

# India for accelerated deployment of green technologies

The quickest way of lowering the cost of many renewable options is to scale up their rate of deployment and diffusion in developing countries, minister of state for environment and forests Jairam Ramesh said



**New Delhi:** India on Friday pitched for accelerating deployment and diffusion of green technologies to tackle climate change, saying that it was the

quickest way to lower the cost of the renewable options.

A two-day climate change conference, attended by 58 delegations and 30 ministers, favoured speeding up large scale global deployment of environmentally sound and climate friendly technologies as a step to check global warming.

"The quickest way of lowering the cost of many renewable options is to scale up their rate of deployment and diffusion in developing countries," minister of state for environment and forests Jairam Ramesh said summarizing the proceedings of the conference.

The Delhi High Level Conference of Technology Development and Transfer adopted a Delhi Statement which also called for increased public financing in technology development.

Danish climate minister Connie Hedegaard said the adaptation and mitigation efforts to tackle climate change would require "three digit billion dollars" every year.

"Without money there will be deal in Copenhagen," Hedegaard said underlining that the world cannot afford a failure in the climate change negotiations to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

Delegates felt that there should be a "special mechanism under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for technology transfer, development and deployment, supported by a special fund, with periodic assessment of performance, and a mechanism to oversee the functioning of the IPR regime for climate and development goals," Ramesh said.

PTI



## Facebook unveils option to let friend know of online bullying

The social networking site says the reporting option allows members to alert someone in their support system, like parents or teachers, to the problem so that online behaviour is linked to "real world consequences"

**London:** Facebook users can now tell a "trusted friend" if they feel they are being bullied or harassed online, thanks to a new option introduced by the popular social networking site.

Facebook has said that its reporting option allows members to alert someone in their support system, like parents or teachers, to the problem so that online behaviour is linked to "real world consequences".

"Often the best way of sorting offensive content is for friends to flag those things to each other. In the real world you have a sense of when you need to escalate something to the right organisation.

"If someone is calling you names, it might not be appropriate to go directly to the police," the 'Daily Mail' quoted

Facebook's director of European Policy Richard Allan as saying.

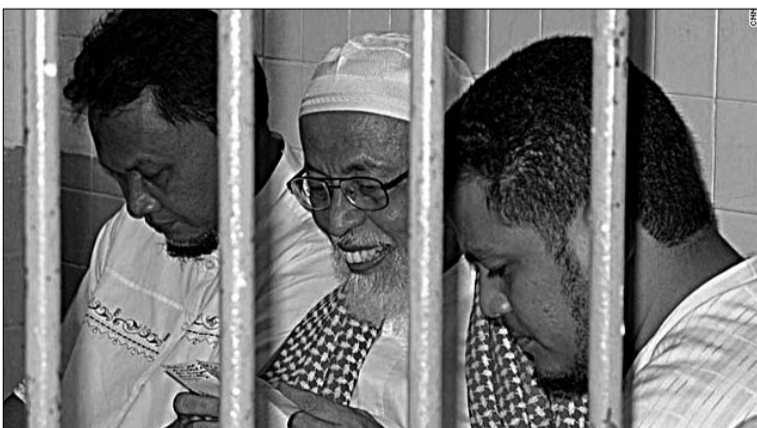
However, the social networking site said users would be put in contact with police or suitable organisations in the event of more serious concerns.

Screenshots of the new safety options reveal that users could, for example, select a tick box that says a new photo is "harassing or bullying me".

The user can choose to block the person who posted the offending material but can also "Get help from a trusted friend", with the option to send a message to a friend or person of responsibility.

The website also confirmed it was simplifying the language of its safety centre and adding more multimedia material to make the site safer and easier to use.

## Indonesia to proceed with radical cleric's terror trial



Jakarta, Indonesia An Indonesian court ruled Thursday that prosecutors can proceed with their case against a radical Indonesian cleric who has been indicted on seven terrorism charges.

The South Jakarta District Court rejected the defense's argument that the court had no authority to try Abu Bakar Bashir.

