



EU cash is boost to Copenhagen, says UN climate chief Yvo de Boer.



This decade is already the warmest on record, says Edward Markey.



G-77 and China ask Obama to lead his country to join the Kyoto Protocol.

Cop15

Copenhagen diary

A group of waste pickers, calling themselves the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers and Allies, are in Copenhagen to address issues facing some 15 million people worldwide who make a living collecting, sorting, cleaning and, in some cases, processing recyclables from waste. "Waste pickers are efficient recyclers, and can achieve recycling rates higher than 80 per cent," says Baby Mohite, a waste picker who belongs to KKPKP, Pune.

many challenges, the latest being the "waste-to-energy" technologies, such as waste incinerators and landfill gas facilities," says Jay Prakash Choudary of New Delhi. These technologies, he says, are being touted as solutions to the problem of methane from landfills, but are, in fact, themselves major sources of GHG emissions.

Jyothi Mhapsekar, president of SMS, said, "The Global Alliance of Waste Pickers and Allies demands that developed and developing countries must start a global fund that is "non-market based", is administered by the UNFCCC and promotes social and economic inclusion.

“Reducing, reusing, and recycling waste is one of the easiest and most effective ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” says Susheela Sabre of Mumbai’s Stree Mukti Sanghatana (SMS). “We are facing

— Marianne de Nazareth

Two drafts but many views at summit

Copenhagen, Dec. 11: The ongoing climate summit in Copenhagen on Friday prepared two sets of draft agreements on how to save the world from global warming, but they were no more than bare-bones frameworks, and the devil may lie in the details.

Michael Zammit Cutajar, chair of the Adhoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action (LCA), and John Ashe, chair of the group on the Kyoto Protocol, circulated their drafts among representatives of the 192 governments gathered here, leading to a flurry of activity at the convention centre.

The delegates have a day to respond to the drafts. Denmark’s environment minister Connie Hedegaard will brief her colleagues gathering from around the world this weekend on progress made over this.

India’s environment minister Jairam Ramesh arrived at the summit on Friday and immediately started a series of bilateral meetings with representatives of the US, the Group of 77 countries, the group of African countries, and so on.

The immediate reaction of delegates, including those from the Indian government, was that the drafts left far too many things unsaid — such as the extent to which rich countries will cut emissions of greenhouse



Members of Attac anti-globalisation network have covered the statue of the bear, of the Bull and Bear sculpture, with cotton wool in front of the stock market in Frankfurt, Germany, on Friday demanding fair climate negotiations in Copenhagen.

gases (GHG) that are warming the atmosphere, or how much they will pay poor countries to deal with climate change effects.

The documents came within hours of the Alliance of Small Island States tabled a fresh proposal for a global treaty to fight climate change that is drowning their countries.

The LCA draft, in fact,

was less ambitious than what the G20 had said in Italy last summer, that global warming should be kept within two degrees celsius. This draft proposed 2.7 degrees.

It also offered several possible targets developed countries could use for cutting their GHG emissions by 2020 — with a minimum of 25 percent from 1990 levels.

The draft asks emerging economies like China and India to reduce their GHG emissions by 15-30 percent by 2020, compared to the business as usual scenario.

Negotiators here expect all countries to have problems with one part of the LCA draft or another.

In contrast, the Kyoto Protocol draft said hardly anything, since rich countries

have not yet indicated if they are willing to continue within the protocol after 2012.

Kim Carstensen, leader of the WWF Global Climate Initiative, said the LCA draft "text provides a basis to make the right political decisions. It contains many gaps, exposes rifts but also clearly shows that an agreement is possible." — IANS

sidelights

SCIENTISTS HAVE done the unimaginable — converting carbon-dioxide (CO₂) into vehicular fuel that could also slash global warming.

University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) researchers have modified a cyanobacterium (class of bacteria) to produce liquid fuel isobutanol out of CO₂.

JAPAN THREATENED on Friday to drop a pledge to cut greenhouse emissions by 25 per cent by 2020 if the Kyoto Protocol is extended without setting emission reduction goals for the US and China.

Many rich nations, including Japan, want a single new treaty that would set curbs on emissions by all major nations and are against simply extending the Kyoto agreement.

2010 IS likely to be the world’s warmest year on record, the British met office has predicted. According to the met office, man-made climate change will be a factor and natural weather patterns would contribute less to 2010’s temperature than they did in 1998, the current warmest year in the 160-year record.

GREEN KARNATAKA

Rare birds reappear in Bengaluru, delight watchers

AMIT S. UPADHYE

DC | BENGALURU

Dec. 11: A rare white-bellied bush chat bird was recently spotted at the wooded campus of GKVK, delighting many bird watchers in Bengaluru. Bird registers say it was last sighted in 1989. In the same week two more surprises came with bird watchers spotting Amur falcons and white storks in the city — another rare sight.

While a section of bird

experts are attributing the change in migration pattern and spotting of rare birds in Bengaluru to change in global climatic conditions, another section feels it’s just the increased awareness about the birds which is now being recorded in an organised manner.

“The spotting of many rare birds is surely a sign of change in migration patterns. If the recent rains and floods in the state are a result of global warming then bird migration has been



White storks in Bengaluru.

hit by climate change. However indepth study is required to ascertain the reasons behind change in migration path and spotting of rare birds in Bengaluru,” said expert M.B. Krishna. Regular birders have also

noticed that the city, which earlier received at least 20 different species of migratory ducks, has not recorded even half of the number. “Wetlands in northern Bengaluru attract a number of migratory ducks which visit the lakes during winter. But this year the number of these birds has gone down,” pointed out S.K. Srinivas, a bird enthusiast.

“The erratic monsoon is the main reason which has caused severe change in bird migration this year. The dry

weather in the months of July and August followed by heavy rainfall in September and October caused disturbance in the arrival of birds. The birds which used to arrive in September and October did not come this time due to flooding of rivers. Similarly pied crested cuckoos, associated with the beginning of monsoon, did not visit Bengaluru in large numbers this year,” Mr Srinivas said.

Senior bird expert Dr S. Subramanya said that since

majority of water bodies in the state have surplus amount of water, this has made the birds spread over a larger area.

“This is the reason why lesser number of birds have been found over a larger number of water bodies. Largely there has been an increased awareness about birds and many birders are discovering species they had not done earlier. The chances of global warming affecting migration of birds is very less,” he said.

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU HAVE heard of Global Warming, but have you heard of Global Dimming? The term refers to an observed reduction in sunlight that falls on the surface of the Earth. It’s caused by atmospheric pollution. Aerosol particles in polluted air stops sunlight from reaching the Earth’s surface. It used to be a worldwide problem, but Europe no longer experiences dimming, thanks to clean air regulations.

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