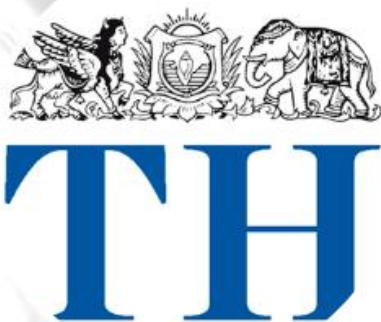


15TH MAY, 2020



IASBABA'S CURRENT AFFAIRS PRELIMS (CAP) - TO THE POINT!





Topics to be covered

1

1. SCO & Quad
2. UN World Economic Situation & Prospects Report
3. Project 39A, Important cases about capital punishment
4. G20 Virtual trade and investment Ministers meet
5. Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan : 2nd Tranche of ₹20,000 lakh Crores

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Thursday, May 14, 2020



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Jaishankar discusses coronavirus pandemic with SCO ministers

"Their conversation covered the pandemic response, global health management, medical cooperation, economic recovery and travel norms," Jaishankar had said.

Written by **Shubhajit Roy** | New Delhi | Published: May 14, 2020 2:26:39 am



X

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday took part in a video-call with his counterparts from [China](#), Russia and Pakistan among others to discuss the [COVID-19](#) crisis and coordination of efforts to deal with its consequences. This comes two days after India participated in a video call with the US, Australia and Japan among others to discuss “transparency and accountability in combatting the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) and in addressing its causes”.

This deft balancing act by India in a span of three days gives a sense of Delhi’s approach in dealing with the two blocs – US-led and China-led groupings – as both battle each other on the world stage over the pandemic.

Wednesday’s video call was between foreign ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which was organised by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and attended by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi among others. A statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said the video conference was convened in the backdrop of the pandemic and discussions centred around the [COVID-19](#) crisis and coordination of efforts to deal with its “trade, economic and social consequences”.

During the meeting, Jaishankar reaffirmed India’s “strong commitment” to the joint fight against the pandemic and its “readiness to share information, expertise and best practices” with the SCO member countries, the statement said.

On May 11, Jaishankar was on the call with members of the Quadrilateral grouping – US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, Japan’s FM Motegi Toshimitsu – and Israel’s Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Brazil’s FM Ernesto Araujo and South Korean FM Kang Kyung-wha.

“Their conversation covered the pandemic response, global health management, medical cooperation, economic recovery and travel norms,” Jaishankar had said.

US State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus had said they discussed the “importance of international cooperation, transparency, and accountability in combatting the [COVID-19](#) pandemic and in addressing its causes”. “They also discussed collaboration toward preventing future global health crises, reaffirming the importance of the rules-based international order,” she had said. The US statement was a clear reference to China opposing calls for international inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

New Delhi, which has refused to take sides, took part in Wednesday’s meeting to signal its “multi-alignment” approach. Jaishankar told the SCO ministers that India attaches “great importance” to its relations with the SCO and has contributed positively to enhance the role of grouping in the global arena since its inclusion as full member of SCO in 2017.

“He also assured that India will continue to maintain extensive engagement towards strengthening SCO’s potential in ensuring mutually beneficial development,” the statement said. He highlighted the initiatives taken by India in the wake of the pandemic, including the \$266 billion economic package announced Tuesday.

At the same time, he underlined that “security challenges we face today are not linked by physical or political boundaries. Terrorism continues to be the overwhelming threat to security and stability in the SCO region and would require collective action.” This was done in the call attended by Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Jaishankar also indicated that India is committed to work towards creation of a favourable environment for mutually beneficial trade-economic cooperation among SCO members.

The SCO foreign ministers also discussed preparations for the SCO Council of Head of State Meeting (SCO Summit) in Saint Petersburg, the situation in Afghanistan and commemoration of the 75th anniversary of World War II.

