

Newspaper Clips

September 28, 2013

Times of India ND 28-Sep-13 P-25

'Global warming on, despite recent cool off'

Amit Bhattacharya | TNN

New Delhi: That average global temperatures have hardly shown an increase in the past 15 years (1998-2012), is often used by climate change sceptics as proof that human-induced global warming threat is exaggerated. The IPCC's Summary for Policymakers report addresses the question directly, arguing that the current slowdown in global warming will not affect long-term rise in temperatures.

Global temperatures have on average risen by 0.12 degrees Celsius per decade since 1951 but the warming rate in the 1998-2012 period is considerably lower at 0.05 degrees C.

The report attributes a number of reasons for this slowdown. One, it says, 15 years is too short a period for making generalizations. "Due to natural variability, trends based on short records are very sensitive to the beginning and end dates and do not in general reflect long-term climate trends," it says.

"If you take away the first year — 1998, which was exceptionally hot because of a strong El Nino — the graph looks very different," says Krishna AchutaRao of IIT Delhi, one of the lead authors of a forthcoming IPCC report. The report says the slowdown in warming since 1998 could be due to two factors. One, the Earth retained less heat during this period primarily due to volcanic eruptions and a downward phase in the 11-year solar cycle. And two, much of the energy generated by global warming went into the ocean.

'CO₂ main global warming factor'

Vishwa Mohan & Amit Bhattacharya | TNN

New Delhi: The IPCC report summary blamed methane and nitrous oxide too for the global warming, but it named CO₂ as enemy number one. "The carbon dioxide concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrialized times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions and secondarily from net land use change emission (such as deforestation)," it said.

Stating that the atmospheric concentrations of CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years, the report statement said, "The largest contribution to total radiative forcing is caused by the increase in the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ since 1750". "Cumulative emissions of CO₂ will largely determine global mean surface warming by the late 21st century and beyond," said the report, a compilation of the latest research. The most optimistic of four scenarios in the report sees an average temperature rise of 1 degree C by 2100 over 2000 levels, ranging from 0.3 to 1.7 degrees C. This is the only scenario that can safely meet a UN target of 2 degree C, which also factors in warming from the start of the Industrial Revolution to 2000.

*For the full report, log on to
www.timesofindia.com*

LUNCH WITH BS ▶ ASHISH NANDA, DIRECTOR, IIM-AHMEDABAD

'Recruit students, not just select them'

After Harvard Business School, Nanda is back at his alma mater and wants the institute to connect well internationally

What would most people in their twenties do if they had the option of either taking up a job at Delhi's Patparganj or accepting an invitation from the Harvard Business School (HBS) to join its economics PhD programme? The answer should be a no-brainer, but around 25 years ago, Ashish Nanda was more inclined towards the former for three reasons: one, Tata Motors (then TELCO) offered him a promotion to head the company's newly set up facility at Patparganj; two, his wife was working in India; and, three, his parents were based in Delhi and he was the only child, write *Shyamal Majumdar* and *Vinay Umarji*.

But Nanda had underestimated Harvard's persuasive powers. The school wrote to him, suggesting he should fly down to Boston and get a feel of the place. He had never flown out of the country before and was amazed that one of the world's top schools even bothered to send business-class tickets and put him up in a hotel even though he was just one of the many applicants to the school from all over the world. But those luxuries still looked like small change after he went to the campus. "I felt I was among some of the world's best thinkers. I had read their books and now I was actually talking with them. The loyalty I feel towards Harvard begins with that gesture on their part. They invested in me and believed in me", Nanda, now in his mid-fifties, says.

Harvard, of course, had reasons for this investment and belief: Nanda was an extraordinary student at the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi and the Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad, having twice won the President of India Gold Medal and the IIM Director's Gold Medal, besides being a member of the coveted Tata Administrative Service with five years of stellar track record.

