

EVA STALIN IAS ACADEMY - BEST IAS COACHING IN CHENNAI

12/24, Muthurangan Muthali St, West Tambaram, Chennai - 600045

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G-20: 39 MNCs come together for circular economy coalition

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Embracing a circular economy model enables transition from the linear "take-make-waste" paradigm and embrace a more sustainable and regenerative approach, said Union Minister Bhupender Yadav at the launch of Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC) on the sidelines of the fourth G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) and Environment and Climate Ministers'

meeting in Chennai on Thursday.

As many as 39 multinational corporations (MNCs) from sectors such as steel, FMCG and electronics came together to pledge to adopt resource efficiency and circular economy principles to address environmental challenges rising from waste, including plastics, microplastics, e-waste, and chemical waste. The launch of RECEIC, which involved signing of the foundational charter and unveiling of the logo by Mr. Yadav, was attended by Ministers of seven coun-



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav with delegates at the G-20 meeting, in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

tries such as Mauritius, Denmark, Italy, Canada, the UAE, France, and the European Union.

Naresh Pal Gangwar, Ad-

ditional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), told the media on Wednesday that the

coalition would be led by industries and the government would only play a supporting role.

Speaking about India's efforts to mitigating the burden of plastic waste, Mr. Gangwar said about 41 lakh tonnes of plastic waste were generated in the country in 2021-22, of which 30 lakh tonnes were allocated to 2,000-odd registered recyclers and plastic waste processing units.

Under Extended Producers' Responsibility (EPR) guidelines established through the Plastic Waste Management

(Amendment) Rules, 2022, 2.6 million tonnes worth of EPR certificates had been generated by plastic waste processors and around 1.51 million tonnes of those certificated had been purchased by PIBOs (Producers, Importers and Brand owners) against 2022-23 obligations, Mr. Gangwar said.

The ECSWG, which will conclude with the Ministers' meeting on Friday, has been involved in discussing environmental issues and promoting global collaboration towards a sustainable future.

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T.N. govt. signs MoU with U.K. for raising botanical garden in Chengalpattu

The garden will be set up in partnership with Kew Gardens, London; the State government launches green initiatives in partnership with UNEP, including the battle against plastics

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

As part of a slew of projects launched by the State government, the Environment department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the U.K. to set up a botanical garden in Chengalpattu in partnership with the Kew Gardens, London.

"The MoU commits to Kew providing advice and expertise around landscape planning, plant collection development and botanical garden management," the department said in an official release.

Environment Minister Siva V. Meyyanathan, along with Graham Stuart, U.K. Minister of State for Climate, launched the 'Roadmap for Green Indexing of Industries' for industrial



Environment Minister Siva V. Meyyanathan with Graham Stuart, U.K. Minister of State for Climate, at the signing of the MoU in Chennai on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

decarbonisation in Tamil Nadu.

Theresa Coffey, U.K. Minister for Environment and Forest, inaugurated the U.K. Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions' (UK PACT) mangrove project, which will be implemented by Keystone Foun-

ation, Nilgris.

The project will specifically build capacities of local communities in the Nilgris, Cuddalore, and Coimbatore districts, said Supriya Sahu, Secretary for Environment.

The State government kicked off green initiatives

in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at another event on Thursday including the "Tide Turner Plastic Challenge", a global youth-led movement against single use plastics.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan, who is in Chennai for the G20 Ministerial Meeting, joined the students on a walk on Besant Nagar beach and performed an experiment to measure temperature and salinity of seawater samples, an activity conducted as part of "Ocean Matters," an ongoing citizen science project organised by the U.S. Consulate General Chennai in partnership with The Energy and Resources Institute to build capacity of students to monitor ocean health parameters.