Press release on the meeting of SCO foreign ministers via video conference



On 13 May, under the chairmanship of Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, the foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held a meeting via video conference.

The ministers focused on the priority tasks aimed at developing the SCO's activities in the context of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). They stressed the importance of promoting international cooperation in order to overcome the social, trade and economic aftershock of COVID-19 and prevent its impact on regional and global security and stability. They reaffirmed their readiness to further promote the SCO's efforts to help reach a political settlement in Afghanistan as soon as possible.

The ministers spoke in favour of strengthening the SCO coordination within the UN and other multilateral platforms, including during events to mark the 75th anniversary of the Victory in WWII and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

The ministers had a detailed discussion on the implementation of Russia's Action Plan for its presidency at the organisation with an emphasis on the preparations for the SCO Summit in St Petersburg.

Following the video conference, a Statement of the SCO Foreign Ministers was adopted.



SCO

5

- ▶ About: Eurasian political, economic & military organisation
- ▶ Aim: Peace, security & Stability
- ▶ Members: 8, 4 observer States, dialogue partners
- ▶ Background
- ▶ Initiatives: Free Trade zone, Intergovernmental agreement on facilitating International Road Transport

Structure and function of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

SCO Heads of State Council

The Council of Heads of State shall be the supreme SCO body. It shall determine priorities and define major areas of activities of the Organization, decide upon the fundamental issues of its internal arrangement and functioning and its interaction with other States and international organizations, as well as consider the most topical international issues.

SCO Heads of Government Council

The Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) shall approve the budget of the Organization, consider and decide upon major issues related to particular, especially economic, spheres of interaction within the Organization.

SCO Foreign Ministers Council

The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs shall consider issues related to day-to-day activities of the Organization, preparation of meetings of the Council of Heads of State and holding of consultations on international problems within the Organization. The Council may, as appropriate, make statements on behalf of SCO.

