



TUTICORIN BRANCH OF SIRC NEWS LETTER



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TUTICORIN BRANCH WISHES DIWALI - FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



Dear Members and Students

There are a number of stories connected with the origin of Diwali. Diwali is commonly known as the day when Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya after he had won the battle against Ravana. This account about Diwali is the most commonly accepted account with regard to the other stories attached to the origins of Diwali.

There are four reasons why it is celebrated.

First legend :

King Rama's return to Ayodhya is celebrated because he won an epic war with Ravana, the king of demons in Lanka. With happiness of the return of their king after 14 years of exile, the whole city was lighted up with rows of lamps. With this war ending the whole of the kingdom of Lanka was destroyed.

Second legend:

In many rural areas, Diwali is still celebrated as a Harvest Festival. This festival comes at the end of a cropping season. This reinforces the hypothesis of its having originated as a harvest festival. Every harvest signifies prosperity. Indian farmers celebrate this festival after they reap their harvests.

Third legend:

Narakasura, who was a monster created havoc among the gods and the sages by disturbing their penance or by creating havoc during religious rituals.

Dejected by the trouble caused by him, all the gods went to Lord Krishna and pleaded him to protect them from "Narakasura". Satyabhama (sister of lord Krishna) appealed to Krishna to give her the opportunity to destroy Narakasura. Narakasura had a curse on him that a woman would kill him. Satyabhama kills Narakasura, the battle field. This depicts the victory of good over evil. Since then, Diwali is celebrated by people every with great joy.

Fourth legend:

According to the fourth legend goddess Lakshmi emerged from the ocean of milk which is called the Ksheer Sagar. She brought wealth and prosperity for mankind with her.

On diwali, Lakshmi Pooja is performed to honor her. Many people believe that Lakshmi, who is the Goddess of wealth and good fortune, visits the homes of her devotees on this day.

Celebration:

The First day of Diwali is called Dhanteras or Dhantryaodashi, which is the thirteenth day of the month of Ashwin.

The Second day of Diwali is called Narak Chaturdasi which is the fourteenth lunar day of the dark fortnight of kartik month. On this day Lord Krishna helped destroy the demon Narakasur and freed the world from fear.

The third day is called Diwali. On this day, the entrances of all houses are lit up and decorated with rangoli. Goddess Lakshmi, who is the goddess of wealth and luster is prayed to with devotion. Diwali is also considered as the last day of the financial year for Hindu businesses. Diwali is considered as an auspicious festival for setting up new business.

The Fourth day is called as Padwa or Varsha Pratipada which marks the crowning of King Vikramaditya. This day is celebrated by dressing in new clothes, wearing new jewellery. They exchange sweets, dry fruits and gifts.

Festivity:

Every house entrance is made colorful with lovely "Rangoli" to welcome goddess Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth and prosperity. The Preparations for Diwali begin a week in advance. People decorate their houses, prepare sweets, light their homes with colorful lights, buy clothes and Jewelry. Lighting of lamps in the night is a way of paying tribute to god for good health, wealth, knowledge and peace.

Fireworks are burnt out and also distributed so that everyone enjoys the festival thoroughly.



It is a special time for our members to celebrate this Diwali without any tension.
It is a special time when family and friends get-together for fun wishing laughter and fun to cheer your days in this festive season of Diwali and always Happy Diwali 2009



CARBON CREDITS IN INDIA

Our earth is undoubtedly warming. This warming is largely the result of emissions of carbon dioxide and other Greenhouse gases (GHG's) from human activities including industrial processes, fossil fuel combustion, and changes in land use, such as deforestation etc. Addressing climate change is not a simple task. To protect ourselves, our economy, and our land from the adverse effects of climate change, we must reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. To achieve this goal the concept of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has come into vogue as a part of Kyoto Protocol.

The objective is the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system".

Kyoto Protocol is an agreement made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The treaty was negotiated in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997, opened for signature on March 16, 1998, and closed on March 15, 1999. The agreement came into force on February 16, 2005, under which the industrialised countries will reduce their collective emissions of greenhouse gases by 5.2% compared to the year 1990 (but note that, compared to the emissions levels that would be expected by 2010 without the Protocol, this target represents a 29% cut). The aim is to lower overall emissions of six greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, HFCs (Hydrofluoro Carbon), and PFCs - calculated as an average over the five-year period of 2008-12. National targets range from 8% reductions for the European Union and some others to 7% for the US, 6% for Japan, 0% for Russia, and permitted increase of 8% for Australia and 10% for Iceland.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is an arrangement under the Kyoto Protocol allowing industrialized countries with a greenhouse gas reduction commitment to invest in emission reducing projects in developing countries as an alternative to what is generally considered more costly emission reductions in their own countries. Under CDM, a developed country can take up a greenhouse gas reduction project activity in a developing country where the cost of GHG reduction project activities is usually much lower. The developed country would be given credits (Carbon Credits) for meeting its emission reduction targets, while the developing country would receive the capital and clean technology to implement the project.

