

# Talking Green

Debojyoti Chakraborty, lecturer Amity Institute of Global Warming and Ecological Studies (AIGW & ES), answers questions raised during the interactive session at Global Warming & Climate Change Seminar held at AIS Mayur Vihar organized by Amity Humanity Foundation.

## What is the biggest challenge of Climate Change?

Climate has always been changing since the earth came into existence. But in the past century it has been changing at a rate which is faster and thus the life form and ecosystem has very less time to adapt to it. This is supposed to have a



## GT Classroom

dangerous effects on the life on earth, disrupting ecological process and influencing the livelihoods of millions of people drastically.

### Is there any way that we can stop Climate Change?

We cannot stop climate change all of a sudden, but there are several ways to make its impacts less effective on us. Few such activities can be saving energy, planting trees, preventing deforestation, using clean fuel, etc.

### Which part of India has been affected the most by climate change?

Several studies have been conducted worldwide to ascertain and project the likely impacts of climate change. In India the Himalayas and coastal parts of eastern India close to Bay of Bengal (eg Orissa) has been feared to

be affected drastically.

### Is CNG a completely clean fuel?

CNG is a better fuel when we compare it with petrol/diesel etc. It emits lower levels of Sox, but the carbon component of

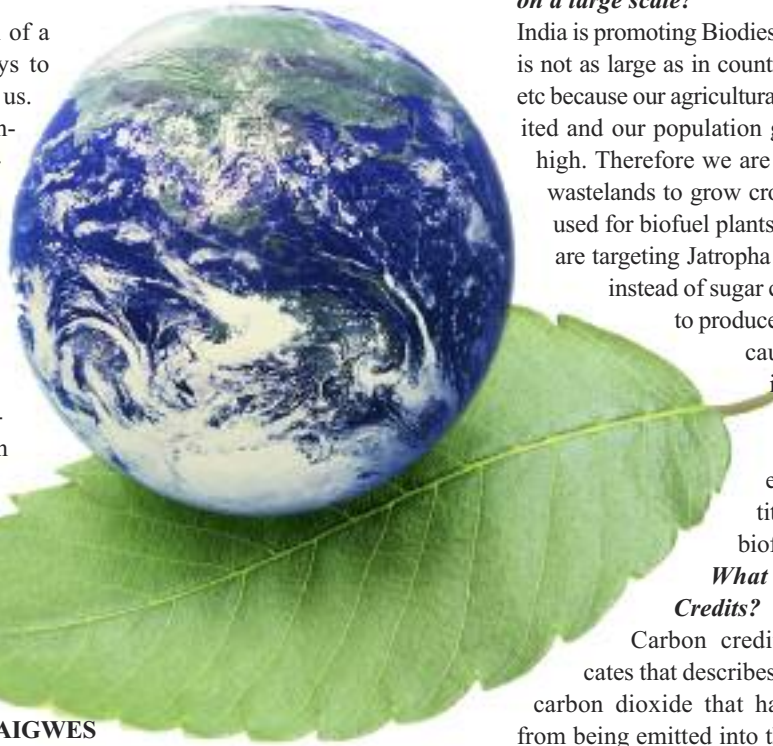
the fuel is not altered. The main problem with CNG is the availability of gas throughout the city. Moreover, there are safety issues regarding its use because policies are weak on implementation of counterfeit and non standardized CNG kits. But by and large, it is a clean fuel.

### Why is India not promoting bio-diesel on a large scale?

India is promoting Biodiesel but the scale is not as large as in countries like Brazil etc because our agricultural lands are limited and our population growth is very high. Therefore we are targeting only wastelands to grow crops that can be used for biofuel plants. Moreover we are targeting Jatropha and Pongamia instead of sugar cane and maize to produce Biodiesel, because we are not in a position to grow such crops in enough quantity to be used as biofuel.

### What are Carbon Credits?

Carbon credits are certificates that describes the amount of carbon dioxide that has been saved from being emitted into the atmosphere



Debojyoti Chakraborty, lecturer AIGWES

## GT Question-5 Win Sur Prizes

### What is biodiesel?

Send in your answers at The GT Q-4, AKC House, E-27, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

## Winner of GT Q 4 Amogh Gupta III-D AIS Sec 43 Gurgaon

### through the use of clean technologies. What are the impediments in popularizing solar energy?

Use of solar energy on a large scale has been incorporated as a mission in the recent "National Action plan for Climate Change" by government of India. But the main impediment of this technology is that it is expensive.