Member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation



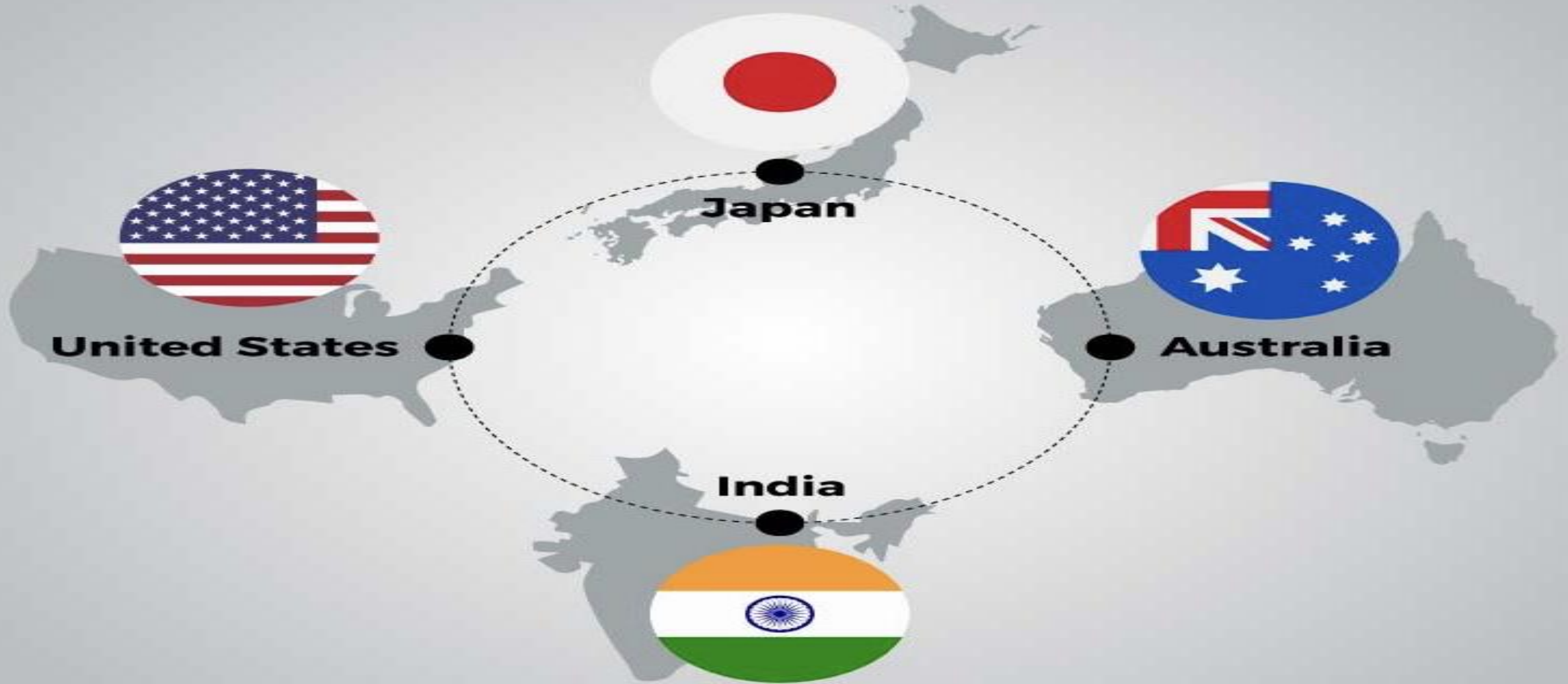


Quadrilateral Grouping

7

- ▶ Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
- ▶ India, US, Japan & Australia
- ▶ Original idea by Japan, 2007
- ▶ Came into being – 2017
- ▶ Counter to Chinese Influence

QUADRILATERAL GROUPING



The Quad is an informal strategic dialogue which is widely viewed as a response to increased Chinese economic and military power.

JUST
IN

11

🕒 3hrs Muthappa Rai
dead at 68

12

🕒 3hrs Trump confirms
pulling out U.S. pension
fund from China

13

🕒 3hrs Dining with
dummies? Three-star
restaurant in U.S. adds

MENU



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UN forecasts pandemic to shrink world economy by 3.2%

In January, before COVID-19 became a pandemic, the U.N. had forecast a modest acceleration in growth of 2.5 per cent in 2020

The [United Nations](#) forecast Wednesday that the [COVID-19](#) pandemic will shrink the world economy by 3.2 per cent this year, the sharpest contraction since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Also read: [UN lowers India's FY20 GDP growth forecast](#)

The U.N.'s mid-year report said the impact of the coronavirus crisis is expected to slash global economic output by nearly \$8.5 trillion over the next two years, wiping out nearly all gains of the last four years.

In January, before [COVID-19](#) became a pandemic, the U.N. had forecast a modest acceleration in growth of 2.5 per cent in 2020.

But U.N. chief economist Elliott Harris told a news conference launching the report that the global economic outlook has changed drastically since then, with the pandemic's death toll climbing toward 300,000.

With the large-scale restrictions of economic activities and heightened uncertainties, the global economy has come to a virtual standstill in the second quarter of 2020, he said.

Also read: [COVID-19 | UN urges governments to tackle recession, scrap debt payment](#)

We are now facing the grim reality of a severe recession of a magnitude not seen since the Great Depression.

According to the report, nearly 90 per cent of the world economy has been under some form of lock-down, disrupting supply chains, depressing consumer demand and putting millions out of work.

The 3.2 per cent contraction in the global economy forecast by the United Nations — 5 per cent in developing countries and 0.7 per cent in developed countries — is slightly higher than the 3 per cent plunge forecast by the International Monetary Fund in mid-April for 2020.



But in a worst-case scenario, the U.N. said the global economy could shrink by 4.9 per cent in 2020 if a second wave of COVID-19 infections flares up and lockdowns continue into the third quarter of the year.

