Newspaper Clips

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193 nations sign compromise climate pact

Nitin Sethi | TNN

Cancun (Mexico): In the wee hours of Saturday morning at this Mexican seaside resort, representatives of 193 countries struck a compromise climate pact, called Cancun Agreement. The unexpected outcome was meant to please the world, show trust had been re-built between rich and developed countries, but it hammered the last nail in Kyoto Protocol's coffin while doing little to stave off climate change.

The hosts Mexicans had conveyed that delegates would see the contours of a draft agreement by Friday morning. But negotiators and ministers found that was not so. Most of them whiled away time in the sprawling Moon Palace resort doing precious little. There were concerns about what could really be done to make progress when countries like Japan and Russia had taken a firm stance that they would not sign on to the second phase of Kyoto Protocol.

But some countries, prominently including India, were hard at work along with hosts Mexico holding closed door parleys. In the afternoon the drafts appeared. Mexico had pulled off a coup, it was evident to everyone.

For three years, since Bali Action Plan was signed in 2007 the global community had been asking for a new deal, which would bind countries to much higher emissions targets and to give large sums of monies and green technology to the poor countries.

Till Bali occurred, the Kyoto Protocol imposed firm but small emission targets for the rich world. The largest historical emitter US refused to play ball then. But the Bali deal altered all this. All rich countries except for the US were required to take higher targets under the Kyoto. Special arrangements were to be made for US to take similarly high and comparable emission reduction targets though under some new dispensation as the US abhorred the word Kyoto. The large developing economies, unlike in the past, were now required to also take some actions albeit enabled by funds and technologies.

The US wanted a slow start. It didn't want to be compared to other rich countries and said it would take a measly target for 2020 claiming it was only beginning on the path of having a green economy and couldnt jump start to deep emission cuts. It also demanded that other emerging economies such as India and China - should too take strong actions because their emissions would otherwise rise in the future.

Reuters

HEAT IS ON: An activist shows a placard after she was arrested for demonstrating inside the venue of climate change talks, in Cancun

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Mastering memory: 500-yr calendar, 100 faces

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Thirteen-year-old Saswat Satapathy remembers the calendar of last 500 years. He can memorize and recite nearly 750 binary numbers. Present him with the names and faces of 100 personalities and he will recall them in the same sequence within minutes. Saswat, a student of class VIII in DPS Patna, was part of the six-member contingent from India which participated in the World Memory Championship (WMC) held at Guangzhou in China from December 2 to 5.

WMC was founded by Tony Buzon and Raymond Keene OBE in 1991 in the UK. Contestants with the best memories take part in the championship held annually in different countries. About 28 contestants from 20 countries participated in various disciplines of WMC this year after winning the national rounds.

The world championship held at Guangzhou tested the capacity of the contestants to memorise binary numbers, abstract images, names and faces, historic and future dates, random words and spoken number. The championship had different categories for kids, junior students and adults. Three of the six Indian contestants won medals in different categories. Chinese contestant Wang Feng became the best memorizer at the championship this year.

Saswat won a silver medal in the names and faces discipline and a bronze medal in the spoken number discipline in the kids' category. He also ranked third in the second edition of Indian Memory Challenge held in Hyderabad on October 31. "I want to go back next year and perform better. I will practise better for it," Saswat said as he fiddled with a computer mouse. He sat up as soon as his trainer, Venkat Kasibhatla, asked him to memorize and recall a string of numbers put in a random order. He took less than 15 seconds to oblige. And in no time, he recited the numbers in reverse order too. At the championship, Saswat was given thousands of digits to be memorised. He then had to jot down the entire list of digits in the same order.

"I rely on a technique which I call COMBS. I convert a set of numbers into colourful, moving, strange and big images and weave a story around them. That helps me memorize," Saswat said. Also give him your birth date, and he will tell you the day you were born, however long back it may be. "I use pure mathematics for that," he said.

