



The New Indian Express

Thursday, December 29, 2011

'Water is Source of Energy in Future'

Express News Service

Bangalore: Eminent Scientist and Honorary President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research C N R Rao has said that water is going to be the future source of energy.

"There is an emergent need to convert water into hydrogen and oxygen to use it as energy. Research needs to be conducted on a large scale in this field to use that energy as fuel to run cars and aeroplanes. We are currently working on this project," he said while speaking at a two-day national conference on 'Recent Advances in Chemical and Environmental Sciences' which was inaugurated at Jain University on Wednesday.

Pointing out that the US government has provided \$120 million towards this research, Prof Rao said, "Storage of inorganic carbon would pose a significant threat in the future. There is

a need to find new ways of storing carbon. A new element that absorbs carbon has to be found out or we should explore ways to convert inorganic carbon into organic carbon."

He also noted that the ways proposed by America for the disposal of inorganic carbon is destructive.

Referring to research papers in science, he said, "We are way behind Russia and China in science. Of the total number of research papers presented, US tops the list with 17 per cent followed by China with 13.5 per cent."

In the next two years, China will surpass US and will occupy the top slot in presenting research papers. He also said that the quality matters more than quantity. In the next five-year plan, the frontiers of chemistry must be increased, he observed.

He regretted that most engineering students end up taking jobs in banking, marketing and other fields.