The IMF forecast that the global economy will rebound in 2021 with 5.8 per cent growth though it said prospects next year are clouded by uncertainty.

The U.N. forecast more modest 3.4 per cent economic growth in 2021 in developed economies and more robust growth of 5.3 percent in developing countries.

But in the worst-case scenario, it said the global economy could contract by a further 0.5 per cent in 2021 if a new wave of infections and lockdowns continues in the third quarter, which ends Sept. 30.

The United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects report also forecast a 15 per cent contraction in world trade in 2020 as a result of sharply reduced global demand and disruptions in global supply chains.

The U.N.'s Harris said early efforts to contain the pandemic fell short of market expectations, causing extreme financial market volatility in developing countries and rippling out to the rest of the world.

But the pandemic is inflicting damages on the real economy at unprecedented scale and speed, he said.

As countries put in an all-out effort to contain COVID-19, the world is facing the most severe restrictions on movement and goods in recorded history.

The report said the pandemic is exacerbating poverty and inequality, with an estimated 34.3 million people likely to fall below the extreme poverty line of \$1.90 a day in 2020 — 56 per cent of them in Africa.

It said an additional 130 million people may join the ranks of people living in extreme poverty by 2030, dealing a huge blow to global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by the end of the decade.



Mr. Harris, the U.N. assistant secretary-general for economic development, said the most pessimistic scenario would have an additional 160 million people living in poverty by 2030.

With rising inequality, he warned, this will only intensify discontent and instability in many parts of the world.

Harris said governments need to contain the pandemic and minimize its economic impacts.

The balance between saving lives and saving jobs is as difficult as it is necessary to strike, he said.

Fiscal stimulus has been uneven across the world, and many developing countries have been unable to introduce sufficiently large packages because of sharp declines in foreign exchange flows from export and tourism revenues, remittances and new borrowing, he said.

In any event, unless there are major breakthroughs in vaccine development, economic activities will remain significantly limited, and any fiscal measure will be unlikely to be fully effective in stimulating investment and growth, Mr. Harris said.

He said robust international coordination is critical to contain the pandemic, minimize its spillover effects, and assist countries hardest hit by COVID-19.

How quickly and effectively the international community will be able to contain the public health and socio-economic fallout of the pandemic will determine whether and how soon the world can return to pre-crisis levels of economic activities, Mr. Harris said.



UN World Economic Situation & Prospects Report

13

- ▶ Jointly released by:
 - UNCTAD
 - UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs
 - 5 UN Regional Economic Commission

- ▶ UNCTAD:
 - Established in 1964
 - Aim
 - HQ: Geneva, Switzerland
 - Meets once in 4 years
 - World Investment Report – Annually published



[Home](#) / [India](#) / In most death penalty cases, court invoked 'collective conscience' of society: Study

In most death penalty cases, court invoked 'collective conscience' of society: Study

This was also true of 42% of cases in Madhya Pradesh and 51% of cases in Maharashtra during the same period, according to the study.



The team led by Dr Anup Surendranath, Executive Director of Project 39A and Assistant Professor of Law at NLU, Delhi, looked at 215 trial court judgments from Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra to study the award of death sentences by trial courts. (File Photo)

Seventy-two per cent of all cases in which Delhi trial courts awarded the death penalty from 2000 to 2015 cited “collective conscience of the society” as an influencing factor, a study by Project 39A, a criminal reforms advocacy group, has found.

This was also true of 42% of cases in Madhya Pradesh and 51% of cases in Maharashtra during the same period, according to the study.

The team led by Dr Anup Surendranath, Executive Director of Project 39A and Assistant Professor of Law at NLU, Delhi, looked at 215 trial court judgments from Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra to study the award of death sentences by trial courts.

The three states for the study since they rank high on the list of states awarding capital punishment and a large number of decisions in capital cases were overturned at the appellate level — in the High Courts and Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's 1983 ruling in *Machhi Singh And Others vs State of Punjab* which introduced 'collective conscience' into the capital sentencing framework and laid down five categories, where the community would "expect the holders of judicial power to impose death sentence, because collective conscience was sufficiently outraged".