MEMORY TO CHERISH: Saswat Satapathy recently won World Memory Championship

The wonder boy has been training in memory techniques for the last five years. His exceptional memory has not only given him fame but has helped him in academics and his mother — a PhD-holder in nuclear chemistry from IIT Delhi — in shopping! "Whenever we go out shopping, we don't have to carry a shopping list. I remember everything," Saswat jokes. His father, Debasis Satapathy, says, "As long as he keeps getting 90%-95%, we are fine with his performance." However, Kasibhatla is quick to add, "When it's time to take the Board exams, he will be trained enough to achieve even 100%."

Saswat, who is now based in Patna, keeps in touch with his Kasibhatla in Delhi through video-chat. "I want to see him as a grandmaster which he should become in next two years.," Kasibhatla said. The boy himself wants to grow up and use his skills to study medicine. "I want to become a cardio-surgeon," he said. Meanwhile, his father, an MBA professional, is happy to be known through his son. "I am working like his secretary these days and I am happy that so many people know me now as Saswat's father," he said.

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Sweden's Nobel Museum has come to the city with an exhibition on the life and work of Alfred Nobel

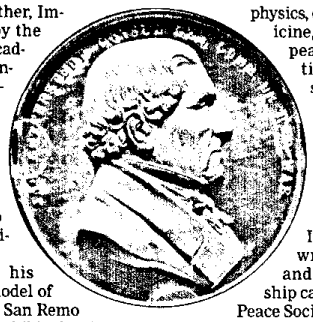
DELHI CAPTIVATED BY A NOBEL DISPLAY OF IDEAS

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

Swedish chemist, engineer, industrialist and innovator Alfred Nobel's medal, the books he read, his personal medical kit, his last will and even his shopping bills are now in India. For the first time ever, the Nobel Museum, Sweden, has come to the city with a travelling exhibition on the life and work of Alfred Nobel put up at the National Science Centre in Pragati Maidan.

The exhibition called 'Alfred Nobel — Networks of Innovation' has been classified into different parts of Nobel's life spent in St Petersburg, Paris and Stockholm. With as many as 160 monitors, glass consoles, touch screens and fancy lighting, the state-of-the-art exhibition will be on in the city till February 28 next year.

Nobel grew up in St Petersburg, Russia and Stockholm in Sweden. He invented the dynamite. He was awarded the Letterstedt Medal alongwith his father, Immanuel Nobel, by the Royal Swedish Academy in 1868 for contribution to explosive technologies. The medal was the only thing he wanted to inherit from his father and it's now available for all to see at the exhibition.



A replica of his last will and a model of his last house in San Remo in Italy has been exhibited at the National Science Centre. It's in his last will that he wrote about instituting the prestigious Nobel prize for physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace — mentioned in the same order. The exhibition features Nobel's mirror reflector, laboratory flasks, a manuscript of his poem 'You say I am a riddle' written in 1851 and his membership card of Austrian Peace Society to show his contribution in all these fields.

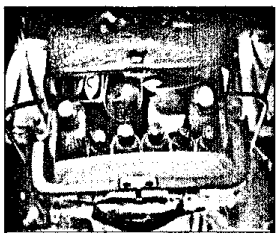
"One of the unique things about Nobel was that he donated his fortune to the awards while combining science, humanities and literature. We began this exhibition in 2008 and it has already travelled to Dubai, Paris, St Petersburg and Stockholm before coming to India," said Olov Amelin, director, Nobel Museum that was founded in 2001. He added that the exhibition has already got nearly a million visitors in the last two years. "Our exhibition especially targets students of secondary school and upwards and families too," he said.

The National Science Centre is also planning to invite a few Nobel Laureates to the exhibition over the next three months.

