NEWS & VIEWS

Readymade Hydroelectric Projects to be Offered Through SPV

The Government of India proposes to float a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) - a joint venture company - with state-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) to prepare a shelf of hydroelectric power projects with all statutory clearances. These projects would then be offered for development by either private developers or the state-owned companies.

The proposed 50 : 50 joint venture between Power Ministry and PFC would be designated as Power Development Corporation (PDC) to ensure completion of detailed survey, investigation, necessary studies in a pre-determined schedule with the help of renowned consultants in hydroelectric sector.

The PDC would ensure preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) including accurate cost estimates, specification and designs to make the projects bankable attract prospective investors. The SPV would be assigned the task of securing both central and state government clearances, acquire land and carry out the pre-construction activities to achieve zero-date for the projects. These projects would then be offered to private and state-owned companies through bilateral negotiations and no bidding would be done at international level.

The Power Ministry proposes to offer nine major hydroelectric projects for immediate development by the proposed SPV, Power Development Corporation. The projects include Rampur hydroelectric project (535 MW), Kol (800 MW), Karchham Wangtoo (1000 MW), Suni (1050 MW) all in Himachal Pradesh, Tipaimukh (1500 MW) in Manipur, Tuivai (210 MW) in Mizoram, Kameng - 600 MW, Rangandi-II - 160 MW (both in Arunachal Pradesh) and Lower Kopli - 150 MW in Assam.

The Power Ministry apparently seeks to make the SPV a non-government joint venture in order to circumvent the regulations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) in appointment of the Chairman, Managing Director, Directors and the supporting staff down the lane.

-Source: The Hindustan Times, Feb. 26, 1999

Super Computer PARAM 10000 in Top Academic Institutions of India

The Department of Electronics has decided to install the PARAM Super Computers at twelve top academic and research institutions in India free of cost. C-DAC (Centre for development of Advanced Computing at Pune, India) has developed PARAM Super Computer ranging from mega FLOP to giga FLOP and up to tera FLOP (1,000 billion floating operations per second).

PARAM 10000 is 3 times faster than Cray Super Computers of U.S.A. C-DAC will also be selling application software packages with these super computers according to need of the user organisations. C-DAC is selling Super Computer Pentium in just a few lacs of rupees. Their mission is to help engineers and researchers to analyse mega problems (such as 3D non-linear analysis of complex underground openings and dams for hydroelectric projects; 3D analysis of tectonic movements of plates, faults and thrusts in Himalaya; remote sensing and image processing on Himalayas scale, earthquake data forecasting etc.)

-Source: Indian Express, May 2, 1999

Coir Geotextiles: Saves Soil, Saves Earth

Before our very eyes, day in and day out, the environment is being degraded. And soon enough, before we realize it, Mother Earth will die a slow and painful death. Fortunately she can be saved.

Available in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and designs, this eco-friendly product commonly known as Coir Geotextiles (the biodegradable, woven and non-woven natural fibre blanket) is gradually becoming indispensable for a wide range of applications. Soil erosion control, slope stabilization, embankment protection, shoreline protection, soil bio-engineering, geo-technical and civil engineering works, mine spoil rehabilitation, watershed management, landscaping and agro/horticultural applications, to name just a few.

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-Source: The Hindustan Times, June 5, 1999

Some Tips To Mitigate Earthquake Hazards

a. *During Earthquakes*

- Do not loose balance of mind. Move to an open area away from buildings, if possible.
- If it is not possible to move into the open area, stand below the doorway or get under tables/desks. Stay away from projections of floors, parapets, balcony etc., which are prone to fall or may collapse.
- Switch off power supply to avoid short-circuiting fires.

- Do not light up gas burners, stoves or other fires to avoid gas leakage catching fire.
- Stay away from brittle items like glass panes, framed pictures pottery, as brittle items are likely to break into pieces. Do not lean against electricity supply poles, transmission towers or structures of switchyards to avoid possible electric shocks.
- If travelling in a car or automobile, ask the driver to stop till seismic vibrations stop. It would be difficult to control the vehicle during earthquakes. Make the driver stop the vehicle in some gear and not leave it in neutral gear.

b. *Immediately After the Earthquake*

- Ensure ready availability of First Aid material. Extend wholehearted cooperation on relief operations.
- Get vaccinated voluntarily against possible epidemics. Do not spread rumors.
- Use economically essential consumables like water, food, fuels etc.
- Inform nearby offices of local authorities and other social service organisations. These resourceful institutions can send message to all agencies responsible for and capable of rendering relief to people affected by earthquake disaster.

