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1. NITI Aayog releases study report on 'Carbon Capture to achieve net zero emission target by 2070 (Nov. 29, 2022)

NITI Aayog releases study report on 'Carbon Capture"

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has released a report titled 'Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage Policy Framework and its Deployment Mechanism in India' on 29 November 2022.

The report explores the importance of Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage as an emission reduction strategy to meet the Net Zero target of India by 2070. The report outlines broad level policy interventions needed across various sectors for its application.

India's has **committed** through its updated nationally determined contributions (NDC) to achieve **50% of its total installed** capacity from non-fossil-based energy sources, **45% reduction in emission intensity by 2030** and taking steps towards achieving **Net Zero by 2070**,

It means India has to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. However the recent study suggests that India's reliance on fossil fuel especially coal for power generation is likely to increase rather than reduce.

According to the Niti Aayog Vice Chairman **Suman Bery**, the Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) can enable the production of clean products while still utilizing our rich endowments of coal.

Possible benefits of the CCUS

The report indicates that CCUS can provide a wide variety of opportunities to convert the captured CO2 to different value-added products like green urea, food and beverage form application, building materials (concrete and aggregates), chemicals (methanol and ethanol), polymers (including bio-plastics).

CCUS projects will also lead to a significant employment generation. It estimates that about 750 Million tonnes per annum of carbon capture by 2050 can create employment opportunities of about **8-10 million** on full time equivalent (FTE) basis in a phased manner

Carbon Capture and Storage and Utilisation

Carbon Capture and Storage is the process of capturing the carbon dioxide which is released due to industrial activities/power generation using fossil fuels, before it is released in the atmosphere.

- The captured carbon- dioxide can be used to make commercially marketable products.
 This is called Capture Storage and Utilisation (CCSU). Normally it is used in enhanced oil
 extraction where carbon dioxide is injected in oil fields to increase their extraction
 efficiency.
- The first large-scale CCSU project began operating at Sleipnerin Norway in 1996.

Other Initiatives of the government in the field of CCSU

The Government of India is setting up two National Centres of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation for long-term research, design development, collaborative and capacity-building

hubs for state-of-the-art research and application-oriented initiatives in the field of Carbon capture.

The two centres are:

- National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCoE-CCU) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay,
- ational Centre in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCCCU) at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru .

2. IIT Delhi in top 50 of Times Higher Education Employability Rankings (Nov. 26, 2022)

IIT Delhi in top 50 of Times Higher Education

The **Global Employability University Rankings and Survey (GEURS)** ranks the top 250 universities in the world for producing employable graduates according to employers.

Important facts

- This ranking has been released by **Times Higher Education (THE).**
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi is the only Indian educational institution in the top 50 in the ranking.
- Among Indian institutions, the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru is at the second spot (58),** followed by **IIT-Bombay at 72.**
- The latest THE Rankings have five Indian institutions in top 200.
- Times Higher Education is a British magazine exclusively reporting on news and issues relating to higher education.

Top 5 Universities

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology USA
- California Institute of Technology USA
- Harvard University USA
- University of Cambridge UK
- Stanford University -USA

3. Modi tops list of world's most popular leaders with 77% approval rating: Survey (Nov. 25, 2022)

Modi tops list of world's most popular leaders

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again topped the list of the world's most popular leaders with an approval rating of 77 per cent, according to a survey by US based consulting firm Morning Consult Political Intelligence.

Important facts

- The Indian PM is followed by Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador at 69 per cent and Australian PM Anthony Albanese at 56 per cent, on the second and third spots, respectively.
- In the approval rating, US President **Joe Biden** is placed at 9th position followed by UK Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** among the 22 world leaders.
- The latest approval ratings are based on data collected from 16th to 22nd of this month.
- It is based on a seven-day moving average of adult residents in each country.
- In the earlier ratings as well, PM Modi was at the top of the rankings.
- According to Morning Consult, the ratings are based on over 20,000 global interviews conducted online daily.

4. OECD cuts India growth rate forecast to 6.6 %in 2022 and warns of slow world economic growth (Nov. 22, 2022)

The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has cut the expected growth rate of the Indian economy in 2022 to **6.6%** from its earlier forecast of 6.9% but it has retained its earlier forecast of **5.7%** in 2023.

In its latest **Economic Outlook** report released on 22 November 2022 the OECD expects the world Economy to grow by **3.1%** down sharply from 5.9% growth in 2021. It expects the growth to be **2.2% in 2023** and **2.7% in 2024.**

The report says that Europe has been hit hardest due to the Russia -Ukraine war and the consequent high energy prices. The 19 country's **Eurozone** is expected to grow by **3.3%** this year then slow to 0.5% in 2023 before recovering to grow by 1.4% in 2024.

The biggest European economy **Germany** is expected to contract by **-0.3% i**n 2022.

World's largest economy, the **U.S**. is expected to grow by 1.8% this year, 0.5% in 2023 and 1.0% in 2024.

China, which is not an OECD member, was one of the few major economies expected to see growth pick up next year. Growth there was seen rising from $\bf 3.3\%$ this year to 4.6% in 2023 and 4.1% in 2024.

Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

It was set upon 16 December 1960 by 18 European countries and the United States, Canada. It is a think tank which supports the free market economy.

The OECD publishes economic reports, statistical databases, analyses, and forecasts on the outlook for economic growth worldwide.

At present it has **38** member countries from Europe, South America, Asia and North America.

India, China are not members of OECD.

Headquarters: **Paris, France.**

5. India, China leads as Global intellectual property filings reached new records in 2021: WIPO (Nov. 22, 2022)

India, China leads as Global intellectual

According to the **World Intellectual Property Organisation Indicators report** published by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO on 21 November 2022, Global intellectual property filings of <u>patents</u>, <u>trademarks</u>, <u>and designs</u>, reached record levels in 2021 driven largely by increases from Asian countries of India, China, and South Korea.

The WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) report showed that innovators around the world filed **3.4 million patent** applications in 2021, up 3.6 per cent from the previous year with offices in Asia receiving 67.6 percent of all applications worldwide.

According to the report the growth in registering new brands coincided with a boom in entrepreneurial activity and venture capital deals prompted by the corona pandemic's disruptions. Industrial design filing activity rose by 9.2 per cent. The largest growth in designs was also from offices in Asia.

Asia leads while US declines

According to the report, local filings of patents in India grew by **5.5%**, in China it grew by 5.5%, and in South Korea by 2.5%. More than two-thirds of the patents filed were from Asia.

According to the report, in 2021 the local patenting activity declined by **-1.2 percent in the US**, -1.7 percent in Japan and Germany-3.9% in Germany.

World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation (WIPO)

WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property (IP) services, policy, information and cooperation.

World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation (WIPO) is a United Nations agency.

It was set up in 1967 and **193 countries** are its members.

Geneva Switzerland is the Headquarters of WIPO.

Director General of WIPO: **Daren Tang**

World Intellectual Property Rights Day is observed on 26 April every year.