



for a living planet®

ENVIS NEWSLETTER



WWF-India

ENVIS CENTRE on *NGOs & Parliament*

Volume no. 10

Issue No. 2

April - June, 2009

Content

	Pg.No.
E-Governance	2
Activities carried out by various Environmental NGOs	4
Parliament and the Environment	7
Environment and the Government	9
Statistical & Graphical Representation of Parliamentary Discussions on Environment	13
Events on Environment	16
Environmental Calender	18
ENVIS Centre's Ist Advisory Committee	19

From the Director's Desk....

Dear Readers,

This newsletter for the quarter April-June, 2009 has been compiled by the ENVIS Centre of WWF India on the various environmental issues.

The information on the E-Governance has been given in the context of developing countries, & how it provides an excellent opportunity for improving governance and improving the quality of services provided by the government to its people.

The NGOs column highlights the activities carried out by NGOs in the field of Alternative Technologies, Climate Change, Energy Studies, Environment Conservation, Education, Forest Conservation, Pollution, Water Management and Wildlife Management.

The section on the Environment in Parliament & Government includes the initiatives taken by them for the protection of environment & media highlights during the period April- June, 2009.

Also recently the ENVIS Centre of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India has released the 3rd edition of 'Environment in the Indian parliament: An analysis 2007, on the eve of World Environment Day this year on 5th June, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

We hope the information provided in this issue would be useful to voluntary groups, government agencies, educational institutions, researchers & all those actively engaged in environmental conservation.

Dr. G. Areendran
Director, ENVIS Programme
WWF-India

ENVIS Director
Dr. G. Areendran

ENVIS Team
Rajeev Kumar
Sandeep Kumar
Preeti Bathla
Ranjeet Bisht

Contributes :
Kanchan Puri
Shivani Agarwal
Amit Goswami
Valerie M. Monteiro
Bhumika Agarwal
Reshu Tomar

Dr. G. Areendran
Director-ENVIS Programme, WWF-India

Dr. Prakash Rao
Sr. Programme Coordinator
Climate Change & Energy

Dr. Dipankar Ghose
Head - Eastern Himalaya and Terai Arc

Editorial Board

Mr. Kiran Rajashekariah
Sr. Coordinator,
Policy & Programme Development

Ms. Moulika Arabhi
Programme Coordinator,
Centre for Environmental Law

Published by: ENVIS Centre, WWF-India

172-B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi - 110 003 Tel: + 91-11 - 41504793/4791, Fax: +91-11-41505779/4795/24691226

E-mail: gareendran@wwfindia.net , wwfindia@envis.nic.in

All queries, feedback and further details regarding the specific subjects/environmental issues are invited from individuals, organizations and institutions etc.



जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहाँ है खुशहाली।।

Supported By Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Government of India



Printed By : India Enterprises : 9810559753 Designed By : Sanjay Sharma : 9891056084

Photo Credit : Dr. G. Areendran

India is a developing country with great diversity across culture, tradition, language, geography and the economic condition of the people. India has large number of people who are below the minimal socio-economic level. Governments have committed themselves to addressing groups, but effective implementation of economic development programmes for these groups is not that successful.

The emergence of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has provided faster and better communication, storage, retrieval and processing of data with exchange and utilization of information to its users. As far as governments are concerned, computerization and internet connectivity promises faster and better processing of information leads to better decision making, greater reach and accountability, better utilization of resources and overall good governance.

E-Governance, in the context of developing countries, provides an excellent opportunity for improving governance because it has a strategic tool for transforming Governance and improving the quality of services provided by the government to its people.

E-Governance or 'electronic governance' is basically the application of Information and Communications Technology to the processes of Government functioning in order to bring about 'Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent' (SMART) governance.

The Government approved the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), comprising of 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) and 8 components, on **May 18, 2006**.

E-Governance provides with

- (a) Exchange of information with citizens, businesses or other government departments
- (b) Speedier and more efficient delivery of public services
- (c) Improving internal efficiency
- (d) Reducing costs / increasing revenue
- (e) Re-structuring of administrative processes and
- (f) Improving quality of services

Governance refers to the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority in the management of a country's affairs, including citizens. e-Governance may be understood as the performance of this governance via *the electronic medium in order to facilitate an efficient, speedy and transparent process of disseminating information to the public, and other agencies, and for performing government administration activities.*

The Government of India started the use of IT in the government in the right earnest by launching number of initiatives. First the Government approved the **National E-Governance Action Plan** for implementation during the year 2003-2007. The plan is an attempt to lay the foundation and provide impetus for long-term growth of e-governance within the country. It proposed to create the right governance and institutional mechanisms at the center, state and local levels to provide a citizen centric and business centric environment for governance.

According to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, e-Governance in the Indian context to mean:

"A transparent smart e-Governance with seamless access, secure and authentic flow of information crossing the interdepartmental barrier and providing a fair and unbiased service to the citizen."

E-Governance proceeded through the following phases:

- (a) **Computerization:** The availability of personal computers, a large number of Government offices got equipped with computers.
- (b) **Networking:** Government organizations got connected for sharing of information and flow of data between different Government entities.
- (c) **On-line presence:** With increasing internet connectivity, resulted in maintenance of websites by government departments. Generally, these web-pages/web-sites contained information about the organizational structure, contact details, reports and publications, objectives and vision statements with respective to government.
- (d) **On-line interactivity:** The main aim at this stage was to minimize the scope of personal interface with government entities by providing downloadable Forms, Instructions, Acts, Rules etc.

E-Governance facilitates interaction between different stake holders in governance.

These interactions may be described as follows:

- **G2G (Government to Government)** this is to increase the flow of information and services within and between different government entities. This kind of interaction is only within the sphere of government and can be both horizontal i.e. between different government agencies as well as between different functional areas within an organization, and vertical i.e. between national, provincial and local government agencies as well as between different levels within an organization.

- **G2C (Government to Citizens)** This expands the availability and accessibility of public services and improves the quality of services. It gives citizens the choice to interact with the government i.e. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with the government service centre, unattended kiosk from workplace/home through internet, fax, telephone, email etc. The primary purpose is to make government, citizen-friendly.
- **G2B (Government to Business)** e-Governance tools are used to aid the business community providers of goods and services dealing with the government. The G2B initiatives can be transactional, such as in licensing, permits, procurement and revenue collection. They can also be promotional and facilitative, such as in trade, tourism and investment. These measures help to provide a congenial environment to businesses efficiently.
- **G2E (Government to Employees)** Government have the biggest employer like any organization, it has to interact with its employees on a regular basis. Use of ICT tools helps in making these interactions fast and efficient and increase satisfaction levels of employees.

E-Governance is expected that this would lead to:

- Better access to information and quality services for citizens such as forms, laws, rules, procedures etc. later extending to detailed information including reports (including performance reports), public database, decision making processes etc. The ultimate objective of e-Governance is to reach out to citizens by adopting a life-cycle approach i.e. providing public services to citizens which would be required right from birth to death.
- *Simplicity, efficiency and accountability in the government*, This leads to simplification of the functioning of government, enhanced decision making abilities and increased efficiency across government all contributing to an overall environment of a more accountable government machinery. This, in turn, would result in enhanced productivity and efficiency in all sectors.
- Expanded reach of governance rapid growth of communications technology and its adoption in governance would help in bringing government machinery to the doorsteps of the citizens. Expansion of telephone network, rapid strides in mobile telephony, spread of internet and strengthening of other communications infrastructure would facilitate delivery of a large number of services provided by the government.

Experiences from successes as well as the failures of the various initiatives played an important role in shaping the e governance strategy of the country. The basic lessons that emerged from the various e-Governance initiatives were:

- Need for political ownership at the highest level and a national vision for e-Governance for successful implementation of the programme;
- A dedicated /team with a stable tenure from within the organisation to conceptualise and implement the programme down the line;
- New areas of public-private partnership in making e-Governance possible should be continuously explored;
- Defined architecture, standards and policies addressing issues of security, privacy, etc.;
- An urgent need to develop the basic core and support infrastructure for e- Governance such as Data Centres, Wide Area Networks and the physical access points for delivery of government services, which would be common to all departments and where services could be delivered at the doorstep of the citizen in an integrated manner;
- Need to start with small pilots before scaling-up, as IT projects take a long time to implement and often there are modifications to be incorporated along the way; and
- Issues of re-engineering and management of change are of paramount importance in comparison to technical issues associated with e-Governance

E-Governance is not just about government web site and e-mail. It is not just about service delivery over the Internet. It is not just about digital access to government information or electronic payments. It will change how citizens relate to governments as much as it changes how citizens relate to each other. It will bring forth, new concepts of citizenship, both in terms of needs and responsibilities.