We are at the canteen located at the Kasturba Lalbhai Management Development Centre within the IIM-A campus. Nanda, who took charge as director of his alma mater earlier this month, spent the first few seconds apologising for the barely five-minute delay on his part. The stewards inform us while orange juice, pineapple *rasam* soup and *hara bhara* kebab will be

served on the table, the rest will be buffet.

We shift our conversation to his appointment at IIM-A, a process that lingered for a long time and also impacted Nanda personally as his wife wasn't able to join him. The institute approached him, he says, just before his visit to India for a reunion of the 1983 batch. But he wasn't too sure whether he could relocate to India. His wife is a successful dentist in Massachusetts and a professor at Tufts Dental School and he had just recently managed to convince his parents to shift to the US. But his wife was insistent, as apart from the fact that their son was just starting his medical education at Columbia, she felt "some economic discount or sacrifice" was worth it for a meaningful assignment in their home country at this juncture of his life.

The extent of the financial discount he has taken has been a matter of much speculation, but Nanda refuses to be drawn into any discussion on his compensation as that's not a very important factor "when you want to serve". We get the message and head for the buffet counter.

Nanda ensures he knows what he is eating. So, while a *paneer do pyaza* and carrot beans *poriyal* are easy picks, a *gutti wonkai kooru* does test our culinary knowledge. "What's this?" Nanda asks a steward. "It's a South Indian dish, Sir," comes the reply. "But what does it contain?" Nanda persists. The steward excuses himself to find an answer and isn't seen again. The dish looks like a stuffed brinjal curry, which all of us decide to ignore. Hot *rotis* are served on the table.

One of the reasons for the delay in his appointment — the process took over six months — was the need for a background check. The story goes that trailing a professor abroad proved to be a difficult task for the intelligence agencies more used to following terrorists. Nanda doesn't say much, except that his wife would often pull his leg by saying, "See that car over there. There must be people watching us with binoculars".

Nanda had been teaching at the HBS for 13 years when then-Harvard Law School dean Elena Kagan and vice-dean David Wilkins approached him in 2007 with an unusual

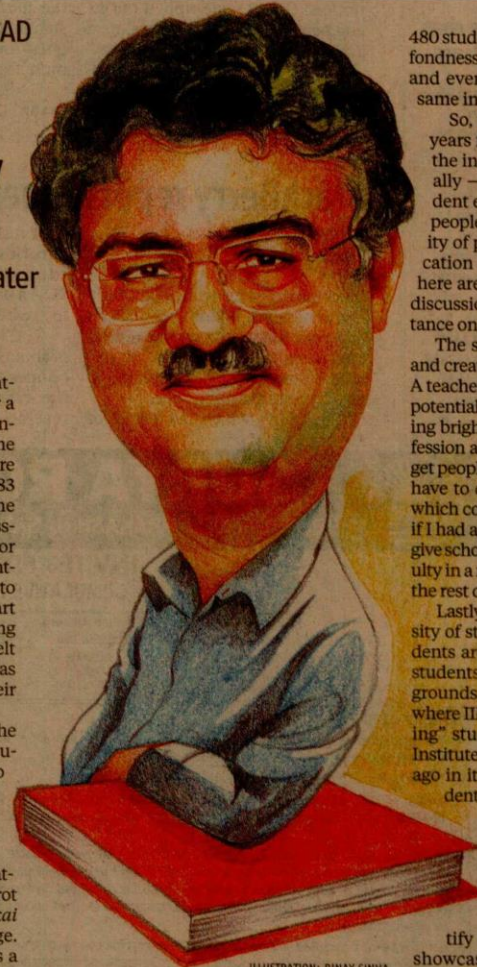


ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

idea. Kagan, the future US Supreme Court justice, wanted Nanda to move to the law school to start a first-of-its-kind executive-education programme for practising attorneys. The idea appealed to him, though he says he was somewhat of an odd duck in the law school since he had no legal background. The law school obviously backed the right horse since the course has become one of the most sought after for lawyers all over world.

