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## **COVER STORY**

### **Growth Strategy or Jobs Strategy?** **Developmental issues**

The infographic consists of 12 key points arranged in a grid-like fashion, each with a main statement and a supporting note. The points are:

- Jobs drive development** (blue text) / They should not be an afterthought of growth (grey text)
- Some have greater development payoffs** (grey text) / **It is not just the number of jobs** (orange text)
- Jobs are created by the private sector** (dark red text) / Public action sets the stage (grey text)
- Many jobs in developing countries are in farms and very small firms** (green text) / **Informal is normal** (dark green text)
- Some work is unacceptable** (orange text) / Rights should not be overlooked (grey text)
- One size does not fit all** (grey text) / **Jobs challenges vary across countries** (dark red text)
- Get the policy fundamentals right** (dark green text) / They have a bearing regardless of the jobs challenge (grey text)
- The main constraints to job creation may lie elsewhere** (grey text) / **Labor policies matter less than assumed** (orange text)
- Set priorities for public action** (dark blue text) / Focus on the jobs with greater development payoffs (grey text)
- Data and cooperation on cross-border investments and migration lag** (grey text) / **A global agenda for jobs is needed** (dark red text)

## **WEEKLY ROUND UP OF NEWS ON POLICY**

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## Cover Story

# Growth Strategy or Jobs Strategy: Understanding their Connection to Development

## Introduction

Jobs are the cornerstone of economic and social development. Indeed, development happens through jobs. Economies grow as people get better at what they do, as they move from farms to firms, and as more productive jobs are created and less productive ones disappear. Societies flourish as jobs bring together people from different ethnic and social backgrounds and nurture a sense of opportunity. Jobs are thus transformational—they can transform what we earn, what we do, and even who we are. Looking to seize opportunities for job creation presented by massive demographic shifts, technological innovations, global migrations of people and tasks, and deep changes in the nature of work, policy makers ask difficult questions:

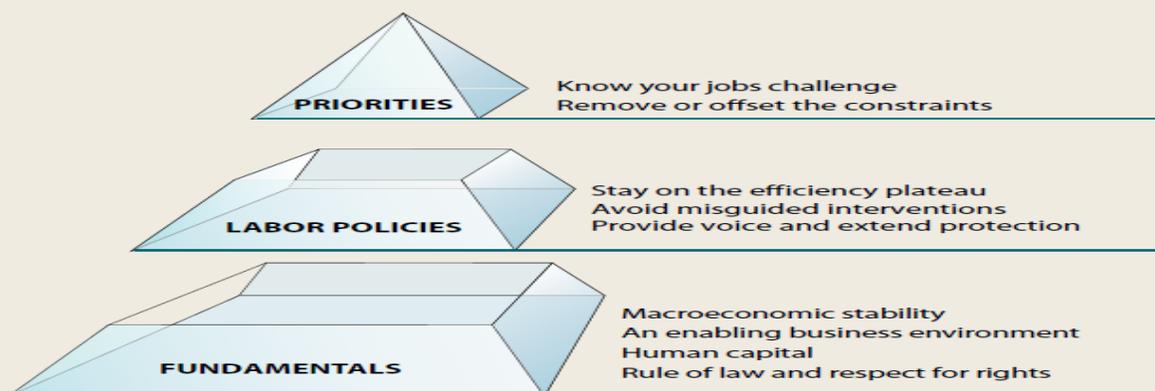
- Should countries build their development strategies around growth or should they rather focus on jobs?
- Can entrepreneurship be fostered, especially among the many microenterprises in developing countries, or are entrepreneurs born?
- Are greater investments in education and training a prerequisite for employability, or can skills be built through jobs?

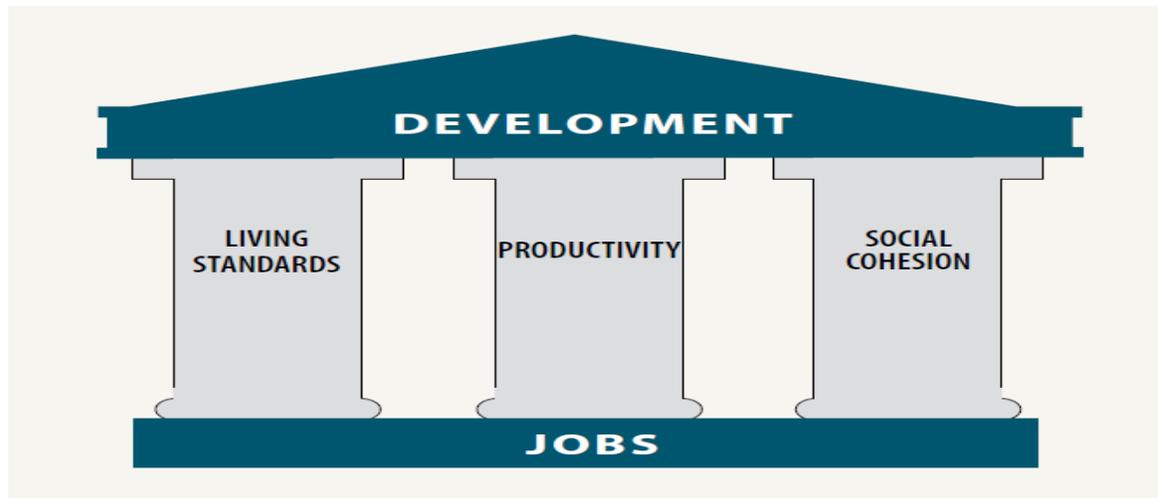
*RGICS Policy Watch presents a three part series to explore the answers to these questions. This edition being the first in the three part series probes the first question: Growth strategies or jobs strategies?*

## Growth does not Imply Improvement in Living Standards, Productivity, and Social Cohesion

Rapid and sustained growth is generally viewed as the main priority for developing countries, and as a precondition for continued increase in living standards and strengthened social cohesion. Economic growth, living standards, and social cohesion can indeed move together, and they often do—as shown, for example, by the remarkable experience of East Asian economies, including the Republic of Korea and Singapore. Building on the East Asian experience, the conventional wisdom is to focus on growth and assume that increased living standards and greater social cohesion will follow. This is the main tenet behind “growth strategies,” “growth diagnostics,” and “binding constraints analyses,” all of which aim to identify and remove obstacles to economic growth and to sustain it over prolonged periods of time. **But transformations in living standards, productivity, and social cohesion do not necessarily happen at the same pace.** Lags and gaps in rising living standards can be illustrated by the different impacts growth has on poverty reduction across countries. **A 2 percent annual growth rate can reduce poverty rates by 1 percent in some countries and by 7 percent in others.** Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Zambia experienced periods of economic growth with very little change in poverty incidence. On the other hand, important advances in poverty reduction have also happened during periods of slow growth, as occurred in Brazil and Mexico during the 1990s and the first half of the 2000s. The recognition of these lags and gaps has led to more nuanced approaches to economic growth in which the growth being sought is “pro-poor,” “shared,” or “inclusive.” In these versions, it is not just the rate of growth that matters but also the initial distribution of income and the possibility of redistributing resources through the growth process itself and through government transfers.

**FIGURE 16** *Three distinct layers of policies are needed*





*“Jobs are the main source of income for the majority of households and a key driver of poverty reduction. But their contribution to well-being goes beyond the earnings they provide.”*

### **Jobs Have a Spill Over Effect: Can Jobs Play a Role in Improving Living Standards?**

Behind these sensible qualifiers, it is possible to point to the role of jobs.

There is a need to go beyond the sequential view, in which growth issues are addressed first and employment follows from increased demand. Instead, jobs are seen as a medium that can make the development transformations a reality. From a statistical point of view, the relationship between growth and employment (or unemployment) shows substantial variation over time, across countries, and across sectors. In light of this diversity, a given rate of growth does not guarantee a given level of job creation or a given composition of employment.

