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From the Director's Desk....

Dear all,

With the growing concern of impacts of likely Climate Change, Environment agenda has become an integral part of the development and governance issues of the country.

I am therefore pleased to bring this newsletter for the quarter July to September, 2009 compiled by ENVIS Centre, WWF-India on the various Environment issues. This issue features certain key initiatives taken by the government and the Parliamentarians, which reflect their concern towards the environment. It also highlights the activities carried out the NGOs working actively and substantially in the field of Environment.

The statistical information compiled in this newsletter reflects the trends of environment i.e questions/answers raised in the Budget-cum Monsoon Session, 2009 in both the houses of Parliament.

Also, this issue tells us about the Environmental events, held in the quarter July-September, 2009, as well as about the upcoming events.

I look forward to your suggestions, that would help us in improving the quality of contents.

Dr. G. Areendran
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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 ।।

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Photo Credit: Dr. G. Areendran

Forest Conservation: Issues Highlighted in the Indian Parliament during the Budget-cum-Monsoon Session, 2009

ENVIS Centre 07 (WWF-India), established in 1984, actively monitors environmental related informations/ discussions exchanged in both the houses of Indian Parliament. In the present compilation, questions/ answers and statements have been presented from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for budget-cum-monsoon session, published by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariat, New Delhi as well as from the website of Indian Parliament.

The discussions in the Indian Parliament during the year focused on the forest cover of the country, conservation/ afforestation measures being taken, trees being cut for developmental activities, illegal encroachment of forest lands, and the rights for tribals/ forest dwellers.

Forest conservation/ Afforestation

MoEF discussed the new initiatives contemplated by Government in forest conservation. Compensatory afforestation works were also discussed in the house. MoEF reported that for compensatory afforestation work, CAMPA guidelines have been framed. Various schemes are being implemented for conservation of forests (LSQ 3581 Shri Suresh Kodikunnil). MoEF also reported that tree felling from the forest area approved for non-forestry use is permissible after ensuring commensurate mitigative measures such as compensatory afforestation, however, tree felling from non-forest use of area is not permissible unless specifically permitted by the Supreme Court of India (LSQ 3423 Dr Rajat Sushant).

Developmental Activities in Forests

Impacts of road network development and mining were also discussed. Responding to a query, MoEF also reported that State Forest Department maintains the records of the trees that are being cut for road and other developmental activities. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said during the widening and improvement of National Highways, existing trees are preserved as far as possible. However, where felling of trees is unavoidable, the executing agencies take clearance from MoEF. The Ministry of Environment and Forest reported that during the last four years, 6879 proposals involving the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes have been given approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (LSQ 760 Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa Siddeswara). The Ministry of Environment & Forests grants clearance to such proposals only after rigorous scrutiny under the existing provisions of law including Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and incorporating necessary mitigatory measures and safeguards ensuring that such activities do not endanger forests & wildlife (LSQ *367 Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh Laguri). Compensatory afforestation is mandatory in areas where tree felling is done for non-forestry use to reduce the adverse impact of the mining and other developmental activities on environment and ecology of the area (LSQ 2494 Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava).

Development of Forests

The Ministry of Environment and Forests discussed about the implementation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level (LSQ 3418 Shri Arjun Charan Sethi). In addition to providing protection to the forests against illicit felling, poaching, fires and encroachments, implementation of the Joint Forest Management programme has also helped in raising plantations in about 1.58 million ha area in the country. In Maharashtra, State Forest Department and JFMCs are working together under the scheme "Gramasthanchya Sahabhagatoon Van-Vyavasthapan" for forest conservation (LSQ 2469 Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh Naik). MoEF has started a new scheme, namely Gram Panchayat Van Yojana, to expand forest cover

on non-forest lands (LSQ *180 Shri Arjun Munda).

Financial Assistance

The Ministry of Environment and Forests discussed about the establishment of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in the States/ UTs (RSQ *235 Shrimati Viplove Thakur). The funding mechanism will help in forest and tree cover enhancement and conservation and management of forests and wildlife by utilizing funds received towards Compensatory Afforestation, Net Present Value (NPV), etc (LSQ 1537 Shri Shivaji Adhalrao Patil). MoEF stated that as on 30.06.2009, about Rs 9932.12 crores were remitted by State/UT Governments into the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA (LSQ *161 Shri Harin Pathak). MoEF also enumerated the details of the forestry projects that have been funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the country during the last three years (LSQ 2529 Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Maadam). MoEF also discussed a new scheme, Additional Central Assistance for Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover, which has been introduced in the Union Budget of 2009-10 with an allocation of Rs 500 crores (LSQ 3388 Shri Nripendra Nath Roy).

Rights for Tribals/ Forest Dwellers

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs discussed the rights of the tribals and other forest dwellers under Forest (Conservation) Act were also discussed (LSQ 443 Shri Madhusudan Mistry and Shri Uday Singh). MoEF stated that under the Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, infrastructure development projects designed for tribal areas are given priority (RSQ 1627). Regarding the eviction of tribals from reserve area, villages have been relocated with the consent of villagers as per the provisions of existing Acts (RSQ 434).

Forest Fire

Concerns were expressed regarding the forest fire and the loss caused by forest fire. In response to a question MoEF answered that Forest Survey of India has not done any study to assess damage in monetary terms to the forests due to fire or to analyze reasons for forest fires (RSQ 891 Shri Ramdas Agarwal). MoEF stated that Forest Survey of India has already got this data of the last 4 years which can be used to identify fire sensitive zones which would help in formulating fire control strategy in India (RSQ 1042 Shri Ramdas Agarwal). MoEF also reported that the State Forest Departments take preventive measures for warding off such fires by creating fire lines, generating awareness among the people about the fire hazards, and by involving local people through the Joint Forest Management Committees (RSQ 1684 Shri Kalraj Mishra). MoEF also discussed about the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Forest Protection Scheme that provides financial assistance to the State/ UT Governments to supplement their forest fire prevention and control measures (RSQ 3225 Shrimati Jaya Bacchan).

Others

Development of forest tourism and eco-tourism were also discussed in the house (RSQ 299 Kalkesh S. Singh Deo). Government also discussed the plan of planting trees and flowering shrubs along the national highways (LSQ 1380 Shri Gadhvi Mukesh Bhairavdani). In response to a query regarding forest village development programme, Ministry of Tribal Affairs reported that so far Rs 60876.26 lakh has been released for the programme (LSQ 261 Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal).

Source: Prepared on the basis of the questions/ answers and statement published by Parliament of India, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariat during the budget-cum-monsoon session, 2009.

By: Madhusree Munsi (ENVIS Programme, WWF-India)

Activities carried out by various NGOs

This section reflects the initiative taken by various NGOs in the quarter July - September, 2009 in the field of Climate Change, Alternative Technology, Environment Conservation, Energy Studies, Forest Conservation, Pollution, Fresh & Marine Water Conservation & Wild Life Management.

Alternative technology

Solkar, Exnora to provide million solar lamps for the poor

Solkar solar Industry Ltd & NGO Exnora International will jointly launch a programme to enable donation of one million solar powered lamps countrywide to the poor. Initially solkar solar tied up with the Exnora to launch the project for Exnora volunteers to sponsor donation of one lakh solar powered lamps to the poor in Tamil Nadu.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 3 September

Govt, TERI choose 100 buildings for save energy project

The Delhi govt. is all set to tie up with TERI to make 100 existing buildings measuring over 10,000 square feet energy efficient. The objective is to ensure that govt. building achieve at least rating of one star from BEE under their labeling.

Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 12 September

Green opportunities

From green buildings to water recycling, a career in business of sustainability has rewarding prospects. The renewable energy sector has created full time employment opportunities for 2.3 million people worldwide & the number of jobs are only growing. Ravi Gupta, executive director of WWF India informed students attending the Green Jobs Fair.

Source: MAIL TODAY, New Delhi, 30 September

Climate Change

Experts paint scary climate scenario

Greenpeace organized a seminar on Climate Change looked at demystifying the monsoon & clearly laying out its impact in scientific terms in coordination.

Source: FREE PRESS JOURNAL, Mumbai, 13 July

Rs 1 crore to study climate change impact

TERI has been appointed to study the impact, by state government to conduct two year study that how farming patterns should be changed to adjust to the soaring temperatures & how what epidemics hit the state.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 14 July

US must stop changing climate, children to Hillary

Children aged 12-17 gathered at the Greenpeace climate rescue station at Bandra. "This protest by students is meant to highlight the problems of global warming" said spokesperson of BalJivan Trust.

Source: FREE PRESS JOURNAL, Mumbai, 19 July

Studies allay concerns on India's future emission levels

TERI, IRADe, Jadavpur university, NCAER & McKinsey carried out studies & unveiled that even in the year 2030, the country's per capita emissions would most probably be lower than 4 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, well below global average of about 4.5 tonnes in 2005.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 3 September

New project to study climate change

Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) organized South Asian seminar on climate change in which Jairam Ramesh told that the first comprehensive scientific climate assessment study to be taken by 220 Indian scientist & 127 research organization.

Source: NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, Chennai, 7 September



Climate Change Impact: Kashmir's Kolahoi glacier receding at a rapid rate

Stressing that it was mandatory to carry out a detailed scientific study on the glaciers in Himalayan region, the chairman of Glacier & Climate commission TERI Scientist

Professor Syed Hasnain said that some of the glaciers in both eastern & western parts of Himalayas were receding at a much faster rate. The Kolahoi glacier has reduced to 10 sq. km from 12 sq. km. said Prof. Hasnain.

Source: KASHMIR TIMES, Jammu, 6 September
DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 8 September



Lucknow girl address UN Summit

13 year old girl Yugratna Srivastava from Lucknow will address the UN conference on climate change in New York, bringing the laurels to the country specially the city of Nawabs. Yugratna is member of Tarnitra (Friends of trees), an NGO devoted to stopping felling of trees & forests.

Source: FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 22 September, INDIAN EXPRESS, Chennai, 22 September, DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 22 September, THE TELEGRAPH, Kolkata, 22 September, BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 24 September

Games committee rope in players to counter carbon footprint in 2010

The organizing committee has now hired NGO Nature First to plan a series of steps to make games carbon neutral. They are toying up with the idea of "voluntary carbon offset programmes". To bring down air pollution levels & dust around the games sites the NGO is putting together a list of plants to be used around these venues.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 7 September

Environmental Conservation

India tops in new rare species

WWF compilation for the past ten years puts the number of new species discovered at 353, pushing the Indonesian Borneo forests to second place in the global discovery of new species. The findings show the importance of protecting the area which spans northern Myanmar & India, Bhutan, Nepal, & Tibet, the group said.

