

DEVELOP INDIA

English Weekly

RNI - UPENG/2008/26617
Website - developindiagroup.com
E-mails - developindiamediagroup@gmail.com
developindia2011@gmail.com

Year 2, Vol. 1, Issue 121, 28 November - 5 December, 2010

Allahabad

Sunday

Pages 8

Rs.- 10/

ASIAD 2010

At Guangzhou, India has created history by recording their best-ever performance in Asian Games with 64 medals, including a record 14 gold, 17 Silver and 33 Bronze medal.

With the addition of 11 more medals, India's tally has climbed to a record 14 gold, 17 silver and 33 bronze. India has jumped to the sixth place in the overall standings.

The Asian Games, officially known as Asiad, is a multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from all over Asia. India's best medal haul till date was recorded in the 1982 Games in Delhi when they had won 13 gold, 19 silver and 25 bronze for an overall tally of 57. India had finished 10th in the last edition of the Games in Doha with a tally of 10 Gold, 17 Silver and 26 Bronze.

China lead the medal table with 197 gold, 117 silver and 98 bronze (total 412), followed by South Korea with 74 Gold, 63 Silver and 91 Bronze. Japan follows in the third place with a tally of 47 Gold, 73 Silver and 94 Bronze.

In 2014, XVII Asiad organizes in Incheon, South Korea on September 19–October 4.

The Games were regulated by the Asian Games Federation (AGF) from the first Games in New Delhi, India, until the 1982 Games. Since the 1982 they have been organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), after the break up of the Asian Games Federation. The Games are recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and are described as the second largest multi-sport event after the Olympic Games.

The 2010 Asian Games, also known as the XVI Asiad, was a multi-sport event in Guangzhou, China that began on 12 November and finished on 27 November 2010. Guangzhou was the second Chinese city to host the Games, after Beijing in 1990. A total of 476 events in 42 sports were contested by athletes, making it the largest event in the history of the Games.

Medal Table

China led the medal table for the eighth consecutive time with a new record for the most number of gold medals (at 199 gold medals) won in a single Games. This bettered their previous record of 183 gold medals won by China at Beijing in 1990. Macau, and Bangladesh won their first Asian Games gold medal from wushu and cricket. Some 35 NOCs (except Kuwait who competed under the Olympic flag) won at least a single medal with 27 NOCs winning at least a single gold medal, thus leaving nine NOCs failing to win any medal at the Games. The top ten ranked NOCs at these Games are listed below. The host nation, China, is highlighted.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China (CHN)	199	119	98	416
2	South Korea (KOR)	76	65	91	232
3	Japan (JPN)	48	74	94	216
4	Iran (IRI)	20	14	25	59
5	Kazakhstan (KAZ)	18	23	38	79
6	India (IND)	14	17	33	64
7	Chinese Taipei	13	16	38	67
8	Uzbekistan (UZB)	11	22	23	56
9	Thailand (THA)	11	9	32	52
10	Malaysia (MAS)	9	18	14	41
	Total	477	479	621	1577

Jaitapur Nuclear power project

The 9,900-mw Jaitapur nuclear power project to be set up in collaboration with a French firm in Maharashtra has received clearance from Environment Ministry which prescribed 35 conditions and safeguards. Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said he considered various issues like economic growth, diversification of fuel mix for power generation and environment protection before giving nod to the proposed project on Konkan coast, which had faced opposition from locals and green groups.

The clearance for the project, to be jointly developed by state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) and French giant Areva, came in 80 days from the day NPC submitted the environment impact assessment report, Ramesh said.

The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry had already recommended a conditional environmental clearance to the project which involves setting up of six units of 1,650 mw each and is the outcome of India's civil nuclear agreement with France. An agreement between Areva and NPC is expected to be signed during French President Nicholas Sarkozy's India visit next month.

The project would help energy deficient states like Maharashtra which face compulsory power cuts and NPC expects the first unit of the project to be commissioned by 2017-18. The project had been opposed by groups like the Konkan Bachao Samiti which expressed concern about the radiological safety of the nuclear plant and its impact on the environment.

HYLAS Satellite launched successfully

Advanced communication satellite HYLAS, built by ISRO on a commercial basis in partnership with Europe's space leader EADS-Astrium, was successfully launched from French Guyana. Thirty five minutes after the lift-off (00.09 hrs IST) at Guyana Space Centre at Kourou in European Ariane-5 V198 launch vehicle, HYLAS separated from the launch vehicle after reaching its intended geosynchronous transfer orbit. ISRO's Master Control Facility at Hassan in Karnataka successfully received radio signals transmitted by HYLAS (Highly Adaptable Satellite) and the satellite's health is normal, it said.

HYLAS, developed for Avanti Communications, UK, comprises 10 high power transponders that use eight Ka and two Ku band frequencies. It is designed to deliver high-speed broadband services through its spot beams over Europe, the release said, adding that the HYLAS is expected to operate from 33.5 deg West longitude for European coverage.

HYLAS, an acronym for Highly Adaptable Satellite, is the name of a small geostationary communications satellite launched by the European Ariane 5 V198 launch vehicle; the launch took place from the Guyana Space Centre at Kourou in French Guyana. It will be at 33.5W and will provide new and innovative services including High Definition Television (HDTV) and interactive satellite delivered broadband services. The satellite will help address the issue of poor broadband coverage in many parts of Europe which have less developed ground infrastructure.

HYLAS is being constructed by EADS Astrium for the UK telecommunications company Avanti Communications Plc. Development of the satellite is being supported by a £23m investment from the British National Space Centre (BNSC).

HYLAS is based on the Indian Space Research Organisation's I-2K small satellite platform under a cooperative arrangement between EADS Astrium and ISRO/Antrix.

The HYLAS payload will carry two Ku-band transponders, intended mainly for HDTV, and six Ka-band transponders feeding up to eight Spotbeams, allowing the provision of between 150,000 and 300,000 simultaneous broadband Internet connections. The HYLAS satellite will have a launch mass of around 2100 kg and a beginning-of-life power of 3.5 kW.

Antrix/ISRO is also responsible for the post launch operations of HYLAS, being conducted from Hassan. The operations include firing of its Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) in three phases to place the satellite in geo-stationary orbit. The first firing of LAM is scheduled early on Sunday, the release said.

Nobel Prizes 2010 distribute

The Nobel Prize in Physics
Andre Geim and **Konstantin Novoselov** “for groundbreaking experiments regarding the two-dimensional material graphene”

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Richard F. Heck, **Ei-ichi Negishi** and **Akira Suzuki** “for palladium-catalyzed cross couplings in organic synthesis”

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
Robert G. Edwards “for the development of in vitro fertilization”

The Nobel Prize in Literature
Mario Vargas Llosa “for his cartography of structures of power and his trenchant images of the individual’s resistance, revolt, and defeat”

The Nobel Peace Prize
Liu Xiaobo “for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China”

The Prize in Economic Sciences
Peter A. Diamond, **Dale T. Mortensen** and **Christopher A. Pissarides** “for their analysis of markets with search frictions”

Yeonpyeong Island

Why Yeonpyeong Island is in the news in this time, because this South Korean island hit last week by a North Korean artillery attack was designated as a "control zone," in which the military can effectively ban the entrance of civilians and order their departure when necessary.

Ongjin County, which governs the Yellow Sea border island of Yeonpyeong, said it has approved a military request to declare the island a control zone under the United Defense Act, aimed at effectively defending the nation through unified command in times of a security crisis. Tensions remained high on the island as South Korea and the United States continued their joint military drill south of it in the Yellow Sea. The North brands the exercises an attempt to "ignite a war." North Korea fired some 170 artillery shells on and near Yeonpyeong Island on Nov. 23, killing two marines and two civilians and injuring at least 18 people.

