



Saran says broad consensus on major aspects of a potential treaty.



Development should be protected during climate talks, says Kalam.



Pachauri defends colleagues involved in Climategate.

Cop15

DID YOU KNOW?

THE CLEAN Development Mechanism (CDM), defined in Article 12 of the Protocol, allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries. Such projects can earn saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one tonne of CO₂, which can be counted towards meeting Kyoto targets. A Clean Development Mechanism project activity might involve, for example, a rural electrification project using solar panels or the installation of even more energy-efficient boilers.

Voices get shriller at Copenhagen

MARIANNE DE NAZARETH
DC | COPENHAGEN

Dec. 9: As negotiators begin work at the COP-15 Summit here in Copenhagen, two key positions from the developing-countries have emerged. The G-77 negotiating position looks far more ambitious than anything envisaged even as recently as September 2009. South Africa offered a 34% cut in "business as usual" levels by 2020 (framing cuts in the same terms as Indonesia and Brazil), rising to 42% by 2025, in a strategy that will do much to change the country's energy mix, particularly for power generation where coal remains the mainstay, but with significant renewables uptake envisaged, supported by handsome feed-in tariffs. India's offer involves a 20-25% cut in carbon intensity by 2020, the same kind of formula as China put forward

ward in order to preserve economic growth, though China pushed the bar upwards to 40-45% on a 2005 baseline. These moves flesh out a position among the leading developing economies — or BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) — which have been singled out by the developed world as a necessary component of any 2020 climate commitment based on concerns about their gaining undue economic advantage should their emissions growth go unchecked while others act. In particular, the United States and Japan have caveated their active participation in a Copenhagen agreement on some movement by the leading developing states, making clear that, unlike the Kyoto Protocol, BRICS should be differentiated from the wider G-77 developing groups in a reflection of their greater

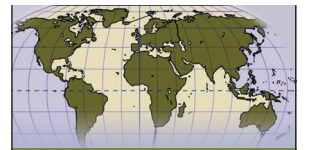
leak: climate meet COPS hit

Continued from Page 1
India's negotiating team leader Shyam Saran told reporters the draft was a "non-issue" at the moment because it had not been officially placed on the table. But he was certain that such a draft would not be allowed to be placed towards the end of the negotiating period. "There's no way we will allow such a move." The executive secretary of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Yvo de Boer said the text was a draft paper

put forward by the Danish prime minister for purposes of consultations. "The only formal texts in the UN process are the ones tabled by the Chairs of this Copenhagen conference at the behest of the Parties," Mr Boer said in a statement. The portion found most galling by many representatives of the developing nations was that by 2050 poor countries would have to limit their per capita emissions at 1.44 tonnes, while rich countries would be given extra leeway at 2.67 tonnes per capita.

On Monday, Copenhagen meeting's president Connie Hedegaard, who's the Danish climate minister, had denied that the country had circulated the text, saying there were several texts in circulation by various parties. Mr Di-Aping said the Danish text exists, and it sought to "superimpose a solution on the political leaders by doing away with efforts of the last two years." The Bella Centre was also hit by its first protest, from a group called the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance.

under way in Congress, where the Senate is currently locked in a debate over its version of a House of Representatives bill that foresees a 17% cut in emissions by 2020 against the 20% reduction in Senate, both on a 2005 baseline. The European Union (EU) has also re-entered the spotlight with questions over when its high-end 30% targets will be triggered, given the range of offers now on the table. Swedish Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren has said that this high-end level remains a lever to bring others to the table and not a position that will be given away lightly. The EU has so far been the most forthcoming on the thorny issue of climate finance, pushing the idea of a fast-track fund for 2010-12 as well as a long-term funding formula though that this has still failed to ignite detailed discussion on this crucial issue.



Three ways to count carbon emissions
China and the United States each accounts for about a fifth of global carbon emissions, despite the different sizes of their populations and their economies. Viewed through the perspective of those two factors, different countries stand out.