Source: DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 11 August
BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 11 August
HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 11 August
THE HINDU, New Delhi, 13 August
NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, Chennai, 15 August
INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 19 August
DNA, Mumbai, 11 August

On mission to save Gurgaon's greens

'Haryal' an NGO carried out plantation drives stages protest against those who fell trees illegally to keep city green (Gurgaon's green cover) without any govt. assistance monetarily has planted 31,000 trees in two years.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 20 September

Environment Education NGOs & Media

Greenpeace

The NGO has launched a harsh attack on HP for postponing its plans for removing toxic items from its products. Greenpeace painted a huge "Hazardous Products" message onto the roof of a HP building using what it claims is toxic free paint.

Source: MID DAY, New Delhi, 3 August

Green jobs are gaining green currency

Realizing the importance of green education & green jobs to combat climate change, TERI has launched MBA in Business Sustainability at its campus at Vasant Kunj.

Source: MAIL TODAY, New Delhi, 4 August

'Green Economy, need of the hour'

An economy that accounted for the value of services provided by the ecosystem, is 'green economy' required by the world said Ashok Khosla delivering the 13th Kailash Sankhala memorial lecture on 'Ecosystem Services the ultimate source of wealth' organized by Tiger Trust & WWF India.

Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 5 August

Centre plans model villages for Dalits

Himalayan Environmental Studies & Conservation Organization (HESCO) will be coordinating the project in Uttarakhand to develop infrastructural, health care & educational facilities & upgrade the skills of artisans.

Source: BUSINESS STANDARD, New Delhi, 11 August

Water mills to power HO villages

Equipping the people about developing the energy through watermills & equipping them with adequate knowledge & skill to fully exploit the potential Gharats are the components of the pilot project funded by WWF India for up gradation of Gharats.

Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 29 August

Forest Conservation

ITC, GFTN in pact

For promoting sustainable forestry in the paper ministry, ITC's paperboards announced alliance with the Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN), WWF initiative.

Source: FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 2 July
FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Mumbai, 2 July
BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 4 July

New Chipko movement: Himachal women tie rakhis to protect trees

"We won't allow any government to plunder our natural resources in the name of development. The Renuka dam is the newest floodgate to submerge forest land & livelihood." Himalaya Niti Abhiyaan (HNA).

Source: THE SENTINEL, Guwahati, 4 August

WWF on tree plantation mission

Like every year WWF India has begun its annual plantation campaign in the city, started on 18 July from South Delhi.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 6 August

Deforestation & Environment

According to environmental group, Greenpeace 14.2 million hectares of the world's forest land disappear every year which amounts to 18 percent of total forest coverage.

Source: ASSAM TRIBUNE, Guwahati, 18 August

To boost exports, domestic cos go in for forest certification

"From the export market there is demand for certified suppliers. Companies overseas like Spencers look for suppliers which have been certified" Dr. T. R. Manoharan, WWF India

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 27 September

Fresh and Marine Water Conservation

CSE trashes new plan to clean Yamuna

The Supreme court permitted Delhi government & DJB Delhi Jal Board to respond to a report of CSE alleging that the interceptor project to stop flow of sewage into Yamuna would put an additional Rs 5,600 crore down the drain.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 31 July

Clean Yamuna: NGO on a vigil near river bank

Volunteers with Yamuna Jyoti Abhiyaan stood vigil at the Nizamuddin Bridge, persuading people to hand over their offerings to them instead so that they could be disposed off in a proper manner.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 2 September



Swiss adventurer, crew to highlight condition of Ganges

To highlight the condition of Ganga in context of global warming, receding glacier, pollution the Group Green Cross International, AB Inflatables in partnership with Kouni (travel) group supported by WWF, CPN Satellite service, Tag Heuer, & Yatch Centre launched this Ganga expedition part of "Rib Expedition & Adventure".

Source: THE SENTINEL, Guwahati, 11 September
THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 11 September
THE PIONEER, Lucknow, 12 September

Source: THE SENTINEL, Guwahati, 11 September

Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 11 September

Source: THE PIONEER, Lucknow, 12 September

Involve inhabitants of Yamuna bank in revival plan

Yamuna Jyoti Abhiyan has come up with suggestions for revivals of Yamuna. According to them common people involvement should be there i.e inhabitants of bank of Yamuna in any action plan for any success.

Source: THE STATESMAN, New Delhi, 20 September

Pollution cloud looms over Yamuna

Yamuna Jyoti Abhiyan has posted volunteers on the Nizamuddin Bridge for a month to stop people from throwing things into the river, has reported that it has collected 400 plastic bags since it started the vigil on 1 September.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 21 September

Pollution

TERI, Tetra Pak launch prog on recycling habit

TERI in collaboration with Tetra Pak India Private Limited has initiated Project SEARCH (Sensitization, Education & Awareness on Recycling for Cleaner Habitat).

Source: POLITICAL & BUSINESS DAILY, New Delhi, 24 July
THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 24 July

Environment ministry to take up e-waste management norms on Aug 6

Rules for the waste management have been drafted by the Manufacturers Association of Information Technology & Greenpeace, Toxic Link & GTZ in consultation with industry leaders.

Source: FINANCIAL EXPRESS Mumbai,
FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 4 August



Orissa oil spill

Under Environment laws the polluter pays for the entire clean up and compensate for the loss to marine life." The law is clear. The ship owner has to pay for removing the spilled oil from the sea", said Dr. Banwari Lal, head of the biotechnology wing at Delhi-based NGO The Energy and Research Institute (TERI).

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 24 September;
HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 24 September,
HINDUSTAN TIMES, Patna, 24 September

Water Management

Delhi gets maximum water, but lets it go waste

The Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) carried out water availability survey in Sangam Vihar which highlights that 80% of delhites concentrated in urban slums, water distribution is passing into the hands of "water mafia".

Source: ASIAN AGE, New Delhi, 6 July

Water crisis looms large in Uttarakhand

Lok Kalyan Samiti, in Bageshwar ran some tests on the available drinking water in various panchayats which threw up some very hard hitting facts. The water from about 90 sources across the region was found unfit for drinking.

Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 4 September

Wildlife Management

Wildlife board's meet gives nod to string of measures

Punjab Wildlife Board (PWB) has taken a string of decisions to improve wildlife in state. A sanction of Rs 10 lakh for the study of biodiversity of Beas River & preparation of a comprehensive plan from WWF-India.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Chandigarh, 2 July

Dolphins ignored

Dolphins & smaller whales are in danger of dying out because they have not been given the same protection as great whales according to WWF. At International Whaling Commission in Madeira WWF will call for new measures to protect the animals.

Source: NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, Chennai, 4 July

Wild Proposition

Jairam Ramesh came up with idea to import the animals & reintroduce them to Indian habitat. The plan is based on suggestion made by wildlife experts, WTI that the African Cheetah should be imported in the wild so that repopulation process will follow.

Source: DNA, Mumbai, 10 July
THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 19 July

Ten Tigers dead in seven months in state reserve

According to survey conducted by Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) 10 tigers have been found dead since November 2008 in Maharashtra's Tiger reserves and covered three reserves: Melghat, Pench, Tadoba-Andhari.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 11 July

Tiger breeding to nullify poaching

"If you breed tigers, you stimulate the market" said Susan Leibermann, director of WWF's species programme. According to WWF this would fuel demand & poaching.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 11 July

Clouded leopard cubs to be moved to Kachugaoan forest

Cubs have been hand raised in rehabilitation project taken by International Fund for Animal Welfare. Wildlife Trust of India.

Source: ASSAM TRIBUNE, Guwahati, 13 July

Pills that kill pain & vultures

According to a survey conducted by the BNHS in 2007 there were 56,000 vultures left in the country compared to 40 million in 1980s. The state forest department would approach the central drug control board on the usage of pain killer diclofenac which they say resulting in the decline of the vulture population.

Source: THE STATESMAN, Kolkata, 16 July



DEATH of a Sanctuary

Noida project threatening the bird population of Okhla Bird Park, says report given by team of ornithologist working for the BNHS that there was decline from 24,166 in March 2007 to 21,272 in March 2009.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 16 July

Not just tigers, look at birds too

BNHS is now training tour guides at wildlife sanctuaries to make "tiger obsessed" tourists more aware of the country's gallery of birds.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 19 July

Wildlife body to study issue

For the protection of wild elephants, a detailed study will be entrusted to WTI & will be asked to come out with short term & long term plans which can be studied & implemented by Railways & Forest Deptt.

Source: NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, Chennai, 28 July



Radio collars can't kill tigers: BNHS

BNHS stands firmly behind the method of radio collaring as an efficient tool in preservation of big cats.

This is in light of the "wildlife intelligence report" that blamed radio collaring as cause of death of tigers in Panna National Park.

Source: DNA, Mumbai, 31 July

Should the Cheetah make a comeback?

As Chairman of the Wildlife Trust of India, Ranjitsingh is an active component of the move to bring back the spotted cat & also leads the cheetah re-introduction program. According to Divyabhanusinh Chavda, president of WWF-India, if we want to protect the grasslands, then bringing back cheetah is step in right direction.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 2 August

Forest Deptt gets WWF 'power' to fight poaching

WWF-India has donated two high tech Bolero Camper vehicles to the department that will be used to check poaching in Bor & Nagzira wildlife sanctuaries.

Source: THE HITAVADA, Nagpur, 4 August

Rare vulture hatched in captivity

Slender billed vulture is perhaps the most endangered vulture in the world, prompting the BNHS to take up their breeding programme in captivity in Pinjore, Rajbhatkhwaha, Rani Centre near Guwahati.

Source: ASIAN AGE, New Delhi, 2 August
TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 8 August
TIMES OF INDIA, Jaipur, 9 August
HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 17 August

Pandas could be extinct in 2-3 gens

China's giant panda could be extinct in just two three generations as rapid economic development is infringing on it a way of life said experts at WWF (Beijing).

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 18 August
BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 18 August
DNA, Mumbai, 18 August

66 tigers dead in 8 months (from Jan 1 to Aug 19)

According to WPSI the reasons are poaching, infighting, old age, tiger human conflict, accidents, diseases.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 21 August
TIMES OF INDIA, Lucknow, 30 August

Man animal conflict heightens in Kaziranga

According to WWF INDIA in Kaziranga over 170 cases of cattle lifting had been reported, many of them were mauled by tigers.

Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 27 August
THE PIONEER, Lucknow, 27 August

Tata ready for talks over Dharma Port impact on turtles

NGOs including Greenpeace have long been protesting against the impending project, stating that the port & its accompanying industrial developments pose threat to turtles & destroy their mass nesting site.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Mumbai, 29 August

Rehabilitation centre helps wildlife in distress

A joint venture of the International Fund for Animal Welfare Wildlife Trust of India & Assam forest department for stabilizing displaced animals & release them in wild.

Source: ASSAM TRIBUNE, Guwahati, 30 August

8 tiger cubs sighted in Valmiki reserve WTI joined hands with the Bihar forest department to set up long term recovery plan for tigers through its Valmiki Conservation Project.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 2 September

India hands out second hand death to vultures

"A survey of cattle carcasses conducted by us last year found that 10% of them had traces of diclofenac. Such usage is an act of crime under law" said Dr. Vibhu Prakash, BNHS. The NGO is now in consultation with 3.5 lakh member strong Chemists & Druggists Association of India to make members aware of the alarming issue.

Source: THE PIONEER, Lucknow, 5 September

New hope for vulture conservation: about 300 sighted in Gurdaspur
Dr. Vibhu Prakash of BNHS said that it is certainly very interesting phenomenon. Gunbir Singh of the Punjab chapter of WWF said that the Katlour area presents a suitable habitat for vulture population.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 7 September

Trans-border management to help Manas tigers

Conservation circles have underscored the need for Trans border management of Manas National Park & Royal Manas National Park of Bhutan for enhancing the long term conservation prospects of world heritage site. Dr. Surajit Baruah of WWF India said that the issue needed urgent consideration of both the govt & voluntary organization in view of the fact that neither wildlife nor forces inimical to them recognize man made frontiers. Trans border management also helps in maintaining the healthy gene pool he added.

Source: ASSAM TRIBUNE, Guwahati, 13 September

SA Leopards to help increase population of spotted cats

Conference organized by WTI to work out a roadmap to reintroduce animal in India. The NGO along with WI will submit the roadmap to govt. to take a final call on the ambitious project.

Source: POLITICAL & BUSINESS DAILY, New Delhi, 12 September, THE SENTINAL, Guwahati, 13 September, THE HINDU, New Delhi, 21 September

Gir lions get breather for now

National wildlife board seeks expert opinion shifting the big cats to MP.

Biodiversity Conservation Trust of India filed petition in SC for transfer of lions from Gujarat to MP to which Union Ministry would reply.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Ahmedabad, 17 September

Ministry blow to tiger habitat

WTI, WWF, WPSI & The Corbett Foundation lodged a protest saying that the decision of MoEF to allow Indo Tibetan border police camp in middle of the forest, will hamper growth of tiger & elephant population in the region(Uttarakhand).

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 19 September

Rs. 9000 for good shot at rhino...

Guides lure poachers by money & take into park. Elephant gunned down, trunk cut off. "The injury marks show that a rifle was used to kill the jumbo. They have killed elephant in gruesome manner." said project officer of WWF India Kaziranga Karbi Anglong Landscape Conservation Programme.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 20 September

End of the roar?

The WPSI said that country has lost 150 tigers including 72 this year since 2006 when it had 1,411 big cats & causes are shrinking habitats for animals, poaching & man animal conflicts. They also said that some states are not serious about implementing measures to protect the animal.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 25 September, HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 25 September,

Activities of NGO's during January - June, 2009 : An Overview

During last six months it has been noticed that various NGO's had been involved in various fields like Alternative Technology, Climate Change, Energy studies, Wildlife Management etc. The following are the few cases highlighting the NGO initiatives taken in various subjects listed below:

Alternative Technologies

- 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.
- An NGO, Development Alternatives, handed over a solar power plant to UP villagers of the total 2,148 project under validation with UNFCCC, 748 are from India Now, the villagers own a plant.

Climate Change

- WWF-India launched the global campaign in India from Delhi and Mumbai. Earth Hour is a step in the world efforts to combat the threat of climate change and it holds a tremendous potential to influence sound policy and people participation on the issue.
- World Wildlife Fund For Nature (WWF) 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.
- To give impetus to the study of glaciers, TERI has signed Memorandum of understanding with Indian Mountaineering Federation (IMF) for the necessary expertise required.
- 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

Environment Conservation

- Delhi Development Authority appointed TERI (The Energy Resources Institute) as its consultant for construction of the Games Village using green building concepts. Compulsory forestation was being implemented as far as possible near the area from where the trees have been uprooted to pave way for the developmental project.
- Delhi Greens, NGO initiative of youngsters working on environmental issues organized a eco bus tour which took the participants to Bhaleswa landfill & the Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Wazirabad are trying to Conserve the dying river.
- 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.
- 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.
- In order to sensitize children about environment, create interest towards the need to preserve Mother Earth, TERI have joined hands to launch green books for children

Forest Conservation

- 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.

Water management

- Two different organization WWF & the Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) are about to finalize guidelines for Tilapia farm certification. WWF is seeking public comment on the sustainable farming standards, which were develop through Tilapia dialogue process over the last three years.

Wildlife Management

- People for Animal, an NGO has recently rescued some migratory birds from traps. Residents in Guhawati claimed the migratory birds flocking to the region are available in the market for prospective customers.
- Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) have taken initiatives for holding of annual training programmes to build capacity in individuals and organization involved in wild, animal rehabilitation in India. During the course of Workshop, three technical sessions will be held that would comprise Guidelines and Protocols, human-carnivore-conflict, Dynamics and Conflict Animal Management
- A group of environmentalist is making the efforts to reintroduce Cheetah in Pench. The group has formed Cheetah Conservation Society, Nagpur.
- WWF officials are making efforts to protect the marine life across the Gujarat coastline
- 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

Environment and the Government

This column represent the initiative taken by the various Govt. Section during the July, September. During this quarter, the major focus areas remain Alternative Technology, Climate Change, Environment Conservation, Forest Conservation, Fresh & Marine Conservation, Pollution, Water Management and Wild Life Management.

Agriculture

SBI cuts rates for crop, minor irrigation loans

SBI the India's largest lender, slashed interest rates for minor irrigation and crop loan above 3 lakh to support farmers hit by weak monsoon and drought.

Source: BUSINESS STANDARD, New Delhi, 4 September

Cut in basmati MEP may impact price at harvest time

The centre has lowered the minimum export price (MEP) of basmati rice from \$1,100 to \$900 a ton.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 9 September

Alternative Technology

Cabinet approves energy saving code for new Government building
The Delhi Cabinet approves a proposal for the implementation of the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) the only green building scheme run by the Central Government.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, THE PIONEER, POLITICAL & BUSINESS DAILY, New Delhi, 28 July

Guj set to lead nation with 34 solar projects

The Gujarat Government has approved 34 solar power projects at an investment of Rs 12,000 crore over next few years, to rank it the top Indian State for this clean energy.

Source: THE HITAVADA, New Delhi, 26 August

BHEL-BEL solar project scouts for tech partner

The search is on for an overseas technology partner for the 250-MW photovoltaic facility planned jointly by PSU siblings Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd and Bharat Electronic Ltd.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 2 September

New advanced heavy water reactor designed

India has designed a new version of the Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) that will use low enrich uranium (LEU) along with thorium as fuel, according to Atomic Energy Commission Anil Kakodkar.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 17 September

Climate Change

N-energy key to India's Climate change initiative

The Union Government on revealed that nuclear energy will be an important component of the 24 critical initiatives to be taken up by different ministries in India to combat climate change. The Prime Minister

wants 2000 Megawatt of Nuclear Energy to be generated by 2020.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 1 July

Funding climate change

Fund has been promised for eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, which was unveiled last years. The National Ganga River Basin Authority and The National River and Lake Conservation have been increased from Rs 335 crore to Rs 562 crores.

Source: BUSINESS STANDARD, MAIL TODAY, New Delhi, 7 July

State approves climate change action plan

The Government approved the climate change action plan prepared by the environment department during the State cabinet meeting.

Source: DNA, Mumbai, 27 August



Two missions on climate change ready for implementation, say Shyam Saran

Two of the eight missions in the National Action plan on Climate Change were ready for implementation through the cabinet level decision regulatory mechanism and even through the legislation said Shyam Saran

Source: THE HINDU, Kolkata, 29 August

Special NDC Meeting on Climate Change Planned

The Planning Commission is contemplating holding a special session of the National Development Council to discuss Climate Change.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 3 September



India plans Satellite to monitor greenhouse emission

India is planning to launch its own satellite for monitoring greenhouse gases and fine particles in the atmosphere, a nanosatellite weighing about 20 kg could be launch by the next year.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 12 September

Energy Studies

Create cell for Energy Efficiency

State Government has decided to from a clean technology cell (CTC) to facilitate industries to take energy efficiency measure.

Source: DNA, MUMBAI, 3 August

Scheme Cleared to cut energy spend

The Prime Minister's Council on gave a nod on to the National Mission on

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Enhanced Energy Efficiency, enabling about Rs 75,000 crore worth energy transaction that are likely to cut down annual energy consumption.
Source: FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 25 August

Environment and Forest Trade



Tourists will have to pay eco tax for entry to Mussoorie
The Uttarakhand Government has decided to introduce eco tax upon entry into the Queen of Hills with immediate effect like Rs 100 from heavy vehicle and Rs 30 from cars and jeeps.
Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Nainital, 23 September

Environment Conservation



Mount-Abu declared eco-sensitive zone
The Ministry of Environment and Forest has Notified Mount-Abu as an Eco-sensitive zone. Residents, Politician and administration had been rooting for this since long.
Source: THE TIMES OF INDIA, Mount-Abu, 4 July



Coca-Cola trucks go green in Delhi
The 85 Coca-Cola trucks in the city that deliver soft drinks engines have been changed to use CNG and the first 3 truck "green fleet" flagged off by Sheila Dikshit.
Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 10 July

ISRO plans two satellite to monitor environment

The Indian Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to build two new satellite especially for environmental monitoring.
Source: BUSINESS LINE, DAILY EXCELSION, Bangalore, 7 September

Biodiversity parks on Yamuna bank next

Lieutenant Governor Tejendra Khanna plans to develop the 22km stretch of the riverbank in Delhi as a biodiversity zone.
Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Mumbai, 23 September

Environment Education NGO's and Media

Environment clearance process made more transparent

The MoEF decided to put information relating to status of pending project, schedule and agenda of the Expert Appraisal Committees (EAC), minutes of the EAC meeting, Environmental clearance letters, and circular and guideline would be available on Ministry Website.
Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 21 July

Music to create awareness for clean Yamuna

In a bid to clean up the Yamuna, the MCD has jumped on the "awareness campaign" bandwagon with a musical programme.
Source: ASLAN AGE, THE STATESMAN, New Delhi, 9 September

EIA



After ministry sees red at Noida Park, Maya hurriedly goes greens
After cutting down 6,000 trees for a status complex in Noida, Hundreds of tree being planted in the same place after cracking open freshly built concretized areas.
Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 16 July, HINDUSTAN TIMES, 17 July

Ramesh: Govt. to set up Green Tribunal

Union Minister of state for MoEF Jairam Ramesh said that the Government is putting to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to tackle Ecological and other Environmental issue.
Source: ASLAN AGE, New Delhi, 2 September

Govt May set up environment regulator

In a first step toward delinking environment ministry from the job of clearance of projects, the MoEF released a paper for setting of a National Environment Protection Authority.