The main course is over pretty fast and the stewards serve *jalebis* and fruits. Nanda says a lot has changed at IIM-A in the 30 years since his student days. But what hasn't is the fabulous quality of students. Another thing — he terms it a puzzle — that hasn't changed much is the size of faculty. During his student days, IIM-A had 70 to 80 faculty members for 180 students, which now stands at 100 for

480 students. He also remembers with some fondness how the signature Louis Kahn Plaza and even the shadows have remained the same in the old campus.

So, what's his agenda for the next five years for the institute? For one, he wants the institute to connect well internationally — something that goes beyond student exchange programmes. "I wish that people outside are more aware of the quality of people here and the quality of education they go through, and that people here are able to contribute to cutting-edge discussions on issues of managerial importance on a global level," he says.

The second item on his agenda is to try and create an enabling environment for IIM-A teachers and students to achieve their best potential. That includes attracting and retaining bright youngsters to academics as a profession and IIM-A as a home. "If you want to get people who are at the top of the game, you have to create a nurturing environment, of which compensation is a significant part. So, if I had a magic wand, I would say we should give schools the autonomy to compensate faculty in a manner they feel is competitive with the rest of the world," Nanda says.

Lastly, he would love to increase the diversity of students — 95 per cent of IIM-A students are engineers, unlike Harvard where students come from a wide variety of backgrounds. As a solution, he wants a system where IIM-A "recruits" in addition to "selecting" students, just as what Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) did a few years ago in its drive to attract more women students. The world's best engineering institute decided to reach out to talented women students and tell them "we are hungry to get you".

Apart from giving scholarships to deserving students, MIT also reached out to its alumni to identify women role models who could be showcased. "MIT did all this because it realised that its overall education is not going to be of the best quality if it doesn't get the best minds from all sources," Nanda says, adding IIM-A also needs to publicise alumni from non-traditional backgrounds who have gone on to do wonderful things and reach out to potential students in all disciplines.

That's quite a formidable task, but the professor isn't finished as yet. One of his other priorities would be not to remain just an administrator and do what he has done best over the past 20 years of his life — that is teaching. "A captain also has to score runs if he has to earn real respect among his peers," Nanda says with a laugh, before rushing off to a class.

IIM-A is a hidden jewel, Nanda had said a few days before taking charge. The jewel will surely get a lot of polish over the next five years of the professor's tenure.

No. of CAT Aspirants at Seven-Year Low

Only 1.96 lakh vouchers sold for the admission test to IIMs

SREERADHA D BASU & SHREYA BISWAS
MUMBAI | KOLKATA

The number of applicants for CAT 2013 has dipped to a seven-year low, indicating that an MBA degree has fallen from grace in the backdrop of a dull economy, escalating costs and uncertain placements.

Only around 1.96 lakh vouchers have been sold for this year's common admission test to 13 of the premier Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and 120-odd non-IIMs, marking a nearly 33% comedown from a high of 2.9 lakh in 2008.

Till September 26, the last day of online registrations, 1,96,095 vouchers had been sold, said CAT 2013 convenor Rohit Kapoor of IIM Indore. Registrations for the test closed at 1,94,514.

The last time CAT had seen such few takers was in 2006, when some 1.91 lakh students had appeared for the test. Ironically, the lower interest comes at a time when IIMs have added 115 seats, taking the tally across these 13 institutes alone to a total of 3,335. The IIMs and test-conducting firm Prometric had been preparing for more students to appear for CAT 2013 — to be conducted from October 16 to November 11, 2013 — with the test centres spread across 40 cities against 36 last year.

Despite a greater number of seats, interest from candidates seems to be waning, with an MBA degree no longer seen as guaranteeing a good job. "At one

time, an MBA was perceived to be the ticket to a good job and a good life," says Amitabh Jhingan, partner, Transaction Advisory Services and National Sector Leader — Education, EY. "That story hasn't played out."