Yeonpyeong Island or Yeonpyeongdo is a group of South Korean islands in the Yellow Sea, located about 80 km (50 mi) west of Incheon and 12 km (7.5 mi) south of the coast of Hwanghae Province, North Korea. The main island of the group is Daeyeonpyeongdo also referred to simply as Yeonpyeong Island, with an area of 7.01 km2 (2.71 sq mi) and a population of around 1,300.

Aung San Suu Kyi has released from house arrest

On November 13, 2010, Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest. This was the day when her 15-year house arrest to expire according to the 1988 constitution ended. She was arrested in 1989 and came six

11th EU-India Summit, 2010

The European Union is hosting the forthcoming 11th EU-India Summit in Brussels, on 10 December 2010. The EU will be represented by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. India will be represented by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, will also be present at the discussions.

The main focus of the Summit will be the strengthening of the political dimension of the EU-India strategic partnership, in particular through increased cooperation in security and counterterrorism. The Summit will also provide a strong impetus for an early conclusion of a broad-based investment and trade agreement. Both partners will address regional and global issues of common interest and concern, as well as a wide range of joint activities and policy dialogues in various sectors of cooperation.

EU-India Summit Joint Statement

Brussels, 10 December 2010

1. The Eleventh European Union - India Summit was held in Brussels on 10 December 2010. The Republic of India was represented by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh. EU was represented by Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and Mr. Jose Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission.

2. Leaders emphasised that EU and India, which share common values relating to democracy, rule of law, civil liberties and respect for human rights, agreed to reinforce their strategic partnership for their mutual benefit in all areas and to better contribute to the resolution of the challenges of the twenty first century. They discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of common interest and

days after a widely-criticized general election. She appeared in front of a crowd of her supporters, who rushed to her house in Rangoon when nearby barricades were removed by the security forces. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate had been detained for 15 of the past 21 years. The government newspaper *New Light of Myanmar* reported the release positively, saying she had been granted a pardon after serving her sentence “in good conduct”.

Like the South African leader Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi has become an international symbol of peaceful resistance in the face of oppression. The 65-year-old has spent most of the last 20 years in some form of detention because of her efforts to bring democracy to military-ruled Burma.

Aung San Suu Kyi, born on June 19, 1945, Rangoon (now Yangon) Burma (Now , Myanmar), Myanmar opposition leader, daughter of Aung San (a martyred national hero of independent Burma) and Khin Kyi (a prominent Burmese diplomat), and winner in 1991 of the Nobel Prize for Peace.

Profile

· 1942: September 6. Marriage of Aung San, commander of the Burma Independence Army, and Ma Khin Kyi (becoming Daw Khin Kyi), senior nurse of Rangoon General Hospital, where he had recovered from the rigours of the march into Burma.

· 1945: June 19. Aung San Suu Kyi born in Rangoon, third child in family. “Aung San” for father, “Kyi” for mother, “Suu” for grandmother, also day of week of birth.

· Favourite brother is to drown tragically at an early age. The older brother, will settle in San Diego, California, becoming United States citizen.

· 1947: July 19. General Aung San assassinated. Suu Kyi is two years old. Daw Khin Kyi becomes a prominent public figure, heading social planning and social policy bodies.

· 1948: January 4. The Independent Union of Burma is established.

· 1960: Daw Khin Kyi appointed Burma’s ambassador to India. Suu Kyi accompanies mother to New Delhi.

· 1960-64: Suu Kyi at high school and Lady Shri Ram College in New Delhi.

· 1964-67: Oxford University, B.A. in philosophy, politics and economics at St. Hugh’s College (elected Honorary Fellow, 1990).

· British “parents” are Lord Gore-Booth, former British ambassador to Burma and High Commissioner in India, and his wife, at whose home Suu Kyi meets Michael Aris, student of Tibetan civilisation.

· 1969-71: She goes to New York for graduate study, staying with family friend Ma Than E, staff member at the United Nations, where U. Thant of Burma is Secretary-General. Postponing studies, Suu Kyi joins U.N. secretariat as Assistant Secretary, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Evenings and weekends volunteers at hospital, helping indigent patients in programs of reading and companionship.

· 1972: January 1. Marries Michael Aris, joins him in Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, where he tutors royal family and heads Translation Department. She becomes Research Officer in the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

· 1973: They return to England for birth of Alexander in London.

· 1974: Michael assumes appointment in Tibetan and Himalayan studies at Oxford University.

· 1977: Birth of second son, Kim at Oxford.

· While raising her children, Suu Kyi begins writing, researches for biography of father, and as-

concern. In the context of overall EU-Indian interaction, leaders noted India’s development priorities as well as the new dimension of EU, following the entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

Bilateral issues
3. Recognising the value of an ambitious and balanced

Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement, which will bring significant economic benefits to both sides and further strengthen the bilateral economic relationship, leaders welcomed the significant progress recorded during recent negotiations, agreed on the contours of a final package, and reaffirmed the importance of an ambitious and balanced conclusion in the spring of 2011.

4. They welcomed the business summit held in the margins of the summit and agreed that enhanced cooperation between business organizations from EU and India would greatly benefit their respective companies and improve opportunities for cooperation.

5. Leaders welcomed increasing cooperation in the field of security and defence. They agreed to pursue EU-India dialogue and cooperation in this area, including in the context of counter-piracy naval operations and more broadly in support of the UNSC resolutions.

6 EU and India condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed their united stance in combating threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts wherever they take place. Leaders welcomed the EU-India Joint Declaration on International Terrorism.

7. Building on the 2008 EU-India Joint Work Programme on Energy, Clean Development and Climate Change, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation in these fields, with a view to enhancing energy security, energy efficiency and promoting the development of renewable energy.

They agreed that the results of the Joint Work Programme should be presented at the 12th India-European Union Summit.

BANK PO
Related matters,
Books and preparation
09289434990
or
Email: developindia2011@gmail.com
Fee-1000/-only

sists Michael in Himalayan studies.

· 1984: Publishes Aung San in Leaders of Asia series of University of Queensland Press. (See Freedom from Fear, pp. 3-38.)

· 1985: For juvenile readers publishes Let’s Visit Burma (see Freedom from Fear, pp. 39-81), also books on Nepal and Bhutan in same series for Burke Publishing Company, London.

· 1985-86: Visiting Scholar, Center of Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, researching father’s time in Japan. Kim with her, Alexander with Michael, who has fellowship at Indian Institute of Advanced Studies at Simla in northern India.

· 1986: On annual visit to grandmother in Rangoon, Alexander and Kim take part in traditional Buddhist ceremony of initiation into monkhood.

· 1987: With fellowship at Indian Institute Suu Kyi, with Kim, joins Michael and Alexander in Simla. Travels to London when mother is there for cataract surgery.

· Publishes “Socio-Political Currents in Burmese Literature, 1910-1940” in journal of Tokyo University. (See Freedom from Fear, pp. 140-164.) September. Family returns to Oxford. Suu Kyi enrolls at London School of Oriental and African Studies to work on advanced degree.

· 1988: March 31. Informed by telephone of mother’s severe stroke, she takes plane next day to Rangoon to help care for Daw Khin Kyi at hospital, then moves her to family home on University Avenue next to Inya Lake in Rangoon.

· July 23. Resignation of General Ne Win, since 1962 military dictator of Burma. Popular demonstrations of protest continuing.

· August 8. Mass uprising throughout country. Violent suppression by military kills thousands.

· August 15. Suu Kyi, in first political action, sends open letter to government, asking for formation of independent consultative committee to prepare multi-party elections.