SOURCE:

- <http://www.mit.gov.in/>
- Monga, A. (2008). E-government in India: Opportunities and challenges, JOAAG, Vol. 3. No.2
- CAPACITY BUILDING FOR E-GOVERNANCE IN INDIA by S.R.Das & R.Chandrashekhar (Department of Information Technology)
- e-Government: From Vision to Implementation by Subash Bhatnagar; Sage Publications; 2004



Activities carried out by various NGOs

This section contains highlights of the activities carried out by various NGOs as reported by the print media during the quarter Apr-June, 2009 months in the field of Alternative Technologies, Climate Change, Energy Studies, Environment Conservation, Education, Forest Conservation, Pollution, Water Management and Wildlife Management.

Alternative Technologies

Charcoal from garden waste

Enviro-Vigil, thane based environmental organization set up the plant to convert its garden waste into charcoal. It is also contributing to lowering the burden on dumping grounds.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 11 April

Indus first in world to have 100,000 towers

Indus Towers along with **TERI** is exploring the possibility of integration of energy efficiency measures as well as renewable energy based supply for the reduction carbon emissions.

Source: BUSINESS STANDARD, New Delhi, 25 May

Climate Change

IN SINKING ISLANDS, HOPE FLOATS

Rising seawater levels, land erosion, saline fields, & if that wasn't enough, tigers for neighbours. For the people of Bali & Mousuni, tiny islands in the Sunder bans, every day brings new hardships. World Wildlife Fund For Nature (**WWF**) has now set up an early warnings centre at Mousuni. More importantly, WWF is now providing islanders with a more saline resistant paddy crop called tal mugur.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Chandigarh, 5 April

Tiger prey to rising waves

A recent study carried out on the tigers in Sunder bans by the US unit of **WWF** has predicted that the tiger population would significantly reduce as a direct fall out of climate change & corresponding rise in sea level.

Source: THE TELEGRAPH, Kolkata, 5 April

Climber to take climate message to Everest

A nepali high altitude guide will try to climb Mount Everest for a record 19th time this summer to highlight the consequences of climate change in Himalayas. This climb is backed up by the **WWF**.

Source: DNA, Mumbai 6 April

Global Warming to cost industrial nations \$100 bn per year

According to the international NGO **Greenpeace** the cost would be over \$100 bn a year upto 2020. Greenpeace criticized the Global Environmental Facility for the lack of transparency in disbursing the \$500 million which was meant to help the vulnerable countries adapt to climate change.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 7 April

TERI signs MoU to boost study of glaciers

To give impetus to the study of glaciers, **TERI** has signed

Memorandum of understanding with Indian Mountaineering Federation (IMF) for the necessary expertise required.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 9 April

Dell ties up with TERI for climate education initiative

IT giant **Dell**, in collaboration with **TERI** has launched an IT enabled initiative, Climate EduXchange. The initiative aims to create awareness about the global issues concerning climate change, by involving about 300 schools from six cities across the country.

Source: FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 30 April

Sensitizing students to climate change

As part of its "Low Carbon Future" initiative British council in collaboration with **Earth Matters Foundation** & Television for environment is launching 15 films on environment & climate change.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 1 May
THESE DAYS, New Delhi, 2 May

Competitors behind palm oil slurs industry

WWF & **Greenpeace** have called on Indonesia to curb deforestation & palm oil expansion, in regard to climate change.

Source: FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 4 June

New Book Explains Climate Change to children

Pachauri, was speaking at the launch of SOS: In Extreme Danger, an environment primer for children. The slim volume is part of a Save Planet Series of 10 books, published by Pearson Education & **TERI**.

Source: THE SENTINAL, Guwahati, 9 June

NGOs draft model climate treaty

In Bonn, **WWF** & six other major NGOs have unveiled a model Climate Treaty which sets out an approach to the pact that some 190 countries will sign in Copenhagen this December to succeed the Kyoto Protocol.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 10 June

Meltdown will trigger Himalayan crisis

The report from Columbia University's Centre for International Earth Science Information Network, the United Nations University & **CARE International** claims the melting of the glaciers, also known as 'Water Towers of Asia' will bring perils to poor section of India, China, Pakistan & other Asian countries.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 11 June
THE PIONEER, Lucknow, 26 June

Scientists to assess impact of climate change in state

TERI has been asked to assess the impact of climate change in

Mumbai, by Chief Minister Ashok Chavan.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 23 June

Energy Studies

Chandigarh looks to become a 'solar city' in a decade

If suitable measures are taken, UT can meet 20% power needs through solar energy by 2018: **TERI** report. The report has been prepared by The Energy & Resources Institute (**TERI**) or the Chandigarh Renewable Energy Science & Technology Promotion Society (**CREST**).

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Mumbai, 3 April

Environment Conservation

Environment takes a back seat

No politician has talked about the grazing policy & man- animal conflict. According to **Satpuda Foundation**, NGO working for forest conservation in central India, Politicians are deliberately delaying formation of eco sensitive zones around protected areas in the state.

Source: DNA, Mumbai 21 April

Bangalore protests destruction of green cover for Metro project

Green activists, NGO **Green Life** say they are not against Metro as it is important for mass public transport, but oppose cutting of tress. They wanted some other alternative to found.

Source: MAIL TODAY, New Delhi, 10 May

Green protest metro entering Yamuna Floodplain

A rally was organized by Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan activists that culminated at Yamuna Bank station, where a memorandum of protest was handed over to DMRC authorities.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 11 May

Sending out a green signal

British Council celebrates World Environment Day till 6 June based on the theme "Your Planet Needs You". There will also be Wildscreen Festival in which collections of films on wildlife & environment from across the world.

Source: The HINDU, Chennai, 4 June

Green initiatives seek to create awareness & inspire action

UN Information Centre is concluding its two day children's & people's interaction on water for life on at its New Delhi office today. Nokia India is partnering with Rotary Bangalore Midtown & Chennai based Ahimsa to plant 10,000 saplings.

Source: FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 5 June

Environment Education

Largest T-SHIRT unfolds the message for a green world

Reliance Trend made the T shirt to spread the message of green & clean world. This is organized in association with **Swechha**, NGO dedicated to environment education.

Source: ASIAN AGE, New Delhi, 10 April

Now, green books for children

In order to sensitize children about environment, create interest towards the need to preserve Mother Earth, **TERI** has joined hands to launch green books for children.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 7 May

Industrialists get tips on eco friendly operations

With an objective to acquaint the industry with the latest environment health & safety practices so as to ensure safer industrial operations, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Haryana state council organized workshop.

Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 20 May

Saving the Planet: Human Chain on World Environment Day

The Human Chain is an initiative of Proactive an eleven point model formulated at various workshops organized by UK based **World Council** for Corporate Governance & **World Environmental Foundation**. It is business model that minimizes carbon emissions.

Source: DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 4 June

World Environment Day observed at Baihata Chariali

Prakshalan, a leading NGO of the area observed World Environment Day celebrations.

There was also seminar on the topic "Role of students in conservation of Environment" was also observed.

Source: ASSAM TRIBUNE, Guwahati, 9 June

Environmental Concerns

Climate EduXchange programme initiated by **TERI- Dell** reaches out to students, teachers & the community in general, educating them on environmental awareness.

Source: NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, Chennai, 23 June

Forest Conservation

Shrinking Forest Cover

Many groups are working towards keeping it safe. Several groups like the Delhi University Students for Civic & Natural Environment (**DUSCNE**), Citizens for Preservation of Quarries & Lakes & Wilderness (**CPQLW**), Ridge Bachao Abhiyan, Chetna, Parivartan, Nyayabhoomi & Pani Morcha have been trying to save the ridge.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 2 April

Sixteen arrested for destroying mangroves

Following a PIL filed by the Bombay Environmental Action Group (**BEAG**) in 2005, the Bombay High Court had directed a freeze on the destruction of the mangroves in the state.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Mumbai, 5 April

Green manifesto to save Western Ghats

An initiative of Tamil Nadu Green Movement, Wildlife Association of Rajapalayam (WAR) & the Organization for Social Awareness & Illumination (OSAI), several NGOs has drafted a manifesto on the Western Ghats to garner the support of policy makers.

Source: NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, Chennai, 7 May

Forest certification benchmark hits Rajasthan woodcraft biz
To keep 1200 crore industry abreast in meeting the new criteria, **WWF INDIA** has recently launched a programme campaign known as Global Forest & Trade Network (GTFN), India & European Commission (EC) switch Asia Project.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 4 June

Pollution

A new way to clean up rivers, lakes

Bangalore based **Nualgi Nanobiotech** has devised a way to treat sewage & effluents through a patented product, called NuAlgi which not only cleans polluted waterbody but also adds nutrients to it.