#### **Jobs are Transformational**

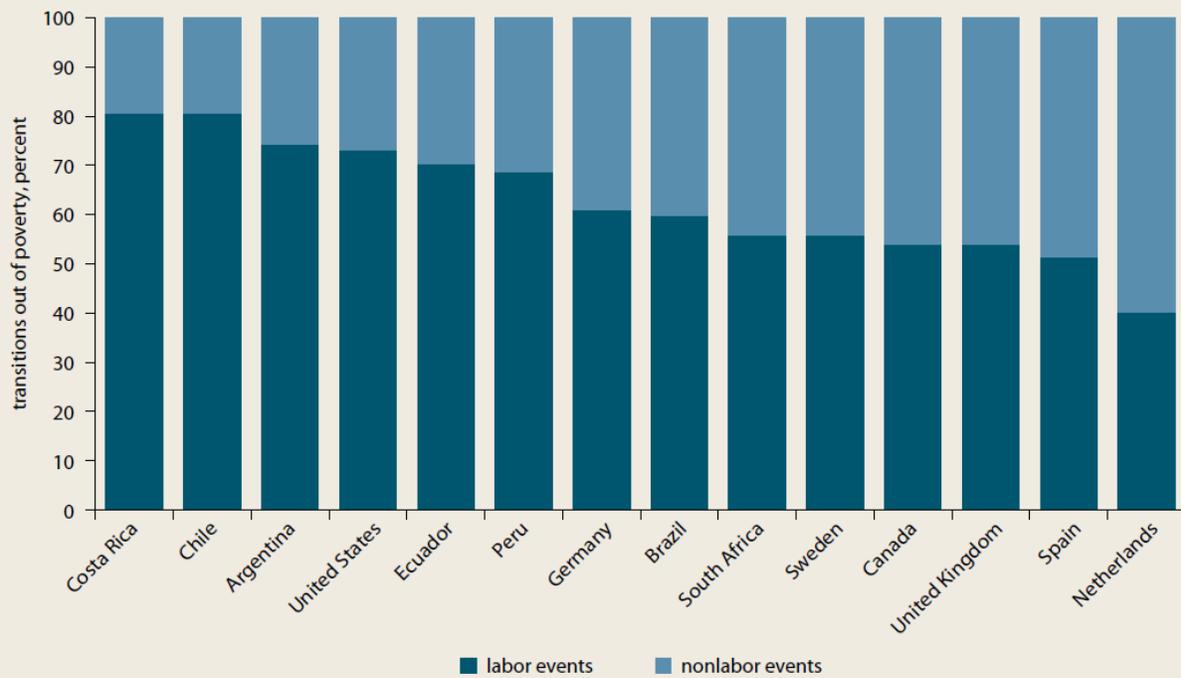
Jobs are the most important determinant of living standards around the world. For the vast majority of people, their work is the main source of income, especially in the poorest countries. In addition to their fundamental and immediate contribution to earnings, jobs affect other dimensions of well-being, positively and negatively.

#### **Jobs Improve Material Well-Being**

Over the course of a country’s development, higher productivity and labor earnings allow households to allocate more time to investment and consumption activities and less to production. Thus, schooling and retirement gain importance relative to work.

Job-related events are the main escape route from poverty in developing and developed countries alike. More than two decades of research on poverty dynamics, spanning countries as different as Canada, Ecuador, Germany, and South Africa, show that labor-related events trigger household exits from poverty (figure 2.4). These events range from the head of a household taking a new job, to family members starting to work, to working family members earning more from their labor. In a large set of qualitative studies in low-income countries, getting jobs and starting businesses were two of the main reasons people gave to explain their rise out of poverty. Conversely, a lack of job opportunities reduces the ability of households to improve their well-being.

**FIGURE 2.4** *Jobs take households out of poverty, especially in developing countries*



Source: Inchauste 2012 for the World Development Report 2013.

Note: Nonlabor events include changes in nonlabor earnings (such as rents or pensions) and demographic changes. A trigger event is defined as the most important event occurring during a poverty reduction spell among a set of mutually exclusive categories of events such as changes in family structure, in sources of income, and in needs of the household.

## Jobs are More than Just Earnings

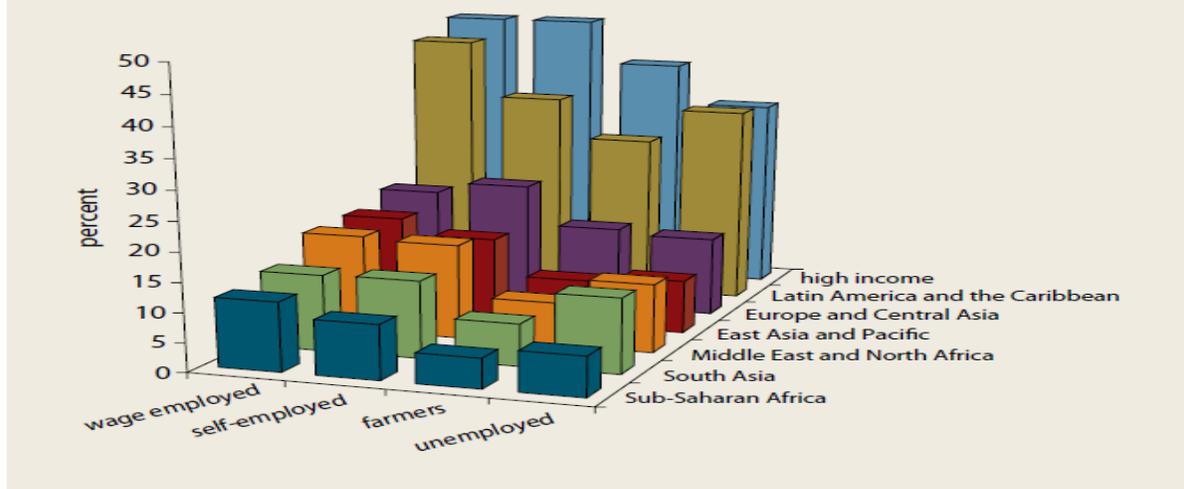
Jobs have consequences beyond wages and earnings. Other aspects such as workplace safety, stability, commuting time, learning and advancement opportunities, entitlements to pension benefits, and other amenities are highly valued by some workers. However, quantifying the monetary value of these other aspects of a job is not easy. Characteristics of jobs have other less tangible, but no less real, effects on well-being. In particular, jobs can have a direct impact on workers' health, a key component of human development and personal well-being.

## Jobs and Life Satisfaction

Happiness, both a personal goal and a social aspiration, is related to employment status. A large body of literature shows that unemployed people report lower happiness and life satisfaction than their employed counterparts. For instance, in Indonesia subjective well-being increases when gaining a job and decreases when losing it.

Most research on the links between jobs and life satisfaction has been conducted in settings where wage employment is the norm. A growing literature on life satisfaction in developing regions, where a smaller share of those who work are wage earners, shows that farmers have the lowest levels of life satisfaction relative to other workers and the unemployed (figure 2.7). Meanwhile, wage workers and the self-employed have higher levels of satisfaction than the unemployed.

**FIGURE 2.7** *Life satisfaction is lower among farmers and the unemployed*



### When a Growth Strategy may not be Sufficient

Focusing on the relationship between growth and employment downplays some of the most important channels through which jobs connect to development. Focusing solely on the relationship between growth and employment may fail to measure how jobs can foster gender equality, support urbanization, or contribute to peaceful collective decision making. Understanding how to enhance these positive spillovers from jobs might be difficult if policymakers don't think beyond growth and development relation. The case of urbanizing economies such as Bangladesh may support the idea that the three major transformations happen simultaneously. Taking advantage of their abundance of relatively low-skilled labor, such economies can engage in world markets through light manufacturing. Wage employment is created in large numbers, providing opportunities for rural migrants, and cushioning social tensions at a time of rapid social change. In Bangladesh, the expansion of the light manufacturing sector has allowed for the integration of young women into the labor market, at a time of falling fertility rates. Employment opportunities for women have in turn led to growing female schooling, better human development outcomes, and faster poverty reduction. In practice, however, tradeoffs between the three transformations can amount to more than just lags and gaps. Depending on the nature of the jobs challenges facing a country, tensions may emerge between growth that generates jobs for living standards and growth that generates jobs for productivity growth or for social cohesion. Examples abound:

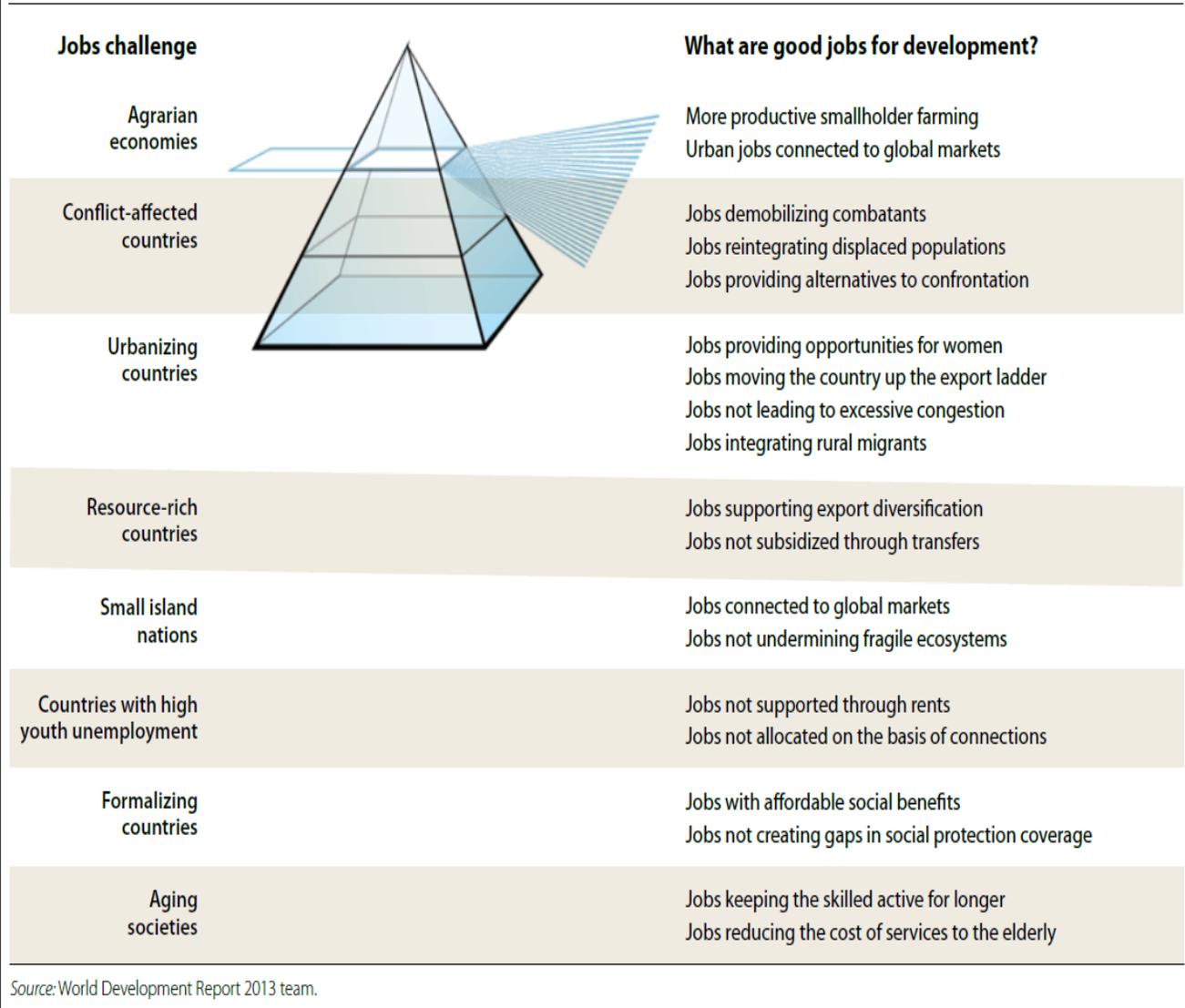
- In agrarian economies, increasing productivity in smallholder farming is fundamental for poverty reduction, given the share of the population living in rural areas. But urban jobs in activities that connect the economy to world markets and global value chains are necessary for growth. With limited resources to support both, a tradeoff between living standards and productivity may arise.

- In resource-rich countries, massive investments in extractive industries support accelerated rates of growth and connections with international markets but generate little direct (or even indirect) employment and often little poverty reduction. Moreover, the abundance of foreign exchange undermines the competitiveness of other activities, making it difficult to create productive jobs in other sectors.

- In countries with high youth unemployment, job opportunities are not commensurate with the expectations created by the expansion of education systems. And the active labor market programs needed to defuse social tensions in the short term may not do much for poverty reduction because many of the jobless come from middle-class families, and devoting public resources to finance them may reduce economic dynamism.

- In formalizing economies, there is an effort to support social cohesion by extending the coverage of social protection to as many workers as possible. Broad coverage regardless of the type of job is often seen as part of a social compact. But extending coverage without distorting incentives to work, save, and participate in formal systems is difficult and may have adverse impacts on productivity and long-term growth.

**FIGURE 14** *Good jobs for development are not the same everywhere*



**Conclusion: Job Strategy vs. Growth Strategy**

When a jobs strategy may be appropriate tradeoffs between improving living standards, accelerating productivity growth, and fostering social cohesion arguably reflect a measurement problem. While the contribution jobs make to output can be quantified, some of the spillovers from jobs cannot. Measured output does not increase when jobs defuse social tensions, even though these outcomes are valued by society and may increase productivity in the future. Conversely, measured output does not decline when jobs in export sectors are replaced by jobs producing for the domestic market, even though the opportunities to acquire technical and managerial knowledge through work tend to be higher in the export sectors. If the spillovers from jobs could be appropriately quantified, the tradeoffs would be fully understood and an adequate evaluation of the output and employment potential of a given growth strategy would be possible. For example, fully accounting for the negative impact of current pollution on workers’ future health would make a more complete evaluation of the output potential of a growth strategy based on a given technology. Opting for defused tensions or greater integration in world trade would lay the ground for accelerating growth in the future in a sustainable way, which a short-term evaluation based on output growth alone would fail to consider. If measures of growth captured the intangible social benefits from jobs, a growth strategy and a jobs strategy would be equivalent. However, when focusing on measured growth only, spillovers from jobs can easily be overlooked, and this is why a jobs strategy may be more needed. By focusing on the spillovers from jobs, a jobs strategy highlights the different outcomes of interest in a development process. Considering a jobs strategy is a way to call attention to the social value of jobs. A jobs strategy assesses the types of jobs that do more for development in a particular country context. It relies on qualitative and quantitative analyses to identify how jobs contribute to living standards, productivity, and social cohesion. And it seeks to identify where the constraints to the creation of the jobs with the highest development payoff lie in practice. In some cases, a jobs strategy will focus on increasing female labor participation, in others on creating employment opportunities for youth, yet

in others on creating a supportive environment for the creation of jobs in cities, or jobs connected to global value chains. This may not be too different from preparing a more comprehensive growth strategy, except that jobs would be centre stage. Jobs strategies are not needed under all circumstances. A jobs strategy is warranted only when potentially important spillovers from jobs are not realized, leading to tensions between living standards, productivity, and social cohesion. When improvements in living standards, productivity, and social cohesion happen together, as was the case in several East Asian countries, and may now be the case in urbanizing economies such as Bangladesh, a growth strategy may be more appropriate. Yet even remarkably successful East Asian economies such as Korea and Singapore, which undoubtedly delivered inclusive growth over many decades, also had jobs strategies at specific points in their development histories (**box 2.6**).

Based on World Development Report 2013, World Bank

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTNWDR2013/Resources/8258024-1320950747192/8260293-1322665883147/WDR\\_2013\\_Report.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTNWDR2013/Resources/8258024-1320950747192/8260293-1322665883147/WDR_2013_Report.pdf)

(Karishma Mutreja)

### **BOX 2.6** *Korea went from a growth to a jobs strategy, and Singapore the other way around*

The Republic of Korea and Singapore are success stories combining long-term economic growth with rapid poverty reduction and strong social cohesion. But at different points in time, both countries relied on jobs strategies.

Singapore was confronted with a tense social situation at independence, with both high unemployment and inter-ethnic tension. Its first development strategy focused on jobs, housing, and wage moderation. As unemployment subsided, the next strategy was geared toward raising labor costs to encourage higher-value-added activities. This cost drive resulted in a recession, however, and since then Singapore has focused on growth, rather than jobs.

Conversely, Korea abandoned development planning in 1996, but in 2010, it adopted a jobs strategy for the next decade as its highest-level policy document. In October 2010, the Korean government launched the “National Employment Strategy 2020 for the Balance of Growth, Employment and Welfare.” In the tradition of long-range plans, this national strategy has a clear target for 2020: an increase in the employment rate of the working-age population (15–64 years) to a minimum of 70 percent—the average among industrial economies. The strategy was rooted in the mismatch between macroeconomic indicators that pointed to a recovering economy and the inability of individuals—especially youth—to find adequate employment.