· August 26. In first public speech, she addresses several hundred thousand people outside Shwedagon Pagoda, calling for democratic government. Michael and her two sons are there.

· September 18. Military establishes State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). Political gatherings of more than four persons banned. Arrests and sentencing without trial reaffirmed. Parliamentary elections to be held, but in expectation that multiplicity of parties will prevent clear result.

· September 24. National League for Democracy (NLD) formed, with Suu Kyi general-secretary. Policy of non-violence and civil disobedience. October-December. Defying ban, Suu Kyi makes speech-making tour throughout country to large audiences.

· December 27. Daw Khin Kyi dies at age of seventy-six.

· 1989: January 2. Funeral of Daw Khin Kyi. Huge funeral procession. Suu Kyi vows that as her father and mother had served the people of Burma, so too would she, even unto death.

· January-July. Suu Kyi continues campaign despite harassment, arrests and killings by soldiers.

· February 17. Suu Kyi prohibited from standing for election.

· April 5. Incident in Irawaddy Delta when Suu Kyi courageously walks toward rifles soldiers are aiming at her.

· July 20. Suu Kyi placed under house arrest, without charge or trial. Sons already with her. Michael flies to Rangoon, finds her on third day of hunger strike, asking to be sent to prison to join students arrested at her home. Ends strike when good

· Lastly, leaders looked forward to the early conclusion of the EU-India Agreement for Research and Development Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

8. EU and India expressed satisfaction with recent progress in negotiations on a maritime transport agreement and called for the continuation of the negotiations aiming at the conclusion of a mutually beneficial agreement. They also called for the early implementation of the civil aviation agreement.

9. In the field of space, the leaders acknowledged the active cooperation pursued by space agencies and industries of the two sides for developing, launching and operating Earth Observation and Communication Satellites through appropriate bilateral relations. The leaders welcomed the recent formation of ISO-ESA Joint Working Group on Earth Observation to concretize the cooperation areas.

10. They committed to a swift finalisation of the agreement on satellite navigation initialled in 2005 and earnestly work toward a technical agreement on the use of the frequency spectrum.

11. Recognising the important implications of the movement of people for India and EU, they agreed to explore initiatives that could lead to a regular, comprehensive and structured dialogue on migration issues, with a view to deepening cooperation in this field.

12. Both sides reiterated their joint commitment to the MDGs, with an emphasis on health and education and a special focus on vocational training. In this context, EU and India will sign the next joint development cooperation strategy (Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2011-13).

13. Both sides welcomed the new dynamic India-EU and Member States research and innovation partnership for more coordinated cooperation to tackle major societal challenges. The leaders agreed that cooperation partnership dialogues should be pursued so as to make a contribution to the objectives set out in

treatment of students is promised.

· 1990: May 27. Despite detention of Suu Kyi, NLD wins election with 82% of parliamentary seats. SLORC refuses to recognise results.

· October 12. Suu Kyi granted 1990 Rafto Human Rights Prize.

· 1991: July 10. European Parliament awards Suu Kyi Sakharov human rights prize.

· October 14. Norwegian Nobel Committee announces Suu Kyi is winner of 1991 Peace Prize.

· 1991: December. Freedom from Fear published by Penguin in New York, England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand. Also in Norwegian, French, Spanish translations.

· December 10. Alexander and Kim accept prize for mother in Oslo ceremony. Suu Kyi remains in detention, having rejected offer to free her if she will leave Burma and withdraw from politics. Worldwide appeal growing for her release.

· 1992: Suu Kyi announces that she will use \$1.3 million prize money to establish health and education trust for Burmese people.

· 1993: Group of Nobel Peace Laureates, denied entry to Burma, visit Burmese refugees on Thailand border, call for Suu Kyi’s release, Their appeal later repeated at UN Commission for Human Rights in Geneva.

· 1994: February. First non-family visitors to Suu Kyi: UN representative, U.S. congressman, New York Times reporter.

· September-October. SLORC leaders meet with Suu Kyi, who still asks for a public dialogue.

· 1995: Released from house arrest, but movements restricted

· 2000-02: Second period of house arrest

· May 2003: Detained after clash between NLD and junta forces

· Sep 2003: Allowed home after medical treatment, but under effective house arrest

· May 2007: House arrest is extended for another year

· Sept 2007: First public appearance since 2003, greeting protesting Buddhist monks

· May 2008: House arrest extended for another year

· May 2009: Charged with breaking detention rules after an American swims to her compound

· August 2009: Sentenced to 18 months further house arrest

Pike River mine Blast

The Pike River Mine, operated by Pike River Coal Ltd (NZX: PRC, ASX: PRC), is a coal mine located 46 km east of Greymouth in the West Coast Region of New Zealand’s South Island.

Pike River chief executive Peter Whittall said fresh air was being pumped into the mine and it was possible the miners had reached a safety refuge.

However, the ventilation system was not working at the mine located in an isolated area about 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Greymouth on the South Island.

Search and rescue workers were gathered at the mine entrance preparing to enter when given the go ahead, and Whittall was hopeful they could go in late Saturday.

“They’re assessing the ventilation of the mine and will determine at some stage during the day as to whether it’s safe or not to enter and after which they will seek out and recover the employees who maybe trapped,” he said.

“We are pumping fresh air into the mine some-

the India’s Decade of Innovation and the Europe 2010 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union.

14. EU and India signed a Joint Declaration on Culture.

15. EU and India will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Statistics. Regional issues

16. EU and India reiterated their common interest in a stable, peaceful and inclusive Afghanistan free from terrorism, as well as their support to the Kabul Process building upon broad international partnership towards further Afghan

responsibility and ownership in security, governance and development. They also underlined the need for more effective regional cooperation for the stabilisation of Afghanistan and expressed their continued commitment to an ongoing dialogue to this end. The leaders agreed that terrorism must be combated firmly and expressed concern at the continuing existence of safe havens, including in the cross border dimension.

17. They acknowledged their respective humanitarian assistance to Pakistan, voiced a shared hope for a speedy recovery and emphasized that a democratic and prosperous Pakistan was in the interest of the entire region. They called upon Pakistan to expeditiously bring all the perpetrators, authors and accomplices of the Mumbai attacks to justice.

18. EU and India exchanged views on regional integration and agreed to continue efforts to enhance cooperation in the context of SAARC and other fora, as well as between SAARC and EU. Leaders recognized that closer regional cooperation is crucial for the development of South Asia.

Global issues

19. Leaders reviewed recent developments aimed at reinforcing global economic governance in particular in the G20 context. In this regard they welcomed the agreement on the IMF reform reached at Seoul which will strengthen the

Skill Development Program
for personality development
or
Email: developindia2011@gmail.com
[Free only 18000/- for three months]

UN climate change talks in Cancun agree a deal

UN talks in Cancun have reached a deal to curb climate change, including a fund to help developing countries. Nations endorsed compromise texts drawn up by the Mexican hosts, despite objections from Bolivia. The draft documents say deeper cuts in carbon emissions are needed, but do not establish a mechanism for achieving the pledges countries have made. Some countries' resistance to the Kyoto Protocol had been a stumbling block during the final week of negotiations. However, diplomats were able to find a compromise.

Delegates cheered speeches from governments that had caused the most friction during negotiations - Japan, China, even the US - as one by one they endorsed the draft. European Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard said the deal was substantial and covered several issues. Mexico's President Felipe Calderon said the summit had allowed leaders to "glimpse new horizons" where countries had the "shared task to keep the planet healthy and keep it safe from [humans]". The UK Prime Minister David Cameron said: "Now the world must deliver on its promises. There is more hard work to be done ahead of the climate change conference in South Africa next year."