Source: MINT, New Delhi, 22 April

Rs 1500 cr has already gone down the drain

To save the river there should be proper sewage facilities to growing population, said **Tapas**, NGO Director. According to **CSE** the govt. should first manage the infrastructure instead of creating more.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 21 May

CSE punches holes in Yamuna plan

The interceptor sewage system may not be the answer to clean Yamuna, even though the govt. is spending Rs 5000 crore on the entire project, revealed by **CSE**

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 25 May

Lokhandwala to cleanse mangroves

On the occasion of World Environment Day **WWF** & Lokhandwala Complex Environmental Action Group (LCEAG) has planned a cleanup drive at mangroves in the vicinity

Source: DNA, Mumbai, 2 June

MBA students at IP University on a green run to weed out plastic

The students started 'Go Green' Project- an idea that has its roots in the plastic ban enforced in the capital, and has tied up with three NGOs **Jan Shikshan Sansthan Prayas, Active Education Society & Family of the Disabled**.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 14 June

Greenpeace stir against GM rice

The **Greenpeace** raided a trail field of genetically modified rice of private multinational firm Bayer Crop Science, as in India GM rice trials had been banned since 2007.

Source: DECCAN HERALD, Hyderabad, 23 June

Water Management

Celebrating precious water through short films

Alliance Francaise of Madras is organizing 'Week of Water' from April 6 to 9 The short film festival was organized as part of environment month commemorated every year by Alliance Francaise.

Source: THE HINDU, Chennai, 1 April

Wildlife Management

Illegal Hornbill Trade Rise in India

The hornbill has become key target of poachers & illegal bird traders of late, reveals recent survey by **Traffic India**. It was found that it was in Nagaland & Arunachal Pradesh that the birds are poached most.

Source: MAIL TODAY, New Delhi 5 April

Early Birds organizes environment awareness campaign

The Early Birds, a wildlife protection & animal welfare organization organized a day long programme on environment awareness campaign.

Source: THE SENTINAL, Guwahati, 6 April

Kings of grasslands flying into the sunset

A report by the Bombay Natural History Society (**BNHS**) points out that the Great Indian Bustard is locally extinct from almost 90% of its former range. The danger extends even to migrant species houbara bustard.

Source: NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, CHENNAI, 11 April

Nano's Orissa port may sue Greenpeace

According to **Greenpeace**, the ongoing construction of the Dharma Port in Orissa, about 25km from Gahirmatha one of the two mass nesting sites of the rare Olive Ridley turtle is disturbing the habitat of the rare species.

Source: MIDDAY, New Delhi, 20 April

NGO celebrates Save the Frog Day

Voluntary organization **Help Earth** organized a day long programme in connection with the Save the Frog Day. It was aimed to create awareness about the ecological importance of frogs.

Source: ASSAM TRIBUNE, Guwahati, 30 April

Kashmir's endangered stag population on the rise

According to census conducted by **WII**, Dehradun & **WTI**, New Delhi there is an increase in population of stag, hangul.

Source: THE SENTINAL, Guwahati, 1 May

Animal Harm, TV serial shoot disrupts annual census at Sanjay Gandhi National Park

Director of **NGO Sprouts**, said that for accurate census, human activities should be banned that disrupts it.

Source: MUMBAI MIRROR, Mumbai, 9 May

20 Parakeets ringed for study

State forest department & **NGO Param** released 20 parakeets after tagging them with rings containing vital statistics about the bird to help study its behavior. The tagging part was done by **BNHS**.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Ahmedabad, 30 May

Butterflies, marine life poachers' new prey

WWF officials are making efforts to protect the marine life across the Gujarat coastline.

Traffic India's Head said there are number of exotic animals exported illegally, especially China.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Ahmedabad, 30 May

Green Oscar for dedicated conservationist

Director of Nature Conservation Foundation, Dr. M. D. Madhusudan got the prestigious Whitley Award, Green Oscar & made India proud, for his contribution to reduce human & wildlife conflict in the Western Ghats in Karnataka.

Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 14 June

It's official: Panna TIGERLESS

The **WII** submitted the report claiming that no more big cats are left in the park, the state forest department sought permission to translocate two tigresses to Panna.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Ahmedabad, 15 June
INDIAN EXPRESS, Lucknow, 15 June

Sariska tigers to get hi-tech gadgets

WII experts will be using radio collars to enable them to track the movements of tigers.

Source: THE HITAVADA, Nagpur, 16 June

Capturing the elusive cat

The **WWF- India** researcher photographed a snow leopard in Kargil is glad that there is more to the region than just the 1999 war.

Source: DNA, Mumbai, 21 June



Parliament and the Environment

This column on "Parliament & Environment" as reported by print media during the quarter April to June, 2009 contains information on action being taken by parliamentarian in the field of Climate Change, Environment Conservation, Energy Studies, Fresh water and Marine water conservation, Forest Conservation, Pollution and Wildlife Conservation.

Climate Change

Climate Change: India unhappy with progress

Shyam Saran, special envoy of the Prime Minister on Climate Change has said "We have only a few months left in which we must come up with concrete and significant decision to be adopted by the 15th COP at Copenhagen. The progress achieved so far has been disappointing from our perspective".

Source: DECCAN CHRONICLE, Hyderabad, 11 April

Omar for addressing climate change issue

Chief Minister **Omar Abdullah** called for a large scale afforestation in the state by using innovating measure to reclaim the denuded and depleted forest area. He asked for Forest department to look for modern means for rejuvenating forest and ensuring conservation and protection of environment.

Source: GREATER KASHMIR, KASHMIR TIMES, Srinagar, 19 May

Climate Change stands top of Jairam's list

Mr. Jairam Ramesh, the new environment and forest minister took charge of his Ministry. He said climate change should be taken seriously not because it's a global phenomena but more of a local issue. He said that he would pursue within the

Global initiative to save tiger

The **Smithsonian Institution** & the **World Bank (WB)** have announced a global initiative. The new Conservation & Development Network will seek to strengthen a patchy system of tiger reserve.

Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 21 June

Central team slams Panna Park for missing tigers but a year ago, it sang praises

The Madhya Pradesh govt. was blamed for failing to see the impending disaster of loss of big cats in the Panna Reserve despite repeated warnings. The former director of Project Tiger & CEO of **WWF India**, visited Panna for an appraisal of the "Status of Tiger Population" in the reserve.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Jalandhar, 28 June
INDIAN EXPRESS, Lucknow, 28 June

Central team slams Panna park for missing tigers but a year ago, it sang praises

The Madhya Pradesh govt was blamed for failing to see the impending disaster of loss of big cats in the Panna Reserve despite repeated warnings. The former director of Project Tiger & CEO of **WWF India**, visited Panna for an appraisal of the "Status of Tiger Population" in the reserve.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Jalandhar, 28 June
INDIAN EXPRESS, Lucknow, 28 June

government for an increased allocation for river cleaning and afforestation.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, ASIAN AGE, INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 30 May

Haryana Government committed to combat climate change

The Haryana Chief Minister, **Bhupinder Singh Hooda** who has shown consistent commitment is keen to empower people to be active agent in promoting sustainable and equitable development like conservation of land and water resources, proactive steps to regenerate our environment by growing trees and controlling wastages.

Subject: Climate Change

Source: THE PIONEER, POLITICAL AND BUSINESS DAILY, INDIAN EXPRESS, HINDUSTAN TIMES, Haryana, 5 June

Climate gets its due, 8 missions on cards

President **Pratibha Patil** said that the government is pro-actively addressing national mission and some of them will be launched by year-end. The eight mission are- enhancing contribution of solar energy in the total energy mix; introducing energy efficiency steps; promoting sustainable habitats; saving Himalayan Glaciers; water resource management; protecting mountain eco- system services and making agriculture more

resilient and adaptable to climate change.

Source: ECONOMICS TIMES, New Delhi, 5 June

Environment Conservation, NGO's & Media

"Chetna march" draws thumping response

The march will go from Jalandhar to Bikaner along the natural water resources, which have become highly polluted due to wrong political and administrative policies. Congress candidate and PPCC President Mohinder Singh Kaypee and SAD's Hans Raj Hans rushed to join the Chetna Rally and committed to take up the environment issue strongly.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, THE TRIBUNE, Jalandhar, 2 April

Sheila urges people to develop Capital's green lungs

Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit urged the Capital's citizens to develop the green lungs of the city. She said a total of 895 acres along the eastern bank of the Yamuna was being notified as protected forest under Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and plantation along the river bank would help in stabilizing the river bank and prevent erosion, serve as a green lung for the city.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 23 May

Soz calls for mass movement to save environment

Member parliament and former union minister, Prof Saif-ud-din Soz said all attempts for conservation and preservation of water bodies and forests in Kashmir had failed as a result of they were on the verge of extinction. He called for sustained and powerful mass movement to save the fragile environment of the valley.