-Excerpts from the presidential address of Dr. V.H. Joshi,
Source:- ISET News Letter, July-Oct., 1999

Environment

Water vision

In June 1996, the World Water Council was established in France as the International Water Policy Think Tank, its main objective being policy impact to improve fresh water management. During the First World Water Forum, organised together with the Government of Morocco in Marrakech in March 1997, the council was mandated to 'launch a three-year initiative of study, consultation and analysis that will lead to a global Vision for Water, Life and the Environment'.

With the financial support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), the Council was able to prepare a Framework for developing the vision that was presented during the recently held International Conference on Water and Sustainable development (Paris, March 1998). As part of the preparatory phase, two Task Manager Meetings, one in Delft on November 28, 1997 and one in

Marseilles on February 6, 1998, as well as a Stakeholders Consultation in Delft on February 23 and 24, 1998 were organised. The Council is now concentrating on launching the Vision as we consider it a major challenge to successfully present the first results in March 2000 at the Second World Water Forum in the Hague.

A vision for the next century: Goals and values

Where do we want to be in the year 2010, 2020 or 2050? While the notion of a sustainable world may accommodate a diversity of views, we might agree that we would like our grandchildren and great-grandchildren to inherit a world, 30 years hence, in which:

- there is a stable peace, a world in which wars are no longer seen as acceptable methods for conflict management.
- the quality of life is improving, both socially and materially, absolute poverty and malnutrition are eradicated, and access to information and education is universal.
- the quality of the human environment is improving , with pollution under control, critical environmental resources recovering , and the human impact on the global climate reduced.
- inequality between poor and rich, both within and among countries and regions is diminished;
- people have the opportunity to educate and develop themselves to the best of their abilities, regardless of gender, race or class.
- disputes over water are solved.
- human solidarity is stronger at family, community and global levels , and
- global population growth is stabilised.

This vision reflects widely held values in which water plays an important role. The goals are closely linked, yet achieving them will require not only integration within the water sector, but reaching out to all the other sectors of society. Improving the quality of life, for example, requires arranging a world economy in which the global population growth stabilises and access to water, food, a healthy environment, security and education is universal.

A new approach

Hence, providing for economic growth to raise standards of living without increasing pollution, irreversibly degrading the environment, and accelerating climate change requires a new approach to addressing water issue in the planning of economic development, industrial processes and modern lifestyles.

First and foremost, we must foster a strong political commitment associated with representative stakeholders' participation. Selection of representative stakeholders is difficult but essential to ensure not only that their views are taken into account, but also that the process of preparing the Vision is perceived as assuring equity, transparency and fairness, and hence that the options proposed are sustainable.

The new approach will need to be tailored to the situations and constraints facing individual countries and regions. Many of the countries with limited renewable water resources are in the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where populations are growing fastest. Elsewhere, water scarcity may be less of a problem at the national level but is nevertheless severe in many areas such as in northern China, western and southern India, western South America, and large parts of Pakistan and Mexico. For some countries, such as those in Europe, pollution and groundwater over-dependency is the largest problem affecting water resources. In much of Africa, implementation capacity is a critical issue exacerbated by the frequency of prolonged droughts. In some countries, water resources management is not yet significant problem. These difference among regions and countries will shape the design of policies and strategies for a given country (from Long Term Vision for Water, Life & Environment by World Water Council).

Programme for Atmospheric Environment

Atmospheric environmental problems are increasingly critical for industrialising nations in the developing world Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission in developing countries continue to rise as urban, industrial, and transportation sectors grow, largely based on fossil fuel energy. Dependence on natural resources underlines the need for developing nations to acquire tools and methodologies that will enable them to incorporate concerns about climate into policy plans for sustainable resource use. Air pollution problems, including acidic deposition, have become an increasingly consequential issue for the developing world: for example, twelve of the fifteen most polluted cities in the world are found in Asia. Global atmospheric transfer models indicate that if emissions rise as they are projected to do over the next decades, levels of acidic deposition similar to those found in Europe and North America are likely to become widespread. In addition, the use of ozone depleting substances (ODS) is rapidly growing in developing countries although until recently it has been most widespread in developing countries. As world-wide consumption of chloroflurocarbons (CFCs) falls due to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone, the share of developing countries to overall consumption of CFCs increases rapidly. China is now one of the largest CFC consumers in the world.