### Fluorescent lights are said to emit harmful gasses. There is also a problem of disposing CFL. So what is the best alternative available?

There are issues regarding safe disposal of the CFL bulbs, therefore common incinerators is the best alternative. There should be schemes of discount on returning back the used CFL bulbs and from a common collection point those bulbs can be disposed off safely in the incinerators. ●

# AHF: A Commitment for Social Development

Vira Sharma

"The genesis of Amity Humanity Foundation reflects the values and the social obligations that the Founder President Dr Ashok K Chauhan perceived for the Amity Universe," said Major Gen (Dr.) Surender Kumar, Vice President Amity Humanity Foundation (AHF), in an exclusive chat with The Global Times. Thus, was born AHF in 2001 and registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860, Section 80 G of Income Tax Act 1961, Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 and Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976.

"Initially when we thought of naming the organization, we thought of many names as Amity Society for upliftment... Betterment of Society, etc. and then zeroed upon "humanity" as it is a comprehensive term that includes all aspects of concern. Since then, AHF de-

veloped to include within its folds the various Amity Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) concerns," claims General Kumar. AHF aims at the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society and development of concern and compassion for the needy.

Amitasha, a chain of schools for the underprivileged girl child, is the dream project of Dr. (Mrs.) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson Amity International Schools (AIS). These schools run within the premises of AIS. Well over 1000 girls are the beneficiaries of Amitasha at present. In Amitasha, these girls are given free education, healthcare & the empowerment to create a better future for themselves. Amitasha project underlines the conviction that educating a girl brings prosperity to two families- parents and in-laws. Amitasha girls have creditably participated in several competitions with their counterparts in the best of public schools and have brought laurels on many occa-

sions. Their aspirations are amply reflected in 'Sapna Dekha Maine', a video of Amitasha girls with Shubha Mudgal. Dr Chanda Rani Akhouri, Officiating Director, AHF further elaborated, "The women empowerment aspect is one of the main AHF concerns. AHF has trained

## Best Practices

over 4,500 women in the state of Haryana for enhancing the status of women in a somewhat hostile society." In the field of HIV & AIDS, AHF pioneered an International Inter-Faith Conference which resulted in the famous Delhi Declaration, pledged by religious leaders of all major faiths. The religious leaders committed to use their power and influence for generating awareness about prevention, care and concern for HIV/AIDS unfortunates. What followed was the training of over 500 'Women of Faith' to spread the message under 'Pro-

ject Pratibha'. AHF gave it a further impetus by producing a short film, 'Parikshit: the tested one' about Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) of HIV. This effort was whole heartedly supported by UNICEF & Shanti Ashram. Rehabilitation of disabled is another major concern of AHF. Counseling camps were run by AHF for survey, identification and corrective surgery for polio affected. Over 500 people were beneficiaries of these camps. A number of tri-cycles and aids were distributed in these camps.

AHF's community development projects include the adoption of five NCR villages under its 'rural development programme'. Besides, it also includes

'Impact Evaluation Study of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize' in 21 states of India for Ministry of Agriculture and a three year project on 'Improved Practices for Higher Income through Management of Oilseeds Crops in Tribal Areas of Orissa' with the support of DST.

In keeping with the Former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's vision of Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA), AHF has adopted 28 villages in Panchgaon, Haryana and 40 in Madhya Pradesh.

AHF, under the guidance of Founder President and Chairperson, is totally committed to creating an environment of better lives for the underprivileged and the challenged. ●

## Major Projects of AHF

- Amitasha: Nurturing the Girl Child
- Rehabilitation of the Physically Challenged
- Women Empowerment: Swayamsiddha and Animators' Training
- HIV/AIDS: Prevention and Care Community Development
- Awareness Raising Programmes: Environment and HIV/AIDS

### Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas Funds and Awareness Raising Initiatives:

- Production of Cassettes and VCDs of 'Sapna Dekha Maine' sung by Amitasha students and Shubha Mudgal and a short film 'Parikshit' on HIV/AIDS
- Charity Polo and Cricket matches
- Plays, Fashion Shows, Concerts and other cultural events
- Sale of Greeting Cards, Stationary and other Handicrafts made by Amitasha children

One of the 39 batches of Five-day Animators' Training programme organised by AHF for Haryana Women Development Corporations' Mahila Mandal Self Help Groups at Rai, Sonapat



Health Awareness Camp organised by AHF