The study found that "in such cases, the trial courts opined that the crime was heinous enough to shake the collective conscience of the society and, therefore, the harshest punishment available under the law had to be meted out to the offenders".

Of the 112 cases in which collective conscience was a factor impacting the decisions of courts, absolutely no other mitigating factor was considered in 63 cases.

In 1980, in *Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab*, the Supreme Court developed a framework for sentences in cases that involved the death sentence while evolving the 'rarest of rare', a doctrine that advocated a restrictive approach to the award of capital punishment.

The *Bachan Singh* case required trial courts to weigh the circumstances of the offence and the offender, while also considering the probability of reformation, and the suitability of the alternative option of life imprisonment.

While *Bachan Singh* also requires a separate hearing for sentencing after conviction that would look into relevant facts, the Project 39A study found that sentencing on the same day of conviction was rampant — 44 per cent cases had sentencing hearings on the same day as the pronouncement of guilt.

"Same day sentencing has an obvious impact on the nature and quality of arguments that are eventually presented before the court," the study noted.

Another indicator of the ineffective quality of arguments by defence counsel, as recorded in the judgments, was the lack of individualised arguments in cases involving multiple accused.

Of 52 cases in the three states, where multiple accused were involved, individual mitigating circumstances for each accused was argued only in nine cases.

The study also found that trial courts mainly relied on aggravating circumstances to impose death sentences.

In Madhya Pradesh, in 51 judgments out of a total 82, no mitigating circumstances were considered during sentencing. In Maharashtra, it was true of 41 out of 90, and in Delhi, in 18 out of 43 cases.

Incidentally, in Delhi, of the 80 death sentences handed by trial courts between 2000 and 2013, over 60% later resulted in acquittals or where sentences were commuted by the Delhi High Court.

In Maharashtra, out of approximately 120 sentenced to death by trial courts between 2000 and 2013, more than half the prisoners were acquitted or had sentences had sentences commuted by Bombay High Court.

“At the time of conceptualising the study, the exact statistics were not available for Madhya Pradesh. However, we noticed a trend, especially in cases involving sexual violence, that there had been short trials and quick confirmation proceedings by the High Court,” the authors noted.



Project 39A, Important Cases-Capital Punishment

17

- ▶ National Law University, Delhi
- ▶ Project studied 3 States & UT
- ▶ Concept of “Collective Conscience”
- ❖ Important Cases:
 - Machhi Singh & Others vs State of Punjab
 - Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab
 - Jagmohan Singh vs State of UP

India calls upon the G-20 nations to ensure access to essential medicines, treatments and vaccines at affordable prices;

Shri Piyush Goyal, in G-20 Trade Ministers meeting, says staying true to our tradition of “Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam, India has unconditionally provided medical supplies to over 120 countries to combat this disease

India will emerge stronger after the implementation of the special economic package announced by the Prime Minister, says the minister

World has to come together to build partnerships among like-minded nations with shared values of democracy, rules-based and transparent business models and concern for humanity as a whole

India has called upon the G-20 nations to ensure access to essential medicines, treatments and vaccines at affordable prices. In his Interventions during the 2nd G20 Virtual Trade & Investment Ministers Meeting, held through Video-conferencing, the Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal asked the G20 members to first focus on immediate and concrete actions that can ease the distress being faced by people all over the world due to Corona pandemic. He said that the unprecedented situation calls for solidarity and a balanced, inclusive and calibrated response. An overriding priority for all countries at this time, is to save precious lives. He strongly called for agreement to enable the use of TRIPs flexibilities to ensure access to essential medicines, treatments and vaccines at affordable prices. He also called upon the G-20 nations to also agree to provide diagnostic and protective equipment, and healthcare professionals across borders where they are most needed.