The Green Climate Fund is intended to raise and disburse \$100bn (£64bn) a year by 2020 to protect poor nations against climate impacts and assists them with low-carbon development. A new Adaptation Committee will support countries as they establish climate protection plans. And parameters for funding developing countries to reduce deforestation are outlined. But the deal is a lot less than the comprehensive agreement that many countries wanted at last year's Copenhagen summit and continue to seek. It leaves open the question of whether any of its measures, including emission cuts, will be legally binding.

His Chinese counterpart, Xie Zhenhua, sounded a similar note and added: "The negotiations in the future will continue to be difficult."

Bolivia found faults both with elements of the deal and with the way the texts were constructed through private conversations between small groups of countries.

Delegation chief Pablo Solon said that what concerned him most was that commitments would not be made under the Kyoto

Protocol. "We're talking about a [combined] reduction in emissions of 13-16%, and what this means is an increase of more than 4C," he said. "Responsibly, we cannot go along with this - this would mean we went along with a situation that my president has termed 'ecocide and genocide'," Mr Solon said. But Claire Parker, senior climate policy adviser for the global conservation group IUCN, said: "We have moved away from the post-Copenhagen paralysis.

"Developing countries can now see new money on the table which they can draw on to adapt to the impacts they're already facing and reduce emissions."

Tara Rao, senior policy adviser with environmental group WWF commented: "There's enough in it that we can work towards next year's meeting in South Africa to get a legally binding agreement there."

The final day of the two-week summit had dawned with low expectations of a deal.

But ministers conducted intensive behind-the-scenes diplomacy to formulate texts that all parties could live with.

Russia and Japan have secured wording that leaves them a possible route to escape extension of the Kyoto Protocol's legally binding emission cuts, while strongly implying that the protocol has an effective future - a key demand of developing countries.

The Green Climate Fund will initially use the World Bank as a trustee - as the US, EU and Japan had demanded - while giving oversight to a new body balanced between developed and developing countries.

Developing countries will have their emission-curbing measures subjected to international verification only when they are funded by Western money - a formula-tion that seemed to satisfy both China, which had concerns on such verification procedures, and the US, which had demanded them.

CANCUN CLIMATE DEAL THINGS ACHIEVED

" Fund to channel money from the West to developing nations

" Formal recognition that current emissions pledges need to rise

" A framework on paying countries not to cut down their forests
THINGS NOT ACHIEVED

" Deeper emissions

cuts

" Mechanisms for negotiating deeper emission cuts

" Deciding on the legal status of any new global agreement

A brief history of climate change

As the UN climate summit in Copenhagen approaches, BBC News environment correspondent Richard Black traces key milestones, scientific discoveries, technical innovations and political action.

1712 - British ironmonger Thomas Newcomen invents the first widely used steam engine, paving the way for the Industrial Revolution and industrial scale use of coal.

1800 - world population reaches one billion.

1824 - French physicist Joseph Fourier describes the Earth's natural "greenhouse effect". He writes: "The temperature [of the Earth] can be augmented by the interposition of the atmosphere, because heat in the state of light finds less resistance in penetrating the air, than in re-passing into the air when converted into non-luminous heat."

1861 - Irish physicist John Tyndall shows that water vapour and certain other gases create the greenhouse effect. "This aqueous vapour is a blanket more necessary to the vegetable life of England than clothing is to man," he concludes. More than a century later, he is honoured by having a prominent UK climate research organisation - the Tyndall Centre - named after him.

1886 - Karl Benz unveils the Motorwagen, often regarded as the first true automobile.

1896 - Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius concludes that industrial-age coal burning will enhance the natural greenhouse effect. He suggests this might be beneficial for future generations. His conclusions on the likely size of the "man-made greenhouse" are in the same ballpark - a few degrees Celsius for a doubling of CO2 - as modern-day climate models.

1900 - another Swede, Knut Angstrom, discovers that even at the tiny concentrations found in the atmosphere, CO2 strongly absorbs parts of the infrared spectrum. Although he does not realise the significance, Angstrom has shown that a trace gas can produce greenhouse warming.

1927 - carbon emissions

from fossil fuel burning and industry reach one billion tonnes per year.

1930 - human population reaches two billion.

1938 - using records from 147 weather stations around the world, British engineer Guy Callendar shows that temperatures had risen over the previous century. He also shows that CO2 concentrations had increased over the same period, and suggests this caused the warming. The "Callendar effect" is widely dismissed by meteorologists.

1955 - using a new generation of equipment including early computers, US researcher Gilbert Plass analyses in detail the infrared absorption of various gases. He concludes that doubling CO2 concentrations would increase temperatures by 3-4C.

1957 - US oceanographer Roger Revelle and chemist Hans Suess show that seawater will not absorb all the additional CO2 entering the atmosphere, as many had assumed. Revelle writes: "Human beings are now carrying out a large scale geophysical experiment..."

1958 - using equipment he had developed himself, Charles David (Dave) Keeling begins systematic measurements of atmospheric CO2 at Mauna Loa in Hawaii and in Antarctica. Within four years, the project - which continues today - provides the first unequivocal proof that CO2 concentrations are rising.

1960 - human population reaches three billion.

1965 - a US President's Advisory Committee panel warns that the greenhouse effect is a matter of "real concern".

1972 - first UN environment conference, in Stockholm. Climate change hardly registers on the agenda, which centres on issues such as chemical pollution, atomic bomb testing and whaling. The United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) is formed as a result.

1975 - human population reaches four billion.

1975 - US scientist Wallace Broecker puts the term "global warming" into the public domain in the title of a scientific paper.

1987 - human population reaches five billion

1987 - Montreal Protocol agreed, restricting chemicals that damage the ozone layer. Although not established with climate change in mind, it has had a greater impact on greenhouse

gas emissions than the Kyoto Protocol.

1988 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) formed to collate and assess evidence on climate change.

1989 - UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher - possessor of a chemistry degree - warns in a speech to the UN that "We are seeing a vast increase in the amount of carbon dioxide reaching the atmosphere... The result is that change in future is likely to be more fundamental and more widespread than anything we have known hitherto." She calls for a global treaty on climate change.

1989 - carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning and industry reach six billion tonnes per year.

1990 - IPCC produces First Assessment Report. It concludes that temperatures have risen by 0.3-0.6C over the last century, that humanity's emissions are adding to the atmosphere's natural complement of greenhouse gases, and that the addition would be expected to result in warming.

1992 - at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, governments agree the United Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its key objective is "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". Developed countries agree to return their emissions to 1990 levels.

1995 - IPCC Second Assessment Report concludes that the balance of evidence suggests "a discernible human influence" on the Earth's climate. This has been called the first definitive statement that humans are responsible for climate change.

1997 - Kyoto Protocol agreed. Developed nations pledge to reduce emissions by an average of 5% by the period 2008-2012, with wide variations on targets for individual countries. US Senate immediately declares it will not ratify the treaty.

1998 - strong El Nino conditions combine with global warming to produce the warmest year on record. The average global temperature reached 0.52C above the mean for the period 1961-1990 (a commonly-used baseline).

1998 - publication of the controversial "hockey stick" graph indicating that modern-day temperature rise in the northern hemisphere is

unusual compared with the last 1,000 years. The work would later be the subject of two enquiries instigated by the US Congress.

1999 - human population reaches six billion.

2001 - President George W Bush removes the US from the Kyoto process.

2001 - IPCC Third Assessment Report finds "new and stronger evidence" that humanity's emissions of greenhouse gases are the main cause of the warming seen in the second half of the 20th Century.

2005 - the Kyoto Protocol becomes international law for those countries still inside it.