Total emissions
Apart from China and the United States, other big polluters are Russia, India, Japan and Germany.

Emissions per capita
In terms of their population, China and India compare more favourably, while Canada and Australia stand out more.

Emissions per dollar of output
This method shows relative emissions efficiency, a perspective favoured by China because growth in its economy can actually help reduce the ratio.

GREEN KARNATAKA

Revolutionising biogas energy

BALA CHAUHAN
DC | BENGALURU

Dec. 9: He pioneered the initial initiatives to green energy solutions in India in the early 90s and in 1994 Dr. Hari Sharan — an internationally renowned energy expert launched NETPRO Renewable Energy (India) Ltd with its headquarters in Bengaluru to provide renewable energy solutions in India with focus on solid biomass gasification technology. NETPRO has since supplied 28 units of power stations to various places in India and abroad including four units to Biomass Energy for Rural India Project (BERI), Karnataka for Maduguri taluk in Tumkur District with a total capacity of over 800 kw. "These gasifiers are supplying power to the national grid, which in turn supplies power to the nearby villages. It was a government project funded by the UNDP aiming to provide power to villages where there is a limitation of power through the national grid," explained Dr Sharan, who is currently touring Bihar where biomass gasification plants set up by his other firm — DESI have electrified an entire village of over 250 households. DESI is also headquartered in Bengaluru with an objective to build biomass gasifiers in Indian villages with the help of the village community. Dr. Sharan strongly believes that poverty, energy and climate change are closely interlinked. "In India lack of energy sources in the villages is the main reason for poverty. By using renewable energy

NETPRO has supplied 28 units of power to various places in India and abroad including four units to BERI, Karnataka, for Maduguri taluk in Tumkur district with a total capacity of over 800 kw.

source, which are carbon dioxide neutral we also provide sustainable jobs for villagers. Traditional process of rural electrification through grid extension alone will neither make the centralised electrical supply profitable nor promote the economic and social development of villages, which still have no access to electricity and other commercial sources of energy," he said. "Besides poverty reduction, it is also essential to reduce the fossil fuel intensity of the Indian economy in the context of the increasing costs of importing oil and gas; the increase in pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from burning increasing quantities of coal and the imperatives of national energy security. Increasing the share of reliable and affordable electricity supply from renewable energy based decentralised power plants can make a very significant contribution to meet national and global goals of the future energy policy," said Dr Sharan, former head of R&D in the power division of SULZER — the internationally renowned diesel engine manufacturer in Switzerland and former director, Engineering and R&D Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.



Ice sculptures at the entrance of the main venue of the UN Climate summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Wednesday.

ENERGY ACT

Cabinet may give nod to amendment

RASHME SEHGAL
NEW DELHI

Dec. 9: Keen to show the world during the Copenhagen Summit that they mean business, the Cabinet is expected to approve an amendment to the Energy Conservation Act 2001 on Thursday. With Union environment minister Jairam Ramesh having announced several energy saving measures in Parliament last week, the Cabinet is expected to make these operative soon. Mr Ramesh had announced that India was planning to curb energy emissions by enforcing 25 per cent energy intensity cuts by 2020. The amendment of the Energy Conservation Act will make it necessary for all industries to receive energy efficiency certificates, to switch over to producing "green" coal, a mandatory green building code for all new constructions. The thrust of this amendment will be on the development of green energy by giving energy consumption a more efficient thrust. Experts in the Bureau of Energy Efficiency believe that India's energy intensity per unit of GDP is higher compared to Japan, US and Asia as a whole by 3.7, 1.55 and 0.47 times respectively. This indicates insufficient use of energy, but also substantial scope of energy savings. Green buildings with double glazing, insulating bricks and rain water harvesting on the roof will see costs escalate by 25 per cent, but will ensure energy saving in the long run. Wind energy will see a substantial increase and in the coming decade. An attempt will be