Source: FINANCIAL EXPRESS, BUSINESS STANDARD, INDIAN EXPRESS, BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 18 September, FINANCIAL EXPRESS, MAIL TODAY, 19 September

Forest Conservation

Centre launches scheme for forest regeneration

The Union MoEF Ministry launched a new scheme in the Budget Proposal for 2009-10 with allocation of Rs 5 Crores for Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover.
Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 10 July

SC clears Rs 5000 crores for forest

The panel- Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority have collected about Rs 11,000 crores over five years from entities conducting non-forest work in forest areas.
Source: BUSINESS STANDARD, MAIL TODAY, THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 11 July, INDIAN EXPRESS, 17 July

Rs 900-cr boost for state forests

The green cover on thousand of hectare of forest land across the state will soon get o Rs 900-cr boost, with the Center to take key Decision on the nation's Rs 11,000-cr afforestation fund.
Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Mumbai, 18 August

Green bonus to preserve forest

The Centre, announced plans to give financial incentives to states in a bid to arrest the environment degradation.
Source: BUSINESS LINE, BUSINESS STANDARD, Dehradun, 7 September

Freshwater and Marine Conservation

30 river links identified for inter-linking

Government is considered five river linking project for diversion of surplus flood water to water deficient areas, the Rajya Sabha was informed.

Source: POLITICAL & BUSINESS DAILY, ASLAN AGE, New Delhi, 10 July

Rs 250-cr authority set up to clean river, lake

The Government programme to clean river and lake, proposes to set up a Ganga River Basin Authority for which a corpus of Rs 250 crores has been formed.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 16 July

Rs 17000 crores gone down the drain

The Centre said in the Lok Sabha that Ganga and Yamuna were no cleaner now than two decades ago despite spending over RS 17000 crores. And Jairam Ramesh admitted that "River Ganga and Yamuna are no cleaner than 20 years ago".

Source: ECONOMICS TIMES, THE PIONEER, THE HINDU, New Delhi, 18 July

DJB to set up waste water museum to save Yamuna

Delhi Jal Board in the collaboration with National Science Centre (NSC) will develop a water and waste water museum to educate children about water conservation and increasing pollution in the Yamuna.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 7 August



Inflow to Yamuna to be cleaned up at last

After waiting for the nod from the ministry of Urban Development for over a year now, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has finally received the technical go-ahead for its ambitious plan of resuscitating the Yamuna's 22km stretch in Delhi by constructing interceptor sewers.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 31 August

Go-ahead to sewer project

Decks have been cleared for laying of ambitious interceptor sewer project to improve the condition of Yamuna after the fund starved Delhi government made arrangements for Rs.800 crores for the Delhi Jal Board.

Source: ASLAN AGE, New Delhi, 5 September

Rs 6600 cr. for storm water drains

As part of its mega plan to unveil a brand new Bangalore, the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will be spending Rs. 6600 crores on the Storm Water Drain (SWD) alone, in newly added City Municipality Council (CMC).

Source: DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 10 September

Governor plans green banks to save Yamuna

Go Green is the word from Lieutenant Governor Tejendra Khanna on saving Yamuna River said that the PM has constituted a committee for revival of river under my chairmanship.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, THE TRIBUNE, THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 13 September

Taps may also run dry as UP cleans Ganga canal

Resident of South Delhi and East Delhi may end up having a dry Drival with Uttar Pradesh planning to stop supply to the capital from 28th September night till the morning of October 17th.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 29 September

Pollution

Ban on Non Biodegradable plastic likely

The Government is set to ban the production of non-biodegradable plastic in the state. A bill to amend Karnataka Plastic Rules in this regard is likely to come up for discussion in the coming Assembly session.

Source: Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 1 July

High Court dismiss petition against ban on plastic bags

The Delhi High Court dismissed a petition challenging a Delhi Government notification imposing a complete ban on use of plastic bags in the Capital, saying that "there is no good reason to strike down the impugned notification".



Source: THE HINDU,

INDIAN EXPRESS, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 15 July, THE PIONEER, 16 July

No Fly ash for construction on Yamuna River, DDA told

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) stops dumping fly ash on the Yamuna floodplain with immediate effect.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 18 July

State Capital to be waste-free soon

The state Government has decided to make the state waste free in the next year for this Rs 16.24 crores had been sanctioned to the Patna Municipal Corporation for the purchase of equipments.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 17 July

Himachal to ban plastic product from August 15

The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to affect a complete ban on polythene and plastic product from August 15.

Source: FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 27 July, THE PIONEER, 28 July

Expanding waste-line and stench have city in a sweat

The Haryana Government has planned to set up a solid waste management facility on the Gurgaon-Faridabad Border. The first plant was to be set up by HUDA.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 10 August

Remote sensing to help check vehicle pollution

The Delhi government will now use remote sensing technology to check

pollution level of all type of vehicles without stopping them on the road.
Source: ASLAN AGE, THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 18 August

Govt for statewide polythene ban

Jammu and Kashmir State Pollution Control Board said the ban has been enforced on the sale and use of polythene in the state as Srinagar.

Source: GREATER KASHMIR, SRINAGAR, 21 August

Delhi Govt. Okays funds for control of industrial pollution

A sum of Rs. 23.04 crores would be released by the Delhi Government to the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 1 September

Waste disposal scheme to spread to 25 more areas

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) plans to expand its segregated home garbage disposal arrangement to 25 more colonies including Golf links Jor Bagh, Moti Bagh, Chanakypuri etc.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 10 September

Tackling e-waste

The New Delhi Municipal Committee's reported plan to tie up with private company to get electronic waste recycle and disposed to safely for healthy environment.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 11 September

Water management

Water tight: canal project to offer no respite this summer

Delhi Jal Board slated to get an additional 80 million gallon of water per day (MGD) with the concentration of the Munak Canal the Rs 315 crores has missed and the new deadline for the project as now set to December.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 12 July

DJB to let Residence book Challans for water wastage

Delhi residence will soon have the authority to penalize those found wasting water and advertisement inviting application from citizens below the age of 65 to be appointed as special magistrates.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, MINT, New Delhi, 21 July

No rainwater harvesting cell, no completion certificate

The municipal corporation has decided to not issue completion certificates to builders who do not construct Rainwater harvesting cells.

Source: THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 1 August

Delhi wants rain water harvesting system at PSUs

The city Government has issued fresh directives to all its department, local bodies and public sectors undertaking to install rain water harvesting system in their building.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, ASLAN AGE, THE PIONEER, POLITICAL & BUSINESS DAILY, NEW DELHI, 3 August

CAG slams Sikkim for management of rural water scheme

With 2.77 lakh rural people being infected with various water-borne disease during 2002-2007, the comptroller and Auditor General has rapped the state Government for its lack of commitment to implement the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 6 August

Adopt water-saving technologies for Rabi, Centre advises States

The Centre advised State to go in for moisture conservation for Rabi and adopt water-saving technologies such as zero tillage and intercropping.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 13 August

Water management courses in tech varsity

Delhi Technological University is all set to begin research for development of low cost technology for water purification, waste water management and water recycling.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 16 August

Safe drinking water for all by 2012: Centre

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The Centre plans to ensure safe drinking water to all habitation by 2012. It has to set to cover all rural India Under the "Total Sanitation Campaign by 2012".

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 25 August

Bihar to have law on rainwater harvesting soon

To promote water conservation in Bihar, The State Government would soon enact a law making Rainwater Harvesting mandatory in Urban areas.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, Patana, 31 August

Wildlife Management

Corbett park to join elite club

The Union Government has assured the State Forest Department augmentation of special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) to the park with this Corbett would join the list of select reserve with their own STPF.

Source: THE PIONEER, Dehradun, 1 July

Wildlife parks to get eco-sensitive status in Haryana

The Environment Ministry has recently issued draft notification to declare as "Eco-Sensitive Zone" (ESZ) area up to five kilometers around protected areas of as many as nine wildlife tourist hotspots including Kalesar and Bir Shikargah sanctuaries in the state.

Source: POLITICAL & BUSINESS DAILY, New Delhi, 3 July

New rules to save the tiger, fix responsibility

The national Tiger Conservation Authority, an Environment Ministry statutory body, will provide over RS 600 crores to reserve in the next four years and will conduct ecological audit to see if the money has been properly utilized.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 3 July

Centre clears tripartite pacts for tiger conservation

The Centre has approved a proposal for implementing the tripartite agreement between the Environment Ministry, State Government and tiger reserve.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, INDIAN EXPRESS, THE HITAVADA, New Delhi, 4 July

Himachal Submits plan to Centre on protection of Snow Leopards

The state Government has submitted Rs 1.40 Crores project to the Centre for the protection and conservation of the endangered Snow Leopard in Himachal Pradesh.

Source: THE HITAVADA, Shimla, 4 July

SC panel opposes Nagpur-Jabalpur road widening project in Pench Tiger Reserve

Supreme Court appointed Centrally Empowered Committee (CEC) has shot down a Controversial proposal of the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) to widen a road passing through Pench Tiger Reserve in MP.

Source: THE HITAVADA, New Delhi, 6 July

Tiger Conservation Allocation doubled

The government has doubled the budgetary allocation for the Tiger Project to Rs 184 crores in 2009-10 from Rs 72 crores in 2008-09 and overall funding for the MoEF has been increased from Rs 1,707 crores in 2008-09 to Rs 2129 crores in 2009-10

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, ASIN AGE, NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, THE PIONEER, BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 7 July

Cheetah to return to India

India will reintroduce the Cheetah which had been driven to extinction in the country back into its wildlife habitat, Jairam Ramesh told the Rajya Sabha.