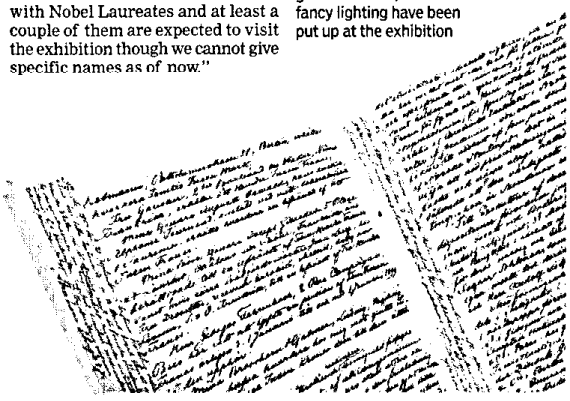
Shivaprasad Khened, director, National Science Centre, said, "We are also starting a lecture series with the exhibition for which we are inviting Indian scientists. We are also in talks with Nobel Laureates and at least a couple of them are expected to visit the exhibition though we cannot give specific names as of now."

Photos: Sanjeev Rastogi

ALL ABOUT ALFRED: The exhibition, 'Alfred Nobel — Networks of Innovation', is being held at Pragati Maidan



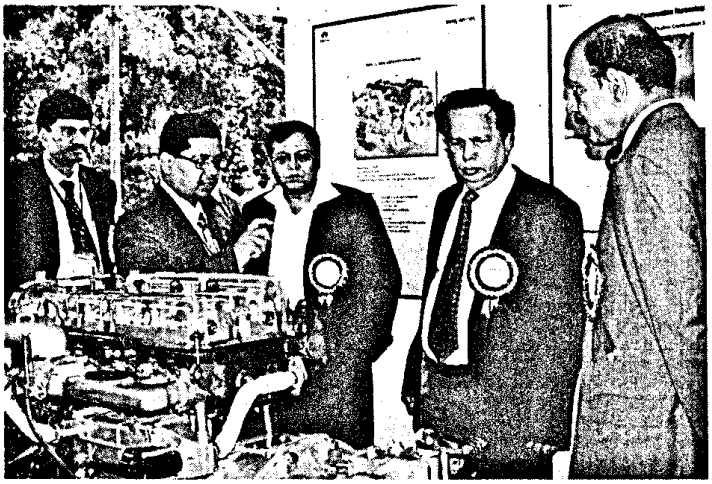
SWEDE THINGS: At least 160 monitors, glass consoles, touch screens & fancy lighting have been put up at the exhibition



Hindu ND 12/12/2010 p-9

Hydrogen is fuel of the future: Madhavan Nair

Lot of research needed before it is put to mass use, says former ISRO chief



A delegate from Tata Motors explaining the working of Tata 3L New Generation Engine, to (from left) P.K Pandey, Secretary CIIS, V.K Saraswat, Chairman CIIS, G. Madhavan Nair, former ISRO Chairman and B.V.R Mohan Reddy, CEO of Infotech Enterprises Ltd. during the inauguration of the 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Combustion in Hyderabad on Saturday. – PHOTO: M. SUBASH

Staff Reporter

- **'Hydrogen will cause no pollution at all'**
- **Former ISRO chief for development of alternative energy resources**

HYDERABAD: The future of aerospace, automobile and energy sectors will revolve around hydrogen fuel, as concerns of environmental pollution will put curbs on emissions and replenishment of fossil fuels is not possible.

This was stated by G. Madhavan Nair, former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) while inaugurating the 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Combustion (ASPACC) organised by the Combustion Institute Indian Section (CIIS) here on Saturday.

He felt that a lot of research had to be undertaken to master development and handling of hydrogen fuel before it was put to mass use. It would have no pollution at all. High-efficient combustion of fuels available now and development of new-age fuels were necessary to take up missions to Mars and Moon successfully, he said.

Development of alternative energy resources like solar (photovoltaic), wind and bio-waste were the need of the hour to plug the demand-supply gap of energy.

