



ECONSCIENCE

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Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022



The Rajya Sabha on December 12 passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which seeks to empower the central government to specify a carbon credit trading scheme. The Bill was passed unanimously. Several opposition members demanded that the Bill be sent to a parliamentary Committee for scrutiny as it dealt with newer concepts such as carbon markets as a measure to meet emission targets and alleged that the Bill lacked the involvement of states.

The Bill, which seeks amendment to the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, seeks to mandate the use of non-fossil sources, including green hydrogen, green ammonia, biomass; and ethanol for energy needs and feedstock and establish carbon markets. The Bill seeks to bring large residential buildings within the fold of the energy conservation regime, enhance the scope of the Energy Conservation Building Code and amend penalty provisions. The Bill also seeks to increase members in the governing council of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and empower the state electricity regulatory commissions to make regulations for the smooth discharge of its functions. As per this Bill draft designated consumers may be required to meet a proportion of their energy needs from non-fossil sources.

The Bill provides a framework for regulating energy consumption and promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation. Energy efficiency means using less energy to perform the same task.

Assam: Massive Anti-Encroachment Eviction Drive Underway In Nagaon Amid Tight Security

Over 800 security personnel have been deployed at Batadraba in the Nagaon district of central Assam after the district administration started a massive eviction drive in the area, Guwahati: The Nagaon District Administration on Monday morning is conducting a massive anti-encroachment eviction drive at Bhumuraguri Grazing reserve, Jamai Basti, Rampur, and Kadamoni area in Assam, amid tight security. As per sources, more than 980 bighas of land have been occupied by the encroachers. Over 800 security personnel have been deployed at Batadraba in the Nagaon district of central Assam after the district administration started a massive eviction drive in the area. However, in the eviction drive, the district administration is using several excavators. As a precautionary measure, the state government directed the nearby Morigaon district administration to be on alert to cooperate in the eviction drive. The district administration had served notices to over 1,000 families of alleged encroachers in October to clear the land, official said. Meanwhile, the civil administration and police have been taking all necessary measures to materialise the eviction drive peacefully without any untoward incidents.



Need To Urgently Fix Basic Of Water, Education And Health: BCG's SINHA

India needs to urgently fix the "fundamental gap" in like water, health, education, besides addressing the inconsistent policies Of financial sector regulators and refrain from drumbeating in its pursuits of becoming a large global economy, Boston Consulting Group's India chief Janmejaya Sinha suggested on Thursday-

We have foundation and fundamental gaps which stay unfixed. China started its growth by first fixing water. Mr. Sinha speaking at the CII Global Economic Policy summit. we far away from fixing water. messing up water,,our water pricing is flawed. India's water table had plummeted to a dangerous level. which could trigger drought in about a decade's time that could speak .major unrest".

-Internal food security"

. If we don't fix water we can't double agriculture productivity. which we need for internal food security and to release the labor forces' . Mr- Sinha added that health and education spends also needed to double to prevent the demographic dividend from becoming a disaster- We have an average age Of 27 but doesn't help if there is complete lack of productivity he said.

Emphasizing the need for innovation in India quest to enhance its global economic standing industrialist. Baba Kalyani of Bharat Forge said: .we are still a factor driven economy- Unless we become an innovation driven economy. which would lead much larger manufacturing and investment. We are not going to see the kind of per capita income that will drive the economy to the goals that We have Set.

Te good news. at least from a policy perspective from the government, in the most areas the policy is moving or has already moved in that direction. The not-so-good news is- for 1 OOS of years. we have been country of traders. not been a country manufacturing and its going to take some time to get that mindset out. China had the same problem. When they convert from traders to manufacturing that is when you saw all this growth. Of course. that requires investment. massive capital and all this has to come together to make things happen, added.



Financial Inclusion In Age of The Digitalization

The use of technology in financial inclusion stands to be pertinent in today's context as it paves the way towards inclusive growth through the upliftment of disadvantaged sections of society.

Importance of financial inclusion:

- **Meaning of financial inclusion:** It refers to the availability to both individuals and companies of useful and cost-effective financial goods and services, including payments, transactions, savings, credit, and insurance, that are sustainable and ethically provided.
- **Provides social mobility:** The importance of financial inclusion lies in the fact that it allows social mobility. These resources help empower individuals and foster communities, which can aid in promoting economic growth.

The correlation between Technology, digital divide, and financial inclusion:

- **Rural-urban divide:** There is an evident divide between the urban-rural regions that dominate India. Only 4.4% of the rural families have computers compared to 14.4% urban households, only 13% of adults in rural areas have access to internet compared to 37% in metropolitan areas.

Conclusion:

- The digital divide affects every area of life, including literacy, wellness, access to financial services, etc. Therefore, for a fast-growing nation such as India, the focus needs to shift from simple economic growth to equitable and inclusive growth.