2005 - UK Prime Minister Tony Blair selects climate change as a priority for his terms as chair of the G8 and president of the EU.

2006 - the Stern Review concludes that climate change could damage global GDP by up to 20% if left unchecked - but curbing it would cost about 1% of global GDP.

2006 - carbon emissions from fossil fuel burning and industry reach eight billion tonnes per year.

2007 - the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report concludes it is more than 90% likely that humanity's emissions of greenhouse gases are responsible for modern-day climate change.

2007 - the IPCC and former US vice-president Al Gore receive the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change".

2007 - at UN negotiations in Bali, governments agree the two-year "Bali roadmap" aimed at hammering out a new global treaty by the end of 2009.

2008 - half a century after beginning observations at Mauna Loa, the Keeling project shows that CO2 concentrations have risen from 315 parts per million (ppm) in 1958 to 380ppm in 2008.

2008 - two months before taking office, incoming US president Barack Obama pledges to "engage vigorously" with the rest of the world on climate change.

2009 - China overtakes the US as the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter - although the US remains well ahead on a per-capita basis.

2009 - 192 governments convene for the UN climate summit in Copenhagen.

NATO Summit 2010

Chitra Singh Rajput

NATO summit 2010 was a meeting of the heads of state and heads of government of NATO held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 19 and 20 November 2010. The member states adopted a new “Strategic Concept”, the alliance’s new ten-year plan following the expiration of the previous plan adopted at the 1999 Washington summit. In addition to accepting the Strategic Concept that addressed the alliances modern challenges such as terrorism and cyber attacks, the members agreed to develop a mutual missile defense system. The members met with President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai regarding the group’s operations in the country. They agreed to gradually withdraw combat forces from the country with a completion date of 2014. NATO reaffirmed their commitment to remain in Afghanistan to provide training and advice to Afghan forces and police.

Strategic Concept

Going into the summit, the member states were expected to adopt a new Strategic Concept for the first time since 1999. Prior to the summit, Secretary General Rasmussen personally prepared a draft of the plan. Rasmussen said the goal of the new Strategic Concept “must reconfirm Nato’s core task - territorial defence - but

modernise how we do it, including cyber defence and missile defence.” A group of experts led by former United States Secretary of State Madeline Albright drafted a report to help prepare the plan. At meetings prior to the summit, officials said that the plan was “98% there” and that any additional disagreements would be addressed at the summit. The draft acknowledged that modern threats to the alliance’s members come in non-traditional forms such as terrorism, possessing weapons of mass destruction, and cyber attacks that could disrupt power infrastructure.

During the first day of the summit on Friday 19 November, the member states agreed to the new Strategic Concept that will serve as the alliance’s mission plan for the next 10 years. The document addressed the importance of evolving threats to international security, and reemphasized the alliance’s commitment to cooperation with prospective members and Russia. The 11-page document is titled “Active Engagement, Modern Defence”.

Afghanistan Security issue

President of the United States Barack Obama meeting with President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai. President of Afghanistan

Hamid Karzai addressed the summit on Saturday 20 November. Karzai had said that he wants NATO to return control of the country by the end of 2014. Before the summit, British Prime Minister David Cameron said that the “NATO Summit in Lisbon is set to mark the starting point for passing responsibility for security progressively to Afghan forces.” While meeting with Karzai, the members agreed to a gradual phase-out of combat operations until 2014. After that date, NATO states would continue to contribute to training and advising the Afghan National Army. Secretary-General Rasmussen said “we will launch the process by which the Afghan government will take leadership for security throughout the country, district by district.” Though the members set the 2014 target date, many have already stated that their withdrawals will take place outside of any NATO decision.

Russia

In October 2010, Rasmussen announced that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev would be present at the summit. Medvedev agreed to attend after meeting with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The summit then held the first meeting of the NATO-Russia Council since it was

created in 2002. Relations between Russia and the alliance had been strained following the 2008 South Ossetia war, when Russia supported and recognized the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia in Georgia. Prior to the summit, an article in The Economist noted that Russia may be more willing to cooperate on NATO issues and may pledge to contribute troops to Afghanistan. At the meeting, Russia agreed to cooperate on a missile defense programme that NATO sought to develop. Russia also committed to further support NATO’s operations in Afghanistan by permitting more supplies to be transported through Russia and providing Mil Mi-17 helicopters to Afghan forces.

Missile defense

On the first day of the summit, leaders agreed to establish a missile defense system that would have the capability of covering all member states in Europe, as well as the United States and Canada. The proposed system had previously been a point of debate between NATO and Russia, but Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who attended the summit, indicated more willingness to cooperate with the alliance on the issue.

Two-hour TB test may revolutionise global treatment of disease

A test that can detect TB, including drug-resistant forms, in less than two hours could revolutionise treatment of the disease, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), which is urging its roll-out across the globe. Tuberculosis killed 4,700 people every day last year. The annual death toll of 1.7 million includes 380,000 people who are at particular risk because they have HIV, the virus that depresses the immune system and causes Aids. The current diagnostic test for TB has been used for 125 years. It involves microscopic examination of a sputum sample and is far from ideal because it does not easily detect the growing number of strains that are resistant to antibiotics, or TB where the patient is co-infected with HIV.

Some patients have to wait as long as three months to be diagnosed, which means their treatment is delayed and their recovery prospects reduced. The long wait also increases the chances they will infect others and, if they are given the wrong antibiotics for the strain of TB they have, drug-resistance can worsen and spread.

The new test delivers a result in 100 minutes. Dr Mario Raviglione, director of WHO’s Stop TB department, said: “This new test represents a milestone for global TB diagnosis and care. It also represents new hope for the millions of people who are at the highest risk of TB and drug-resistant disease.” He added: “We have the scientific evidence, we have defined the policy, and now we aim to support implementation for impact in countries.” The number of recorded TB cases is set to rise as the test is rolled out. WHO says drug-resistant cases could increase threefold and the number of cases where the patient is co-infected with HIV could double. Trials and demonstration studies have been carried out over 18 months in a number of different countries, involving more than 8,000 patients. The test is a fully-automated nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), which WHO says is simple and safe to use. It incorporates modern DNA technology that can be used outside of conventional laboratories, says WHO – although the need for a constant electricity supply may be a problem in rural settings.

The test been developed by the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) with the private company Cepheid and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The funding came from the National Institutes of Health in the US and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The major issue will now be cost. The market price for the equipment is \$55,000 to \$62,000 (£35,000 to £39,000), with an additional \$55 to \$82 for the cartridges it uses. The makers, Cepheid, have agreed to cut the price by 75% for the poorest, worst-affected countries, and it will come down further as the test is more widely bought. However, at \$16.86 per test, the cost is much higher than using the current system and extensive roll-out will depend on donor funding. Donor organisations such as the US government’s PEPFAR and the Global Fund to fight Aids, TB and malaria have expressed an interest in helping. South Africa and India already have plans to introduce the test.

Get
Online subscription of

DEVELOP INDIA

english weekly newspaper

contact
8800506832

Or

deposit 500/- in our accounts no. 003701546808 or 22750100006086 for one year

DEVELOP INDIA english weekly

Editorial

DEVELOP INDIA

Year 2, Vol. 1, Issue 121, 28 November - 5 December, 2010

Venezuela’s Chavez to move into Gaddafi tent

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez says he is going to govern temporarily from a tent so that families made homeless by recent floods can take refuge in his office. Mr Chavez said he would have a Bedouin tent given to him by the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi put up in the garden of the presidential palace.

Twenty-five families are already living in the palace after losing their homes.

The floods have made more than 100,000 people homeless across the country.