He, however, expressed concern over the quality of education among young generations as the students were lacking focus. Even teachers were required to be trained.

V.K. Saraswat, Chairman of CIIS and Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister, said ultra super critical thermal technology developed by the BHEL and the NTPC would be used for the first time in the 500-MW Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle power plant coming up at Tiruchi.

Two centres of excellence being developed at IISc Bangalore and IIT Chennai would take up conceptual, fundamental and applied research in new combustion technologies, he stated.

CEO of Infotech Enterprises B.V.R. Mohan Reddy said innovation was the key for the growth of India as a world leader and the country would end up only in commoditisation of products without it. Public-private partnerships were required to speed up innovation process and development of new technologies, he felt.

Chairs of Combustion Institutes of China, Australia, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan — Yao Qiang, Brian Heinz, Yongmo Kim, S.S. Kyi, Akira Aumomura, respectively, were also present. About 400 delegates including 160 from Asia Pacific countries participated in the conference.

Times Of India ND 12/12/2010 P-12

Technology to unlock the future in villages

Pranav Nambiar | TNN

In 20 years of working as a physician in Karnataka's Hassan district, Kumaraswamy N E often found himself irked by the blurred readings on the electrocardiography (ECG) machine. Often enough, it just broke down, which meant that the high cost of measuring heart activity had to be passed on to the patients. Last year, Kumaraswamy stumbled upon GE Healthcare's Mac i ECG unit. It was conceptualized and developed in India, has remote connectivity and provides clear readings. Kumaraswamy says it's been a boon – he now charges just Rs 100 per test. Presumably, his patients are happy.

The ECG unit is a good example of Indian technology companies' changed attitudes to healthcare and education. They're taking their cue from C K Prahalad's book, "Bottom of the Pyramid" which talks of developing affordable products locally to meet the needs of the rural poor.

Some of the most exciting and revolutionary innovations are about healthcare delivery and providing education.

A range of products is being introduced by companies such as GE, Siemens, Cisco, Philips and Intel. Basic internet and communication technologies (ICTs) are being creatively harnessed for rural education while medical equipment such as baby warmers is being developed at a fraction of the cost of imported products. Steve Rusckowski, CEO of Philips Healthcare, says that a high-end ultrasound machine could cost as much as $300,000 or Rs 1.35 cr but the low-cost local version would be just $5,000 or Rs 2.25 lakh.

The reach and portability of the innovative technologies means that they're penetrating vast swathes of the Indian hinterland, not least the desert expanse of Rajasthan, the hilly tracts of Himachal Pradesh and Naxal-infested terrain of Chhattisgarh.

Basic ICTs enable tech-virgin teachers to make presentations using PowerPoint and projectors. Ramesh Khamrana, a science teacher in Rajasthan's Pali district, says, "When I did my MSc in Botany, we had no visual presentations. This limited our understanding. But now children in our school pay much more attention." Khamrana is part of the Intel Teach programme, a core group of teachers which is educating other teachers on using technology to teach.

In Chhattisgarh's Chhindwara district, Cisco executives mentored villagers for more than 750 hours and by the end of last year, were providing technology-aided education to 450 students. There was a 70% improvement in the students' test scores.

Several education projects are demonstrating the viability of remote teaching using video technology. This cuts at a huge and persistent problem for rural India – the acute shortage of good teachers. Remote teaching aids also mean one teacher can cover many schools.

Across India, government school students with access to technologically charged teaching have topped the board exams and upstaged counterparts in private schools.

But technology companies acknowledge they have just scratched the surface in reaching out to the rural poor. The good news is innovation isn't restricted to big companies. "Several venture and private equity backed startups such as Perfint and Trivitron are coming up with breakthrough technologies," said Arun Natarajan, founder and CEO of Venture Intelligence, which tracks this space.

Perfint produces the PIGA CT, a low-cost machine that uses robotics and image processing to detect cancer. Trivitron has entered into JVs with international companies to manufacture affordable ECGs, ultrasound systems and operating theatre lights.

