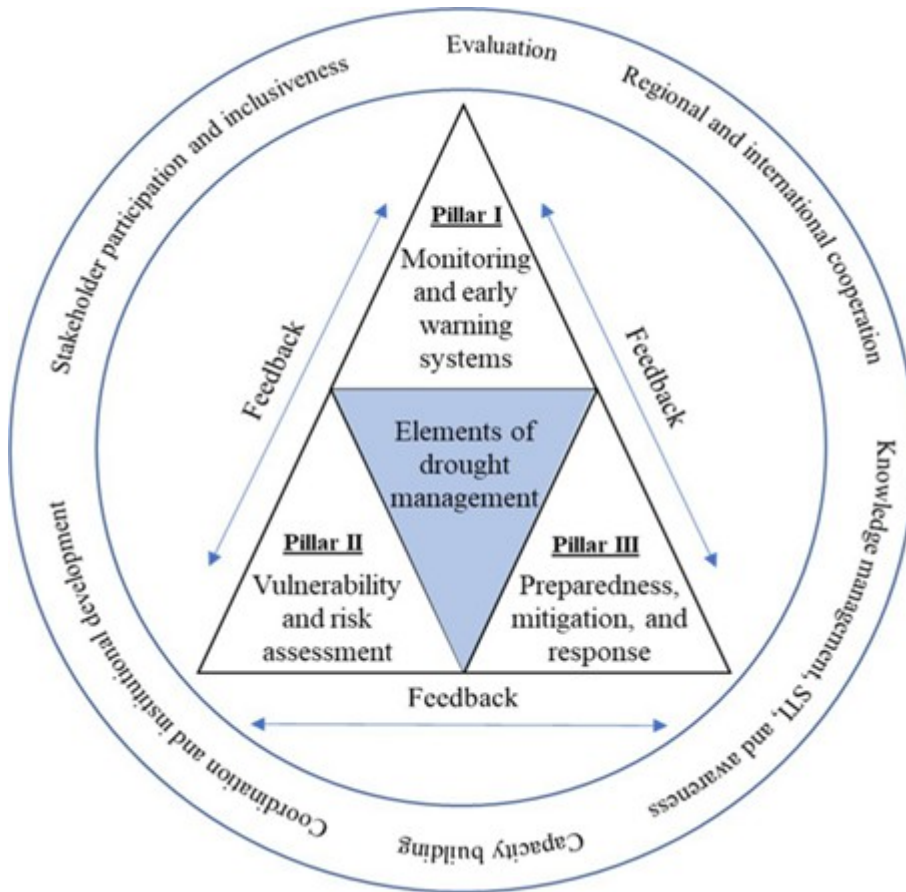
India's Call at UNCCD COP 17

- It urged countries to strengthen early warning systems, watershed restoration and climate-resilient agriculture.
- It called for measures including watershed restoration, climate-resilient cropping and stronger early warning systems in drought-prone areas.
- It also said drought resilience should be supported by disaster funds earmarked for droughts, employment guarantees and emergency water supplies.

India's approach to drought management

- Approximately 68 percent of India's total sown area is drought-prone
- It is guided by the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The drought warning system is also supported by space-based drought forecasting from the India Meteorological Department and the Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre.
- These systems are intended to ensure that a 'dry spell' or rainfall deficit does not immediately translate into a drought situation.
- Apart from early warning systems, India has multiple schemes aimed at strengthening water security.
 - **Atal Bhujal Yojana** - introduced in 2019 - focuses on community-led groundwater management.

- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** - introduced in 2015 - seeks to improve access to water for farmland through check dams, bunds and other water-conservation measures.
- There are also supplementary measures, including crop insurance, to reduce the financial pressure on farmers in the event of drought-related crop losses and reduced incomes.



Reference

[DD News | India urges global shift from drought response to drought resilience at UNCCD CoP17](#)