“Put up Gaddafi’s gift,” said Mr Chavez during a visit to a refuge for flood victims close to the Miraflores palace in Caracas.

“You can install it in the garden at Miraflores because I’m going to move into the tent. We can put some beds in my office.”

Mr Chavez is an admirer of Col Gaddafi, who lives in a huge Bedouin tent in Libya, and brought one with him when he visited Venezuela last year.

The Venezuelan leader has been personally supervising relief efforts in response to the floods.

The worst rains in a decade have caused widespread destruction and killed more than 30 people.

Some of the worst damage has been in poor hillside neighbourhoods of Caracas, where landslides have swept away precarious houses.

Mr Chavez has promised a massive home-building programme, and on Friday appointed culture minister Francisco Sesto to the new role of minister for reconstruction in Caracas.

Neighbouring Colombia and much of Central America have also suffered from one of their worst May-November rainy seasons in decades.

Murphy Report

Newly released cables show the Vatican’s refusal to co-operate with the Murphy Report child sexual abuse inquiry in Ireland which “offended many” of them when they were summoned to Ireland from Rome.

The Murphy Report is the result of the public inquiries conducted by Ireland into the Sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic archdiocese of Dublin. It was released in 2009, a few months after the report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (Ryan Report) chaired by Seán Ryan, a similar inquiry which dealt with abuses in industrial schools controlled by Catholic religious orders.

where so it's quite conceivable they are sitting around the end of an open pipe waiting and wondering why we are taking our time to get them out."

However, regional police commander Gary Knowles, who is overseeing the rescue attempt, said he would not risk the lives of his men before the all-clear was given.

"I'm not prepared to put crews down below ground until we can stabilise the environment and it's safe for them to go in," Knowles said, but added he was determined the men would be rescued.

"This is a search and rescue operation and we're going to bring these guys home."

Low cloud in the mine area was also hampering efforts to helicopter in special equipment flown in from Australia to test the level of gas coming out of the mine.

The missing miners range in age from a 17-year-old, believed to be on his first shift, to a 62-year-old and included at least two Australians and three British workers as well as New Zealanders.

They are about 2.5 kilometres into the mine tunnel although only about 150 metres (500 feet) from the surface.

Two miners who survived the explosion just before 4:00 pm Friday were being treated in hospital for minor injuries. They indicated three others were making their way out but they did not appear.

News of the explosion emerged on Friday after communication was lost with the miners and an electrician who went in the mine to check the problem found one worker lying on the ground.

He helped him to safety while the other known survivor made his own way out about 30 minutes later.

Whittall said the cause of the explosion was not known and the day shift in the mine had not reported any problems.

Families of the trapped miners were receiving hourly updates by the company and police.

Grey District mayor Tony Kokshoorn said the rescue was difficult and could take days.

But he said the experience of Chile's miners, who were successfully brought to the surface last month after surviving more than two months in a tunnel below the Atacama desert, was a source of inspiration. "We are holding on to hope. Look at Chile, all those miners were trapped and they all came out alive," he told Fairfax Media Friday.

The mine, which began production last year, has a 2.4 kilometre (1.5 mile) access tunnel running beneath the Paparoa mountain range to the coal seam.

Police said the mine's remote location and the lack of power was complicating the rescue operation.

The South Island's west coast was the scene of the country's worst mine disaster in 1896, when an underground explosion killed 65 miners at the Brunner mine.

The mine involved in Friday's explosion is close to the site of another disaster in 1968, when a blast killed 19 people.

Pike River is jointly owned by New Zealand Oil & Gas and two Indian companies — Gujarat NRE Coke and Saurashtra Fuels Private Ltd.

Vettel becomes youngest Formula One champion

Under the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu-Dhabi's floodlights, German driver Sebastian Vettel added a new Formula One record to his list as youngest

legitimacy of the IMF and will increase the involvement of emerging economies in global economic governance.

Leaders welcomed the commitments made at the G20 Seoul Summit to promptly bring the Doha Development Round to an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion in 2011, consistent with the mandate of the Doha Development Round and built on the progress already achieved. They also reaffirmed their commitment to resist all forms of protectionist measures.

Leaders also reaffirmed their determination to contribute positively to address the issue of global imbalances. In this respect they welcomed the agreement reached in Seoul on a process that will set the base for closer coordination and assessing on imbalances at the global level and they called on the G20 to make rapid progress in the course of 2011 on the implementation of this process.

20. In the context of the process of negotiations on climate change EU and India voiced their firm resolve to continue working for an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced post 2012 agreement as soon as possible based on the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In parallel, EU and India are committed to further develop their bilateral cooperation and policy dialogue in this field. In particular, EU is ready to cooperate with India in implementing its National Action Plan on Climate Change.

21. EU and India reaffirmed their commitment to global and non-discriminatory disarmament and to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Leaders pledged closer cooperation aimed at providing a robust nuclear non-proliferation regime and, in particular, looked forward to a prompt commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament. They

winner of the championship at 23 years. On Saturday, Vettel took the title at the final race of this year's competition.

First pirate trial in Germany in 400 years opens in Hamburg

The first pirate trial to take place in Germany in 400 years has opened in Hamburg. More than seven months after the attack on the Hamburg container ship MS Taipan, 10 Somali men, aged 17 to 48, are standing trial. They are charged with attacking the ship some 900 kilometers (560 miles) east of the Somali coast in April.

The ship's crew fled to a safety room, and the pirates were eventually captured by Dutch naval forces. The alleged pirates men were extradited to Germany in June. Since then, they have been in custody awaiting trial. The defendants could get sentences of anywhere from 10 to 15 years in prison if found guilty. Piracy is a growing problem off the coast of Somalia, with both the number of attacks and the ransoms demanded spiking over the past two years, the London-based International Maritime Bureau told AFP news service. Some 23 vessels and 500 crew are currently held by Somali pirates, the bureau said.

NATO to withdraw from Afghanistan by 2014

NATO nations have approved a plan to start pulling out front-line troops in Afghanistan early in 2011. However, forces will remain in the most dangerous areas until 2014, and likely stay in a supporting role beyond then.

A timeline for the gradual withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan has been negotiated by NATO nations during a meeting in Lisbon.

The Western allies met with Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai to discuss an exit strategy for the 150,000-strong force.

According to an internal NATO document, the nations approved a plan to start pulling out troops in early 2011, with the first provinces expected to pass to Afghan control by July.

However, combat forces are expected to remain in control of the most dangerous areas until 2014, and stay in a supporting role well beyond that date.

'Long-term partnership'

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said they would not abandon Afghanistan in its fight against the Taliban.

"If the enemies of Afghanistan have the idea that they can just wait it out until we leave, they have the wrong idea. We will stay as long as it takes to finish our job," Rasmussen said.

He added the idea is that the Afghan government takes control of the country district by district. This meant that not all of the 150,000 foreign troops now deployed in Afghanistan would leave by the 2014 deadline.

Rasmussen said the relationship between NATO and Afghanistan would be "a long-term partnership."

Wrangling on the EU budget

Meanwhile, on the sidelines of the NATO Lisbon summit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy to discuss the failed EU



reaffirmed their commitment to diplomacy to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue and expressed the need for Iran to take constructive and immediate steps to meet its obligations to the IAEA and the UN Security Council.

Cancun - COP 16 / CMP 6

Cancun - COP 16 / CMP 6
Cancun : The United Nations Climate Change Conference is taking place in Cancun, Mexico from 29 November to 10 December 2010. It encompasses the sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP) and the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), as well as the thirty-third sessions of both the Subsidiary Body for

Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), and the fifteenth session of the AWG-KP and thirteenth session of the AWG-LCA.