Source: GREATER KASHMIR, Srinagar, 30 June

Delhi to have more picnic spots, bird-watching centers

Delhi Government is drawing up plans to develop various picnic spots, bird-watching centers across the city and a sort of tourism circuit would be developed in the northern parts to promote various tourist sports that dot the area, Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit informed the Delhi Assembly.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 19 June

Energy Studies

Last-day show: Sheila plans to pull the plug for an hour every month

Chief minister Sheila Dikshit is reading a plan to have an Earth Hour on last working day of every month. All light in government building should be switched off at 8:30 pm on last working day of the month for an hour. The target: to save 100 MW of power every month.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 3 April

Freshwater & Marine Conservation

SAD-BJP for scrapping pact on river water

Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Badal Has the SAD-BJP government would stop river water going to neighboring states and for that Section 5 of the Punjab Termination of River Water Agreement Act would be scrapped.

Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 27 April

Jairam, Omar survey valley lakes

The Union Minister of state for Environment and Forest, Jairam Ramesh said the government was contemplating the involvement of international agencies in the conservation of all the lake and water bodies in Jammu and Kashmir. He was accompanied by the chief minister, Omar Abdullah. The union minister also visited the interior localities of Dal lake and interacted with Wullar, would be brought under the purview of National Lake Conservation program.

Source: GREATER KASHMIR, POLITICAL AND BUSINESS, Srinagar, 22 June

Malhotra slams Sheila's stance on Yamuna cleaning

Opposition leader Vijay Kumar Malhotra in the Assembly strongly condemned the statement of Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit that the cleaning of Yamuna River will take to 10 years and already Rs. 2,000 crores on the Yamuna cleaning campaign.

Source: POLITICAL AND BUSINESS, New Delhi, 22 June

Forest Conservation

Jairam: Hydel project may affect forest area

Union Minister of state for environment and forest Jairam Ramesh had written a letter to Karnataka chief minister B.S. Yeddyurappa on the issue of proposed Gundia hydel project in the Hassan District. He mentioned that the hydel project will affect about 1,900 acres of dense forest area which in the already endangered Western Ghats.

Source: ASIAN AGE, MINT, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 27 June

Pollution

Environment pollution to be dealt with an iron hand: Harsimrat

Shiromani Akali Dal candidate from Bathinda Lok Sabha constituency Harsimrat Badal said that SAD was strongly committed to fight the deadly effect of environment pollution. She said that she would treat this issue as one of vital importance for the survival of planet Earth.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Bathinda, 2 May

CM vows to make capital zero plastic zone

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit vowed to make Delhi a "zero plastic zone" and announced penal action against the violators. She also announced to develop 10 more forest in various part of Delhi to reduce Pollution level along with increasing green level along with increasing green area in the National Capital.

Source: THE PIONEER, THE STATEMAN, POLITICAL AND BUSINESS DAILY, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 6 June

Haryana Govt. to tighten noose around units emitting pollution

The Haryana government will now tighten the noose around industrial units emitting more pollution than the permissible limits. State Minister for Environment and forest Kiran Choudhary made it clear to the officers of Haryana Pollution Control Board to check the polluting units otherwise strict

departmental action would be initiated against them.

Source: POLITICAL AND BUSINESS DAILY, New Delhi, 6 June

Wildlife Conservation

BJP vows to tackle tiger, climate crises

For the first time a political party's manifesto has mentioned about saving the biodiversity from effects of climate change. The BJP has promised that if it comes to power it will take all appropriate steps to save tiger along with safeguarding critical habitats of all wildlife. The party said it will provide adequate support for developing hybrid technologies to save energy and application.

Source: ASIAN AGE, New Delhi, 4 April



Environment and the Government

Alternative Technology

Proposal to introduce solar invertors

The Delhi Government's power department is mulling over a proposal to introduce solar panels for recharging batteries used to run appliances of everyday use during power cuts and outages. The proposal to use solar energy to run the inverter has been put forth by Moserbeer Photo Voltaic, a company that manufactures photovoltaic products.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 7 April

CERC to ensure deficit stage too get feel of green power

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), under the ministry of power, will soon set up an independent body to enable registry of renewable power trading between states, which could facilitate issuance of renewable energy certificate to states with surplus green energy.

Source: ECONOMIC TIMES, New Delhi, 8 April

Fewer windmills installed in 2008-2009 in Tamil Nadu

Financial year of 2008-2009 saw fewer wind mills installed in the state compared to previous years though capacity addition last year was marginally higher than in 2007-2008. But improvement in capacity addition during 2008-2009 was due to spillover effect of the boom period.

Source: THE HINDU, Chennai, 9 April

BEL, BHEL in JV to generate solar power

Bharat Electronics Limited has joined hands with Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited to invest more than Rs 3,000 crores for generating solar power for commercial purpose. The integrated unit will also produce solar cell, solar panels and wafers.

Source: THE STATESMEN, New Delhi, 29 April

Govt. plans 60 solar cities

The union ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) is proposing to develop 60 cities in the country as solar cities to

Tiger relocation protocol approved

The Environment Ministry has approved a blueprint for tiger relocation prepared by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), paving the way for the second phase of big cat population revival plan in the Sariska reserve of Rajasthan.

Source: ASSAM TRIBUNE, THE PIONEER, DNA, New Delhi, 22 June

Accountability will be fixed for loss of Panna tiger: Centre

Centre said accountability would be fixed for exaggerated projection of tiger population at Panna sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and disappearance of the big cats after a special probe team blamed poaching for the crisis. Union Minister for Environment and Forest Jairam Ramesh says central funding for tiger project would now be made through MoU

Source: THE HITAVADA, THE PIONEER, Nagpur, June

achieve at least 10 percent reduction in the projected demand of conventional energy in the next five years by enhancing the supply of renewable energy sources and energy efficient measures. The ministry will provide Rs 50 Lakh for master plan, solar city cell and promotional activities.

Source: FINANCIAL CHRONICLE, Chennai, 19 May

Green energy certificate for state by 2010-11

The government is seeking to introduce a slew of measures such as renewable energy certificates, solar mission to help state procure at least five percent of their grid purchase from renewable energy source from 2010-11 as a part of the national action plan on climate change (NAPCC)

Source: FINANCIAL CHRONICLE, Chennai, 19 June

Punjab turns to renewable energy units

Punjab Energy Development Agency has finalized the allocation of 21 of the total 31 biomass power project to private developers, attracting an investment of Rs. 1,450 crore. For Agriculture land and crops from the floods, the Punjab Government has taken a decision to spend Rs. 137.43 crores on strengthening and widening of river Ghaggar from Khanouri to Karail and Khanouri to Markrouh sahib, in Sangrur district of the State.

Source: POLITICAL AND BUSINESS NEWS, New Delhi, 22 June

Star labeling for fuel efficient cars

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is planning to extend its popular "star labeling" program indicating energy saving to passenger cars soon

Source: THE HINDU, Hyderabad, 22 June

Climate Change

A brand new climate change agenda for Delhi

With an eye on arresting the Capital's carbon footprint, the Delhi

Vol. 10 No. 2, April - June, 2009

Government has identified a set of 65 action points that each department of the administrative would have to follow. These pointes, put together in a volume titled "Climate Change Agenda for Delhi 2009-2010" and authored by Delhi's Chief Secretary Rakesh Mehta.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 24 May

India can suggest change in the first climate treaty text: UNFCCC

India is under pressure from industrialized countries to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission by 15-30 percent by 2020. India's negotiators are meeting their counterparts from 77 countries and China throughout this weekend in Bonn to formulate a joint response.

Source: DECCAN CHRONICLE, FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 1 June

India, China object to draft text at Bonn

The latest round of climate change talks got off to a rough start in Bonn with India, China, and the Group of 77, a group of developed nation, objecting to the text prepared by the United Nation (UN) that would set the framework for the talk.

Source: MINT, New Delhi, 3 June

Climate change plan awaited "nuts and bolts"

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was unveiled by the Prime Minister; its nuts and bolts are yet to be finalized. NAPCC envisages national mission on energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, water conservation, Himalayan ecosystem, greening India, Sustainable agriculture and strategic knowledge build up. The blueprint for mission has been finalized, only two- sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem and strategic knowledge are left.

Source: BUSINESS STANDARD, INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 30 June

Disaster Management

Gurgaon administration unveils disaster management plan

In collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Haryana government had mooted a Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Initiative Pilot Project in January this year. After a series of meetings, the district administration is now set to unveil the project.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, BUSINESS LINE, THE HINDU, Chandigarh, 26 June

Energy Conservation

Trees Relocated under Green Vellore Project

It is not planting of saplings but well grown tree themselves that makes the second phase of Green Vellore project initiated by Vellore institute of technology (VIT) university. Six year old gulmohar trees, numbering 60, grown and uprooted from the VIT campus and transported through truck were planted using a crane to stretch of 3 Km from Hotel Riverview to Hotel Khanna in the town.

