

ISSN 0970-7247

THIRD CONCEPT

English Monthly
Annual Subscription Rs. 200

Vol. 30

No. 360

FEBRUARY 2017

Rs. 20.00

- ❖ **Jakarta Gubernatorial Elections 2017**
- ❖ **Moldova's Geopolitical Dilemma**
- ❖ **Brazil's Locomotive Breath**
- ❖ **Corruption in Sino-World**
- ❖ **Corruption in India**
- ❖ **Ancient Temples of Kashmir**



An International Journal of Ideas

Vol. 30 No. 360 FEBRUARY 2017 Rs. 20. 00

Third Concept aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

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Published, Printed and Owned by

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Imperiled World!

We inhabit an imperiled world, where apart from the vast devastating potential of nuclear weapons, vagaries of climate change and growing inequalities between the rich and the poor, along with associated events, have pushed the entire humankind on the threshold of catastrophe. Climate change has emerged as the major threat to the very existence of humankind after nuclear weapons. In the absence of a continuum of policies designed to reduce people's exposure and vulnerability to climate change, poverty and inequality would only increase. The impacts of climate change are prone to worsen the conditions of low-income people, who already face inequality, thereby making it a double burden for them. According to a recently released UN report, a total of 6,457 weather-related disasters occurred during 1995-2015, which claimed more than 600,000 lives and affected another 4.2 billion people. Combating the menace of climate change, especially in developing countries, requires international resources.

At the Paris climate conference in December 2015, countries committed to setting a target of mobilising at least \$100 billion per year for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries. Besides, Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has estimated that adaptation costs will range from \$70 billion to \$100 billion per year by 2050 in the developing countries alone. In this backdrop that the recently released UN report has voiced concern that international resources to support climate change resilience were insufficient. At a time when the world is passing through a critical situation due to climate change, there is an opportunity for the international community to come together to address the challenges. Various international reports have called for rendering immediate assistance to fight climate-related hazards, interventions for disaster risk reduction and taking up adaptation policies, including introduction of new crop varieties and water management techniques. These reports also suggest ecosystem management and income diversification of people and policies to reduce inequalities, which in turn would help address climate change impacts.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) in its recently released report titled '2017 Global Risks Report' has identified four key areas for global risks in 2017: environmental; socioeconomic; technological; and cooperative. The report identifies environmental risks as the most pressing, stressing that immediate, long-lasting action is necessary to provide hope for reversing climate change trajectories. It describes climate change as "one of the truly existential risks to our world" and states that the threat of climate change is among the highest, both in terms of impact and likelihood. The report recognizes progress in cooperation to address climate and other environmental risks in 2016, but concludes "the pace of change...is not fast enough." The continued challenges related to rising income inequality, polarization of society along ethnic, religious and cultural lines, and strained social protection systems have been identified as socioeconomic threats by the WEF report. On technological risks, the report suggests technology may provide innovative solutions and/or produce additional risks. On cooperation, the report stresses the importance of collaboration among countries, sectors and societies in managing risks.

Growing economic inequalities between the rich and the poor have been highlighted by international charity Oxfam in its report, according to which, just eight super-rich men hold the same amount of wealth as the poorest half of the world's population. Lamenting that it cannot name the bottom half of humanity, more than 3.6 billion people, with that kind of precision, report says that they mostly live in the developing world. Cautioning that worsening inequality threatens to upend the very fabric that's held democracies together in the post-Second World War global order, the Oxfam report warns, "Left unchecked, growing inequality threatens to pull our societies apart." On the one hand, billions of people are fighting over crumbs from half of a pie; while on the other hand, the rich dig into fat slices all to themselves. Broad estimates show that 80 percent of the bottom half of the world's population is adults living in Africa and India. They're younger and more likely to be single and poorly educated. Women who are poorly educated are even more likely to have very little wealth. Rising inequality causes more than a sense of moral outrage, adversely affects the health, increasing suicide rates and shortening lifespan. Concrete actions are needed to wriggle this world out of perils.

— BK