He says that a number of MBA institutes which have sprung up are not providing students any jobs. Some of those have even wound up. "At the top 10-20 institutes though, there is unlikely to be a drop in interest or a lowering in cut-offs," says Jhingan.

Agrees Anindya Sen, dean (academic) at IIM Calcutta: "There was a time when it was all about the craze for an MBA degree. Now that is changing." Students realise, he adds, that other than at a handful of B-schools at the top, the expenses of acquiring a management education are not worth it in terms of the returns. "On the supply side too, a lot of B-schools have closed down. This is a market correction of sorts," he says.

IIM Indore's Kapoor, who in some reports had been attributed to be expecting voucher sales of 2.5 lakh-plus, says: "The decline in registration numbers doesn't bother us because 1.93 lakh is itself a huge number and this time round, we will have more serious and focused candidates sitting for the exam," he says. "The reasons for the decrease in numbers may be varied — the economy, job market and other such issues may have deterred many from applying for the test," said Kapoor.

The MBA boom spawned the

rise of a spate of second-rung B-schools. When the market was good and jobs were plentiful, every institute kept increasing its fees. But as economic conditions worsened and so also the job market, placements of students became tough. Despite the schools' inability to place students, they didn't lower their fees.

Saddled with huge batch sizes and a slow job market, even the IIMs faced difficulty in placing the last 5% to 15% of their batches (ET, March 18, 2013). However, in many of the older IIMs' cases, fees have gone up by three to four times from 2007-09 levels when they charged an average of ₹4 lakh. For the Class of 2015, IIM Lucknow charges around ₹10.8 lakh after a fee cut, while at the top end, IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore charge ₹16.6 lakh and ₹17 lakh, respectively.

One of the main reasons behind dwindling CAT registrations is return on investment. Other options are also proving attractive to students. "Today, if you take GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering), you can end up in a public sector company and get a decent starting salary ₹10-11 lakh," says Satya Narayanan R, chairman, Career Launcher. There are students who are reluctant to pay ₹16-17 lakh for an MBA. They prefer to work for some more time, save up and do an MBA from say an Insead, and get paid in dollars, he adds.

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'2% of soil on the surface of Mars is made up of water'

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

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London: The red soil of Mars holds abundant amount of water that could one day sustain human life.

The first scoop of Martian soil analysed by Nasa's Curiosity rover has found "substantial" amount of water on Mars. A cubic foot of Martian soil holds about 0.47 litres of water, according to the latest findings.

Scientists announced on Friday that "one of the most exciting results from this very first solid sample ingested by Curiosity is the high percentage of water in the soil". The analysis also suggests the presence of carbonate materials, which form in the presence of water.

Laurie Leshin from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who was part of the Mars Science Laboratory Team, said, "About 2% of the soil on the surface of Mars is made up of water. The sample also released significant carbon dioxide, oxygen and sulphur



SCOOP OF GOOD NEWS

the question: "Could Mars have once harboured life?"

It was the first rover on Mars that gathered samples of rock and soil. Scientists used the rover's scoop to collect dust, dirt and finely grained soil from a sandy patch known as Rock Nest.

Baking the sample revealed a compound containing chlorine and oxygen, likely chlorate or perchlorate. The team also analysed ratios of isotopes of hydrogen and carbon in the released water and carbon dioxide and found that the ratio of some isotopes in the soil is similar to the ratio found in atmospheric sam-

Confusion prevails on fresh approval of technical courses

GETTING fresh approvals for technical and management courses have become confusing for institutes ever since the Supreme Court in April this year cut down the role of All India Council of Technical Education to an 'advisory' authority.

After the SC observed that the council mandate was such that it could not lay down any standards for MBA and MCA courses, the UGC wrote, in

August, to all universities to approve the technical courses in their affiliated colleges which had been vetted by the council.

Every year, 600-800 engineering and management institutes open up across the country. While 626 such colleges had opened up in the last session, 892 got approvals in

2011-12. This year, 494 new institutes have come up with approvals so far. But now there is no clarity on the mechanism to get new approval and if affiliating universities can do the job that was being done by AICTE.