Many developing countries are signatories to or involved in International agreements, protocols and conventions such as the Montreal Protocol and the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, these nations have limited financial, human, technical and institutional resources to respond to their obligation in meeting these international agreements.

In 1992, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), granted responsibility to the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) to manage, develop, and monitor the projects in *the Atmospheric Environmental Issues in Developing Countries Programme* (first initiated in 1990 by Sida). This is an International effort to promote new co-operation concerning trans-border environmental issues between developed and developing countries. This programme fits within the context of Sida's commitment to catalyse action on environmental issues by providing resources to developing nations.

The objective of the programme is to enhance the capacity of developing countries to participate locally and regionally in programme and activities to resolve atmospheric environmental problems and to increase and facilitates the participation and involvement of developing countries in international initiatives and negotiations. The programme is concerned with three key themes:

- Phasing Out Ozone Depleting Substances : CFC use and control
- Global Climate Change: adaptation methodology and control of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Acidic Depositions and Effects

The programme addressed the three main issues through a number of projects. All these projects are linked by a common theme of problem analysis, strategic action, and capacity building. It is the goal of the atmospheric Environment Issues in Developing Countries Programme to creatively engage researchers and policy makers from the developing and developed worlds in cooperation. The specific components of the programme involve over time, as developing countries take ownership of on-going processes of research, dialogue, and policy-making.

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-Source: AGID's South & West Asian Geoscience Newsletter, Nov. 1998

10 global groups short-listed for NHPC Joint Venture

Ten International consortia involving companies from 15 countries have been short-listed for joint venture partnership with state owned National Hydro-electronic Power Corporation (NHPC) to take up new hydroelectric projects.

Statkraft (Norway), Skanska (Sweden), ABB (Switzerland), Electricite De de (Portugal) and Public Sector Engineering Group (PSEG) of US are in the reckoning singularly.

Apart from them, at least five consortia are in the race. Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation (SMEC) of Australia has tempted up with Lighten Asia where as Delhi-based Jai Prakash Industries has collaborated with Hydro-Quebec and SNC (both based in Canada) seeking to promote hydroelectric projects with NHPC. Gammon India along with Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL), Voith-ABB-NCC (Sweden)-Synergies (US) - imbroglio (Italy); Voest Alpine Tech - V.A. Elin of Austria are also serious contenders for hydroelectric business in India.

The NHPC has ambitious plans to develop a large hydroelectric potential in the country by setting up projects worth 44,000 MW investment involved. This is sought to be done in next two decades, according to prospective plan of NHPC.

-Source: The Hindustan Times, May 9, 1999

Superman - Part Man and Part Machine

God created man in his own image says the Bible. Did He consider the possibilities of Cybernetics? We shall never know, a professor at Reading University in England had reportedly become the world's first cyborg - part man, part machine. He has a silicon chip implanted in his forearm, which opens doors for him, switches on his computer and greets him with a recorded message. It is programmed to brief him on the mail waiting for him and his schedule for the day. The professor's objective is to demonstrate how man and technology can interact effectively, for that is what cybernetics is all about. The data encoded on his chip detects his position via censors and projects it on screens in the departmental network so that he can be located easily. According to reports, this is just the beginning. In a few years 'time, chips will be made with all sorts of information on them, which will be useful in money transfers, driving licenses, passports and medical records. If implanted in the body, they would not be stolen, or lost. The possibilities are eliminate many nagging problems. For forgetful people, this will be a blessing.

-Source: IEI News, Vol. 48 (N), Jan. 1999

World's Tallest Skyscraper

Burno Grollo's wish to build the world's tallest building has been granted by the Melbourne state Government and the State's Dockland Authority on two conditions: the Australian developer's company, Grallo Tower Pty Ltd., must prove it has enough financial backing for the $1.5 billion project and the

Australian Federal Government must determine that the 560 m tall tower will not disrupt air traffic. When completed, probably in 2005, the building will be 100m taller than the World Financial Centre, in Shanghai, China which is on hold because of financial problems and almost 110 m taller than the Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, currently the world's tallest buildings.