The strategy identifies four pillars to achieve the 70 percent target. The first recognizes the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors for employment creation and consists of implementing economic and industrial policies in a job-friendly manner. The second aims at improving flexibility and fairness in the workplace and consists of a series of reforms to increase regulation in certain areas of the labor law, while decreasing regulation in others. Thus the 40-hour workweek became enforceable for all companies, regardless of size,<sup>a</sup> with the obligatory introduction of the *work time savings system*.<sup>b</sup> Simultaneously, regulations on duration of contracts for temporary workers and fixed-term contracts were relaxed to allow for more hiring flexibility. The third pillar focuses on increasing labor force participation and skill development of women, youth, and older workers. This involves developing the option of permanent part-time jobs, thus allowing parents to both work and care for their children, especially in sectors suffering from labor shortages and unable to fill full-time jobs. Older workers would be retained longer in the active labor force by having the option to work shorter hours under the wage peak system.<sup>c</sup> Last but not least, the intention is to facilitate welfare-to-work transitions, by encouraging able-bodied welfare recipients to enroll in employment assistance programs and by reinforcing their obligation to pursue employment.

## No Plans for Major Investments in India by Most Companies

(Firstpost, 29 July, 2013)

A survey jointly conducted by PWC and FICCI titled – “India Manufacturing Barometer” shows that slow economic growth and downtrend in production has reduced the investments in the manufacturing sector of the country. “New investments in the country’s manufacturing sector are virtually on hold, with half of the companies indicating that they have no plans for major investments in the fiscal year 2013-14.”

The survey also revealed that customer requirements and expectations have changed due to the global economic environment as well as the domestic slowdown. “The major growth barriers expected are higher interest rates, lack of domestic demand and other concerns like pressure for increased wages, legislative or regulatory pressures, decreasing profitability and increased competition from foreign markets.”

The India Manufacturing Barometer has covered senior executives from a sample of manufacturing industry sectors which are auto ancillary, building and construction materials, capital goods, chemicals, engineering and metals.

<http://www.firstpost.com/economy/why-most-companies-have-no-plans-for-major-investments-in-india-993047.html>

Date accessed: 28.07.2013  
(Neha Singh)

## Arcelor Mittal Scraps 12 MTPA Deal in Odisha

(Business Standard, 18 July, 2013)

Delays relating to land acquisition and allocation of captive iron ore block

made the world’s largest steel producer, Arcelor Mittal to scrap its steel project in Kendujhar district of Orissa.

The company had entered into an MoU with the Orissa government in December 2006 but the project did not see progress due to protest from villagers against land acquisition. Besides problems in land acquisition, delay in grant of an iron ore lease also forced the company to scrap the project. According to media reports, of the seven applications filed by company for leases at different places, six remained unprocessed since 2009.

However, it will continue with the Jharkhand and Karnataka projects.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/arcelor-mittal-scraps-12-mt-steel-project-in-odisha-citing-delays-113071700971\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/arcelor-mittal-scraps-12-mt-steel-project-in-odisha-citing-delays-113071700971_1.html)

Date Accessed: 22.07.2013  
(Mahima Malik)

## Relaxation in FDI Norms

(Priyadarshi Siddhanta, Indian Express, 25 July, 2013)

The Government of India has decided to relax norms for FDI to attract global multi brand retail companies. The relaxing norms are:

- 1) Restriction on opening multi-brand retail stores in cities with a population of less than 10 lakhs has been dropped. Global retailers can now set up shops anywhere.
- 2) The stipulation that 30 per cent of procurement must be from Indian “small industries” with total investment of less than \$ 1 million is revised to include “medium-scale industries with a total investment not exceeding \$ 2 million.”
- 3) The requirement that foreign partners must spend 50 per cent of their investment in the back-end infrastructure is now only for the first \$ 100 million brought in by them, not for their total investment.

The government hopes that these relaxations will finally lead to new investments. Till date no company has even applied for permission since 51 per cent FDI in multi-brand retail was allowed last September.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/ough-norms-to-be-axed-to-woolusive-retail-fdi/1146399/>

Date accessed: 26.07.2013  
(Anjana John)

## POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

### Ordinance Shortcut Weakens

#### Democracy

**(Harsimran Kalra and Kaushiki Sanyal, Hindustan Times, 23 July, 2013)**

In light of the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance and National Food Security Ordinance, the article discusses the implication of repeated use of ordinance making power in a democracy.

An Ordinance is in the nature of an emergency power and can be promulgated only when Parliament is not in session and 'immediate action' is required. However, both these ordinances which sought to address deep-rooted problems, replaced related Bills that were already at an advanced stage in the legislative process, thereby raising the issue of propriety.

Over 600 ordinances have been promulgated so far demonstrating that successive governments have placed reliance on ordinance power to deal, not with emergencies, but to check their political plans. Moreover, the government exceeds its constitutional powers by promulgating ordinances on a related pending Bill when the Parliament is going to reconvene in a short time.

The authors argue that in order to revive our democratic commitment, it is necessary to devise a stricter test of 'emergency' for promulgating an ordinance by allowing for legislative scrutiny and wider public consultations.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Delhi-Comment/This-shortcut-weakens-democracy/Article1-1097139.aspx>

Date accessed: 25.07.2013

(Deepti Somani)

### How Crime Can Translate into Poll Success

*(The Indian Express, 30 July, 2013)*

An analysis by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW) of affidavits submitted by candidates in parliamentary and assembly elections since 2004 shows that chances of winning are higher for candidates with criminal cases. While only 12 per cent of those with a clean record won, the corresponding figure for those with criminal record is 23 per cent.

While the proportion of people with criminal cases was 18 per cent for candidates whose affidavits were analysed, it was 29 per cent for winners. Trilochan Shastry, founder member of ADR, said that it is interesting to notice that even in Rajya Sabha, "17 per cent of sitting MPs have declared criminal cases against them, of which 7 per cent are serious charges like murder."

Second time tickets were given to 74 per cent of the candidates with a criminal record. The re-contesting candidates, incidentally, were also the ones whose wealth had grown the most. The average assets of the 4181 re-contesting candidates grew from Rs 1.74 crore to Rs 4.08 crore.

"Regional parties have a higher proportion of elected representatives with a crime record than the national ones do. About 75 per cent (103 of 137) MPs/MLAs from the Shiv Sena had criminal cases, as did 46 per cent of those from the RJD and 44 per cent of those from the JD (U). Among national parties, 31 per cent (520 of 1,689) of BJP MPs/MLAs had a criminal background, alongside 22 per cent (527 of 2,451) MPs, MLAs and MLCs of the Congress.

The data suggests that richer people are more likely not only to get party tickets but also to win elections.

Shiromani Akali Dal candidates since 2004 have an average asset of Rs 6.02 crore, followed by those of the TDP, JD(S), Congress and BJP. Women candidates had higher average assets than men.

Among MPs/MLAs, those from the TDP had the highest average assets of Rs 8.72 crore, followed by JD(S), SAD, Congress and BJP in that order. Independent representatives had average assets of Rs 7.23 crore.

The analysis also includes a list of MLAs and MPs whose declared criminal cases have been pending for more than ten years. However the list is not comprehensive as it is based entirely on the candidates' own declarations and many people choose not to declare the period of pendency.

[http://www.indianexpress.com/news/udy-tracks-how-crime-can-translate-into-poll-success/1148393/0](http://www.indianexpress.com/news/study-tracks-how-crime-can-translate-into-poll-success/1148393/0)

Date Accessed: 31.07.2013

(Amrutha Jose Pampackal)

### Rejecting 'Maximum Force'

**(Prashant Jha, The Hindu, 24 July, 2013)**

The CNN IBN-The Hindu Election Tracker survey, conducted by CSDS, conveyed some “striking findings” on how best to tackle the issue of Naxalism.

“45 percent of the voters surveyed agreed with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s assertion that Naxalism constituted the ‘greatest threat to India’s internal security.’” This view was high in the states affected by Naxalite insurgency.

However, responses varied when asked about the most apt prescriptions to deal with the Naxal issue. It was seen that majority of the respondents – about 50% - believed that the way to tackle Naxalism was by addressing tribal grievances or initiating talks and only 21 percent supported deploying security forces. Similar views were expressed by the urban rich where 55 % said that tribal grievances should be addressed and only about 15% supported security offensive. This indicates “ that 72 per cent respondents among India’s rich do not think Naxalism can be solved by a security-based approach.”

Among the Scheduled Tribes in Naxal affected areas, 26 percent support maximum force and 27 percent favour a ‘justice approach’ while 15 percent favoured talks. However a substantial 33 percent chose not to offer an opinion, more likely due to vulnerabilities of expressing a view in conflict-zones.

