

KSG: NEWSPAPER CRUX

17TH NOVEMBER 2022

Leaders of the G20 grouping on Wednesday said it was “essential to uphold international law and the multilateral system” as “today’s era must not be of war”. In a joint declaration brought out at the end of the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, the member states said the Ukraine war was causing economic difficulties and insecurity worldwide, and the threat of using nuclear weapons was “inadmissible”.

The declaration revealed that not all member states condemned the Russian action against Ukraine. “Most members strongly condemned the war, and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy — constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food security and elevating financial stability risks,” it said.

With the 27th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) in Sharm El-Sheikh nearing its final stages and efforts being ramped up to arrive at a conclusive agreement, a consortium of countries, including India, jointly said on Wednesday that carbon border taxes, which could result in market distortion and aggravate the trust deficit among parties, must be avoided.

The European Union has proposed a policy called the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to tax products such as cement and steel, which are extremely carbon intensive, with effect from 2026. BASIC, a group comprising Brazil, India, South Africa and China, large economies that are significantly dependent on coal, has for several years voiced common concerns and reiterated their right to use fossil fuels during their transition to clean energy.

50 number of years after which the U.S. is a big step closer to putting astronauts back on the lunar surface, since the end of the Apollo programme, with the launch of NASA’s new moon rocket. The lift-off marked the start of NASA’s Artemis lunar exploration programme. The space agency is aiming to send four astronauts around the moon in 2024.

15 in lakh, the number of foreigners, including 4.29 lakh U.S. nationals and 2.4 lakh Bangladeshis, who visited India last year when the

INDIA’S AYUSH SECTOR TO INCREASE ITS MARKET SHARE TO USD 23 BILLION GLOBALLY BY 2023: UNION MINISTER OF AYUSH

1. India accounts for about 2.8% of global AYUSH market and Market size of Indian AYUSH industry has grown by 17% during 2014-2020. AYUSH system composes of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy and Sowa-Rigpa. Potential for AYUSH sector Export Competitiveness: India is world’s 2nd largest exporter of Ayurveda and alternative medicine in world.

2. Value Chain: Indian firms are gradually moving upstream in the AYUSH value chain. Industrial Growth: As range and variety of products continues to expand, some Indian firms (Patanjali, Dabur etc) have emerged as local MNCs, which sends strong signals for high growth and diversification in the AYUSH sector.

3. Rising Domestic Consumption: Strong pent-up demand for herbal, Ayurvedic and related products. Challenges faced: lack of quality standards for medicine, lack of human resource, low investment in R&D, under-utilised infrastructure etc.

4. Initiatives taken for promotion of AYUSH Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission. Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of International Co-operation in AYUSH to boost export. Establishment of WHO-Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. Launch of Ayush Export Promotion Council and a special AYUSH visa category.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD COLD CHAINS REDUCE WASTE, POST-COVID PERIOD FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE: UN REPORT

1. Report, by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), calls for Greater investment in sustainable food cold chains to reduce hunger, provide livelihoods, and adapt to climate change. A food cold chain is an integrated temperature-controlled food distribution system that ensures that perishable produce and/or temperature-sensitive products are kept at their optimum temperature from source to destination.

2. Key Highlights-Of the total food produced an estimated 14% is lost and an estimated 17% is wasted costing global economy an estimated \$936 billion a year. Emissions from food loss and waste due to lack of refrigeration totalled around roughly 2% of total global greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in 2017. Food loss during the postharvest period reduces income of smallholder farmers by as much as 15%.

3. Recommendations-Quantifying energy use and GHGs in the existing food cold chains. Enforce ambitious minimum efficiency standards to prevent illegal imports of inefficient cold chain equipment and refrigerants.

PM PUSHES FOR CREATING A NEW WORLD ORDER FOR THE POST-COVID PERIOD

1. Addressing the G20 summit, PM termed problems associated with current phase of climate change, COVID pandemic, developments in Ukraine as a challenging global environment and called for a new world order.

2. All these issues have resulted in stressed economic situation, global supply chains disruption, energy security challenges, disintegrating global frameworks for cooperation both for India and for world as well. This provides India a unique opportunity to build itself as a substantial player in emerging world order by: Ensuring a stable and multipolar balance of power to evolve a world order underpinned by rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation in the international seas, respect for territorial integrity etc. Balancing comprehensive strategic relations with major powers like US and Russia while maintaining strategic autonomy.

3. Advancing Indian representation and leadership on matters of global governance such as climate change, terrorism, connectivity, and maritime security. Prioritising an integrated neighbourhood not only to bolster its economic and strategic engagements with the region but also to emerge as a potential security balancer in the region.

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country was on an extended period of coronavirus restrictions and visa regulations. The maximum number of foreigners who visited India during this period were from the United States (4,29,860).

7 number of people who were put to death in Kuwait for murder, the first executions since 2017 despite appeals from a prominent rights group. One Ethiopian woman and one Kuwaiti woman were among those hanged, along with three Kuwaiti men, a Syrian and a Pakistani. Kuwait has executed dozens of people since it introduced the death penalty in the mid-1960s.