Bashir could face the death penalty under the charges, which include planning and/or inciting a terrorist act and involvement in a paramilitary training camp discovered last year in Indonesia's Aceh province.

He will be back in court Monday, when prosecutors will begin questioning 138 witnesses.

A large security presence ringed the courthouse ahead of the court's ruling Thursday.

Bashir was first detained in August for suspected links to the militant training camp, which was raided by authorities in Aceh in early 2010.

Police said the suspect and his organization, the Jamaat Tawhid Anshoru or JAT, were involved in setting up the camp.

The militants were preparing to launch attacks similar to the one in Mumbai,

India, in 2008, along with assassination attempts on Indonesian government officials, authorities allege.

But Bashir's lawyers have called the case weak and a fabrication.

This will be his third trial. In the first two, prosecutors tried to link the elderly cleric to the 2002 bombings in Bali and the 2003 hotel bomb attack in Jakarta. The courts found him guilty of minor charges, and sentenced him to 25 months. He was released in June 2006.

A member of Bashir's legal team said last month the prosecution has a weak case.

"It seems they have the same evidence as before so we're confident our client will be acquitted," said attorney Adnan Wirawan.

Bashir is known for his fiery rhetoric. He was accused of being the spiritual leader of Indonesia's homegrown terror network, Jemaah Islamiyah, which inspired many of those involved in the bombings.

He has denied all the allegations and has often said a U.S.-led conspiracy wants to put him behind bars.

AGENCIES

## The 13-year-old tree ambassador

**New York (CNN):** It's not every day that a 13-year-old boy gets a chance to address the United Nations General Assembly. But Felix Finkbeiner is no ordinary teenager.

Finkbeiner is already the head of his own organization, Plant for the Planet, dedicated to planting millions of trees all around the world.

At the U.N. earlier this month, Finkbeiner had one item on his agenda: taking adults to task for their lack of action on planting trees.

In the normally staid U.N., Finkbeiner had a field day telling off a group of adults. His message to the diplomats was simple: "stop talking and start planting."

Finkbeiner warned the countries that disappearing trees would create a climate crisis for children's future.

"We children understand that the adults know everything about these crises, but we children don't understand why there's so little action," he said.

Plant for the Planet was founded in, of all places, a fourth grade classroom in his native Germany.

A presentation Finkbeiner gave in class about Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, who planted 30 million trees in Kenya, inspired the movement.

But Finkbeiner believes this tree crusade can only be successful if it is led by children.

"We children are the majority in the world but we can only make a difference if we work together. So we have to work together because if we do this, we can have a big impact," he says.

This tree-planting campaign has already had an impact worldwide. Finkbeiner says there are 100,000 children participating in 91 countries with 3.5 million trees planted.

Maathai, who also addressed the U.N.



on the same occasion, was impressed with Finkbeiner's success.

"It is an indication of the kind of inspiration and hope we should all have because when they start this young with the conviction and the commitment, then you know definitely there's hope."

After her speech, Maathai and Finkbeiner shared some tree talk and a hug in the hall.

Later on further uptown, Finkbeiner addressed an entire audience of teens at a New York City middle school. His speech was a battle cry to his peers. "It's not about saving the polar bear. It's about saving our future."

Finkbeiner offered the students, who rarely see trees in the concrete jungle of Manhattan, some suggestions on planting trees.

He encouraged the students to organize

tree-planting parties in their community. Twitter and Facebook could be used to spread the word on tree events, Finkbeiner told the curious group of youngsters.

For those seeking even more sophisticated means of getting news out, Finkbeiner offered tips on writing press releases.

Jonathan Mejia, a student who attended the presentation, left feeling inspired to "go out with a couple of my friends to a park and plant a lot of trees in a common area that everyone goes, like maybe Central Park."

This is exactly the kind of momentum Finkbeiner hopes to inspire in children around the world.

"We cannot trust that the adults alone will save our future," the young tree ambassador says. "We have to take our future in our own hands."