Source: NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, Vellore, 2 April

Delhi to observe Earth Hour Every month

The Delhi government has proposed to hold an Earth Hour on the last working day of every month, urging resident to switch off non essential lights to save power on the lines of the recently held global campaign. All light in government building should be switched off at 8:30 pm on last working day of the month for an hour. It could save up to 100 MW of power every month.

Source: THE SENTINEL, THESE DAYS, DECCAN CHRONICLE, New Delhi, 3 April

Biodiversity body plan to park native flora, fauna at four new spots

The Delhi Biodiversity Foundation (DBF) under the Lieutenant Governor, with currently monitor the Aravalli (Vasant kunj) and Yamuna (Wazirzbad) biodiversity park, has in its last meeting approved the creation of four new parks.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 22 April

Ecologists call to preserve city's heritage

Environmentalists have called for concerted effort to elevate Delhi to the status of World Heritage City. The Delhi environment department has started planting trees on Yamuna Bank.

Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 25 May

Call to fund green project

World Council for Corporate Governance (WCCG) urged Indian businesses to head the drive to combat climate change by funding green project. WCCG is jointly launching an environment initiative here along with World Environment Foundation.

Source: DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 30 May

"Green Rajasthan" campaign launched

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched "Green Rajasthan" campaign by planting a sapling at the sprawling Shiksha Sankul, head office of the education department.

65 lakh trees would be planted this year in the state. Government buildings, Government school, state highways and other important road would be covered under this program.

Source: THE PIONEER, Jaipur, 19 June

Anyone can object to Environmental damage: Court

Be it public spirited people, environmentalist or Voluntary groups, everyone has the right to raise a voice against environmental damage and be consider an aggrieved party, say Delhi High Court and made it also clear that the law is accessible and same for all and set aside an order of National Environmental Appellate Authority, (NEAA).

Source: THE TRIBUNE, KASHMIR TIMES, New Delhi, 22 June

Centre draft Green Tribunal Bill for all Environment cases

In effort to ensure a fine balance between judicial activism and executive duties the ministry of environment and forest has prepared a Green Tribunal Bill. With IPLs on environment issue flooding the aims to take off the pressure.

Source: ECONOMIC TIMES, THE TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 27 June

Environmental Education

IGNOU launches course in water harvesting

IGNOU here has launched a certificate course in water harvesting and management with 60 regional centers that have been made "special program center".

Source: THE HINDU, THE PIONEER, THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 12 April

Freshwater & Marine Conservation

Cleaning process on in Dal Lake

Laborers were engaged as part of a Comprehensive cleaning drive in Dal Lake today to maintain the famous water at the best. The Lake and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) plans to restore the lake's beauty through traditional cleaning process.

Source: THE HINDU, Srinagar, 26 April

Can't clean up Yamuna before Games, Sheila

Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit admitted the Yamuna Action Plan I and II were complete failure as far as cleaning up the polluted River Yamuna was concerned. "It is matter of shame that Yamuna has been reduced to a condition worse than a drain", said Sheila Dikshit, while answering a question raised by BJP MLA Surender Pal Ratawal.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, ASIAN AGE, THE HINDU, INDIAN EXPRESS, THE STATEMENT, POLITICAL AND BUSINESS DAILY, THE PIONEER, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 24 June

Forest Conservation

Kerala mulls action plans to protect forest biodiversity

The Kerala Government will formulate action plans to protect and sustain the rich biodiversity of the state's forest and implement them without fail, according to the Forest Policy cleared by the Cabinet.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, Thiruvananthapuram, 2 May

State to protect the "vad" now

The state government has acknowledged the importance to the eco-system of banyan trees and decided to cover them under the Biodiversity Act.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Vadodara, 6 May

Blanket ban on mining in Aravalli hills

The Supreme Court banned all mining activities in the Aravalli hills in Faridabad and Gurgaon and Mewat in Haryana. A Bench comprising Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Justice Arijit Pasayat and Justice S.H. Kapadia said on mining of major mineral that required deep digging would be allowed there in view of the damage to the environment.

Source: MAIL TODAY, HINDUSTAN TIMES, ASIAN AGE, POLITICAL & BUSINESS DAILY, THE HINDU, INDIAN EXPRESS, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 9 May

Green Delhi to become greener

Delhi government has roped in the Forest Research Institute,

Dehradun to create a bambusetum (an assortment of bamboo species), an arboretum (a collection of trees) and butterfly park in the city to make Delhi more green and smattering of color to its exiting biodiversity.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 22 May

Multi-pronged strategy to revive coal output

The days of coal indiscriminate clearances to coal projects- close to 98 percent of project were approved in recent times are over. Now, the Ministry of Environment and Forest will outright deny permission to projects in medium and high density forest areas. The Ministries of Coal and MoEF prepared a joint action plan after respective Ministers Sriprakash Jaiswal and Jairam Ramesh met on to agree working in close coordination even while taking all State even concerned on board.

Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 19 June

Pollution

Stories float on fish kill in lake

The Karnataka State pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the BBMP officials inspected the water body. Depletion in the Dissolve Oxygen (DO) level in the lake water is reported to have triggered the fish kill. The KSPCB has already filed cases against authorities for letting out drain into lake.

Source: DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 19 April

Punjab pollution board looks into oil spill in Sutlej

A Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) team has taken sample of water and plants from Sutlej River in Punjab to evaluate the damage caused by furnace oil spill after a thermal power plant pipeline burst two days ago.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Punjab, 27 April

Add. disposal units planned for biodiversity

In a bid to augment biomedical waste (BMW) disposal, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has decided to set up BMW facilities at five locations in the state. MPCB has initiated an exercise to identify all healthcare establishments in the state to monitor and effectively implement BMW rules.

Source: DNA, Mumbai, 8 May

Pollution Control Board issues 56 closure notices in Pune

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has issued 56 closure notices for flouting norms laid down for the disposal of the Bio-Medical Waste (BMW). 56 establishments have been identified flouting the norms in Pune region.

Source: THE PIONEER, Pune, 9 May

Govt. for Strict Plastic bag ban

Delhi government has issue fresh instruction to official to strictly enforce the ban on plastic bags across the capital. Ms Dikshit also instructed the officials to prepare an action plan to revive the water bodies in the city, particularly in the rural areas.

Source: ASIAN AGE, MAIL TODAY, HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 21 May

Steps to make Narmada pollution-free

In bid to make the Narmada river pollution free, Madhya

Pradesh's urban Administration Department has sanctioned an Rs 50 lakh scheme for laying down sewage line at its origin in Amarkantak. The plan prepared by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, Bhopal, 12 May

Haryana gets tough on plastic bags

The Haryana government announced hefty fines on plastic bags that don't conform to prescribed norms. These include fines of up to Rs 50,000 for manufacture, Rs 2,500-5000 for shopkeepers handing out these bags and Rs 250-500 for buyers who litter public places with them.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 4 June

HP goes paper-free on Environment Day

Himachal carbon-neutral and effectively fight the climate change, the State Government launched three scheme on the world Environment Day, aiming at a total ban on polythene bags, paperless e-governance and action program for community assessment awareness about environment.

Source: THE PIONEER, Shimla, 6 June

Crackdown on violators of plastic ban

Delhi government has designated power to the civic bodies and concerned authorities to challan hotels, shopkeepers and hospitals violating the law which may land violators in jail for five years and a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 25 June

Water Management

Govt. ignores eco concerns over Narmada dam's height

The Gujarat Government has short shifted a high level report submitted by an expert group to the Union Minister of Environment and Forest (MoEF)- recommending to the Center not to permit construction of Narmada Dam beyond 121.92 meters till environmental safeguards in dam's are take care of.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Ahmedabad, 29 April

Depletion in Surface water forces authorities to shift focus to ground water

To avoid any drastic reduction of water in future, the water management authorizes have floated a proposal where by making arrangement for rain water harvesting would be made mandatory for household and reduce pressure on supply of drinking water.

Source: KASHMIR TIMES, Jammu, 30 May

Rainwater goes waste capital lacks reservoirs

In 1989, The Delhi Government had estimated that 59 underground water reservoir (UGR) would be required in the city to ensure equitable distribution of water: in 2000-02, recommended a further 53 UGRs for Capital in which 24 have been commissioned, 10 will be commissioned this year, 12 will be commissioned next year and 7 are awaiting land clearance for work to start.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 27 June

Wildlife Management

Thousands of rare dolphins sighted in Bay of Bengal

WCS researchers tempted that nearly 6,000 Irrawaddy dolphin, were found living in freshwater region of Bangladeshi Sunder bans and adjacent water of the Bay of Bengal. In 2008, they were listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List based on population declines in known oceans, WCS's discovery that a thriving population of Irrawaddy dolphin exists in Bangladesh gives us hope for protecting the endangered species.

Source: THE SENTINAL, Washington, 6 April

Rhino population rises in Kaziranga

The success of conservation in Kaziranga National Park has once again been highlighted with the latest rhino population estimation recording 2,048 of the Schedule one species. Kohora and Baguri were the ranges with the highest population of rhino.