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made to leap frog into using solar energy, though scientists still have to figure out how to dispose solar waste. The amendment will also ensure industry takes strong steps to ensure they decrease their carbon footprint. Sources in the CII believes that India Inc is well-positioned to achieve the 20-25 per cent emission intensity reduction targets set by the government. Several companies are already disclosing their carbon footprints and undertaking voluntary measures to cut emissions, which has helped the industry reduce its carbon dependence. In this year's Carbon Disclosure Report, released by CII and its partners, 63 per cent of the 44 Indian companies, which participated in the study, disclosed their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels. This is almost double as compared to only 33 per cent in CDP in 2008. The overall total GHG emissions reported by the respondents of CDP 2009 stands at 68.9 million metric tonnes (MT), which is almost double the GHG emissions reported in the last two years.

Copenhagen diary

Just outside the COP15 venue here at the Bella Centre in freezing Copenhagen is a coffee stand doling out free coffee. Grateful participants line up for cups of the hot Brazilian and Peruvian brew to stave off the cold. What's interesting is the coffee is brewed by wind energy according to Jacob Holst from the Wind Energy association. "This is part of a campaign since Poznan to raise the profile of wind Energy as one solution to galloping Climate change. We also are active with the Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association in India. We believe wind energy is clean and free and the way to go."



In Bangkok, right inside the halls where the negotiations had taken place at the last conference, was an international group of young people, who go under the banner of Adopt a Negotiator. They believe that it is them, the youth, who will live with the decisions being taken at the negotiations. They call themselves trackers and have decided to let their negotiators know they were watching them. India has Leela Raina a 21-year-old tracker from Delhi who actually is studying for an economics degree. Check them out on <http://adoptanegotiator.org>, <http://www.tckctck.org/> These are the very visible

NGO watchdogs besides the media, who are present adding colour and noise at this all important Climate Change Conference. Already WWF has launched 'Vote Earth' to raise awareness and encourage action to combat climate change. You are urged to vote at www.voteearth.in <http://www.voteearth.in/>

As Kumi Naidoo the International Executive Director of Greenpeace says: "Copenhagen is not a trade negotiation. You can't win this while others lose. Either we all get it right together or we all sink. Nature does not negotiate."
—MDN

No impact of Climategate: US

Washington, Dec. 9: Asserting that the so-called 'Climategate' affair has not affected the ongoing UN summit in Copenhagen, the US on Wednesday said the overwhelming scientific evidence for climate change cannot be ignored. "Nothing in those e-mails is cause to question the overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change is real and demands action," state department spokesman Ian Kelly said in a statement. In fact, more than 2,500 scientists from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — the world's leading body for the assessment of climate change — have outlined the

serious threat posed by the problem and the need for action, he noted. "Beyond the science, there are plenty of other environmental and economic reasons for us to move aggressively towards a clean energy economy. We want to ensure that America can compete and win when it comes to the race for clean energy jobs," Mr Kelly said. Hackers gained access to data of the climate research centre of United Kingdom-based East Anglia University and leaked confidential information including thousands of e-mails and documents between British and US scientists over the past 10 years that have led to

accusations that scientists amplified the nature and scope of the manmade climate crisis. Mr Kelly argued the issue of the East Anglia e-mails should not slow the process on climate change "because the science is clear". The statement comes a day after UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon said Climategate has not cast doubt on basic scientific message on climate change. "Nothing that has come out in the public as a result of the recent e-mail hackings has cast doubt on the basic scientific message on climate change," Mr Ban told reporters in response to a question outside the United Nations Security Council.

"And that message is quite clear — that climate change is happening much, much faster than we realised and we human beings are the primary cause," he said. "On this e-mail scandal — the so-called Climategate — I am not a scientist and I don't pretend to be one. I base my decisions on the best scientific evidence and information," the UN secretary-general said. "As you know the IPCC — the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — released its fourth assessment report in November 2007 in Barcelona, and that is what I did at that time," Mr Ban said. —PTI