Local architects Denton Corker Marshell Pty Ltd (DCM) and structural engineers Bonacci Winward Pty Ltd designed the building, which will be a slender, tapering obelisk that will measure more than 100 m on each side of its square base. The tower's glazing will cantilever 2m beyond the supporting structure at each of the four corners to accommodate glass observation elevators, according to DCM project architects.

The tower will be supported by four sets of reinforced concrete twin-corner columns and a central concrete and steel core. Two-storey-deep outrigger trusses every 20 stories will tie the façade to the core. The lowest floor on the tower will be 35 m above ground, leaving room for an urban park below. The 30m deep excavation for the building's substructure will be 115 m wide at surface level, tapering to a width of 60 m at the bottom. The eight corner columns and the central core will continue underground and sink 5 m into sandstone bedrock. The basement space will serve as a 1700 space-parking garage. The building's height could require a 5.5km clearance for aircraft, according to Melbourne airport officials. Air services Australia is reviewing the plans and making the final determination on its impact to air traffic. The building is so tall that the stories above 450 m will be obscured by clouds at times. The tower will also sway about 1 m in high winds, according to project architects. Rubber pads at the buildings base will dampen wind effects, so inhabitants won't feel the building moving, said Nat Bonacci, project Structural Engineer with Bonacci Winward Pty Ltd.

-Source: Civil Engineering, Feb 1999
(IEI News, April 1999)

Affordable Solar Power

With the WEC's prediction of a 75 per cent growth in the energy demand by the year 2020, it seems that using the sun's energy will come in for increased attention in the next millennium. Scientists have estimated that the sun provides enough power in 44 minutes to meet the entire planet's demand for a year. The solar power - the nature's free gift-which is available all year round in most developing countries, has enormous potential to generate of electricity mostly from coal emits 'greenhouse gases' which contribute to the global warming. But the catch here is how to transform solar power into electricity at a reasonable cost.

Solargen, a British company based in Cambridge, eastern England, has developed a system which in some ways is similar to the world's most advanced solar-powered plants, can be installed at village level, can generate electricity at

relatively low cost, and is suitable for the remotest village in developing countries. The energy industry is increasingly realising that it does not make sense to generate electricity in one place and then transport it across miles of expensive cabling. Solargen's system can supply power to where it is needed: village, hospital, hotel or a whole city. It uses fixed concave mirrors to trap and concentrate the sun's heat. The heated air, which can be as hot as 1000 degreed Celsius, is sucked into the system to drive a conventional gas turbine, which generates electricity. The electricity can continue to be generated on cloudy days and also during the night. The system could be used for the air-conditioning of buildings and also for the desalination of water.

-Source: BCN, September-October 1999
(IEI News Dec. 1999)

Fuzzy Thinking

A solution has a way of bubbling up aid of your subconscious if you brood about a problem long enough. All Ideas come from other (past) ideas. A large number of creative ideas have come to me as I soaked in a hot tub after hard (exercise) work out. Almost none have come to me in a formal office. Creativity and responsibility don't mix. Most of us walk in the other direction (Buddha walked from riches to beggar or from more needs to less needs. Happiness is in mind and not in objects).

If (birth of) life has fuzzy boundary, so does death. The heart stops and then it starts again. The brain wares fall flat and then they ripple again.

A fuzzy weighted average can approximate your choice. Your choice depends on complex and non-linear processing in your brain. At a high level it looks like a fuzzy weighted average on the centre of mass of a curve (approximately).

Future generations may not die by disease or decay. Accidents may kill them and then smart swarms of (molecular machines) nanobots may fix them.

Swarms of nanobots in the air might eat pollutants and acid rain and keep ozone layer strong. In water they may eat poisons. It will come to pass and there is a reason for this.

