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G20 : How Relevant Is It For Development?

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After the Second World War, the world became hostage to bipolar power centres led by the USA and the USSR. This ended with the disintegration of the USSR in the early 1990s after which, the USA remained more or less the exclusive centre of power. The latter half of 1990s witnessed gradual but significant changes in the international economic order with countries from the global south, especially China and India, emerging as key players in international economic arena. Simultaneously, the East Asian financial crisis of 1997 highlighted the need for greater economic cooperation between advanced countries and developing countries. Multilateral forums to initiate an informal dialogue between advanced and emerging economies became an obvious necessity.

In this backdrop, in September 1999, the finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Eight countries (the G-8) announced their intention to "broaden the dialogue on key economic and financial policy issues among systemically significant

economies and promote co-operation to achieve stable and sustainable world economic growth that benefits all." This announcement marked the official birth of what subsequently became known as the Group of Twenty countries (the G-20). The already existing G8 group of countries, namely, USA, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Canada and Russia were joined by the 11 emerging and developing countries (namely, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, South Africa and Turkey) and the European Union to form the G20.

The G20 meets once a year, usually in late autumn, to discuss international economic issues. This event has come to be known as "Leaders Summit", which brings together the Heads of the State of the member countries. In these meetings, discussions are undertaken by the "Sherpas" - the personal representatives of the leaders of each nation. They have been tasked by their Leaders to negotiate the Summits

documents on their behalf. Thus, Leaders' Declarations are finalized by 'Sherpas'. In this process, they also meet other relevant stakeholders such as the business community, academic institutions, representatives of labour union, young people and civil society organizations in order to facilitate an inclusive and representative dialogue. Till date, eight G20 Leaders Summits have been held in different member countries. The 9th G20 Leaders Summit will be held in Brisbane, Queensland (Australia) on 15-16 November 2014. The economic and political importance of the G20 can be gauged from the fact that after the onset of the global economic crisis in 2008, on the request of the US President, G20 evolved as a crisis manager group making an effort to move towards economic and financial stability. However, 'development' as an issue had not found any place in G20 agenda until the Leaders Summit in South Korea in 2010. Also, the official recognition of civil society (and the civil 20 process) started even later in 2013 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Objectives of G20

Although the initial focus of G20 was on issues related to international financial stability, it has also examined a broad range of longer-term economic issues of interest to its members. One of the key areas of emphasis of the G20 is promotion of shared economic growth and sustainable development. G20 is also trying to foster and adopt internationally recognized standards (through the example set by its members) in areas such as financial transparency, international tax cooperation and combating money laundering etc.

G20 and Development Issues

As discussed before, until 2010, G20 leaders did not formally recognize issues relating to "development" in the G20 agenda. For the first time in the Seoul Summit (2010), leaders formally endorsed economic development with shared economic growth as an agenda. However, 'shared economic growth' can only be achieved if there is redistribution of income across and even within countries.

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JOB HIGHLIGHTS

SECL

● South Eastern Coalfields Limited requires 700 Mining Sirdar
Last Date : 25.03.2014

MCL

● Mahanadi Coalfields Limited requires 319 Security Gaurd, Clerk and Translator
Last Date : 31.03.2014

SAIL

● Steel Authority of India Limited requires 64 Mining Foreman and Mining Mate
Last Date : 29.03.2014

JIPMER

● Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry requires 61 Professors & Assistant Professors
Last Date : 14.04.2014

UPSC

● Union Public Service Commission invites applications for various posts.
Last Date : 27.03.2014

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Following item is available in the Web Exclusives section on www.employmentnews.gov.in :

1. Whistleblowers' Protection Bill passed.

Floriculture Entrepreneurship

Dr. Ashok G. Matani

Globally, more than 140 countries are involved in cultivation of floricultural crops. Among various countries Germany continues to be the highest consumer followed by Japan. India is having an enormous scope in the future. The domestic industry is growing at annual rate of 7-8% per annum. The area under flowers has crossed to 1.91 lakh hectares during 2011-12 which is concentrated mostly in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Export destinations of Indian floriculture products

The two main markets for Indian fresh cut flowers are Europe and Japan. The European Union is believed to consume over 50% of the world's flowers and includes many countries with a relatively high per capita consumption of cut flowers. Germany is the biggest consumer of flowers, followed by the UK, France and Italy. Together, the two markets (Europe and Japan) account for around 75% of Indian fresh cut flower exports.

Cut- Flowers	The Netherlands, Japan, UAE, Germany, and UK
Dried Flowers	USA, Germany, UK, The Netherlands, Italy, and New Zealand
Live Plants	UK, USA, The Netherlands, Germany, and Sri Lanka
Dried Plant	USA, The Netherlands, Germany, UK, and Italy
Bulbs & Tubers	The Netherlands, USA, New Zealand, Belgium, and Korea

Factors encouraging floriculture entrepreneurship in India

- Diverse agro-climatic conditions and geographical locations suited for growing various types of flowers
- Skilled manpower to absorb the technology and implement the same at a relatively low cost
- Soil and water supply at most locations
- Good solar radiation / sunlight leading to healthier plant growth and better quality flowers
- Light rains and salubrious climate during winter, the prime export season, leading to sustained high yields
- Good period of sunlight even during the heavy rains leading to continued plant growth and proper yield

Effective strategies to promote floriculture

- Creating more public awareness regarding use of floriculture produce through media and other agencies as well as more exposure of floriculture products during consumer exhibitions
- Retailing of flower produce through super markets in addition to Florist shops to encourage flower consumption especially in metropolitan cities
- Organizing post harvest infrastructure for marketing needs at the domestic terminal markets
- Promotion of interaction between growers and scientific Institutions for effective lab to land technology transfer

Potential for entrepreneurship in floriculture

In India, labor is cheap and available in abundance in rural as well as urban areas. The cost of necessary inputs for floriculture like water, electricity, fertilizer, pesticides, etc. is reasonable. In different parts of the country, mainly small and marginal farmers are engaged in cultivation

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