Shri Goyal said that doing away with the policy instrument of export restrictions is not a panacea that will guarantee access to medical products and food for all. In fact, such a step is likely to lead to a flight of these critical products to the highest bidder, making them inaccessible to the resource-poor. He said that more effective and lasting way to ensure food security of the most vulnerable, would be by agreeing to eliminate the historic asymmetries in the Agreement on Agriculture, and delivering on the long-standing Ministerial mandate to establish permanent, adequate and accessible disciplines on Public Stockholding for food security purposes by the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO.



Shri Goyal said that learning from this extremely distressing experience, the world has to come together to build partnerships among like-minded nations with shared values of democracy, rules-based and transparent business models and concern for humanity as a whole. India wishes to contribute to this global effort. He said “In the last few months, we have embarked upon an ambitious reform agenda under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to transform our country. Our future will be crafted on five pillars – a strong and vibrant economy, massive infrastructure development, building modern systems with stable and predictable regulatory practices, leveraging the huge demographic dividend our democracy offers and the growing demand for goods and services of 1.3 billion Indians. We are confident we will emerge stronger after the implementation of the announcement of Prime Minister Modi of a special economic package amounting to around 10% of our GDP.”

Sharing a small example of India’s capabilities and commitment, Shri Goyal said “When the pandemic broke out, India barely produced a few thousand pieces of Personal Protective Equipment. We had never needed PPEs in large numbers ever before. When we realised that countries were not able to supply enough for our needs, our domestic manufacturers created and ramped up capacities. So much so, that we now produce nearly 300,000 PPEs every day.”

The Minister said that widely regarded as the ‘Pharmacy of the World’, India is also proactively partnering in global efforts to develop vaccines and effective treatment for this disease. He said “We offer full support to any global engagements to further this cause. Staying true to our tradition of “Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam”, i.e. the world is one big family, India has unconditionally provided medical supplies to over 120 countries to combat this disease, of which 43 countries received it as a grant. In addition, a USD 10 million COVID-19 Emergency Fund has been created and is being utilised to deliver urgent medical supplies, equipment and humanitarian assistance to our neighbours. We are also sharing our medical and public health expertise and capacity with them, using digital technologies.”

Underscoring the wide digital divide between developed and developing countries, the Minister stressed on the urgent need to build the digital skills and capacities of developing countries and LDCs, rather than rushing to make binding rules on digital trade and e-commerce, which will freeze the extremely non-level playing field against their interests, and deprive them of the opportunity to benefit from the immense potential in these areas. He said that as a result of the pandemic, a large number of professionals, workers and students located overseas are facing difficulty in maintaining their visa status. Describing India as the shining example to have extended benefits to them, he said that We must allow suitable accommodation in their visa status and take other necessary steps to address their distress.

Shri Goyal thanked the Saudi Presidency for organising the 2nd G20 Trade & Investment Ministers Virtual Meeting.



G20

22

- ▶ Informal Group
- ▶ 19 countries + EU
- ▶ Mix of both developed & developing countries
- ▶ Members
- ▶ Structure

G20 COUNTRIES



Argentina



Australia



Brazil



Canada



China



European Union



France



Germany



India



Indonesia



Italy



Japan



Mexico



Russia



Saudi Arabia



South Africa



South Korea



Turkey



United Kingdom



United States

Finance Minister announces short term and long-term measures for supporting the poor, including migrants, farmers, tiny businesses and street vendors

- Free food grains supply to Migrants for 2 months.
- Technology system to be used enabling Migrants to access PDS(Ration) from any Fair Price Shops in India by March,2021-One Nation one Ration Card
- Scheme for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes for Migrant Workers and Urban Poor to be launched
 - 2% Interest Subvention for 12 months for Shishu MUDRA loanees- Relief of Rs. 1500 crore
 - Rs 5000 crore Credit facility for Street Vendors.
- Rs70,000 crore boost to housing sector and middle income group through extension of Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for MIG under PMAY(Urban)
 - Rs 6,000 crore for Creating employment using CAMPA funds
 - Rs 30,000 crore Additional Emergency Working Capital for farmers through NABARD
- Rs 2 lakh crore concessional credit boost to 2.5 crore farmers under Kisan Credit Card Scheme

