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News: Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)

- India's participation in the Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) programme for strengthening Saint Lucia's (an island country in the Caribbean) tax administration marks a significant step in international cooperation in tax matters.

Tax Inspectors without Borders

- The Tax Inspectors without Borders (TIWB) Programme which is **jointly launched by UNDP and OECD is intended to support developing countries to strengthen national tax administrations through building audit capacity** and to share this knowledge with other countries.
- The TIWB Programme aims to **strengthen tax administrations of developing countries by transferring technical know-how and skills to their tax auditors,** and through the sharing of general audit practices and dissemination of knowledge products with them.
- The focus of the programme will be in **International Taxation and Transfer Pricing**. Transfer price, also known as **transfer cost, is the price at which related parties transact with each other, such as during the trade of supplies or labor between departments**. Multinational companies can manipulate transfer prices to shift profits to low tax regions.
- This programme is expected to be of about **24 months' duration**.

- The TIWB Programme complements the efforts of the international community to strengthen cooperation on tax matters and contribute to domestic tax mobilisation efforts of developing countries.
- India has been supportive in capacity building in tax matters in developing countries. India being a global leader in this respect has a very important role to play in South-South Cooperation in tax matters.
- Recently, the initiative was launched in Bhutan with India being chosen as Partner Jurisdiction.
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Organisation of Economic Development (OECD)

- Organisation of Economic Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 37 member countries.
- It was founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
- OECD headquarters is in Paris, France. It also hosts the secretariat of Global Partnership of Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).
- India is not a member of OECD. India is still refraining itself from becoming its member to expand its sectoral engagement.

- According to OECD's Economic Outlook publication, **Potential gross domestic product (GDP)** is defined as the level of output that an economy can produce at a constant inflation rate.
- The **Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (DSTRI)** was released by the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**.
- The OECD Digital Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (Digital STRI) is a new tool **that identifies, catalogues, and quantifies cross-cutting barriers that affect the services traded digitally.**
- It consists of two components, the regulatory database, and the indices, which bring together comparable information from 44 countries.

Reports and Indices by OECD

- Government at a Glance 2017 report.
- International Migration Outlook.
- OECD Better Life Index.