Addressing the media on the opening day of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Christiana Figures said that Cancun can launch a new era in the pace of global action on climate change, where each year brings increasingly effective answers to keep humanity on track to a safer future.

She said that Cancun will not solve everything, but needs to keep ambition alive and will be successful if Parties compromise.

Fast start funding

In 2010 the EU has mobilised 'fast start' funding of •2.2 billion to support developing countries' efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change. This forms part of the EU's overall commitment under the Copenhagen Accord to provide •7.2 billion over the period 2010-2012.

Fast start funding complements the significant

budget for 2011.

The deadline for securing the budget for the coming year was missed due to a standoff between the European Parliament and the governments of the 27 member states.

The three leaders came together on Friday evening to work out a new proposal for the budget, which could be adopted at the next EU summit in mid-December. The proposal suggests a rise in the budget of around 3 percent, to take it to 123 billion euros (\$168.4 billion).

Under the terms of the Lisbon Treaty, if a new budget is not finalized, the budget is frozen at 2010 levels, which will threaten the development of new projects such as the European External Action Service.

US to begin human stem cell trial

Government officials approve controversial trial of embryonic stem cell treatment for progressive form of blindness.

A US company will test human embryonic stem cells to treat blindness in a bid to examine how the controversial procedure works in humans. Advanced Cell Technology, a California-based biotech company, announced the planned test on Monday, the second such clinical trial.

Bob Lanza, chief scientific officer at Advanced Cell Technology said that the process has been tested on rats and mice and has been found to halt the progressive disease without causing tumors or other side effects.

The trial was allowed to go ahead after the US Food and Drug Administration cleared its application to start a phase I study. Only 12 adult patients will participate in the trial that could help treat patients with a common form of vision loss that can affect children as young as six. These patients do not expect to have their vision restored as the test's main objective is to gauge safety. The experiment would eventually be carried out on younger patients to see if it can prevent blindness.

A similar trial was initiated in October by another company, Geron Corp, the first of its kind to test human embryonic stem cells in patients with spinal cord injuries.

‘Controversial’ process

Scientists believe that the use of embryonic stem cells as a treatment for diseases such as cancer holds great promise, but the process has been opposed by religious conservatives.

Embryonic stem cell research is a controversial process as it involves destruction of human embryos in order to obtain the cells that are capable of developing into almost every tissue of the body.

The latest treatment involves injecting the retinal cells derived from human embryonic stem cells, into the eyes of patients with Stargardt's Macular Dystrophy, a disease which affects around 25,000 people in the United States.

Patients often experience blurry vision, difficulty seeing in low-light and eventually most lose their ability to see at all. The disease can be inherited by a child when two parents carry the gene mutation that causes it. Researchers expect to see results in real-time due to the use of high resolution instruments that allow them to track the cells in the eye, with an assessment of the progress possible within six weeks.

The company has said that as the trial has never been done before, it is difficult to know the results.

climate support that the EU, as the world's largest aid donor, already provides to developing countries through its Official Development Assistance (ODA). In 2008, for example, the EU delivered US\$ 5.1 billion for climate mitigation in developing countries through its ODA, or 60% of global ODA provided for this purpose.

To ensure full transparency in the implementation of its fast start commitment, the EU will present a comprehensive report on its progress in Cancun at a public side event open to all Parties and stakeholders. It will also provide annual reports in future. South Africa will be host country for the 2011 COP 17 / CMP 7 conference to be held in Durban.

India and UNFCCC

India signed the UNFCCC on 10 June 1992 and ratified it on 1 November 1993. Under the UNFCCC, developing countries such as India do not have binding GHG mitigation commitments in recognition of their small contribution to the greenhouse problem as well as low financial and technical capacities. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is the nodal agency for climate change issues in India. It has constituted Working Groups on the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. Work is currently in progress on India's initial National Communication (NATCOM) to the UNFCCC.

The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC was adopted in 1997 and requires developed countries and economies in transition listed in Annex B of the Protocol, to reduce their GHG emissions by an average of 5.2% below 1990 levels. Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol provides for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

India acceded to the Kyoto Protocol on 26 August 2002. Current initiatives in India to improve

Russia protest against proposed changes to the country's time zones

More than 3,000 people attended a protest rally in Russia's Far East city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky on Saturday over plans to further cut the time difference between the region and Moscow.

The world's largest country by land mass -- cut the number of time zones in the country from 11 to 9.

As part of plans for President Dmitry Medvedev's reform of the country's time zones, the Kamchatka region did not switch over to summer time earlier this year along with the rest of Russia. As a result, the time difference with Moscow was cut to eight from nine hours. It is expected that the difference will be shortened by one more hour.

"The less fractional division of the country will enable us to resolve a number of transport and communications issues, will increase its manageability and strengthen the position of Russia as an important chain in the world's global infrastructure," Medvedev said at a special Kremlin meeting devoted to the issues of time change. Despite the bad weather, protestors flocked to the city's central square, chanting slogans such as "Give us our time back!"

The changes have already meant that it begins to get dark in the middle of the day in the region in the winter months. Opponents of the reforms say the changes have an adverse effect on the health of local residents.

The president has also called upon experts to finalize their studies on the possible effects of abolishing the daylight saving time in Russia by February 2011.

Scientists develop aerostat; no flight range for tests

Indian scientists have indigenously developed an aerostat which could be deployed for surveillance of Naxal-hit areas, but is currently lying in a hangar at Bangalore for want of a flight range to test it.

Christened as 'Chakshu', this medium-sized aerostat is a result of a three-year collaboration between National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) lab, and Defence Research and Development Organisation. The 320-cubic metre helium-filled balloon can keep an eye on the happenings below it, remaining stationary at an altitude of 1.5 km.

The giant balloon can be tethered to the ground station and also can be flown using remote control.

Three cameras can be mounted on the aerostat each having a range to scan developments in a 30 km radius. It can float in air for six hours to beam pictures.

The scientists hope to carry out field trials after the DRDO flight testing range in Chitradurga in Karnataka is ready in 2011. He admitted that the aerostat could be vulnerable to enemy fire at its current altitude of 1.5 km. India imports aerostat balloons from Israel for military purposes like keeping a watch on the international border. However, they are much bigger than the one developed by the NAL.

Lankan anthem now

understanding of climate change, and comply with the requirements of the UNFCCC include: Preparation of the country's initial National Communication to the UNFCCC by the Government of India. All Parties are required to communicate a national inventory of GHGs, and a general description of steps taken for the implementation of the Convention. The GHG inventory for the country is being prepared for the base year 1994, and will cover five sectors: energy, industrial processes, agriculture, forestry, and waste. This exercise involved detailed work on estimation of sectoral GHG emissions and identification of country-specific emission factors. Vulnerability and adaptation assessment is also part of the National Communication project.

Support of the Asian Least-cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy (ALGAS) study, by the Government of India. The study developed a national inventory of GHG sources and sinks, and identified potential mitigation options. Country-specific emission factors have been developed for methane emissions from paddy cultivation, carbon dioxide emissions from Indian coal, etc.

An extensive methane measurement campaign coordinated by the National Physical Laboratory in 1991. Measurements were undertaken in major paddy growing regions of the country under different rice environs for the whole cropping period. Emissions from paddy cultivation in India were estimated to be about 4 Tg/year (a tenth of United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates obtained by extrapolating European and American data to India).

Several measures being undertaken in the country, which contribute to GHG mitigation.

Establishment of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment

Year 2, Vol. 1, Issue 121, 28 November - 5 December, 2010

only in Sinhala

In a move likely to further alienate the ethnic Tamils in the country, Sri Lanka has scrapped the Tamil version of its national anthem at official and state functions. Now the national anthem can only be rendered in the majority Sinhala language at official functions.