Cheap, viable and very tech sharp is the way to go.

LOW-COST SOLUTIONS

Remote learning | Helps students in far-flung areas to see their teacher and view presentations on electronic display boards

ECG system | Portable screening tool to detect cardiac disease

Baby Warmer | Phototherapy system for the newborn

Ultrasound imaging system | Can be used in multiple areas, from radiology to gynaecology

Times Of India ND 12/12/2010 P-17

Fake institute: 2 ex-directors of IIT-Kgp to be quizzed soon

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: Widening the net of its investigation into the fake institute — Institution of Electrical Engineers (India) — being run by the faculty of IIT-Kharagpur, West Bengal police says notice would be sent soon to two former directors — K L Chopra and S K Dubey — who are currently in Delhi.

J Chattoraj, in-charge of the investigation, told ToI, "We might be asking them to come to Kharagpur to identify documents, and answer our queries about the fake institute." Investigation has also revealed that J K Tiwari, the brain behind IEE(I) and totally unconnected with IIT, was even issued an IIT employee identity card by registrar T K Ghosal, who was then the deputy registrar.

> Investigation has revealed that J K Tiwari, the brain behind IEE(I) and totally unconnected with IIT, was even issued an IIT employee I-card

Later, Ghosal filed an FIR against A K Ghosh, former head of department of aerospace engineering, who has since been suspended along with others. Police have also discovered Tiwari's bank account that bears the address of the official quarter, allotted to IEE(I). Ghosal, who till recently was denying that the IEE(I) was given any official accommodation, now claims that the I-card was issued to Tiwari, director general and secretary of IEE(I), and three others since they were working for the institute. "It was not a permanent I-card, but valid for only a year," he says.

He also insists that the 'fake institute' was not entitled to give out degrees. "We have passed on all the information to the police. Investigation will prove who is at fault," Ghosal says.

ToI has reported about photograph of IIT-Kharagpur faculty members along with Tiwari in the institute's aerospace department.

In case of former directors, police sources say, there are many documents related to IEE(I) that bears signature of Chopra, while the quarter was allotted during Dubey's tenure as director. Chopra claims that documents bearing his signature are forged. However, Ghosh has told police that former directors and many faculty members are involved with IEE(I).

Hindustan
Times ND
12/12/2010
P-11

SIBAL RAP FOR UGC CHAIRMAN

Charu Sudan Kasturi
■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The human resource development ministry has bluntly barred University Grants Commission chairman Sukhdeo Thorat from making appointments or promotions after repeated complaints alleging irregularities, in an embarrassing snub three months before he quits office.

In a letter to Thorat, the HRD ministry has reminded the UGC chairman about a 2004 policy decision advising heads of autonomous institutions against making appointments or promotions when left with just three months in their tenure. Thorat's tenure as UGC chairman ends in February 2011.

Top government sources confirmed to HT that the letter dated December 6, 2010 was the outcome of repeated complaints received by the HRD ministry against Thorat for alleged irregularities in attempted appointments recently.

The UGC recently tried to promote a deputy secretary level officer to the designation of a joint secretary — a double promotion — which was criticised by some within the commission.

Hindustan Times ND
12/12/2010 P-11

Illegal ID nails IIT registrar

FAKE INSTITUTE Evidence that senior Kharagpur officials involved

ht FOLLOW-UP

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NEW DELHI: Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, registrar TK Ghoshal sanctioned an illegal IIT identity card for one of the masterminds of a fake institute that operated from the premier engineering school using the ID card.

Police investigators called the discovery "the strongest evidence" of the involvement of current, senior IIT Kharagpur officials in the scam first exposed by HT on October 19. IIT officials, including Ghoshal, have repeatedly claimed they had no link to the scam.