"It's been three months that I have been trying to get a fix on this issue. I

have to start a couple of technical diploma courses. But AICTE says it cannot grant approval. The UGC has not helped us either and the ministry wants us to wait," Dinanath Yadav, who runs a polytechnic in UP's Kushinagar district, said.

Though the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been unable to amend the AICTE Act 1987 to empower the council, it says a new ordinance to this

effect may take shape by November. "The Ordinance should come within a couple of months. The universities will wait for a clear guideline on the matter till then," an MHRD official said.

An AICTE official said, "AICTE is toothless till then. Also, the universities which are likely to give approvals are not equipped enough to assess technical institutes for approval."

Neha Pushkarna/New Delhi

In April, the SC had cut down the role of All India Council of Technical Education to an 'advisory' authority

TASK FOR THE YOUTH BRIGADE

CHANGE HAS BEGUN

Delhi's Youth Brigade plunged headlong into their job last weekend. In two days, they spruced up a prominent city subway and replaced its graffiti with women-centric artwork that sends out a strong message

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Last weekend was an extremely busy one for the Delhi Youth Brigade. Tasked with the job of making subways in Delhi safe for women, the five-member team—along with dozens of volunteers—organized a cleanliness drive on Sept 21 and 22 at the subway near IIT-Delhi. The two-day-long activity had the Youth Brigade (YB) members mobilising resources and generating awareness regarding the need to make public spaces in the city clean and safe. They also got their hands dirty and plunged



SWEEPING CHANGE Youth Brigade members and volunteers clean up the subway near IIT Delhi

tions like AISEC (DU) and NSS (IIT-Delhi) to arrange for volunteers. They also got people to sign up through online forms. The turnout for the event showed that Delhiites were actively supporting this movement of reclaiming the city's subways. Amit Agarwal, who not only volunteered himself, but also brought along his son Amish, termed it "an excellent opportunity to serve society and fulfill our higher cause."

Even regular users of the subway were not left untouched on seeing the passion with which the entire clean-up process was being executed. Team members recall many commuters stopping and showing their support and gratitude. In fact, a lady was so amazed to see young people take up this

sort of responsibility that tears started flowing from her eyes.

It was these gestures of encouragement that kept the Youth Brigade and the vol-

BRIGADE IN ACTION

unteers motivated. "Scrubbing years of stubborn graffiti off subway walls was not an easy feat, but the support we received was truly inspiring," says YB member Mahima Sharma.

At the end of the two days, the team had not only spruced up and cleaned the subway, it also got the Rendezvous IIT Delhi team to do women-centric artwork on the now-clean walls in order to send a message of strength and unity to the city's women.

Reactions on Facebook

Proud of you guys...keep it up. We are in need of people like you to make this world a better and safer place
— **PATRALI GHOSH**

Excellent work, guys
— **PRASHANT SETHI**

Great initiative! Keep it up. Be clean. Be safe!
— **PRITI KALSI KAPOOR**

A very commendable effort indeed! This should set the ball rolling for a snowball effect in terms of changing status quo
— **SEEMA ARORA KALSI**

A sense of satisfaction prevails everytime you take up work like this. Looking forward to more joint ventures with the youth brigade
— **ANNWESHA MOHANTY**



“It's extremely important for young people to get involved in

projects like these. It sends a strong message that men and women have equal rights in public spaces

RANJANA KUMARI |
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST



headlong into the cleaning-up act along with the 30-odd volunteers who turned up to help them. "When we started work, we realized that had the concerned authorities been doing their job, the situation would not have been so bad. Even taking out a small graffiti was taking 2 hours on an average," recalls YB member Rashi Kakkar.

In organizing the drive, the team spread the message through Facebook and got in touch with college organiza-

CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE

For details of the Youth Brigade campaign, visit www.ileadindia.com



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