The decision was taken at the last Cabinet meeting headed by the President Mahinda Rajapaksha, who pointed out that no country in the world uses the national anthem in other than one language, the 'Sunday Times' reported on Sunday.

"A directive to use only the Sinhala version is to be sent out by the Ministry of Public Administration. All government establishments will be called upon to adhere to this decision" the paper added.

President Rajapaksa told ministers that no other country uses more than one language for the national anthem. He cited an instance where one time Prime Minister, the late Sirimavo Bandaranaike, had walked out of a function in the north where the national anthem was played in Tamil.

He said there could not be two national anthems and that it was a shortcoming that must be rectified. "We must all think of Sri Lanka as one country," Rajapaksa was quoted as saying by Sunday Times.

The Sinhala version is widely used across the country except for the north and east where a majority speaks Tamil.

Minister Wimal Weerawansa supported President Rajapaksa's proposal. He said that even in neighbouring India, where around 300 languages were used, the national anthem was only in Hindi.

However, two Ministers voiced their dissent. National Languages and Social Integration Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara said the move would not be a suitable one.

Minister Rajitha Senaratne also endorsed the same view. Later, the Cabinet decided to adhere only to the Sinhala version of the national anthem.

Saina wins Hong Kong Open Super Series

Ace Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal rallied to register a scintillating three-game victory over Shixian Wang of China to clinch her third Super Series title of the year at the Hong Kong Open in Wanchai on Sunday.

The 20-year-old Indian capped her career's fourth Super Series title triumph with a 15-21 21-16 21-17 win over the third seed Chinese in a gruelling one hour and 11 minutes summit clash at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium.

The girl from Hyderabad won back-to-back titles -- Indian Open Grand Prix, Singapore Open Super Series and defended the Indonesian Super Series -- before clinching the gold medal in the Commonwealth Games in October in New Delhi. Saina, who dropped to fourth in the world rankings, is likely to inch closer to the number one spot with this re-

Council under the Department of Science and Technology, which facilitates the transfer of environmentally sound technology.

Extensive efforts in conservation of forests and biodiversity. The Participatory Forest Management Strategy of the Government of India secures rehabilitation of degraded areas, conservation of biodiversity, along with sharing of benefits with local people. In situ conservation is undertaken through a system of protected areas, including 75 national parks and 421 wildlife sanctuaries, covering 146,000 square km.

Coastal zone management plans by all coastal states and Union Territories as per the Coastal Zone Regulation Notification of 1991 by all coastal states and Union Territories. The Government of India has set up Standing Committees for monitoring development in such fragile ecosystems as islands.

Generation of much-needed information about the vulnerability to climate change under the ongoing Indo-UK Climate Change Impacts Programme supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Several research organizations and academic institutions in the country are also engaged in research on climate change impacts. The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi are engaged in developing climate change scenarios for India.

Involvement of a number of governmental and independent agencies in climate change research in India. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) observes climatic parameters at surface and upper air observatories throughout the country. IMD's network includes 559 surface observatories, more than 8000 rainfall monitoring stations, 100 satellite-based

sounding victory.

Saina played a tactical game after she lost the first game and clawed her way back with some fast-paced rallies and powerful smashes to outwit the Chinese world number five.

In the second game, Saina jumped to 11-5 from 5-5 but Shixian narrowed the gap to 11-10 before the gutsy Indian surged ahead to 19-11 by registering seven straight points.

But Saina missed a couple of points on the baseline and nets to allow Shixian close the gap to 19-16. But with the Chinese hitting the shuttle out, Saina was back into the match.

In the edge-of-the-seat decider, Saina and Shixian were locked in a gruelling battle and didn't concede an inch to each other. The Chinese kept pushing the shuttle at the back court but Saina was in no mood to relent as she retrieved everything and sent down some powerful cross court smashes to open up a 5-0 lead. But a couple of misjudgements on the baseline allowed Shixian to narrow the gap.

The Chinese started playing fast rallies and caught Saina at the nets to make it 6-7 but a series of unforced errors and a sensational cross court smash saw Saina change sides with an 11-9 lead.

Back into her winning side of the court, Saina involved her rival in long rallies and waited for Shixian to make mistakes. A controversial baseline call gave Shixian a lead of 14-13 but Saina didn't give up and wrested the lead at 15-14, before being locked at 16-16.

From here on, Saina walked away with a three-point cushion with a smash, a net dribble and round-the-head drop to move to 19-16. Shixian gained another point with a smash to make it 19-17. But Saina soon achieved the match point with another smash that floored Shixian and with the Chinese hitting the shuttle out, Saina threw her racquet to the audience in celebration.

Panama Canal shut by heavy rains

Traffic through the Panama Canal - which connects the Pacific and Atlantic oceans - has been temporarily suspended because of heavy rain. The canal authority said the rains had pushed water levels in lakes that form part of the canal to historic highs, potentially endangering shipping. It is the first time the canal has had to close since the US invasion of Panama in 1989. Around 14,000 ships pass through the Panama Canal each year, representing about 5% of world trade. Passages through sections of the waterway have been suspended in recent years because of accidents, but not operations along its entire length.

Much of Central America, as well as Colombia and Venezuela in South America, has been experiencing its heaviest May-December rainy season in decades. Linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans across the narrow isthmus connecting Central and South America, the Panama Canal is a vital artery of world trade and the cornerstone of Panama's economy. Built by the US in 1904-1914 after a failed French attempt, it was passed to Panamanian control in 1999. The waterway is currently undergoing a multi-billion dollar expansion project that will increase its capacity and allow navigation by ships that are currently too big to use it. Unlike the Suez Canal, the Panama Canal is not at sea level. Instead, ships are raised and lowered by massive locks at either end, and pass through a freshwater channel fed by rivers that run off the surrounding forest-covered hills.



data collection platforms in remote areas, 203 voluntary observing ships, 10 cyclone detection radars, and 17 storm detection radars. Since 1983, IMD has maintained a meteorological observatory at the Indian Antarctic station. This data is scrutinized and archived at the National Data Centre, Pune, and used to study, predict, and determine the effects of climate change.

Replacement of the existing cyclone detection radars with state-of-art Doppler Weather Radars in a phased manner. The cities of Calcutta and Chennai have been the first ones to witness their use. An indigenous Doppler weather radar is being developed under a collaborative programme of the IMD with the Indian Space Research Organisation (IMD, 2001).

Using satellite data received from INSAT to provide cloud imageries in the visible and infrared channels, which in turn, are used to derive cloud motion vectors, sea surface temperatures, and outgoing longwave radiation.

Key role played by Indian scientists in national and international climate research efforts such as the IIOE (International Indian Ocean Expedition), MONEX (Monsoon Experiment), INDOEX (Indian Ocean Experiment), World Climate Research Programme, Global Observing System, and International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme.

Editorial & Corporate Office
First floor, D-55, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi-92
RNI
UPENG/2008/26617
Publisher, Editor & Owner
D.S.Rajput
Year 2, Vol. 1, Issue 121, 28 November-5 December, 2010
Place of Publication & Registered Office
331/240 A, Stairly road Nayapura, Allahabad (N.P.)
Printing Press and address
Academy press, Daraganj, Allahabad (U.P.)
website: developindiagroup.com
E-mails
developindiamediagroup@gmail.com
developindia2011@gmail.com
civilservicesminerva@gmail.com
Editorial No.
9289434990

any competitive
Exam
Related matters,
Books and preparation
09289434990
or
Email: developindia2011@gmail.com