Hon'ble Prime Minister announced a Special economic and comprehensive package of Rs 20 lakh Crore - equivalent to 10% of India's GDP on 12th May 2020. He gave a clarion call for आत्मनिर्भर भारत अभियान or Self-Reliant India Movement. He also outlined five pillars of Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand.

Announcing the 2nd Tranche of measures to ameliorate the hardships faced specifically by migrant labours, street vendors, migrant urban poor, small traders self-employed people, small farmers and housing, Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman today in her press conference detailed the short term and long-term measures for supporting the poor, including migrants, farmers, tiny businesses and street vendors.

Smt. Sitharaman stated that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is always concerned about the difficulties faced by poor, including migrant workers and farmers. Farmers and workers are the backbone of this nation. They serve all of us with their sweat and toil. Migrant workers need affordable and convenient rental housing in urban areas in addition to social security. There is also a need to create employment opportunities for the poor, including migrant and unorganised workers. Farmers need timely and adequate credit support.

Smt. Sitharaman said that the Government is attentive to the needs to all the segments of economy and society. She also mentioned that small business set ups, especially those run by street vendors, support dignified livelihoods through Shishu MUDRA loans. They also need our patronage by way of business as well as caring attention in the form of social security and enhanced credit.

Following short term and long-term measures for supporting the poor, including migrants, farmers, tiny businesses and street vendors were announced today:-

1. Free food grains supply to migrants for 2 months

For the migrant labour, additional food grain to all the States/UTs at the rate of 5 kg per migrant labourer and 1 kg Chana per family per month for two months i.e. May and June, 2020 free of cost shall be allocated. Migrant labourers not covered under National Food Security Act or without a ration card in the State/UT in which they are stranded at present will be eligible. States/UTs shall be advised to put a mechanism for targeted distribution as envisaged in the scheme. 8 Lakh MT of food-grain and 50,000 MT of Chana shall be allocated. The entire outlay of Rs. 3500 crore will be borne by Government of India.

2. Technology system to be used enabling Migrants to access PDS (Ration) from any Fair Price Shops in India by March,2021-One Nation one Ration Card

Pilot scheme for portability of ration cards will be extended to 23 states. By that, 67 crore beneficiaries covering 83% of PDS population will be covered by National portability of Ration cards by August, 2020. 100% National portability will be achieved by March, 2021. This is part of PM's Technology Driven System Reforms This scheme will enable a migrant worker and their family members to access PDS benefits from any Fair Price Shop in the country. This will ensure that the people in transit, especially migrant workers can also get the benefit of PDS benefit across the country.

3. Scheme for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes for Migrant Workers and Urban Poor to be launched

Central Government will launch a scheme for migrant workers and urban poor to provide ease of living at affordable rent. **Affordable Rental Housing Complexes** will provide social security and quality life to migrant labour, urban poor, and students etc.This will be done through converting government funded houses in the cities into Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) under PPP mode through concessionaire; manufacturing units, industries, institutions, associations to develop Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) on their private land and operate; and Incentivizing State Govt agencies/Central Government Organizations on similar lines to develop Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) and operate. The exact details of the scheme will be released by the Ministry/Department.

4. 2% Interest Subvention for 12 months for Shishu MUDRA loanees- Relief of Rs. 1,500 crore

Government of India will provide **Interest subvention of 2% for prompt payees for a period of 12 months** to MUDRA Shishu loanees, who have loans below Rs 50,000. The current portfolio of MUDRA Shishu loans is around Rs 1.62 Lakh crore. This will provide relief of about **Rs 1,500 crore** to Shishu MUDRA loanee.