Carbon credits are certificates issued to countries that reduce their emission of GHG (greenhouse gases) which causes global warming. Carbon credits are measured in units of certified emission reductions (CERs). Each CER is equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide reduction. Its rate stood at 22 Euros in April, fell to below 7 Euros, before stabilizing at 12-13 Euros. Under IET (International Emissions Trading) mechanism, countries can trade in the international carbon credit market. Countries with surplus credits can sell the same to countries with quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. Developed countries that have exceeded the levels can either cut down emissions, or borrow or buy carbon credits from developing countries.

The UNFCCC divides countries into two main groups: A total of 41 industrialized countries are currently listed in the Convention's Annex-I, including the relatively wealthy industrialized countries that were members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1992, plus countries with economies in transition (EITs), including the Russian Federation, the Baltic States, and several Central and Eastern European States. The OECD members of Annex-1 (not the EITs) are also listed in the Convention's Annex-II. There are currently 24 such Annex-II Parties. All other countries not listed in the Convention's Annexes, mostly the developing countries, are known as non-Annex-1 countries. They currently number 145.

Annex I countries such as United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Austria, Spain, France, Germany etc. agree to reduce their emissions (particularly carbon dioxide) to target levels below their 1990 emissions levels. If they cannot do so, they must buy emission credits from developing countries or invest in conservation. Countries like United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Austria, Spain etc are also included in Annex-II.

Developing countries (non-Annex I) such as India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, China, Brazil, Iran, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, UAE etc have no

immediate restrictions under the UNFCCC. This serves three purposes:

- Avoids restrictions on growth because pollution is strongly linked to industrial growth, and developing economies can potentially grow very fast.
- It means that they cannot sell emissions credits to industrialized nations to permit those nations to over-pollute.
- They get money and technologies from the developed countries in Annex II.

Indian scenario:

India comes under the third category of signatories to UNFCCC. India signed and ratified the Protocol in August, 2002 and has emerged as a world leader in reduction of greenhouse gases by adopting Clean Development Mechanisms (CDMs) in the past few years.

According to Report on National Action Plan for operationalising Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) by Planning Commission, Govt. of India, the total CO₂-equivalent emissions in 1990 were 10,01,352 Gg (Gigagrams), which was approximately 3% of global emissions. If India can capture a 10% share of the global CDM market, annual CER revenues to the country could range from US\$ 10 trillion to 300 million (assuming that CDM is used to meet 10-50% of the global demand for GHG emission reduction of roughly 1 billion tonnes CO₂ and prices range from US\$ 3.5-5.5 per tonne of CO₂). As the deadline for meeting the Kyoto Protocol targets draws nearer, prices can be expected to rise, as countries/companies save carbon credits to meet strict targets in the future. India is well ahead in establishing a full-fledged system in operationalising CDM, through the Designated National Authority (DNA).

Other than Industries and transportation, the major sources of GHG's emission in India are as follows:

- Paddy fields
- Enteric fermentation from cattle and buffaloes.
- Municipal Solid Waste

Of the above three sources the emissions from the paddy fields can be reduced through special irrigation strategy and appropriate choice of cultivars; whereas enteric fermentation emission can also be reduced through proper feed management.

In recent days the third source of emission i.e. Municipal Solid Waste Dumping Grounds are emerging as a potential CDM activity despite being provided least attention till date.

Present status of dumping grounds in India :

In India, due to increased population & commercial development, cities are facing problems of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) disposal. The urban population in larger towns and cities in India is increasing at a decadal growth rate of above 40%. There are no Sanitary Landfill sites in India at present. Municipal Solid Waste is simply dumped without any treatment into land (depressions, ditches, soaked ponds) or on the outskirts of the city in an unscientific manner with no compliance of regulations.

The existing dumping grounds in India are full and overflowing beyond capacity. It is difficult to get new dumping yards and if at all available, they are far away from the city and this adds to the exorbitant cost of transportation. A study made by CPCB, (2000) shows that the cumulative requirement of land for disposal of MSW in India would reach around 169.6 km² by 2047 as against 20.2 km² in 1997.

Various processes/technologies available to reduce the amount of Municipal Solid Waste are as follows.

1. Physical (a. Pelletisation)
2. Biochemical (a. Aerobic Composting b. Anaerobic Digestion)
3. Thermal (a. Incineration b. Gasification)

Among the above options/technologies following are considered as favorable to implement in India.

1. Pelletisation,
2. Anaerobic digestion using bio-methanation technology for production of power,
3. Production of organic manure using controlled aerobic composting.

In India the segregation of municipal solid waste at source or at centralized decentralized centre is not in practice on a large scale. Hence, 90% of Municipal Solid Waste is dumped in a mixed form in the open dumping yards without any pre-treatment. On the other hand, technology required in the above mentioned three options needs waste to be segregated first and then can be subjected to further processing. To