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Elusive consensus

The government must transparently lay out the state of relations with China

India and China have once again appeared to walk away from their latest high-level engagement with sharply different diagnoses of what ails their relations. During a meeting earlier this week in Johannesburg between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and top Chinese diplomat and Politburo member Wang Yi (he heads the Communist Party's Central Foreign Affairs Commission and was re-appointed Foreign Minister after the sudden removal of his successor Qin Gang), Mr. Doval highlighted India's concerns about the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). China's actions, he said, had "eroded" the "public and political basis" of ties. He also stressed the need to "... restore peace and tranquility in the border areas, so as to remove impediments to normalcy in bilateral relations". The Chinese readout, in contrast, emphasised the big picture, calling for the "early" return of ties "to the track of healthy and stable development". It also called on both sides to follow "an important consensus" that was, it revealed, reached by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi in Bali last year to stabilise ties. This claimed "Bali consensus" had not been previously disclosed by either side. The Ministry of External Affairs, which stated they only exchanged courtesies, has subsequently conceded that they also discussed the "need to stabilize bilateral relations".

Whether or not the leaders exchanged more than pleasantries in Bali, the contrasting claims from the latest meeting have only reinforced the need for the Modi government to more transparently lay out the state of relations with China, and especially along the border. Opacity and defensiveness have marked the government's responses since tensions began in April 2020 to any questions about the border or its broader approach to China, which appears increasingly rife with contradictions. Only this week, the Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, told a British newspaper that the government welcomed investment from China. Trade with China boomed to record levels in 2020 and 2021 led by imports of Chinese machinery, while at the same time the government has banned more than 200 Chinese apps, including TikTok. Meanwhile, after 18 rounds of talks, there remains little clarity on the LAC situation and the continuing incursions by China in Demchok and Depsang, the last two remaining friction points. While the arrangements to set up buffer zones in five other points are welcome, the terms of the arrangements and withdrawals by both sides also remain shrouded in secrecy. As both sides continue to find a way to stabilise ties and restore peace, the public should be kept informed. Relations with India's biggest neighbour are far too important to be conducted in the shadows.

India is recognised as a voice of peace, security: Jaishankar

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Amid an "unprecedented and complex" geopolitical situation, India is now recognised as a voice that speaks for all and stands for peace, security and prosperity, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in Parliament on Thursday.

Making a *suo motu* statement on "Latest developments in India's foreign policy" in both Houses of Parliament, he said India's G-20 Presidency had served as a catalyst in invigorating the country's foreign policy and also realising the vision of "Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) and Viksit (developed) Bharat".

He highlighted the rising stature of India at the international level, and listed out the overseas engagement by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and Union Ministers.

India's stature, he said, has been rising globally and the country is emerg-



S. Jaishankar

ing as a "credible and effective" development partner. "... We are now seen as a credible and effective development partner," he said.

The Minister said at a time when international affairs have become "unprecedented and complex", India's people-centric foreign policy is guided by the demands and aspirations of society.

"Today, the world recognises that when India speaks, it speaks not only for itself but for many others. And that India speaks as a voice of peace, security, and prosperity for all," he said.

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No accurate count of PwD population, says parliamentary panel

Standing committee asks officials to use every resource to correctly estimate specially-abled persons population until Census results are out

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Already under fire from rights activists and the Opposition over dropping disability-related questions in the sixth round of the National Family Health Survey, the Union government was on Thursday pulled up by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment for failing to accurately estimate the population of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

In its report on the action taken by the government on its recommendations made in March, the House panel, headed by BJP MP Rama Devi, said at least until the results of Census 2021 were made available, the government ought to use every resource it has to correctly



The government says that data on PwDs are largely taken from the Census and NSS sample surveys. **B. JOTHE RAMALINGAM**

estimate the population of PwDs in the country. This included collaborating with State governments, using data from surveys they are conducting, consulting experts, and sensitising surveyors of the Ministry of Statistics.

In its reply to the committee's recommendations, the government explained that data on PwDs are largely taken from the decennial Census conduct-

ed by the office of the Registrar-General and sample surveys on disability conducted by the National Sample Survey of the National Statistical Office.

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities went on to explain that the government had introduced a measure to provide unique disability ID cards to those covered under schemes meant for them.