The table below gives a state wise breakup of responses:

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-rejection-of-the-maximumforce-approach/article4949110.ece?homepage=true>

Date Accessed: 25.07.2013  
(Ashwin Varghese)

Affected States	Maximum Force (Deploying Security Forces in Large numbers)	Justice Approach (Addressing Tribal Grievance)	Talks (Ceasefire)
Chhattisgarh	24%	46%	15%
Jharkhand	40%	47%	13%
Maharashtra	28%	35%	10%
<b>Social Groups</b>			
STs in Affected Areas	26%	27%	15%
Urban Rich	15%	55%	17%

## DEVELOPMENT

### ‘India Winning Battle Against Poverty,’: Planning Panel

(Shishir Sinha, *The Hindu*, 23 July, 2013)

The latest Planning Commission estimation shows that in India, every eighth person living in urban areas is below the poverty line, while one in five rural residents is poor. According to the new estimates, there has been a sharp reduction in both- absolute numbers of poor, as well as the poverty ratio. The poverty ratio has declined to 21.9 per cent in 2011-12 from 37.2 per cent in 2004-05.

The new poverty estimate has been criticised on grounds of faulty methodology and not considering price rise. BJP spokesperson Prakash

Javadekar alleged that it was a ‘political gimmick’ to show more people were now out of poverty. Questioning the latest estimates, NCP leader Praful Patel said they are based on “totally wrong” benchmark of per capita daily expenditure of Rs. 33.33 for cities and Rs. 27.20 for villages.

The methodology has been widely criticised for under reporting. The Planning Commission had appointed another committee, headed by C. Rangarajan, which is yet to submit its report.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-winning-battle-against-poverty-says-planning-panel/article4945640.ece>

Date Accessed: 25.07.2013  
(Mahima Malik)

## GOVERNMENT

### E-Governance is the Way to Go- ‘Make Technology a Liberating Force’: Kiran Kumar Reddy

(*Postnoon*, 24 July, 2013)

At the e- India inaugural session, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Kiran Reddy cited instances of how the state is in the forefront in adopting technology for the common man. He pointed out that e-governance had led to a revolutionary change in the state

and increased the efficiency in transactions. "It has also done away with bribes and middlemen fees and saves about 4,000 crore every year for the common man," he claimed.

The CM attributed the success of Aadhar enrolment, Aarogyasri, providing cellphone information and intimation to pregnant women in rural areas, monitoring the girl child from birth till her education is completed to technological advancement.

The State tops in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and leverages the maximum wage payments and jobs under the scheme.

<http://postnoon.com/2013/07/24/make-technology-a-liberating-force-says-kiran-kumar-reddy/136981>

Date accessed: 25.07.2013

(Mahima Malik)

## India a Priority in DFID-ILO's 'Work in Freedom Project

*(International Labor Organisation, 15 July, 2013)*

The UK Department for International Development (DFID), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) launched the new "Work in Freedom" program to fight trafficking of women and girls from South-Asia, particularly India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

This groundbreaking joint initiative focuses on domestic work and garment sectors, working with governments, employer's organizations, civil society organizations and international agencies to ensure ethical recruitment of migrant women and aims to eliminate unacceptable forms of work for migrants.

As the main beneficiaries, women will have a strong voice in what the program does and how it is delivered.

[http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/institutional-videos/WCMS\\_217690/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/institutional-videos/WCMS_217690/lang--en/index.htm)

Date Accessed: 24.07.2013

(Mahima Malik)

## SECURITY

### India to Focus on Cyber Security

*(The Times of India, 3 July, 2013)*

The National Cyber Security Policy unveiled by the government last month is aimed at protecting the public and private infrastructure from cyber attacks.

The policy states that it aims to "provide confidence and reasonable assurance to all stakeholders in the country (government, business, industry and general public) and global community, about the safety, resiliency and security of cyber space." It said the country needs to "adopt a suitable posturing that can signal our resolve to make determined efforts to effectively monitor, deter and deal with cyber crime and cyber attacks."

Other measures discussed in the policy include training five lakh cyber security professionals in the next five years, focus on the use of open source software for government services and proper validation of IT products and services used by government departments. Critical infrastructure such as air defence system, power infrastructure, nuclear plants, telecommunications system have to be protected otherwise it may create economic instability.

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-07-03/security/40350252\\_1\\_national-cyber-security-policy-cyber-crime-cyber-attacks](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-07-03/security/40350252_1_national-cyber-security-policy-cyber-crime-cyber-attacks)

Date accessed: 29.07.2013

(Neha Singh)

## HEALTH

### Assam passes Anti-Tobacco Bill

*(PTI, 25 July, 2013)*

Assam became the first state in the country to unanimously pass an Anti-Tobacco Bill which provides for prevention of manufacturing and usage of tobacco products in non-smoking form.

According to the Bill, persons found engaging in manufacturing, advertising, storing, and trading, distributing and selling of 'zarda, gutkha and pan masala containing tobacco or nicotine shall be punished with imprisonment up to seven years and a fine to the tune of Rs 5 lakh. It imposes a fine of Rs 1,000 on the consumer for the first offence and Rs. 2,000 for the second and any subsequent offences.

Unlike the existing Central legislation which puts onus on the consumer by prohibiting smoking at public places, the new Bill passed by the Assam government shifts the onus on the manufacturer. The state government is hopeful that this move will create pressure on other states to enact similar legislation.

The Assam government is now planning to bring in a new legislation to curb manufacturing and selling of all forms of smoking products in the state. However, no timeframe on introduction of this Bill has been specified

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/assam-to-ban-manufacture-sale-use-of-smoking-products-113072100166\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/assam-to-ban-manufacture-sale-use-of-smoking-products-113072100166_1.html)

Date accessed: 27.07.2013

(Deepti Somani)

## Poor Sanitation Linked to Stunting (im4change)

Public health expert Dean Spears has established a negative relationship between open defecation and stunting. Spears, a visiting fellow at the Delhi School of Economics has offered evidence connecting our poor sanitation and open defecation with high morbidity and malnutrition.” She also found a positive association between height and cognitive achievement among Indian children. Children exposed to poor sanitation, suffer from chronic intestinal diseases, making it difficult to make good use of nutrients in food causing lasting stunting.

“Height deficit among Indian children can be explained partly by poor nutritional status of women. Average height among Indian women is growing slower than average height among men. Indian children suffer from poor early life health and net nutrition and, therefore, they do not grow to their genetic potential.”

Based on District Level Household and Facility Survey, (DLHS-3) data, it is found that the more the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) latrines had been built in a child’s district by its first year of life, the more likely it is to survive to its first birthday.

Surprisingly while 53.2 percent Indian households enjoyed mobile phones 53.1 percent of the households did not have latrines within the premises (Census, 2011). “

<http://www.im4change.org/news-alerts/for-taller-smarter-kids-get-toilets-sanitation-22040.html>

Date Accessed: 25.07.2013  
(Ashwin Varghese)

## Alarming Death Rates due to Unsafe Abortions

(Anjani Trivedi, *Time World*, 19 July, 2013)

According to Guttmacher Institute, the US based sexual and reproductive health & advocacy centre, every year nearly 19 to 20 million women risk their lives to undergo unsafe abortions conducted by unqualified doctors in unsanitary conditions. The report highlights that the problem of unsafe abortions is acute in India. The experts estimate the number of abortions performed in India is higher than 7 million, with two-thirds of it taking place outside the authorized health centres.

Figures state that every two hours a woman in India dies due to unsafe abortion. Less than 20 per cent of health clinics in India provide legitimate abortion facilities. Women in rural areas are compelled to seek alternatives due to the absence of proper health facilities.

The abortion laws are misused due to conservative ideas and social taboos against women. In spite of public health experts advocacy for contraception as protection against unintended pregnancies, the facilities are not easily available in rural areas. Though services are available in urban areas, the youth are either ignorant about contraception or embarrassed to ask for it. This shows the necessity of sex education among the youth.

Women are not getting the contraceptives they need. The number of women with an unmet need for family planning is projected to grow from 900 million to 962 million by 2015. This increase will be driven by most developing countries. The need for sex education, contraception and greater health care spending are desirable.