Source: ASSAM TRIBUNE, HINDUSTAN TIMES, MAIL TODAY, Guwahati, 18 April

Absence of proposed protocol stalls relocation of tiger in MP

The Madhaya Pradesh government's plan to shift a male big cat to Panna Tiger Reserve is not likely to take place for now, in the absence of proposed "protocol" for tiger relocation to be framed by The National Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Source: KASHMIR TIMES, Jammu, 30 April

National park centre for stuffing animal

The country's first taxidermy centre is underway in the city. A centre for taxidermy the art of stuffing and preserving dead animal in its original skeleton and skin had never been established in India. A centre has been set up in Sanjay Gandhi National Park- a workshop where carcasses of wild animal from across the country's zoos and sanctuaries would be sent for preservation and display.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 4 May

Tiger in Corbett National Park to get extra 80 sq km area

The famous Jim Corbett National tiger reserve in Uttarakhand are all set to get an extra patch of forest in neighboring Uttar Pradesh ensuring their free inter state movement and declared around 80 sq km area in Amangarh forest range in Bijnor bordering the Corbett Tiger Reserve as a buffer zone.

Source: THE HITAVADA, New Delhi, 12 May

Tadoba Andhari Reserve set to get Special Force for tiger Protection

Centre has asked seven tiger range state including Maharashtra to expedite the process of recruiting a Special Tiger Protection Force for the protection of the Tiger. Tadoba Andhari Reserve has been include as a critical tiger habitat and will get additional forces to protect the big cat.

Source: THE HITAVADA, Nagpur, 19 May

Boost for Dudhwa

Uttar Pradesh government approved creation of buffer zone in Dudhwa National Park. The decision was the out come of the National Tiger Authority's (NTCA) strict guideline to

demarcate the buffer area. The buffer zone would comprise nearly 150 km long stretch of north Kheri division under which Dudhwa National Park Falls.

Source: THE PIONEER, Lucknow, 22 May

MP Govt, orders transfer of 3 tiger reserve directors

The field director of three tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh has been transferred by the Madhya Pradesh Government Shortly after reports of mismanagement and large earths in reserve in the Indian Express. MP chief Minister Shivaji Singh Chouhan announced the transfer of the field director of Kanha, Panna and Bandhavgharh after consistent pressure from the Centre.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Bhopal, May 22

Noida Authority to develop prime land near bird sanctuary

The prime land in Noida being transferred to the New Okhla Development Authority by the Utter Pradesh Irrigation Department, the Authority has become richer by 20 acres. The land in question lies between village Naya Ban DND toll and Pusta Road, less than a Km away from the Delhi Noida border. The land is part of the flood plain, barely 700 meters away from the Okhla Bird Sanctuary, a notified protected area close to the Yamuna at the Okhla barrage.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 24 June

To the tiger's Rescue

According to Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Environment and

Forest plan Corbett will soon have its own micro light aircraft for surveillance and monitoring along for surveillance and monitoring along with a net of motion sensors. He has cleared a Rs 8.5 crore Comprehensive Security Plan for Corbett, to be implemented over the next six years.

Source: THE SENTINAL, Guwahati, 19 June

Centre clears translocation of 4 big cats to Panna

The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) has cleared a proposed to translocate two tiger and two tigresses to the Panna Tiger Reserve. But Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the MoEF has made it clear that it expects action to be taken after the "Panna Disaster".

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 27 June

Conservation efforts for Red Panda in Gangtok Zoo

The Sikkim Himalayan Zoological Park (SHZP) in Gangtok has embarked on breeding and conservation program. The zoo has obtained four Pandas, two pairs from the wild as part of the ZHNP aims to collect a gene pool from the wild population. Currently the zoo is home to four male and three female healthy Red Panda.

Source: THE SENTINAL, Gangtok, 29 Jun



Statistical & Graphical Representation

Total no. of Questions Addressed in the Rajya Sabha 2007

A total of 11091 questions were asked, out of which 1340 were starred questions and 9751 were the unstarred ones. Only 898 questions were the ones pertaining to Environment. Out of the total 11091 questions addressed in the Rajya Sabha, 898 questions were the questions pertaining to Environment.

Ministry	Total Questions	Received Questions	Pending Questions	Total Questions	Received Questions	Pending Question	Grand Total	Pertaining to Environment
Agriculture	74	74	0	454	454	0	528	66
Agro And Rural Industries	0	0	0	12	12	0	12	0
Chemicals And Fertilizers	18	18	0	139	139	0	157	8
Civil Aviation	37	37	0	267	267	0	304	1
Coal	20	20	0	105	105	0	125	1
Commerce And Industry	46	46	0	375	375	0	421	13
Communication And Information Technology	50	50	0	337	337	0	387	1
Company Affairs	1	1	0	12	12	0	13	0
Consumer Affairs, Food And Public Distribution	41	41	0	233	233	0	274	5
Corporate Affairs	1	1	0	12	12	0	13	0
Culture	14	14	0	112	112	0	126	0
Defense	24	24	0	193	193	0	217	1
Department Of Atomic Energy	7	7	0	68	68	0	75	11
Department Of Space	1	1	0	28	28	0	29	3
Development Of North Eastern Region	2	2	0	11	11	0	13	0
Earth Sciences	8	8	0	35	35	0	43	25
Environment And Forests	39	39	0	291	291	0	330	331

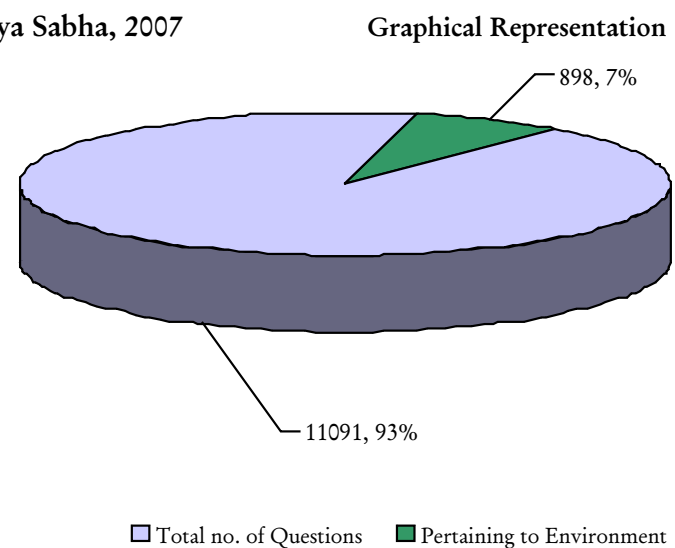
External Affairs	32	32	0	237	237	0	269	10
Finance	86	86	0	590	590	0	676	3
Food Processing Industries	6	6	0	76	76	0	82	0
Health And Family Welfare	69	69	0	580	580	0	649	34
Heavy Industries And Public Enterprises	14	14	0	36	36	0	50	0
Home Affairs	59	59	0	449	449	0	508	30
Housing And Urban Poverty Alleviation								
Alleviation	15	15	0	68	68	0	83	1
Human Resource Development	112	112	0	714	714	0	826	4
Information And Broadcasting	12	12	0	82	82	0	94	1
Labour And Employment	27	27	0	182	182	0	209	1
Law & Justice	21	21	0	157	157	0	178	1
Micro,Small And Medium Enterprises	1	1	0	31	31	0	32	0
Mines	12	12	0	74	74	0	86	3
Minority Affairs	10	10	0	83	83	0	93	0
New And Renewable Energy	12	12	0	98	98	0	110	101
Overseas Indian Affairs	12	12	0	85	85	0	97	0
Panchayat Raj	11	11	0	35	35	0	46	0
Parliamentary Affairs	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0
Personnel,Public Grievances And Pensions	8	8	0	117	117	0	125	0
Petroleum And Natural Gas	33	33	0	270	270	0	303	21
Planning	20	20	0	128	128	0	148	7
Power	57	57	0	368	368	0	425	35
Prime Minister	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Railways	82	82	0	520	520	0	602	4
Rural Development	37	37	0	287	287	0	324	41
Science And Technology	8	8	0	78	78	0	86	8
Shipping, Road Transport And Highways	48	48	0	380	380	0	428	5
Small Scale Industries	0	0	0	13	13	0	13	0
Social Justice And Empowerment	14	14	0	123	123	0	137	0
Statistics And Programme Implementation	2	2	0	20	20	0	22	1
Steel	5	5	0	48	48	0	53	1
Textiles	15	15	0	105	105	0	120	0
Tourism	15	15	0	157	157	0	172	2
Tribal Affairs	8	8	0	93	93	0	101	18
Urban Development	32	32	0	252	252	0	284	19
Water Resources	19	19	0	173	173	0	192	81
Women And Child Development	32	32	0	249	249	0	281	0
Youth Affairs And Sports	11	11	0	106	106	0	117	0
TOTAL	1340	1340	0	9751	9751	0	11091	898