-Bart Kosko (1994) Fuzyz Thinking, Flamingo

India can adopt Grameen (Villagers) Bank model of empowering women through micro credit

Dr. Muhammad Yunus recipient of the Indira Gandhi Award for Peace, Disarmament and Development in the year 1999, gave an innovative dimension to

banking for the poor in Bangladesh through the setting up of the Grameen (Villagers) Bank. In 1976, when he was teaching economics at the University in Chittagong, seeing the poor paying high interest rates for small loans in order to make bamboo stools, he got the idea of lending to them himself, without any collateral. He later borrowed from banks to lend to the poor and helped dispel the myth that the poor are not bankable or credit-worthy. Since the banks did not trust the poor as borrowers, Dr. Yunus set up the Grameen Bank in 1985. The Bank has expanded greatly since then, with 1,142 branches now covering 39,501 villages and around 2.4 million members. In international circles, the Bank is now considered an example worth emulating in any poor country. In this interview with Ms. Jayshree Sengupta, Dr. Yunus elaborates on his experiences and the tasks ahead.

Last year, our loans amounted to $400 million and we now have 13,000 people on our staff. Ninety five percent of the Grameen borrowers are women. The Grameen Bank did not go into other companie. My friends and I have however, set up a number of companies. We set up Grameen Udyog because we saw the terrible situation of handloom weavers who remain the poorest. An idea struck us that we could market their products in the UK and US because they were beautiful handloom items. We called the company Grameen Check we take orders and provide the yarn, dyes and designs and the weavers carry out the specification.
We also saw that flannel had a bigger market abroad so we set up another company: Grameen Flannel. We also started Grameen Phone a joint venture company with Telenor of Norway. The idea is to run it like a commercial company and we provide cell phones to the 'telephone lady' of the village. Many of these women had never seen a telephone nor electricity but she has adapted to it fast country codes, area codes etc. So she is now a respectable person in the village. In this way, technology had leapfrogged and has come to Bangladesh villages. About 1,000 villages are connected like this and telephone brings information, contacts with doctors, colleagues, relatives.

Last time you told me that the next step would be the Internet. Have you been successful in this ?

We have started it in one village and it finds one use E-mail. But the problem is that of language. The villagers have found a solution. They write Bangla in Roman alphabets. We are now adding educational and computer games. It will help overcome the fear of computers.

Is it spreading education?

We are exploring the potential if it can be done in a self-sustained way and pays for itself. We also have an Internet company Grameen Cybernet and also Grameen Software. Grameen Shakti provides solar energy for telephones through

solar panels. We also have the Grameen Securities and Management Company. The ultimate idea is to make the Grameen women borrowers the owners of these companies so that when they grow old they will not have to depend on their children. They will have a portfolio of assets, which will be like their old age pension, and if they need money they could disinvest and get ready cash. We have another company: Grameen Fund which is a social venture capital to help the poor, like in a loan for a lathe operator to start his own business.

How many lives have the Grameen Bank touched and transformed and has it helped in reducing poverty?

We have 2.4 million borrower families, which multiplied by five makes it 10 million people, and then we have the other companies. Reducing poverty levels has been a slow task but we are happy that it is not increasing. Poverty reduction is taking time because of impediments like the natural disaster last year (1998). Unusual floods went on for 10 weeks, which stretched the sustainability of the people. They could not go back for months and those who were coming out of poverty were pushed back into it because they lost their homes and assets. Grameen Bank also suffered.

In the Human Development Report on South Asia, the fertility rate in Bangladesh has gone down dramatically (from 6.7% to 3.2% between 1960-1997). Do you attribute it to the empowerment of women?

Studies have shown that millions of women are thinking differently from the traditional ways these days. Grameen families adopting family planning practice are twice as high as the national average. The number of children per Grameen family is also lower which shows that the decision making powers of women in investment, social issues and participation in elections is increasing.

Are you also into educating women and teaching them skills?

We encourage our borrowers to send their children to school. And 100% of them are in school now. Grameen provides funding for their higher education. We are helping in skills like livestock management and we are into creating awareness on health issues in workshops. We have a big problem of arsenic in water, which needs filtration and there is also the need to go deeper into the ground to search for drinking water.

What is the lesson for India from Grameen Bank in Poverty alleviation?

One way is to empower women and through micro credit, address the problem because it works in an active way. There is need for some organizational group like a five member group and each group has to have a leader. It helps in opening

up the capacity of a person. It is also important to create a micro credit fund, which is a wholesale fund, which NGOs can access. In Bangladesh, it has been successful and about 160 NGOs borrow from it. In India, there can be hundreds of such foundations that can provide money to local NGOs. It is better than channeling (credit) from Centre downwards.