Source: ASIN AGE, THE PIONEER, HINDUSTAN TIMES, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 8 July, DECCAN HERALD, 9 July.

Center released Rs 3102 lakh for wildlife conservation in NE

The Union Government has released an amount of Rs 3102.0922 lakh to

the north-eastern States under various centrally sponsored schemes for the conservation of wildlife.

Source: THE SENTINEL, Agartala, 9 July

Coming soon: foreign Elephants

Central Zoo Authority (CZA) chaired by the Minister of State for Environment and Forest Jairam Ramesh has decided to renew elephant exchange with international zoo after a break of several years.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 12 July

Wildlife Bill passed

The Assam Assembly passed the Wildlife Bill 2009 in order to amend the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. The new bill has incorporated punishment for poaching, including life imprisonment not included in original Act.

Source: THE SENTINEL, Gauhati, 17 July

Now, a wildlife intelligence unit to fight poachers

The MoEF has decided to adopt a grassroots approach which will set up a dedicated intelligence unit, member of which will live inside the jungle and work with villagers to track down the poacher.

Source: DNA, New Delhi, 25 July

State may reject tiger sanctuary proposal

The state government may not accept the proposal to set up a tiger sanctuary in south Gujarat is best suited for tiger population.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, Ahmedabad, 5 August

Protecting big Cats, Govt's new priority

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), under the MoEF declared the Nagarhole-Mudhumalai-Bandipur-Wyanad region as the most populated tiger reserve.

Source: DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 10 August

NTCA mulls steps to boost tiger population

In a bid to increase the number of tiger, the Valmiki Tiger Reserve has decided to augment prey base in the jungle spread over an area of 880.78 sq kilometer in West Champaran district.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, PATNA, 12 August

Centre's nod to 4 new tiger reserve

The Centre government proposes to extend the tiger project and sanctuaries in the country. In principle approval has been accorded for creation of four new tiger reserve- Pilibhit(Utter Pradesh), Sunabeda(Orissa), Ratapani(Madhya Pradesh) and Sahyadri(Maharashtra)

Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 16 August

Accountability will be fixed for loss of Panna tiger: Centre

Union Minister for MoEF Jairam Ramesh said that he had received a report from the Special Investigating Team set up by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) probing the loss of tiger at the Panna Tiger Reserve.

Source: THE HITAVADA, Kolkata, 25 August

Forest dept hopes to bust wildlife crime dragnet

The arrest of a petty poacher and smuggler of wildlife product in Gorakhpur has given the UP Forest dept a tailor-made chance to bust a fledgling wildlife crime syndicate.

Source: THE PIONEER, Lucknow, 27 August

Protected item on Taj menu under scanner

The National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is investigating the sale of rare sea cucumber as a menu item at the House of Ming restaurant in Taj Mahal Hotel on Mansingh Road in New Delhi.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 27 August

Tiger Foundation to be formed in State

A "Tiger Foundation" on the lines of the State Zoo Authority will be formed in the State Within

Source: THE HINDU, CHENNAI, 28 August

Scheme to protect Kaziranga National Park from erosion

The State Wildlife Advisory Board has decided to forward a Rs 7.8 crores

anti-erosion scheme to the National Wildlife Board for final approval.

Source: THE HINDU, Gauhati, 28 August

Bengal for better tiger reserve

West Bengal's Forest Department has started the process for setting up tiger conservation foundations in keeping with the guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Source: THE HINDU, Kolkata, New Delhi, 30 August

Night Traffic ban in tiger corridor has Kerala's claws out

The Karnataka government's decision to ban night traffic along Bangalore Kozhikode National Highway-212, which cuts through the crore area s of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, Thiruvananthapuram, 31 August

No need for Buffer zones around sanctuaries: Goa Govt

The Goa Government's report to the National Wildlife Board recommending against any eco-fragile zones near wildlife sanctuaries in the State has effectively allowed mining of iron ore around sanctuaries in some cases.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, Panaji, 31 August

Tiger Density highest in Corbett

A wildlife Institute of India survey report has claimed Uttarakhand's Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve has the highest Density of tiger in the World.

Source: THE PIONEER, Dehradun, 2 September

Fresh norms set to save tiger

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has issued revised guideline to the states for the formation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) on the line of the Indian Reserve Battalion.

Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 7 September

Activities of Govt. During January - June, 2009 : An Overview

During last six months it has been noticed that various Government had been involved in various fields like Alternative Technology, Climate Change, Energy studies, Wildlife Management etc. The following are the few cases highlighting the Government action or initiatives related to these issues:-

Alternative Technology

- The government is planning to implement Green Law to promote Eco-friendly products and making it mandatory for public agencies and offices to use products and materials that will save energy and the Environment.
- The union ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) is proposing to develop 60 cities in the country as solar cities.

Climate Change

- Capita's carbon footprint, the Delhi Government has identified a set of 65 action points that each department of the administrative would have to follow i.e. Climate Change Agenda for Delhi 2009-2010".
- The blue print for Nation Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) mission has been finalized.

Disaster Management

- The Central Government has enacted the Disaster Management Act, 2005, to set down responsibilities at various levels and emphasis on people's participation in the drive to minimize the loss of lives and property.

EIA

- Environment impact no issue for ministry in clearing dam project and hydroelectric projects in the country in the last two and a half years most of them with glaring discrepancies.

Environment Conservation

- The Delhi Biodiversity Foundation (DBF) under the Lieutenant Government, with currently monitor the Aravalli and Yamuna biodiversity park, has approved the creation of four new parks.
- World Council for Corporate Governance (WCCG) is jointly launching an environment initiative along with World Environment Foundation.
- The Delhi environment department has started planting trees on Yamuna Bank.

Freshwater & Marine Conservation

- The Lake and Water ways Development Authority (LAWDA) plans to restores the lake's beauty through traditional cleaning process.
- The Delhi Pollution Control Committee entered into an agreement with National Environment Research Institute (NEREI) to protect Yamuna.

Forest Conservation

- The Supreme Court restrained the Centre from transferring about Rs 100,000 Crores collected as compensation from business enterprises and agencies for allowing project in forest areas to the consolidate fund of India.
- Delhi Government has roped in the Forest Research Institute Dehradun to make Delhi city more green and smattering of color to its existing biodiversity.
- SC orders DDA to stop felling trees nears SIRI Fort areas for Constructing Basketball and Squash courts for Commonwealth Games.

Pollution

- The Delhi Government recently, imposed a ban on the sale, use and storage of plastic bags in the city and penalty is up to 1 lakh or jail for 5 years and if the violation is not serious, people may be left off with just a warning.

Water Management

- CGWB Ministry of water resources organized two days program on rain Water Harvesting.
- Delhi Government had estimated that 59 underground water reservoir (UGR) would require city to ensure equitable distribution of water.

Wildlife Management

- Jim Corbett National Tiger Reserve is all set to get an extra patch of 80 sq km.
- Rhino population rises in Kaziranga National Park i.e. estimated 2,048 of one species.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority had a meeting of 12 field directors for "trouble in the tiger reserve"
- Centre has cleared a proposal to translocation of 4 big cats to Panna Tiger Reserve.

Environment and the Parliament

This column shows the concern of the Parliamentarians towards Environmental Management. The news which grab the most of the attention in media were PM's Climate Council Meeting, Climate Change meeting at Copenhagen, Forest conservation, Environment Conservation, Ganga and Yamuna River Cleaning, Wild life Management.

Agriculture

Half the country drought-hit

"Ten states have declared 246 districts as drought-affected. It comes to about 46-47 per cent of total districts in the country. This year, there is 29 per cent less rainfall. This has affected crops in many states," Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar said on the sidelines of a meeting with state food ministers in Delhi.

First, our priority is to save the standing crop. For this, (all affected) states can give subsidy on diesel and power to save crops, if required, Pawar said. The Centre has also asked states to lift more seeds for replanting the crops, if necessary, as it has about 1.5 million tonnes of surplus stock. He said states had been asked to focus on compensating the production loss during the Kharif season in the Rabi season.

Source: BUSINESS STANDARD, New Delhi, 20 August

Alternate Technology

Solar plan draft awaits PM's climate council clearance

The National Solar Plan draft targets to install solar power generation of 2,00,000 mw over 30 years, create 1 lakh professional jobs in the next 10 years and reduce carbon dioxide emissions of 420 lakh tones by 2020. The draft pages the incentives at Rs. 70,000 crore.

Referring to the ambitious scope of the plan, Rajendra K. Pachauri, chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, says, 'Its' possible to achieve these targets. In fact, we should do more and can do more.'

The Draft envisages setting up of solar power generation parks and integrated manufacturing technology parks, exempting customs duty and excise duty on machinery and raw material, and components. The draft also calls for putting in place tariff incentive structures for solar power generation. Bidding based tariff modalities for solar power plants, and capital subsidy for solar energy deployment in rural areas. The first phase (2009-12) seeks to scale up rapidly to achieve cost reduction and catalyze domestic manufacturing. The second phase (2012-17) envisages scaling up of validated application, particularly grid-connected applications. The last phase (2017-20) aims to scale up without subsidy. It will help cut down on the consumption of kerosene, diesel and fuel oil.

It has been also proposed to set up a new body, Solar Energy Authority of India, under the ministry of New and Renewable Energy to look after the activities of the mission.

Source: FIN-ANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 3 August, FIN-ANCIAL

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EXPRESS, Mumbai, New Delhi, INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 4 August

Govt. clears energy efficiency mission

India said it intended to bring down its annual energy consumption by about 5 per cent in the next years and reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 100 million tones every through energy efficiency measures. The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change on Monday gave its in principle approval to the National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency, one of the eight mission that were identified last year under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The mission on energy efficiency, would enables transactions in energy efficiency worth about Rs. 75,000 crore.

At the heart of the energy efficiency mission is the Perform, Achieve and Trade' (PAT) mechanism which would assign energy efficiency improvement targets to the country's most energy intensive industrial units. These industries would be awarded energy savings certificates, called ESCerts, for the improvement achieved in excess of their targets.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, THE PIONEER, HINDUSTAN TIMES, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 25 August

Two missions on climate change ready for implementation

Two of the eight missions in the National Action Plan on Climate Change were ready for implementation through the cabinet level decisions regulatory mechanisms and even through legislation if necessary, said Shyam Saran the special envoy of the Prime Minister on climate change.