Police investigators have found Ghoshal's signature on an ID card issued by the IIT for JK Tewari, secretary of the fraudulent Institute of Electrical Engineers. The ID card was created by Ghoshal when he was deputy registrar, and is illegal because the IIT identity badge is given only to students and employees, police sources said.

> **We want the human resource development ministry to ensure we get justice.**
> A duped student

The ID card falsely mentions Tewari as an IIT employee.

"This is the strongest and clearest evidence we have that contrary to claims, IIT administration officials did not just know about the fake institute but were likely party to its prospering," a senior investigator said.

Ghoshal, whose appointment as registrar is also under the Central Vigilance Commission's scanner, is ironically the administrator who filed an FIR on behalf of the IIT against senior institute professor Amit Kumar Ghosh after he was exposed as a mastermind of the scam.

The FIR was showcased by the IIT as an indicator of its action against those guilty of the scam, in which the IEE — led by Ghosh and other IIT professors — duped poor students into joining courses with no legitimacy.

Times of India Kolkata 11.12.10 p-7

Kalam's future tech talk wows IIT-Kgp

Swati Sengupta | TNN

Kharagpur: July 18, 1980, is a memorable day in the annals of India's space science. It was on this day that Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV)-3 was successfully sent off in a low earth orbit. Satish Dhawan, then chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, congratulated APJ Abdul Kalam, the project director, and asked him to address the press conference. Only a year earlier, Dhawan had faced some tough questions during an interaction with the media when a space mission had failed.

"There are two messages I would like to convey here," Kalam said on Friday during an interactive session with students of IIT-Kharagpur. "The first is about the resilience and courage to resurge after a setback. And the second is about the role of a leader in managing failure. The leader should give the credit of the success to the team members. When failure comes, the leader should absorb it and protect the team. I could not get this beautiful, technological education of failure management in any of the textbooks written by any of the institutes at that time," Kalam told the future leaders.

The former President was the chief guest at the International Conference on Communications, Computers and Devices at the institute. Kalam was conferred with honorary Doctor of Science — DSc (Honoris Causa) — by the institute.

In a cheerful, fun-filled and inspiring interaction, Kalam referred to Dhawan's example and told students how they should be brave to face failures, an essential quality of a true leader.

Santanu Mondal

Kalam being conferred a honorary doctorate by IIT-Kgp

Asked which was the most difficult thing he had to handle as President, Kalam mentioned the Office of Profit Bill, adding that it had drawn a lot of criticism. Kalam had returned the Bill to Parliament. To the students, he further said: "Our philosophy should be to give and you don't need lots of money for that. What you need is knowledge," Kalam said. He asked the students to either plant five trees — that would generate oxygen — or distribute flowers and fruits among patients in hospitals who didn't have visitors. Alternatively, he advised them to teach students who had no access to education.

When a student asked Kalam how villagers would learn about opportunities in higher and technical education without access to internet, he patiently explained that she could herself take the lead in spreading such information and awareness. In a chorus, Kalam asked the students to take a vow: "Engineering and technology is a lifetime mission. I will work and work and succeed."

Earlier, at the inaugural speech, he had spoken of how the world was moving from computers and laptops towards mobile communication, with better application in society. "... a new generation device which will provide a one-stop solution to the future generation? I am thinking of a convergent device which integrates sensing, computing and communication. It should be low-cost, multi-lingual, multimedia, sensing, touch-sensitive, high-resolution graphics enabled and a communication device," Kalam said.

He explained how the smart device would be able to provide a solution to education, healthcare, e-governance, entertainment and edutainment. "We can think of a virtual office device, so that people can work from anywhere and collaborate, saving time, cost and effort. Also, we can think of the doctor on such a device to virtually reach out to aged patients in remote rural and urban areas with diagnoses and continuous monitoring," said Kalam, adding, "if the last 50 years belonged to IT, there is no doubt that the next 50 years will belong to biotechnology in combination with IT and nanotechnology."