5. Rs 5,000 crore Credit facility for Street Vendors

A special scheme will be launched within a month to facilitate easy access to credit to Street vendors, who are amongst the most adversely impacted by the present situation for enabling them to restart their businesses. Under this scheme, bank credit facility **for initial working capital up to Rs. 10,000 for each enterprise** will be extended. This scheme will cover urban as well as rural vendors doing business in the adjoining urban areas. Use of digital payments and timely repayments will be incentivized through monetary rewards. It is expected that **50 lakh street vendors** will be benefitted under this scheme and credit of Rs. 5,000 crore would flow to them.

6. Rs 70,000 crore boost to housing sector and middle income group through extension of Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for MIG under PMAY(Urban)

The Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for Middle Income Group (annual Income between Rs 6 and 18 lakhs) will be extended up to March 2021. This will benefit 2.5 lakhs middle income families during 2020-21 and will lead to investment of over **Rs 70,000 crore** in housing sector. This will create significant number of jobs by giving boost to Housing sector and will stimulate demand for steel, cement, transport and other construction materials.

7. Rs 6,000 crore for Creating employment using CAMPA funds

Approximately Rs 6,000 crore of funds under Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA) will be used for **Afforestation and Plantation works, including in urban areas**, Artificial regeneration, assisted natural regeneration, Forest management, soil & moisture conservation works, Forest protection, forest and wildlife related infrastructure development, wildlife protection and management etc. Government of India will grant immediate approval to these plans amounting to Rs 6000 crore. This will create job opportunities in urban, semi-urban and rural areas and also for Tribals (Adivashis).

8. **Rs 30,000 crore Additional Emergency Working Capital for farmers through NABARD**

NABARD will extend additional re-finance support of **Rs 30,000 crore** for meeting crop loan requirement of **Rural Cooperative Banks and RRBs**. This refinance will be front-loaded and available on tap. This is over and above Rs 90,000 crore that will be provided by NABARD to this sector in the normal course. This will benefit around **3 crore farmers**, mostly small and marginal and it will meet their **post-harvest Rabi and current Kharif requirements**.

9. **Rs 2 lakh crore credit boost to 2.5 crore farmers under Kisan Credit Card Scheme**

A special drive to provide concessional credit to PM-KISAN beneficiaries through Kisan Credit Cards. Fisherman and Animal Husbandy Farmers will also be included in this drive. This will inject **additional liquidity of Rs 2 lakh crore** in the farm sector. 2.5 crore farmers will be covered.



MCQs

29

- 1. Consider the following statements regarding the SCO:
1. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation founded by Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
 2. SCO was preceded by the Shanghai Five mechanism.
 3. India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members in 2017.

Which of the above statements is true?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer:



2. Consider the following statements about United Nations Conference on Trade & Development:

1. World Investment Report has been published annually since 1991, by UNCTAD
2. UNCTAD supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalised economy more fairly and effectively

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:



3. In which of the following case, Supreme Court of India, gave the “rarest of the rare” doctrine for Capital Punishment:

- a) Jagmohan Singh vs State of UP
- b) MC Mehta vs Union of India
- c) IR Coelho vs State of Tamil Nadu 2007
- d) Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab

Answer:



4. Consider the following statements about G20 Grouping:

1. It has a permanent staff body which carry out the work related to the meetings
2. In G20, the European Union is represented by the European Commission and by the European Central Bank
3. Its chairmanship rotates annually between nations divided into regional groupings

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

- a) 1, 2 & 3
- b) 1 & 2 only
- c) 2 & 3 only
- d) 2 only

Answer:



5. Consider the following statements about "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan":

1. The beneficiaries under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan are only from the Business sector including MSMEs and the employees of central and state government along with real estate, power and Banking & Non banking companies sector
2. The economic package under this is about 10% of the GDP of the country

Which of the above statements is/are correct:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 & 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans:



Thank You