



BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting 2022

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister for Labour & Employment attended the [BRICS \(Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa\)](#) Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting held under the Chinese Presidency.

What is BRICS?

- **About:**
 - BRICS is **an acronym for the grouping** of the world's leading emerging economies, namely **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
 - In 2001, the British Economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
 - The grouping **was formalised during the first meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers in 2006**.
 - South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010, after which the group adopted the acronym BRICS.
- **Share of BRICS:**
 - The BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries of the **world, representing 41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP and 16% of the global trade**.
- **Chairmanship:**
 - The chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, in **accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S**.
 - China is the chair for 2022.

What are the Key Highlights?

- **Discussed Three Priority Areas:**
 - **Promoting Green Jobs** for Sustainable Development
 - Developing Skills for Resilient Recovery
 - Protecting **Workers' Right in New Forms of Employment**.

What are 'green jobs'?

- 'Green jobs' refer to a **class of jobs that directly have a positive impact on the planet**, and contribute to the overall environmental welfare.
- Jobs involving renewable energy, conservation of resources, ensuring energy efficient means are categorised under the same.
- In all, they're **aimed at reducing the negative environmental impact** of economic sectors and furthering the process of creating a low-carbon economy.
- The idea behind a **low-carbon economy or decarbonisation** is fairly simple — it is about maintaining a sustainable economy, one that doesn't lead to vast emissions of greenhouse gasses, especially [carbon dioxide](#).

- **Indian Stand:**
 - India elucidated the **steps taken by India to provide relief to workers during the pandemic.**
 - Highlighted various initiatives taken towards providing **free ration**, enhancing the number of days of assured employment under **MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme)**, **collateral free loans** provided to 2.9 million street vendors to help them resume their businesses under **PMSVANidhi Yojana** during the **Covid-19 pandemic.**
 - The **Climate change is necessitating a shift towards more sustainable development** and green jobs.
 - A **Sector Council for Green Jobs has been set up** in India to develop strategy and implement programs for **Skill development in green sector.**
- **Declaration Adopted:**
 - One of the significant outcomes of the aforesaid meeting was the **adoption of the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Declaration.**
 - The Declaration recognized the need for promoting green jobs for sustainable development, strengthening of cooperation in skills development and; protection of workers' rights in new forms of employment.

What are the Other Related Initiatives?

- [e-Shram Portal](#)
- [Code on Social Security, 2020](#)
- [SANKALP programme](#)
- [STRIVE project](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana](#)
- [National Skill Development Corporation](#)

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