<http://world.time.com/2013/07/19/world-population-focus-on-india-part-2-unsafe-abortions/>

Date accessed: 27.07.2013  
(Anjana John)

## Lack of Policy against Viral Hepatitis Costs India Dear

(*The Pioneer*, 29 July, 2013)

On account of World Hepatitis Day on 28 July, the “Global Policy Report on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis in WHO Member States” brought out by the WHO noted that though around 2.50 lakh Indians die annually of viral hepatitis, India has failed to tackle the virus on four underlying priority areas - raising awareness, evidence-based data for action, prevention, and screening and treatment.

The WHO report noted that there is no routine surveillance and deaths due to the virus are not reported to a central registry. Regular surveys are not conducted and there is no national public health agenda for the infection.

Experts have called for early diagnosis of Hepatitis to prevent more deaths. “Hepatitis B and C infections are ‘silent’ diseases that remain asymptomatic for decades. Due to lower awareness, more than 60 per cent patients are diagnosed at a stage when the disease is irreversible,” said Dr Anil Arora, HOD of hepatology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/nation/lack-of-policy-against-viral-hepatitis-costs-india-dear.html>

Date accessed: 29.07. 2013  
(Mahima Malik)

## ENERGY

### World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2013

(Heinrich Böll, Stiftung North America)

The World Nuclear Industry Status Report, launched on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013, reveals that global nuclear power generation is on the decline, whereas the nuclear industry is working hard to convey the idea that the world is seeing a nuclear renaissance, especially in the case of US “where operating reactors are being closed for being uneconomic for the first time in 15 years.”

The Report is considered to be significant because:

- It bundles and makes available generally accepted data;
- It provides the current situation of the global nuclear industry as well as identifies important nuclear trends
- Over the years, the report has made a name for itself as an independent and accurate reference point to many popular media outlets the world over
- It focuses primarily on the economics and financial aspects of nuclear power rather than its environmental impacts.

The report points to renewable energy as a valuable replacement to nuclear power and fossil fuels. China, Japan and Germany are following this trend and generated more electricity from renewable energy sources than from nuclear in 2012, where Germany is planning to phase out its nuclear power by 2022.

Visit [www.WorldNuclearReport.org](http://www.WorldNuclearReport.org) to read the report.

<http://www.boell.org/web/index-World-Nuclear-Industry-Status-Report-2013.html>

Date Accessed: 25.07.2013  
(Ashwin Varghese)

### Nuclear Waste Could Power the U.S. for Decades

(David Ferris, *Popular Science*, 11 June, 2013)

“Enormous amount of untapped energy is wasted each day in the form of nuclear waste. In the U.S. alone, waste streams could account for 100,000 megawatts of untapped electrical capacity.” New technology could convert these overlooked sources into usable power.

“U.S. nuclear reactors store nearly 70,000 metric tons of commercial spent fuel, which remains dangerously radioactive for tens of thousands of years. Engineers at a start-up called Transatomic Power say a reactor they designed could use this stockpile to meet the nation’s energy needs for 70 years. Their 500-megawatt Waste-Annihilating Molten Salt Reactor (WAMSR) is based on a fluoride molten salt reactor developed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the 1960s.” Two Trans atomic cofounders, PhD candidates at MIT, made crucial modifications which shrunk the reactor by a factor of 20 and engineered it to capture 98 percent of the energy in spent fuel pellets.

<http://www.popsoci.com/science/article/2013-05/future-energy-waste>

Date accessed: 31.07.2013  
(Neha Singh)

### India Seeks to Revive Interest in the Wind Sector

(*LiveMint*, 25 July 2013)

The Indian Wind Power Association grouping has been lobbying for reintroducing tax and fiscal incentives that were removed last year, allegedly causing a loss of 1500 MW to the lobby group.

The withdrawal of two benefits- the Generation Based Incentive, to discourage investments that merely aimed at availing tax concessions and the depreciation benefit under which companies could avail a benefit of 80 percent within the first year itself- saw interest in the sector wane. India moved to so-called feed-in tariffs that effectively compensate generators of wind and solar power by setting a price per unit that covers their cost and guarantees a certain rate of return which had made the GBI irrelevant.

According to audit and consulting firm EY’s *Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index* released on 22 June, India’s ranking slipped from the fourth position to eighth position in the last quarter. “Reintroduction of GBI and accelerated depreciation will give a big boost to the investment in the wind generation sector and has a potential to take the capacity addition back to 3,500-4,000MW per year,”

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/HzQ1NGtt9kX7MqsJcJPcmO/India-seeks-to-revive-interest-in-wind-sector.html>

Date accessed: 30.07.2013  
(Mahima Malik)

## TECHNOLOGY

### ‘Loon for all, Balloon Powered Internet for Everyone’

([www.google.com/loon/](http://www.google.com/loon/))

‘Project Loon’ is a research and development project being developed by Google with the mission of providing Internet access to rural and remote areas using network of balloons travelling on the edge of space. “Project Loon balloons float in the stratosphere, twice as high as airplanes and the weather. They are carried around the Earth by winds and can be steered by rising or descending to an altitude with winds moving in

the desired direction.” People connect to the balloon network using a special Internet antenna attached to their building. The signal bounces from balloon to balloon, then to the global Internet back on Earth. The Project Loon pilot test started in June 2013. Thirty balloons launched from New Zealand’s South Island, will beam Internet to a small group of pilot testers. The experience of these pilot testers will be used to refine the technology and shape the next phase of Project Loon.

<http://www.google.com/loon/>

Date accessed: 27.07.2013

(Neha Singh)

## ENVIRONMENT

### Climate Change, Rainfall Variability and Migration

(M Mizanur Rahman, *New Age*, 25 July, 2013)

“The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, and the CARE International have recently jointly carried out empirical research in eight countries across the globe including Bangladesh.” The research aims to inform policymakers on the implications of climate change on livelihood, food insecurity and migration. The research showed that an overwhelming majority are unable to distinguish between the six seasons that were common in the past.

One of the expected outcomes is increasing climatic variability. Research shows there will be more significant droughts and extreme precipitation events. “Changing climate is linked with increased threats to food safety, post-harvest losses and pressure from invasive species, pests and diseases”

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 1990) estimated that by 2050 150 million

people could be displaced due to climate change related phenomenon like “desertification, increasing water scarcity, floods and storm, etc.” In Bangladesh, there has been a significant change in the rainfall pattern. Due to climate change input cost of agro-production has raised making agriculture less viable for the farmers, which is why many seek migration as a way of employment. High urban densities in turn pose threat to populations when proper infrastructural and institutional frameworks are absent.

Push migration in Bangladesh could be effectively addressed if rural poverty was reduced. “In this regard, the Food and Agricultural Organisation has come up with Climate Smart Agriculture which is based on three pillars:

1. Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes;
2. Adapting and building resilience to climate change;
3. Reducing and/or removing greenhouse gases emissions, where possible.”

However the research conducted by UNU-EHS and CARE emphasises on making agriculture profitable to the farmers.

<http://www.newagebd.com/detail.php?date=2013-07-25&nid=58366>

Date Accessed 25.07.2013

(Ashwin Varghese)

### Cook, Earn and Save the Earth

(*The Economic Times*, New Delhi, 20 July, 2013)

Involving more than 100 rural Indian homes in villages around Jagdishpur, a town in Uttar Pradesh, a pilot project named “Sootswap” has been tested and validated. It is an attempt to improve the health of women and children who are mostly exposed to the smoke caused by the use of traditional stoves that use wood, coal or kerosene as fuel.



In its 2<sup>nd</sup> phase the project will demonstrate the benefits to close to 2000 households. Participating families will receive a clean cook stove and a mobile phone equipped with temperature sensor and sootswap application. Using this tool, families can gain a potential of earning since this will help them to link their contribution to reduction in black carbon emission to carbon credit, which acts as a certificate or permit to emit one tonne of carbon dioxide or any other greenhouse gas equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide by using clean cooking stoves. The units of carbon credit will further be exchanged in the market for monetary gains and thus households will actually end up earning. In complementary to this, use of clean cooking technologies will be enhanced.

<http://epaper.timesofindia.com/Default/Client.asp?skin=pastissues2&enter=LowLevel&AW=1374735126102>

Date accessed : 25.7.2013

(Shruti Issar)

### India Must Look at Green Growth: World Bank Report

(Hemali Chhappia, *Times of India*, 26 July, 2013)

As per a new report by the World Bank, India can make green growth a reality by putting in place strategies to reduce environmental degradation at the minimal cost of 0.02% to 0.04% of average annual GDP growth rate thus allowing it to maintain a high pace of economic growth without jeopardizing future environmental sustainability.