Source of all this information has been prepared on the basis of the questions/Answers & Statement published by the Parliament of India, Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year 2007

Share of Environment-related Questions in the Rajya Sabha, 2007

Statistical Representation

Total no. of Questions	Pertaining to Environment
11091	898



Response of Ministries on Environment-related Questions

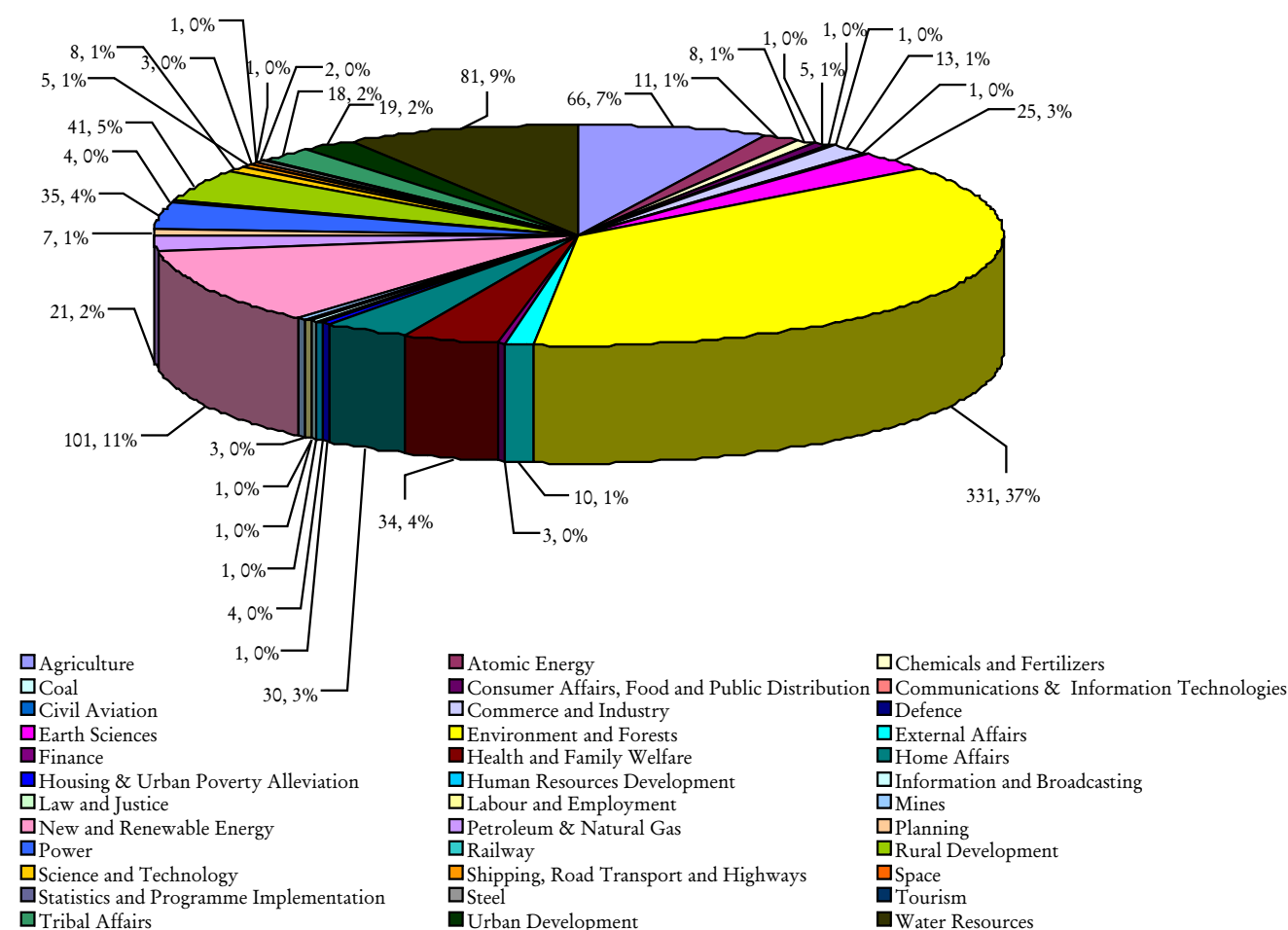
The responses of the Ministries on Environment-related questions are tabulated in Table No. 4. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, with 37%, handled the majority of the questions on environment raised during the year. The Ministry of Water Resources had a fairly high share with 9% of the questions, while the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy also had a substantial share with 11%. Other Ministries with relatively high involvement included Agriculture (7%) and Rural Development (5%).

Statistical Representation

Ministry	Total no. of questions
Agriculture	66
Atomic Energy	11
Chemicals and Fertilizers	8
Coal	1
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	5
Communications & Information Technologies	1
Civil Aviation	1
Commerce and Industry	13
Defence	1
Earth Sciences	25
Environment and Forests	331
External Affairs	10
Finance	3
Health and Family Welfare	34
Home Affairs	30
Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation	1
Human Resources Development	4

Information and Broadcasting	1
Law and Justice	1
Labour and Employment	1
Mines	3
New and Renewable Energy	101
Planning	7
Power	35
Railway	4
Rural Development	41
Science and Technology	8
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	5
Space	3
Statistics and Programme Implementation	1
Steel	1
Tourism	2
Tribal Affairs	18
Urban Development	19
Water Resources	81
Total	898

Graphical Representation



Events on Environment

National symposium on "Plant Propagation Conservation, Modification and Characterization"

Date: 3rd April, 2009 to 4th April, 2009
 Venue: Palampur
 Organized by: Dr. Anil sood, Scientist & Head, Institute Of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), PO-6, Palampur- 176 061, H.P.

National Workshop on Climate Change and Himalayan environment

Date: 6th April, 2009 to 7th April, 2009
 Venue: Srinagar- Garhwal (UK), India
 Organized by: Prof. N.P. Todaria , Head, HNB Garhwal University, Deptt. Of Forestry, PO Box 59, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal (UK)

Awareness and Capacity Building on Climate Change and its mitigation measures

Date: 13th April, 2009 to 14th April, 2009
 Venue: Seminar hall, Indira Gandhi Planetarium, Patna, Bihar
 Organized by: Mr. I.N. Jha, Managing Director, Institute of Environment and Eco-development (IEED), 3A, 3rd floor, Niketanand Complex, Jagdeopath, Bairely Road, Patna-800014

Environment and Tribal Rights

Date: 21st April, 2009
 Venue: Jaipur (Rajasthan)
 Organized by: Mrs. Manju Rai, Director, Center for Social Development, 84-A, Maharani farm, Durgapur, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Climate Change, Food Security and Livelihoods

Date: 24th April, 2009 to 26th April, 2009
 Venue: Jaipur
 Organized by: Dr. Swaran Singh, President, Association of Asia Scholars, 38/11, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi

"Change of climate & its impact on living beings"

Date: 28 April, 2009
 Venue: THB College Guhawati
 Organised by: Assam Science Society

Media Workshop on Environment Issues and Capacity Building

Date: 1st May, 2009 to 3rd May, 2009
 Venue: Jaipur
 Organized by: Mrs. Kamal Rathore, Principal, Maya Kunwar Balika, Sh. Sec. School, Shivaji Marg, Nehru Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 16

Conservation & Management of Himalayan High Altitude Wetlands"

Date: 8 May, 2009
 Venue: Jammu University
 Organised by: Ladakh Society

State Level Seminar on Conservation of Medicinal Plants and their sustainable Utilisation in respect on Biodiversity.