52 number of Irish politicians Russia barred entry to, including Prime Minister Michael Martin, for waging "an aggressive anti-Russian propaganda campaign." The ban was the latest in a series of moves by Russia against figures from the West that have condemned its war in Ukraine. As a member of the EU, Ireland has joined sanctions against Russia.

Between 1900 and now, developed countries have benefitted from industrial development, which also led to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Therefore, options like financing the developing or underdeveloped countries by the developed world have been discussed at the COP27. Ourworldindata.org cites data from the Global Carbon Project to show that between 1751 and 2017, 47% of the CO2 emissions came from the U.S. and the EU28.

India is among the top seven emitters of GHG emissions. However, some emissions are unavoidable if we seek economic development. But, put in the context of India's population, its emissions are far lesser per head, than for others. World average per capita GHG emissions were 6.3 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) in 2020. The U.S. is above this at 14, followed by 13 in the Russian Federation and 9.7 in China. India remains far below the world average at 2.4.

India's retail inflation dropped to a three-month low of 6.77% in October when compared to the same month last year. Economists attribute the drop in inflation in October to a favourable base effect. Easing food prices have also been cited as a reason. In the past, inflation figures have cooled down temporarily only to rise again in subsequent months.

WORLD BANK RELEASES REPORT TITLED 'FINANCING INDIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS: CONSTRAINTS TO COMMERCIAL FINANCING AND PROSPECTS FOR POLICY ACTION'

- 1. Key Highlights** India will need to invest \$840 billion over the next 15 years into urban infrastructure. By 2036, 40% of population will be living in urban cities. Currently, Central and State governments finance over 75% of city infrastructure. Share of urban local bodies (ULB) (15%) and private sector (5%) is low.
- 2. Challenges in Private Financing-Weak funding base for private financing. Weak and fractured functional devolution for ULBs. Weak fiduciary capacity, quality and data of city agencies undermines investor confidence and creditworthiness.** Highly centralized direct control framework by states over ULB financing.
- 3. Recommendations-Structural Reforms-More stable, formula-based, and unconditional fiscal transfer regime.** Buoyant revenue base and cost recovery of services. Increasing property taxes, user fees and service charges.
- 4. Targeted Actions-Program of performance-based fiscal transfers.** Improving capacity of ULBs to develop and implement bankable projects and complex PPP transactions. Establish a dedicated structure – such as a Cities Investment Support Unit.

FIRST VIRTUAL GLOBAL SKILL SUMMIT WITH INDIAN MISSIONS OF TEN NATIONS

- 1.** It was organized jointly by ministries of education, external affairs, commerce and industry, skill development with an aim to facilitate overseas mobility of the skilled workforce from India. Summit aimed at institutionalizing a robust mechanism for exchange of information on skill requirements of countries and skill availability in India.
- 2.** Aligned with PM's 3T strategy which focuses on Trade, Tourism and Technology, Government envisions positioning India as a preferred global hub for skilled workforce, and making India skill capital of the world.
- 3.** Opportunities/advantage for India-Favourable demography: almost 54% of India's population is above 25 years old. Rise of Gig Economy: and demand for flexible work arrangements and focus on skills. Competitive advantage in the English language, and strong core skills in STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Rise in ageing population around world will create a greater demand for skilled workforce.
- 4.** Challenges faced: Inadequate infrastructure facilities for skill development, lack of focus on non-technical skills, lack of awareness about industry specific job roles and requirements, higher skill gap etc.
- 5. Steps taken for global collaboration-India International Skill Centre (IISC): It is a nodal platform to facilitate international workforce mobility opportunities for Indians. NSDC had launched NSDC International as a 100% subsidiary to play a role in steering national and international partnerships for overseas employment through specific programmes.** Skill India International Project: aimed at skilling, certification, and overseas employment of Indian.

WORLD'S POPULATION TOUCHES 8 BILLION

- 1.** Much of the world's population growth has come in the last century as better living standards and health advancements extended life expectancy. World population has grown from 2 billion in 1927 to 6 billion by 1998. However as per UN projections, annual population growth is now at its slowest level since 1950 against the backdrop of a slowing global fertility rate.
- 2.** In 1990, Total Fertility rate (average number of births per woman) was 3.2. By 2019 this had fallen to 2.5 and, by 2050, this is projected to decline further to 2.2 births. Slowdown is in large part driven by wealthy countries, where burden of raising a child and falling marriage rates have meant that several countries are facing population declines.
- 3.** Implications of population growth-Makes eradicating poverty, combating hunger and malnutrition, and increasing coverage of health and education systems more difficult. Higher proportion and number of older people is expected to put increased financial

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So, it may be too soon to conclude that October's inflation figures mark a turning point in inflation trends.

India G20 presidency will be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action oriented", said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who accepted the ceremonial gavel from Indonesian President Joko Widodo during the conclusion of the G20 summit in Bali on Wednesday.

The Army has deployed new landing docks and speedboats for patrolling on the Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh, matching the Chinese deployments on the lake. This is part of an overall capability enhancement and infrastructure development taken up by India since the 2020 standoff to plug deficiencies and catch up with the Chinese build-up along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

pressure on countries with higher cost of public health, pensions and social protections systems. Growth opportunities in developing economies as working-age population (25 to 64) is growing faster than other age ranges.