“The report is the first-ever national level economic assessment of environmental degradation in India and analyzes the physical and monetary losses of environmental health and natural resources; the tradeoffs between economic growth and environmental sustainability; and provides a valuation for biodiversity and ecosystem services in India.”

According to the report, the annual cost of environmental degradation in India amounts to about Rs \$80 billion equivalent to 5.7% of GDP. The report models several scenarios to show that green growth is affordable. “According to the study, a 10% particulate emission reduction by 2030 will lower GDP modestly, representing a loss of merely 0.3% to the GDP compared to business as usual. On the other hand, a 30% particulate emission reduction lowers GDP about \$97 billion, or 0.7% with very little impact on the growth rates.”

The Report concludes that green growth is measurable and emphasises on the importance to calculate green GDP as an index of economic growth.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/India-must-look-at-green-growth-World-Bank-report/articleshow/21366023.cms>

Date Accessed: 28.07.2013

(Deepti Somani)

## Hyderabad Metro Going Green in an Earnest Manner

(Mohsin Ali, *Postnoon*, 28 July, 2013)

Under the Vana Deeksha and Vana Prasaran schemes initiated last year, around 60,000 saplings will be planted this year in various parts of the city. MD, Hyderabad Metro Rail, NVS Reddy opened the scheme and announced that saplings will be distributed free of cost to individuals and organisations under the scheme.

The mass tree plantation programme comes in response to the past criticism

of the metro having disrupted the normal life and increasing pollution in the city. More importantly, the authorities claim that the survival rates of trees is 98 percent inside corporate houses or complexes.

<http://postnoon.com/2013/07/28/metro-gets-a-green-sheen/137512>

Date accessed: 28.07.2013

(Neha Singh)

## LAW & JUSTICE

### What the US Supreme Court decision on same sex marriage means for India?

(Sagnik Dutta, *Frontline*, 26 July, 2013)

This article contains excerpts of an interview with Senior Advocate Anand Grover wherein he talks about the implications of the US Supreme Court decision on same sex marriage on India and similarities in the constitutional principles to be interpreted by the Supreme Court of India in the 377 case.

He opines that the conflict between constitutional morality and public morality brought to forefront by the US judgement is relevant in the Indian context so far as the issue of equality is concerned. He points out that while the crux of US judgments reflect that targeting a group or treating them disparately is not justifiable, the Delhi High Court in the Section 377 case expressed a more holistic notion of constitutional morality which encompasses equality and inclusiveness and goes well beyond mere equality of opportunity .

Accordingly, the judgment holds immense importance for India as it sets a legal pattern which calls not

only for decriminalisation of homosexuality but for substantive equality in all spheres, including marriage and the benefits consequent on marriage of same sex couples.

<http://www.frontline.in/the-nation/equality-is-the-issue/article4888112.ece?homepage=true>

Date accessed: 28.07.2013

(Deepti Somani)

## Clinical Trial Regulation Soon: Government to SC

(*Indian Express*, 27 July, 2013)

Changes are being made on health policy to regulate clinical trials of drugs. The amendments will be put on the table for discussions in the monsoon session of Parliament. The existing Act does not have any single provision prescribing for a jail term over clinical trials conducted in violation of the norms. This decision was taken as a result of a PIL filed by the NGO Swasthya Adhikar Manch. The NGO had alleged that clinical trials by several pharmaceutical companies were being carried out indiscriminately in various states, without following mandatory standards. In an affidavit submitted as per the Supreme Court’s directive, the Centre conceded that at least 80 people have lost their lives due to such trials in the last seven years.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/clinical-trial-regulation-soon-govt-to-sc/1147191/1>

Date accessed: 28.07.2013

(Anjana John)

## GENDER

### Guidelines for Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court framed; High Courts Directed to Follow Suit

(*Lawyers Collective*, 19 July, 2013)

The Supreme Court has approved regulations for prevention and redressal of sexual harassment of women at the Supreme Court and also urged all the High Courts to formulate similar legislations.

The directions of the Supreme Court have come sixteen years after the landmark Vishaka judgment, wherein it directed all employers to adopt guidelines framed by it to address sexual harassment at the workplace.

The Regulations create a Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee (GSICC) to look into complaints of sexual harassment against all women in the premises of the Supreme Court, which shall have the powers to admonish the respondent.

“In addition, the GSICC may recommend to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to pass orders debarring the respondent from entering the Supreme Court precincts for a specified period, in appropriate cases to recommend filing of a criminal complaint and / or disciplinary complaint before the concerned disciplinary authority governing the respondent. The orders of the CJI and the GSICC shall be final and binding on the parties.”

<http://www.lawyerscollective.org/updates/guidelines-sexual-harassment-women-supreme-court-framed-high-courts-directed-follow-suit.html>

Date accessed: 23.07.2013  
(Deepti Somani)

## DISABLED

### Right to Education for the Differently Abled

(Lhendup G Bhutia, *Open*, 27 July, 2013)

In keeping with the idea of inclusive education, where children are not segregated on the basis of ‘alternate abilities’, “there is a strengthening belief in the West that children with special needs are best put through regular schools.” This helps children understand and engage with society at large, while ensuring that they accept those who are different.

“The Right to Education Act specifies that every child has the right to education in a neighbourhood school.” The debate is whether a regular school or a special school is better for the differently abled. A case in point the expulsion of a 7 year old autistic child from Jamnabai Narsee, a school in Juhu, Mumbai. “The debate is being played out in the Bombay High Court.” While figures for autism cases in India are not available, studies conducted by the US government’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, show that globally the diagnosis of autism has increased from one in every 150 children in 2002, one in every 110 in 2006 and one in every 88 children in 2008. “The challenge of their education cannot be ignored.”

MP Sharma, director, GD Somani School, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai notes “For special children to get the right education in mainstream schools, the schools need to have the wherewithal: the right staff, experienced counsellors and special educators. Many schools fall woefully short there.”

A special educator who works with various schools in Mumbai notes that the outcome of the Jamnabai Narsee case will set the tone of the debate. “Whatever the decision, it will set a precedent for the right of a special

child—or absence of it—to join a mainstream school.”

<http://www.openthemagazine.com/article/living/the-boy-who-doesn-t-talk-in-class>

Date Accessed: 27 July 2013  
(Ashwin Varghese)

### UN Survey Focuses on How Persons with Disabilities Cope During Disasters

(The United Nations, 31 July, 2013)

An online survey launched on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2013 by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and its partners “seeks to provide insight into how to reduce risk and help persons with disabilities around the world cope with and prepare for disaster events.”

The survey “focuses on issues such as the ability to protect oneself and having sufficient time to evacuate before a potential disaster. It also asks questions about knowledge, awareness and participation in disaster management plans at national and local level.”

Stating that around 30 million disabled people are expected to be affected during an average year by earthquakes and weather-related hazards, Margareta Wahlström, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction said that the survey will focus on the needs of people with disabilities who are more than one billion in number.

The data collected could help governments and international organizations prepare policies aiming to protect persons with disabilities during disasters. The findings of the survey will be included in the new global agreement on disaster risk reduction which will be in place by 2015.

The survey results will be announced on 13<sup>th</sup> October, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. UNISDR seeks to implement the survey by collaborating with UN Enable, the Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network for Asia and the Pacific and other partners on implementing the survey.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45521&Cr=disab&Cr1=#.UfjBz6zcjco>

Date Accessed: 31.07. 2013  
(Amrutha Jose Pampackal)

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Role of India in the Arctic

(BK Sidhu, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 27 July, 2013)

India's observer status in the Arctic Council (AC) has raised the importance of her role in the ecologically fragile Arctic region. "The Arctic Council is the high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic states, with the involvement of the Arctic's indigenous communities and other inhabitants on common issues, in particular, sustainable development and environmental protection." The duties of the observer states comprise of participation in the meetings of the council, submitting written statements, making relevant contributions through their engagement in the AC and proposing projects through an Arctic state or a permanent participant.

Since India has got the observer status, she gets the unique opportunity to think innovatively on possible contribution to the AC's role in the Arctic's governance. The author points out that, even without the voting power, India can make its presence felt through bilateral means and also by emphasizing the issues of transparency, sovereign equality and preserving the Arctic as 'global commons'. "India could also use this platform to support the multilateral efforts in making the Arctic a weapons-free zone and advocate the cause of sustainable development and protection of the fragile region." The author concludes his essay by stating that India needs to use her entry as an observer in the AC to provide a role model for using tools international law and diplomacy to balance national and global interests as well as responsibilities in harmonious ways.