What do you think of the governments' (both countries) income generation programmes?

Governments should not do such programmes because they create bureaucracies, which become self-serving and defeat the purpose for which they are created. The best way is to create market entities that are doing things in a self-sustaining way.

Should the government then provide infrastructure?

Absolutely, with legal and policy support. Micro credit will also generate employment because when a person takes loans she is doing it for herself. Of course, for marketing and other needs, difference companies have been created.. Grameen can not do everything. The main obstacle is government and the old mindset, the government is thinking in a traditional way--poverty alleviation in which the poor are regarded as helpless - 'must give them handouts'. But anything that comes as a handout does not reach the poor. It dries out and (instead) a lot of fake things are created--even fake poor! Any handout is a one way traffic and can be spent for consumption but with a loan, a person becomes responsible. In such a situation (handouts and subsidies), corruption emerges.

-Source: The Hindustan Times Nov.21, 1999

The Buddha of Welfare Economics - *Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen (Bharat Ratna)*

Economist Robert Solow, a previous Nobel winner, calls you "the conscience of our profession."

I don't know exactly what that phrase means. My work has focused on society's underdogs, on the downside of economics. My concentration has not been the successful enterprises. It has been common people: peasants, workers, the poor, the unemployed, the downtrodden, the hungry, famine victims, people whose liberties are violated, all those who are in difficulty. Bob Solow feels that's the direction in which economics ought to go, so I think he's praising me for that.

Did you set out to work on underdogs?

When I was young, I had tension about what I wanted to do. Initially, it was between Sanskrit and Mathematics - my grandfather was a Sanskritist - I did 11 years of Sanskrit. I am proud that I don't have to read Indian philosophy or Sanskrit literature in translation. I was involved with mathematics in school. In college, I was interested in Mathematics and physics, then Mathematics and economics. The move was influenced by my political concerns. I thought economics worth studying in order to do something about the deprivation, poverty and exploitation that occurs across the world. So, yes, working with underdogs was the principal reason for moving to economics. It was connected with my left-wing political beliefs.

You once said you were a Buddhist.

I am not a card-carrying Buddhist (Laughs heartily). Years ago, when I tried to register myself as an atheist in Shantiniketan, my headmaster insisted that I had to choose a religion. I chose Buddhism because it is an agnostic religion. There were of course no Buddhists within 300 miles! I admire Buddha as the greatest Indian ever. No one else's thought matches his - not Tagore's not Gandhi's not all our greatest writers. That depth of understanding in the 6th century B C is dramatic. In the three apocryphal stories that characterise his thoughts - the ill person suffering, the old person reduced by age, and the dead man being carried to cremation - Buddha was asking himself, what kind of life is that? These are problems we all face. For many of us it's also the impetus for our work. What better statement of human development than countering illness, the problem of old age, and the problem of premature, unnecessary mortality? Buddha's name itself indicates enlightenment, it emphasises education and understanding. The quest for enlightenment, the understanding that you can transform the world by rational thinking and cool analysis goes powerfully back to Buddha. His personality combined with his concern about deprivation, death, illness, old age, enlightenment and with social intervention through good works - all account for my fondness for Buddha. He had great relevance then, he remains relevant today.

-Extract from an Interview with Vibhuti Patel
-Source: Times of India

Grief

Grief knits two hearts in closer bonds than happiness ever can, and common suffering is a far stronger link than common joy.

-Alphonse De Lamartine

- Most of the ecological crises ..... will be resolved by the end of 21st century either by man's reason or nature's indifference.

-E. O. Wilson et al. (1977)
The Life on Earth, W B Sanders

Start every day in positive mood

Don't start your day with negative thoughts. The news paper is enough to depress any one. But remember, there is still a lot of good left in this world. The news paper reports the 'bad' news because that is what is the exception and hence makes news. If majority of the people on earth were bad, then good news would be news.

Remember, for every Hitler there is a Mother Teresa. Start your day right with positive thoughts.

And yes, make sure you enlist God's help by starting your day with a prayer.

-Rajendra Pillai
Better Yourself Books, 1996

- When a dog bites a man that is not news, but when a man bites a dog that is news.

-John B. Bogart