The National Solar Mission and the National Mission for enhanced energy have already been through by discussion and evaluation by the prime Minister's Council on Climate Change. Experts were considering the possibility of producing solar power with a threshold capacity of 20,000 MW. Which could result in grid parity by 2020 and parity in pricing with coal-generated power in 2030, he said.

Source: THE HINDU, ASIAN AGE, New Delhi, 28 August

Climate Change and Meteorology

Climate plan not for world scrutiny

Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said that India's national action plan on climate change will not be put up for international scrutiny or monitoring. Moreover India would under no circumstance undertake any commitment for quantified reduction of greenhouse gases. Sharing

India's International climate stance for the first time, he laid down eight non-negotiable points that the country would stand by as the negotiations progress towards the key meet in Copenhagen. The international monitoring will be allowed only in the case of transfer of green technology from the developed countries.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, FIN-ANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, 1 July

India won't accept emissions reduction target period

Making the Indian position clear the minister said, "India will not accept any emission-reduction target period. India will not accept any legally enforceable targets. This is a non-negotiable stand"

Source: ECONOMIC TIMES, ASIAN AGE, New Delhi, 1 July

Climate Change impact on fisheries

Inaugurating a two-day national conference of State Fisheries Minister in Bhubaneswar on 4th July, Union Agriculture Minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar pointed out that climate change had a significant impact on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and general health to people. Bulk of our fish is consumed fresh and near the source of production. Therefore, setting up effective forward linkage is extremely critical, he said.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 5 July

Funds allocated for climate missions

Presenting the Union Budget 2009-10 Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said, Necessary funds are proposed to be allocated for the missions that are being launched following the NAPCC unveiled last year. As an environment friendly measure, the Government has reduced basic custom duty on green fuel also known as bio-diesel fuel from 7.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent at par with petrol-diesel. He also proposes to fully exempt petrol diesel blended with bio-diesel from excise duty. To boost renewable energy source, Government has also reduced the basic customs duty of a vital component used in wind operated electricity generators.

Source: ASSAM TRIBUNE, GAWAHATI, THE TRIBUNE, INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 7 July
TIMES OF INDIA, Mumbai, 8 July

Global warming, local warning

Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling is concerned over reports that the 26sq km Zemu glacier, located in the Eastern Himalayas in the northern region of the tiny Northeastern state, was rapidly shrinking due to global warming. Glacier has already shrunk by three to six metres in the past one year, Chamling last week constituted an expert committee to assess the situation and its likely impact on the state's ecology.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS- New Delhi, 15 July

India against emission cuts, says Shyam saran

India has not conceded its position on climate change at the Major Economies forum that preceded the G8 Summit in Italy last week, Shyam Saran, the prime minister's special envoy on climate change, has insisted. He also maintained that the country would not accept any cap on its emissions. Saran and an official from the ministry of external affairs were the two principal climate change negotiators for India at L'Aquila. The declaration proposes a cap on maximum rise in global temperature at two degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.

Source: DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 17 July

PM triggers Climate Change

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that India's accepting that global temperature should not exceed 2 degrees Celsius was a possible threshold guiding global action and was "entirely in line" with the country's stated position on global warming.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, THE TELEGRAPH, Kolkata, BUSINESS STANDARD, New Delhi 30 July

Delhi to observe Earth Hour on 31 July, 2009

Encouraged by the success of Earth Hour Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit has called on the city to do a "repeat show" during the same time

During the previous Earth Hour, the Capital recorded a reduction in consumption of over 1,000 MW of power, a phenomenal record for any city in the world, according to the State Environment Department. Delhi Environment Secretary Dharmendra said on the event is an effort

to highlight the need to take charge and make a positive contribution to the Environment. Delhi Chief Minister has decided that the Earth Hour in Delhi be observed by all the stake holders on the last day of every quarter of the year, added Mr. Dharmendra.

Source: THE HINDU, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 31 July.

Earth Hour: President too joins citizens

President Pratibha Patil joined residents in the capital in switching off lights to mark the Earth Hour being observed to create awareness for global action on climate change.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan plunged into partial darkness as all its decorative lights were switched off between 8:30 pm to 9:30pm on the lines of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) supported World Earth Hour. This is the third time that Earth Hour was observed in the national capital since March.

Source: ASIAN AGE, New Delhi, 1 August

China ally for Climate Change talks

Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said India was unperturbed by China's recent agreement with the US on climate change. Calling Beijing as an important ally in the process to negotiate a pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol, he said the text of the agreement did not have anything that would lead the Centre to believe that China would have a parallel path on the tough negotiation to check global warming.

Source: ASIAN AGE, New Delhi, 1 August

Emission cap declaration: problem for India

Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh foreses hurdles emerging for India's climate change negotiators if rich countries use the major Economic Forum (MEF) declaration to push developing countries to accept an emission cap. The declaration, which India had signed at the G-8 summit in Italy in the first week of July, allows a 2-degree Celsius rise in temperature by 2050. Ramesh said this while releasing Indian submissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who signed the declaration in Italy, had however told the Lok Sabha that the 2-degree increase was an "inspirational" target.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, New Delhi, MAIL TODAY, New Delhi, 1 August, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 2 August

India, China to cooperate over Himalayan glaciers

India and China are in talks to monitor the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas, a border region crucial to both countries' water supplies, Minister for Environment Jairam Ramesh has said.

Seven of the world's greatest rivers, including the Ganges and the Yangtze, are fed by glaciers, and supply water to about 40 per cent of the world's population. Disputed the doomsday predictions linking melting, saying there is no evidence to support that glaciers will disappear within 40 years. Indian government has requested that the Indian space research organization (ISRO) and the department of science and technology undertake extensive glacial surveys across the eastern and western Himalayas to assess their condition.

Source: BUSINESS STANDARD, Kolkata, 4 August BUSINESS STANDARD, New Delhi, 12 August, The Tribune, New Delhi, 17 August.

India mulls satellite to monitor greenhouse gases

New Delhi India plans to launch its own satellite to monitor greenhouse emissions and the government has already discussed the proposal with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chief G. madhavan Nair and his predecessor K. Kasturirangan, Environment & Forests Minister Jairam Ramesh told the Rajya Sabha.

There has been no change in our stand. At Copenhagen we will not accept any compromise, he said, referring to the upcoming conference in December on Climate Change under the UN aegis in the Danish capital. The meet will endeavor to reach an agreement on the Kyoto Protocol on tackling global warming.

Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 5 August

India bid to block climate related trade barriers

Jairam Ramesh had condemned the attempt in the US to slip in trade barriers in its proposed domestic climate Change bill. Similar suggestions

have emerged from the EU and other rich countries. Under the existing global climate treaty, only the rich nations are obligated to take on emission caps. But as over 180 signatory countries to the treaty look to sign a new agreement for long-term action as well as midterm targets for caps by rich countries, the latter want other emerging countries to also be on board. India has forewarned that if the industrialized countries to ahead with their threats it would take resources to going against such moves. India's move comes against the backdrop of the US and other rich nations. Suggesting they would impose trade tariffs on Indian goods unless the latter took on emission caps to the WTO. China too has warned US and other nations of turning climate change actions into protectionism.

Source: *TIMES OF INDIA, Mumbai, BUSSINESS STANDARD, New Delhi, 15 August.*

Glaciers may melt, rivers may go dry

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh cautioned that if timely measures are not taken against effects of global warming. Glaciers would melt and rivers would go dry. In his address to the nation on its 63rd Independence Day, Dr Singh also suggested "save water" as a national slogan.

Dr Singh said country's national action plan against climate change has comprehensively taken into consideration issues that can bring down effects of climate change. He said as part of the national action plan, eight missions, including that of solar energy would be setup.

Source: *ASLAN AGE, New Delhi, FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Mumbai, 16 August.*

Large financial flows crucial to Copenhagen agreement

Without "technology cooperation and very, large transfer of financial resources" from the developed to the developing countries, any agreement in Climate Changes negotiations at Copenhagen will be meaningless, according to Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests. India, on its own, is investing heavily towards reducing heavily towards reducing emission and adaptation to climate change.

He said that the country is adding about 0.8 million hectares of forests each year and the plan is to take it up to 2.5-3 million hectares annually. This massive a forestation programme has not been getting any credits and Indisposition at the Copenhagen talks would be to demand for credits for such programmes. He said that the ministry of Environment and Forests is about to make public the results of a study, conducted through five reputed institutions, on modeling of greenhouse gas emission. Besides, the Indian Space Research Organization is preparing to launch a satellite meant exclusively to monitor GHG emissions from, mainly India, but also other parts of Asia.

Source: *BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 22 August*

India eyes China's climate technology

Minister for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh along with a team from the Ministry is set for a three-day visit to the country to try and reach an understanding on climate change ahead of the Copenhagen summit. The visit which comes close on the heels of China and the USA signing a memorandum of understanding on climate change, has on its agenda the dialogue on respective position on climate change, signing of an agreement between Indian and Chinese technical institutes to study the impact of climate change on Himalayan glaciers, and discussing illegal tiger and leopard poaching trade.

Meanwhile, in what is possibly one of the first ministerial communications on illegal tiger trade to China, the team will also raise the issue of tiger poaching and Chinese demand for poached goods.

A recent report by international NGO traffic on tiger parts trade has found that tiger trade in China is still flourishing and that Indian wild tigers are catering to a large portion of the demand. A MoU will be signed by the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun and the Cold and Arid Regions Environmental Engineering Research Institute the process of establishing a joint working group on environment and forests. India aims to study how China is increasing its forest cover by over five times the annual rate in India.

Source: *INDIAN EXPRESS, ECONOMIC TIMES, HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 23 August, HINDUSTAN TIMES New Delhi, 24 August, HINDUSTAN TIME, Patna, 24 August, HINDUSTAN TIME, Mumbai, 25 August, HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 25 August*

Climate Change: China with India

In Beijing for the first ever ministerial level talks between India and China on climate Change Mr. Ramesh said India and China had agreed to coordinate their position before every major international gathering on climate change, a move that reaffirms the convergence of the two countries positions.

Both agreed to reject attempts by Western nations to play one against the other. The Chinese team reportedly explained at length that Beijing was not trying to strike a Separate deal with the United States. Both agreed to coordinate their approach before global meetings on climate Change. India and China oppose legally binding emission targets for developing nations.