[http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2013\\_48/30/India\\_and\\_the\\_Challenge\\_o](http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2013_48/30/India_and_the_Challenge_o)

[f\\_the\\_Melting\\_Arctic.pdf](#)

Date accessed: 29.07. 2013  
(Anjana John)

### International Affairs

#### An Attempt To Improve Trade Relations With Pakistan

(*Exim News Service* - New Delhi , 23 July, 2013)

An exclusive attempt has been planned by India to improve upon its trade relations with Pakistan under which the Govt. of India is planning to slash the import duty on textile products from Pakistan from its current level of 30-45 % to 5%. This will be done by further dropping some items from the sensitive list which India maintains for Pakistan. Broadly, the list is maintained under the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (Safta).

However the planned attempt will be practiced only after satisfactory completion of certain conditions like granting India Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status or non-discriminatory market access, as per the officials.

<http://eximin.net/NewsDetails.aspx?name=72910>

Date accessed : 25.7.2013  
(Shruti Issar)

### South Asia

#### South East Asian Countries Resolve to Check E-Cigarettes

(*PTI*, July 26, 2013)

The regional meeting of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) saw various South East Asian countries including

India vow to take measures to check the use of smokeless tobacco and hookah which pose serious public health problems due to its high use.

"The key objectives of the meeting were to review implementation of WHO FCTC and major developments related to the treaty in the region and internationally, and to facilitate inter country exchanges on implementation achievements and challenges, including identification of the best practices and the ways of further promoting their dissemination and use. The recommendations made are in line with obligations under Article 5.2(b) of the WHO FCTC to prevent and reduce nicotine addiction including through banning E- cigarettes or Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)."

Due to high prevalence of its use, the wide diversity, the social acceptance of its use and lack of awareness of its adverse health consequences, the nations called for introducing strong legislative, administrative and regulatory measures to control the use of smokeless tobacco and hookah/water pipe.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/countries-resolve-to-check-ecigarettes-hookah/1147129/0>

Date accessed: 29.07.2013  
(Deepti Somani)

### Maldives, India and Sri Lanka Agree to Increased Maritime Security

#### Collaboration

(*Minivan New*, July, 2013)

An agreement has been signed between India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka for greater collaboration and information sharing among their respective naval forces in the Indian Ocean during the Second Trilateral Cooperation on Maritime Security meeting. The Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) has said that

an agreement had been reached during the meeting for Indian and Sri Lankan naval forces to assist the Maldives with search and rescue efforts, as well as dealing with issues such as marine oil pollution.

The meeting was attended by Maldives Defence Minister Mohamed Nazim, Sri Lanka's Minister of Defence and Urban Development Gotabaya Rajapaksa and India's National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon.

<http://minivannews.com/news-in-brief/maldives-india-and-sri-lanka-agree-to-increased-maritime-security-collaboration-61046>

Date Accessed: 28.07.2013  
(Anjana John)

## East Asia

### 'The Unempowered Asian'

(Pulapre Balakrishnan, *The Hindu*, 25 July, 2013)

The article does a critical analysis of India's development by doing a comparative study with other Asian countries.

The author notes that India lags behind in basic infrastructural development, while Seoul's "network of expressways, efficient public transport, pedestrian-friendly streets and glorious public services leave you in a state of shock and awe." There is no visible poverty.

He further notes that, "India's GDP per capita is pitifully low compared to that of the Asian powerhouses, the price of food too high in relation to capita income" and the fruits of growth in recent years, poorly distributed.

"India has by now overtaken Japan as the world's third largest economy in purchasing-power-parity terms" but poverty in India is still overwhelming. "China does have high inequality but

has far lower poverty levels than India...Beyond higher per capita incomes, the economies of the east have a vast stock of well functioning public infrastructure."

"At the core of the Asian model is the wide provision of health and education by the state." The human capital thus created is conducive to high productivity growth. "It generates the demand needed to sustain growth and... releases the resources necessary to provision it." But sustained growth demands physical infrastructure. "Countless Indians are unable to improve their lot due to the paucity of electricity, water supply, transportation and sanitation." In the east, "it is the state that actually built this infrastructure because the private sector cannot be expected to build it on so vast a scale."

He demands that "We need an understanding of public life in which elected representatives are held responsible for the quality of infrastructural services and the cost at which they are delivered to the public."

<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-unempowered-asian/article4949618.ece?homepage=true>

Date Accessed: 25.07.2013  
(Ashwin Varghese)

## Americas

### India and Latin America: Constructing Deeper Ties

(Deepak Bhojwani, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 27 July, 2013)

India used to have fewer economic links with the Latin American and the Caribbean region (LAC). This has changed in 21<sup>st</sup> century as both the regions started to explore and develop close relations in trade and investment. India started first with

Brazil. The multilateral linkages which both countries share are IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa), BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa), and BASIC (Brazil-South Africa-India-China). Indian software companies such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Wipro, Infosys and Satyam have already established a strong base in the Latin American region, employing thousands of local people. Auto mobile companies like Bajaj, Hero, TVS, Tatas, Maruti, and Mahindras are well established in the region. Indian pharmaceutical companies are now selling generic medicines under their own brand names in Latin American markets. Latin American companies like Mexico's Cinopolis and Brazil's Marco Polo have also set up their shops in India. They too are looking to expand their trade relations with India rather than confining with their traditional partners in Europe and North America. The region will play an important role in India's campaign to enhance energy security. "India needs to institutionalise this friendship with Latin American countries through instrumentalities that have already been identified and defined. Also the geographical distance poses challenges but it is not impossible."

<http://www.epw.in/perspectives/india-and-latin-america.html>

Date Accessed: 29.07.2013  
(Anjana John)

## OPINIONS

### Harmful Effects of US Defence Budget

(Opinion, Ted Galen Carpenter, *China Daily*, 5 May, 2013)

The article argues that America's military budget for 2013 is excessive for its legitimate defence needs. US now accounts for 44 percent of all global military spending, in other words the US spends nearly as much on the military as the rest of the world combined. "Today, the amount Washington spends on its military each year is a whopping \$2,300 per American. The comparable obligation for an average NATO country is \$503 per capita. For China, it is less than \$200 per capita."

The author says that such a "bloated commitment of resources to the military is unhealthy both for America's domestic health and minimizing international conflicts. It places an undue burden on US taxpayers while making other countries uneasy and suspicious." Therefore the author says that "greater restraint in US military spending would benefit both the American people and the prospects for better relations in the international community."

"America's heavy spending on military encourages friendly, allied countries to free ride and keep their own defence budgets lower than they might be otherwise, thereby freeing up financial resources for domestic priorities. However, for nations like India, China and Russia that have a more ambivalent or complicated relationship with the US, the effect is decidedly more negative."

The author points out those "major powers that are not US allies could well suspect that Washington's underlying motive for continuing its huge military outlays is an attempt to intimidate potential competitors. Smaller countries that are on bad terms with the US have even greater cause to worry. There is an ever-

present concern that they may become targets of forcible regime change." "For them, the choice appears to be a stark one between capitulation to Washington's demands or acquiring a nuclear deterrent."

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/op-ed.html>

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Junty Sharma Pathak

## BOOKS

### Water: Asia's New Battleground

(Brahma Chellaney, *Harper Collins India*)

"*Water: Asia's New Battleground* is a pioneering study of Asia's murky water politics and the relationships between freshwater, peace, and security." The author paints a picture of Asia's water crisis, focuses on the security implications of water disputes and suggests possible strategies to "avoid conflict and more equitably share Asia's water resources."

Water stress can hinder continued rapid economic growth, stirring up interstate tensions over shared water bodies, worsening territorial disputes, and inflicting more hardships on the poor. Despite being home to many great rivers and lakes, Asia's per capita water availability is low because of the large population and increasing economic and agricultural demand for water.

As most of the water bodies cross boundaries, inter-state tensions are bound to rise. The potential for such tensions is also underscored by China's being the source of trans-boundary rivers that flow into many countries and its unwillingness to enter into water sharing treaties even while tapping water resource meant for other countries as well. "If yesterday's battles were fought over land and today's over energy, tomorrow's might be over water. It will be a huge crisis especially in water-distressed Asia."

[http://www.harpercollins.co.in/BookDetail.asp?Book\\_Code=2844](http://www.harpercollins.co.in/BookDetail.asp?Book_Code=2844)

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(Amrutha Jose)