Date: 15th May, 2009
 Venue: In Basawan Singh, Indoor stadium, Hajipur, District Vaishali (Bihar)
 Organized by: Mr. Ram Ekwal singh, Secretary, Nav Jagrity Vaishali, At Gandhi Ashram, Po.-Hajipur, District-Vaishali (Bihar) Pin Code 844121

Climate change & future of life

Date: 19 May, 2009
 Venue: Guwahati University
 Organised by: North East India Geographical Society

Workshop on environment health & safety practices (EHS)

Date: 19 May, 2009
 Venue: Gurgaon
 Organised by: Confederation of Indian Industries(CII)

Title: National Workshop on Water Resources of Kerala (Kerala Environment Congress 2009)

Date: 19th May, 2009 to 21st May, 2009
 Venue: Kannur, Kerala
 Organized by: Mr.Babu Ambat, Executive Director, Centre for Environment & Development, TC 10/2071(2), Thozhuvancode, Vattiyookavu, Thiruvananthapuram 695013, Kerala

Three day international conference to discuss alternate energy resources

Date: 20 May, 2009
 Venue: Srinagar
 Organised by: Kashmir University

Climate change

Date: 24 May, 2009
 Venue: Mendhar
 Organised by: Gandhi Seva Centre, sponsored by WWF branch J& K

International Symposium on Waste, Energy & environment Management of Mining & Mineral Based Industries (WEEMMI - 2009)

Date: 27th May, 2009 to 29th May, 2009
 Venue: Bhubaneswar
 Organized by: Dr. P.K. Jena, Chairman, Institute of Advance Technology & Environmental Studies (IATES), 80A-81A, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar - 751002

Forest & Wildlife Act of India

Date: 29 May, 2009
 Venue: Tezpur, Guwahati
 Organised by : Arainya Surakshya Samitee in collaboration with WWF

National Environmental Awareness Campaign

Date: 29 May, 2009
 Venue: Jammu
 Organised by: WWF & Ramnagar School

Smoking & Environmental Pollution

Date: 30 May, 2009
 Venue: Jammu
 Organised by: Indian Council for Enviro-legal Action

Awareness programme on Anti Smoking Day

Date: 30 May, 2009
 Venue: Jammu
 Organised by: Directorate of Environment & Remote Sensing & New Modern College of Education of college, Sainik Colony

Symposium on 'No Tobacco Day'

Date: 30 May, 2009
 Venue: Jammu, Govt Industrial Training Institute
 Organised by: Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of I & B

District level Seminar for Promoting Basic Conceptual, Environmental Education and Mass Awareness on Theme "Climate Change, Biodiversity, Water Contamination & Pollution in the Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal"

Date: 1st June, 2009 to 3rd June, 2009
 Venue: Organisation own Centre, Dist.- Purba, Medinipur, West Bengal
 Organized by: Mr. Asit Ranjan Samanta, Secretary, Goyalapukur Narendra Smriti Child & Social Welfare Society, Vill. & Po.- Mahammadpur, Dist.- Purba Medinipur- 721601, West Bengal

The Eco Festival

Date: 2 & 3 June, 2009
 Venue: American Centre
 Organised by: NGO Kriti

Interaction Workshop on Climate Change and effect of Global Warming

Date: 5th June, 2009

Venue: Hotel Mid East, Chandikhol, Dist Jajpur, Orissa
 Organized by: Mr. Tankadhar Barik, Director, Participatory & Reconstruction Institute Action (PRIA), At- Kolha, Post Kalakala, Via Byree, Dist- Jajpur 754082, Orissa

An Approach for Promotion of Bio-Diversity Conservation

Date: 5th June, 2009
 Venue: Near Power House, Choudhani, VPO Nangal Choudhary, The. Narnaul Distt. Mahendergarh (Haryana)
 Organized by: Mr. Ganesh Kumar, President, Society for Education & Welfare Activities (SEWA), Near Power House, Choudhani, VPO Nangal Choudhary, Narnaul Distt. Mahendergarh (Haryana) - 123023

World Environment Day theme : "Your Planet needs you unite to combat climate change"

Date: 5 June, 2009
 Venue: Guwahati
 Organised by: Regional Science Centre, Khanapara

Show called Prakriti to celebrate World Environment Day

Date: 4 June, 2009
 Venue: American Centre
 Organised by: NGO Kriti

World Environment Day, Lecture on Industry, Energy, Environment, & Climate change

Date: 4 June, 2009
 Venue: Indian Habitat Centre, IHC
 Organised by: UN Information Centre & IHC

Lecture on Wildlife & Environment Conservation

Date: 5 June, 2009
 Venue: Borooah College, Guwahati
 Organised by: SYNAPSE, Zoology Organization

Seminar on "Your Planet needs you- unite to combat climate change"

Date: 8 June, 2009
 Venue: Jammu University
 Organised by: Department of Environmental Science & Jammu Consumer Council

Global Convention on Climate Security

Date: 12 to 14 June, 2009
 Venue: Palampur
 Organised by: World Council for Corporate Governance

Programme on "Climate & its impact on Planet Earth"

Date: 11 June, 2009
 Venue: Heritage School, Jammu
 Organised by: Directorate of Environment, Ecology &

Remote Sensing, Jammu

District level Workshop on Impact of Water on Life and Environment

Date: 12th June, 2009
Venue: Prava Rest House, At and P.O. Bairia, District Muzaffarpur (Bihar)
Organized by: Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Kumar, Secretary, Godhulli, At nayatola, P.O. Bishunpur summer, Neta chowk, Kanti, District Muzaffarpuru (Bihar)

Management of Natural Resources in J&K to ensure Environmental sustainability of the state.

Date: 17th June 2009
Venue: Uri, Baramulla, J&K
Organized by: Mr. Balbir Singh, Chairperson, SAVE (Social Abetterment in Versatile Environment), H.O. SAVE Bhawan, 60 Suthra-Shahi, Srinagar- 190009, J&K

Conservation and Maintaining the Balance of Water in Nature

Date: 26th June, 2009 to 27th June, 2009
Venue: Teacher's training College Campus/ Hotel Rajhans International, Bhaglapur
Organized by: Mr. Wibhu Kumar Roy, Secretary, Global Environmental Organization (GEO), Bhagalpur Sakhi Chand Ghat Road, Near Moti Matri Seva Sadan, Naya Bazar, Bhagalpur, Bihar

Impact of domestic sewers and Industrial effluents on drinking water quality in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Date: 29th June, 2009
Venue: Training Centre, Dabhasemer Faizabad (U.P.)
Organized by: Sri Satya Deo Mishra, Secretary, Surya gramodyog Vikas Samiti, H. No. 636, Begumganj Maqbara Faizabad (U.P.) 224001

Environment Calander

January 12	National Youth Day.
January 15	Army Day
January 26	India's Republic Day and International Customs day.
January 30	Martyrs' Day
February 24	Central Excise Day.
February 28	National Science Day.
March 8	International Women's Day.
March 15	World Disabled Day.
March 21	World Forestry Day.
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
March 23	World Meteorological Day.
April 5	National Maritime Day.
April 7	World Health Day.
April 18	World Heritage Day.
April 22	Earth Day.
May 1	Workers Day (International Labor Day).
May 3	Press Freedom Day.
May 8	World Red Cross Day.
May 11	National Technology Day.
May 15	International Day of the Family.
May 17	World Telecommunication Day.
May 24	Commonwealth Day.
May 31	Anti-Tobacco Day.
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.
June 5	World Environment Day.
June 2nd	Fathers Day.
June 26	International day against Drug abuse & Illicit Trafficking.
June 27	World Diabetes Day.

Source: <http://www.didwana.com/impdays.htm>

ENVIS Centre's Ist Advisory Committee

ENVIS Centre holds pride in announcing its first ever advisory committee. The Committee has been constituted to guide and monitor the ENVIS Centre's activities in the subject area on NGOs Parliament & Media. Expert comments valuable suggestions on various publications of ENVIS help us re-enforce the publications more user friendly and comprehensive.



WWF-India ENVIS Centre Advisory Committee Members

Shri R. Mehta - *Chairman*
Advisor, MoEF

Shri. Ravi Singh
Secretary General & CEO, WWF-India

Shri. A.K. Goyal
Joint Secretary, MoEF

Dr. S.P. Sharma
Statistical Advisor, MoEF

Shri R.K. Goel
Inspector General of Forests

Dr. Sanjay Gehlot
Sr. Technical Director, NIC

Dr. A. Lahiri
Officer-in-Charge, APCTT

Dr. M. Ahmedullah
Head, Botanic Garden of Indian Republic

Mrs. Madhumita Biswas
Joint Director, MoEF

Prof. P.B. Mangla
Information Scientist,

Dr. D.C. Uprety, F.N.A. Sc.,
Emeritus Scientist, IARI

Mr. Vivek Menon
Director, WTI

Dr. Prakash Rao
Sr. Coordinator, WWF-India

Dr. G. Areendran - *Member Secretary*
Director-ENVIS Programme, WWF-India

Environment in the Indian Parliament: An Analysis 2007

The ENVIS Centre located in the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India has recently released the 3rd edition of 'Environment in the Indian Parliament: An analysis 2007.

It is a great pleasure for us to inform you that Shri Jai Ram Ramesh; Honorable Union Minister of state, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has released the Parliament report on the eve of World Environment Day this year on 5th June, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



The report is a compendium of the discussions held in both the houses of Parliament on various sectors of the environment. The ENVIS centre in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests has divided the field of the environment into 18 subject areas. Information has been analyzed subject-wise, ministry wise and state wise. Depiction of the result summary in tabular, statistical and diagrammatic form has always been the major highlight of this report. This publication would provide an insight into the trends of parliamentary discussion related to the field of environment amongst India's legislators and policy makers.

Contact: **Dr. G. Areendran**, Director-ENVIS Programme, WWF-India, 172-B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi - 110 003. Tel: 011-41504791/ 93 / 9968061056
E-mail: gareendran@wwfindia.net