Source: *THE HINDU, THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 25 August*

On climate, follow the Chinese: Jairam Ramesh

China has agreed to include India in a three nation (China, Japan and South Korea) joint mechanism on climate control, minister of state for environment and forests Jairam Ramesh said. He said India wanted to emulate China on the use of technology and management controls to reduce emissions and poisoning of rivers.

Another agreement for Deccan plateau will also be inked. New Delhi is also seeking Chinese participation in the research for management of coastal zones. It wants an institution from China to join hands with the National Institute of Sustainable Coastal Zone Management, which is being set up at Anna University, Chennai

Source: *TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 26 August*

India's greenhouse gas emission to be low till 2031: report

The Country's per capita emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) will continue to be low until 2030-31, and it is estimated that the per capita emission in 2031 will be lower than per capita global emission of GHG in 2005, a new study shows. The finding forms part of the 'India's GHG Emissions profile: results of five climate modeling studies released by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

The estimates of the five different studies show that the country's per capita GHG emissions in 2030-31 would be between 2.77 tonnes and five tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This would mean that even two decades from now, India's per capita GHG emission would be well below the global average of 25 years earlier. All the five studies show evidence of a substantial and continuous improvement in the country's energy efficiency of GDP.

Source: *BUSINESS LINE, POLITICAL AND BUSSINESS DAILY, New Delhi, 3 September*

China assures India solidarity in climate talks

China has assured India of solidarity with it in the forth-coming climate negotiations in Copenhagen. Mr. Ramesh met the China's Climate Change Negotiating Team led by Mr. Xie Jhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reforms Commission, Beijing on August 24. China, like India, believes that finance and technology are key to a successful agreement at Copenhagen.

China is the world's largest GHG emitter (17 per cent of population and 23 per cent of emissions). India with 16 per cent of population accounts for around 4.6 per cent of emissions. China and the US account for 40 per cent of global emissions.

China and India have also agreed to set up a joint expert working to set up a joint expert working group to prepare an action plan for co-operation in forests and carbon sequestration, afforestation management and technology, forestry survey and monitoring, wildlife management, including tiger conservation. First meeting of the working group will be held in Beijing in the first half of November 2009.

Source: *BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 5 September.*

Climate change deal not opposed to growth

Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said India wanted a fair and equitable international agreement on the issue of climate change and global warming that does not stifle its developmental aspirations. There should be no barriers to its economic growth. The minister said that

a National Institute of Himalayan Glaciology would be set up in Dehradun to study change in the Himalayan glaciers. He said the institute would collaborate with China, Bhutan and maybe Pakistan at a later stage to gather scientific evidence relate to the glaciers

Source: *INDIAN EXPRESS, Chandigarh, 7 September*

United Nations climate fund hits roadblock

Developed countries like France and Germany were ready to increase their contribution but insisted the amount be diverted from their aids and grants to developing nations. Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee didn't accept this proposal and maintained that developed countries should not reduce their monetary support to developing nations and it should pump in fresh fund for climate change.

According to a minister in the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, this issue will be again taken up during the coming G-20 summit at Pittsburgh in the US which will be attended by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

India's stand in the past has been that the contributions of developed nations to climate change adaptation should be routed through the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, which is currently operated by the Global Environment Facility and the adaptation fund board. Rich countries, on the other hand, have been confining their donation to bilateral assistance rather than to a fund administered by the UNFCCC.

Source: *BUSINESS STANDARD, HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, ASSAM TRIBUNE, Guwahati, 8 September*

India not well-equipped to study climate changes

Climate Changes leading to severe conditions like drought, flood earthquakes etc. are on the rise of the last few decades. The factors behind these changes can be studied only if the country has sufficient knowledge and the required technical equipment. The view was by Secretary of Union Earth Science Ministry, Dr Shalash Nayak while delivering a lecture on towards climate information and services, to mark the 63rd foundation day of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany.

Nayak also emphasized on developing certain models like carbon cycle model, impact model, coupled impact model, Coupled climate model and gas productivity model. He also said that the department would try to reach out remote areas that had still not been covered.

Source: *THE PIONEER, Lucknow, 11 September*

Law to tackle GHG emissions

Environment minister Jairam Ramesh suggesting that India could enact an overarching legislation to guide action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Speaking at a conference hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry, Ramesh said, India could have a legislative agenda for (GHG) mitigation which will bring credibility to the actions through domestic political consensus.

"It could be a law, along the lines of the FRBM act with indicative and not mandatory targets, which would ensure that India's actions are guided by robust and long term parliamentary support and not based on international pressure.

Source: *TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 12 September*

Soz for combating climate change

Former, Union Minister and member parliament, Prof Saifud-Din Soz has underlined the need for protecting water bodies like world famous Dal Lake, Wular Lake, River Jhelum and several other sources of water as the world is heading towards a severe climate imbalance.

Prof. Soz was addressing an inaugural session of a seminar on "Engineering solution to combat climate change" organized "Engineering solution to combat climate change" organized in connection with celebration. The function was organized by the Institute of Engineers (India), J&K State centre.

He said that climate change has become serious threat to society affecting environment, terrestrial eco-system and biodiversity. He said degradation of forests, population of water bodies and ever increasing consumption of fossil fuels by humans has created an alarming situation for the existence of the living world.

Suggesting various measures for combating climate Change, Prof. Soz impressed upon the engineering fraternity to play pivotal role in

neutralizing the adverse effects on carbon emission on the climate.

Source: *DAILY EXCELSION, Jammu, GREATER KASHMIR, Srinagar, 16 September*

UN summit on global warming

Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh will attend the UN Global Warming summit in New York on 22 September. By 2020, India and other developing nations want the rich countries to cut emission from their 1990 levels, by at least 40 per cent. Developed economies like the US want India and China to accept legally binding commitments on reduction in greenhouse gases.

Source: *HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 21 September*

Don't expect miracles at Copenhagen: Jairam Ramesh

India has said that developed countries should "not expect miracles" at the key Copenhagen climate and goals sought for emission controls should be more "realistic". Mr. Ramesh said India should not be singled out as the "obstructionist" and instead industrialized countries should agree on realistic targets for cutting emission by 2020.

Source: *BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 20 September, HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 21 September*

Krishna to attend climate change meet in New York

External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna will articulate India's stand on climate change at a high-level meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. He will represent Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the meeting convened by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. The conference aims at providing a political direction and momentum to the ongoing multilateral negotiations under the UN-Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Krishna is likely to reiterate New Delhi's stand that any attempt to address the problem of climate change must take into account the imperatives of poverty reduction and economic progress in developing countries and the responsibility of the developed countries.

Source: *DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 22 September*

India won't be a deal-breaker-Ramesh

India says it will be a "deal-maker" and not a "deal-breaker" and would like to be part of a solution to hammer a new global climate pact. Ramesh said India's national Climate plan envisages voluntary measures by 2020. Ramesh and Climate Change expert Rajendra Pachauri also underlined the need for the US to bring about a "Lifestyle change" to combat climate change. The target includes a mandatory fuel efficiency cap which will come into place in 2011, an energy efficient building code which will come in to effect tin 2012 and an increase in electricity produced from renewable sources to 20 per cent by 2020

Source: *THE TRIBUNE, BUSINESS STANDARD, THE HINDU, FINANCIAL CHRONICLE, FINANCIAL EXPRESS, INDIAN EXPRESS, BUSINESS LINE, POLITICAL AND BUSINESS DAILY, New Delhi, THE STATESMAN, Kolkata, FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Mumbai, THE HINDU, Chennai, 23 September,*

Hu announces steps to combat climate change

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Tuesday announced four measures that China would adopt to further integrate action on climate change into its economic and social development plan.

1. China will intensify efforts to conserve energy and improve energy efficiency, and endeavor to cut carbon dioxide emission per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) by a notable margin by 2020 from the 2005 level.
2. We will vigorously develop renewable energy and nuclear renewable energy and nuclear energy. We will endeavor to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 15 per cent by 2020.
3. China will energetically increase forest carbon sink and endeavor to increase forest carbon sink and endeavor to increase forest coverage by 40 million hectares and forest stock volume by 1.3 billion cubic meters by 2020 from the 2005 levels.
4. We will step up effort to develop green economy, low carbon economy and circular economy, and enhance research development and dissemination of climate friendly technologies.

Source: *THE HINDU, INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 23 September*

India ready for global scrutiny on emission

Under the Kyoto Protocol that expires in 2012, only rich countries are required to submit annual reports on their commitment to reduce GHGs. There is no such binding requirement for developing countries such as India and China, which submit their national declarations on climate change once in six years. India's annual report to the United Nations framework Convention on Climate Change will tighten global monitoring regulation on its climate change policies, according to experts.

The Indian government has said it could agree to international review and reporting of its domestic voluntary and self-funded actions on greenhouse gas emission reduction along the lines of IMF conducting WTO surveillance on monetary issues and WTO monitoring trade policies of member countries.

Till now, India has reported only the impact of climate change adaptation policy and inventory of greenhouse gases under national communication. These reports cannot be scrutinized by others. India has long insisted that it would only allow scrutiny of project funded internationally, not domestic initiative. Now, it has indicated willingness to report all domestic actions. These reports could be similar to those under IMF's scrutiny of monetary policy and WTO monitoring of trade policy.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, 27 September, TIMES OF INDIA, 28 September, New Delhi

Disaster Management

India prepared to tackle drought

Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, asserted that the country is in a better position than ever before to tackle the prevailing drought largely because it has the mechanism to deal with the situation. Mr. Singh who was addressing the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry

The country today had an automatic mechanism in the form of National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes. This would help in mitigating the hardships of the affected farmers and those in the rural areas, to a large extent. Additionally, the government had over 16 million tonnes of food stock better than before which, in turn, would help in reducing the overall impact of the drought.

Above all, the stimulus package provided by the government to the industry following the global slowdown, would also add to the comfort. In this context, Mr. Singh added that the reconstituted Planning Commission would soon complete its midterm appraisal of the current plan which had clearly faced a setback following the global slowdown. According to the appraisal would look for corrective steps to ensure that the economy returned to the growth path that had been witnessed before the current downtrend in the economy.

Source: THE STATESMAN, New Delhi, 30 August

Environmental Education, NGOs & Media

Jairam institutes Mahatma Gandhi chair for Environment & Ecology at BGSB University

The Centre for Biodiversity Studies of BGSBU University will soon have the first Mahatma Gandhi chair for Environment and Ecology in the country with a corpus fund of Rs. 1.5 crore.

Source: GREATER KASHMIR, Srinagar, 6 August

EIA

Comment on park probe report, Centre tells Maya



Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh said that his ministry has asked the Uttar Pradesh government to comment on the findings of the inspection team, which reported that the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Museum Project in Noida has violated Central environment laws. A team from the Ministry of Environment and Forests led by UP's Chief Conservator of Forest Azam Zaidi inspected the museum site and submitted the report to the ministry suggesting the issuance of "stop work notice/s" for the project.

The report said the project needed clearances from the ministry that were

not taken. Report has also warned that the "kind of illumination/lighting network that the 33 hectare park will have would seriously disturb, scare and disrupt the movement patterns of the migratory birds that flock here during the winters. It also pointed out that the concrete and rock structures would affect the birds' habitat and noise pollution, including noise of construction work, will also have an adverse impact. The report has also recommended the ministry to procure satellite images of the project's site where five parks had existed before construction began in January last year.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi 12 July

6,003 trees felled in Noida Park

MoEF has informed the Central Empowerment Committee, Constituted by the Supreme Court to probe suspected illegalities in Noida's Bhim Rao Ambedkar Park. The committee seeks to verify the illegalities of the project as an adverse centrally protected Okhla Bird Park and Wildlife sanctuary as alleged by a public interest litigation filed before by two local residents, Anand Arya and Kanan Jaswal. These petitioners on March 5 had requested the apex court to direct the stoppage of work at the project since it had lacked the mandatory Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate from the MoEF though it was located in close proximity to the sanctuary and was sized above the limit of 20,000 square metres.

At the meeting, the NA official told the CEC that the covered activity area (built space) was much below the limit of 20,000 square metres beyond which a new construction activity would require an EIA from the MoEF.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi, 14 August

Jairam says no more in-principle approvals

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has abolished the system of in-principle approvals, to put an end to the practice of launching projects without obtaining the final clearance. The move signals that the ministry has begun to take a tough stand on environmental clearance in ecologically sensitive areas.

The Projects are either cleared or rejected. No more in-principle approvals, he said. In-principle approvals are given with a set of conditions that have to be fulfilled before the projects can be considered for the final clearance. However, people tended to go ahead with the project before the final approval came, the minister said.

Source: BUSINESS STANDARD, New Delhi, 31 August

Energy Studies

India's per capita energy consumption is 'lowest': Chavan

Minister of State for Earth Sciences Prithviraj Chavan on Monday said India's per capita energy consumption was the lowest in the world and the nation "can defend its interests".

Chavan, addressing a gathering on Earth Sciences Foundation Day at Vigyan Bhavan in the capital said that India can defend its interests' related to energy consumption so that nobody can cap our development only if we understand science. And to estimate effects of climate change and possible threats, we need to generate our own data, carry out research works, Chavan said.

He said the ministry has set up the Centre would be operational by September 2009, to address climate change related issues.

Source: THE SENTINEL, Guwahati, 28 July

PM Climate Change Council to discuss Energy Efficiency Mission

The Prime Minister Council on Climate Change will take up the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) at its meeting. The NMEEE, One of the eight national missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change seeks to enhance energy efficiency in addition to the programmes on the field being pursued by the Ministry of Power and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

- The draft outline of NMEEE set out a comprehensive strategy to create demand for energy efficient products goods and services, amend Government policies and programmes to integrate energy efficiency processes and prepare bankable projects to stimulate the mission.

- The strategy also seeks to incentives cost-effected improvement in energy efficiency in industries and facilities and certifies energy savings that could be traded. Ensuring adequate supply of energy

efficient products, goods and services by creating a cadre of energy professionals by way of bi-annual certification examinations, standards and labeling of end use equipment and appliances, preparing structured programmes to leverage international financing instruments are also part of the comprehensive strategy.

- The draft also seeks to create and promote Energy Efficiency financing platform (EEEP), set up partial risk guarantee funds, develop innovative financial derivatives of performances contracts, fiscal and tax incentives for investment in this sector. Apart from National Solar Mission and the NMEEE, other missions identified by the Council are national mission on sustainable habitat, national water mission, national mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, National mission for Sustainable Agriculture and national mission for strategic knowledge for climate change.

Source: DAILY EXCELSION, Jammu, 24 August.

Environmental Conservation

Centre probing felling of trees for UP projects

Minister for Environment and Forest told the Lok Sabha that the state government has been asked to respond to a report on large scale felling of trees in Noida and Lucknow and some other places without seeking clearance from the Forest Ministry.

Ramesh respond came after former UP Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party Chief Mulayam Singh Yadav sought to know from the centre if it was aware of the matter (of felling of trees without permission) and intends to take action against the State Government for cutting down dense forests.

Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 16 July

Multiple authorities delay games work

Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit spoke about Common wealth preparations, explaining that Games projects are getting delayed due to multiplicity of authorities involved in hosting the Games. She further added that the Union Water Resources Ministry has approved sewage treatment system which will take care of much of the much flowing into the river. Now that the Engineers India Limited will commence work, Yamuna will be much better in two years time. The CM added that quite a few flyovers will be inaugurated this month and the City could see an economic transformation after the Games with improved infrastructure, mobility and power put added that the only non-polluting service industry will be encouraged.

Source: ASLAN AGE, New Delhi, 22 July

Nature trail at CM's house will soon be Biodiversity Park

Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit said the nature trail at her official residence here would be developed as a biodiversity park. Dikshit said this after launching a plantation drive at her 3, Morilal Nehru Place residence where school children planted different species of saplings.

The Environment & Forests Department of Delhi Government has decided to plant at least 12 lakh saplings this year. Apart from this, more than six lakh saplings would be distributed free of cost from DMS booths, Kendriya Bhandars and Petrol pumps in the Capital. Present Nature Trail at CM's residence remains open for school children on every Tuesday and Friday.

Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 22 July

City greenery will be preserved



Amidst protest by environmentalists about losing greenery in Bangalore due to construction of Metro rail project, Union Urban Development Ministers S. Jaipal Reddy informed law-makers that utmost care would be taken to preserve trees while executing the project.

He said around 1,500 trees are required to be removed as per the alignment. For compensating this loss, 15,000 saplings have been planted at the rate of EIO in the land provided by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) and Forest Department.

Source: DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 24 July

PM's council on climate change to meet

The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change will meet on 3rd August to discuss the draft reports submitted by some of the missions it had set up. Only five of the eight missions have prepared draft reports on the possible roadmap to achieve their objectives. The most detailed, has been the National Solar Mission whose action plan is likely to be the main focus of the discussions.

- The Solar Mission has set ambitious targets for harnessing solar energy, aiming to generate 20 gigawatts of electricity from the sun by 2020, the three-phased plan aims to cut down India's carbon dioxide emissions by about 42 million tones. The Mission seeks to give massive encouragement to the installation of solar lights and make it mandatory of government buildings and others like hotels and hospital to install solar-powered equipment.

- The missions on enhanced energy efficiency, water, sustainable habitat and strategic knowledge are also likely to put up their drafts before the council.

- The missions on green India, Himalayan eco-system and sustainable agriculture are yet to finalize their reports, source say, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee had promised to make available the required funds.

Source: Indian Express, Mumbai, 1 August, 2009

Elders decry degradation of Environment

The AIADMK leader said that care and concern for nature and development had to go side by side. He also raised issues of noise pollution, pollution in rivers Yamuna and Ganga and big gap between generation of effluent and capacity for treatment. He also expressed concern over reduction of funds for the ministry under different heads.

Nominated member Mitra disapproved of the proposal to bring Cheetahs, an extinct species in the country, from South Africa for breeding purposes here. Put on hold (the proposal to bring Cheetahs). Let us first protect what we have. Protect leopards. CPI leader D. Raja stressed his concerns violation of forest rights and drew the minister's attention towards growing use of forest lands by industrial Houses.

Source: THE PIONEER, Lucknow, New Delhi, 4 August

Centre calls meet of state environment ministers

The Centre has called a first of its kind day-long national conference of environmental ministers of all states to discuss some of the pressing environmental issues like the cleaning and conservation of rivers and lakes, modernization of forest administration, a forestation drives and of course, Climate Change and ways to deal with it. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will address the inaugural session agenda of the meeting was all-encompassing and the idea was to come up with actionable targets in a time bound manner at the end of the meeting.

Source: INDLAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 16 August

National Conference of States Environment and Forests Ministers

Manmohan Singh delivered inaugural speech saying:

- Climate Change is traveling our ecosystem, water scarcity is becoming a way of life and pollution is endangering our health.
- We have to make fundamental choices about our lifestyles choice about our lifestyle.
- Manmohan Singh sought the cooperation of all state government to implement the eight missions that the Centre has outlined under the National Action plan on Climate Change. He asked the assembled minister to have state level action plans in concordance with the national plan.
- Manmohan Singh underlined the "need to ensure that local communities benefit from forest conservation. Tribals have guarded our forests for centuries. Their wisdom and experience should be utilized for conservation rather than turning them into environmental refugees. He said the Tribal Rights Act was the best way to guarantee these rights.
- Manmohan Singh felt that India's mandatory environmental clearance rules had led to a "licence raj" and had become "a source of corruption".
- But he expressed confidence that the National Green Tribunal Bill would change this by setting up an independent regulator. The Bill

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was introduced in Parliament during the last session.

- Ramesh appealed for more money for river and lake conservation and to set up joint effluent treatment plants in industrial estates.
- Ramesh also sought "special bonuses" for states that maintained their green cover, and wanted this institutionalized through the finance Commission or the Planning Commission.
- He also touched upon the critical issue of river cleaning and advocated the need for synergizing the river conservation efforts through innovative models like Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs).
- The conference focused on environment management and compliance, river cleaning, accelerating forest activities, modernization of forestry sector, wildlife management and convergence of forest rights act and forest conservation act.

In the end Prime minister urged all the states that have not yet established state EIA authorities to do so at the very earliest,

Source: KASHMIR TIMES, DAILY EXCELSION, Jammu, 19 August, MAIL TODAY, THE HINDU, TIMES OF INDIA, FINANCLAL CHRONICLE, ASLAN AGE, ECONOMIC TIMES, BUSINESS STANDARD, POLITICAL AND BUSINESS DAILY, INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 19 August, DECCAN HERALD, Bangalore, 19 August, DN-4, MUMBAI MIRROR, FREE PRESS JOURNAL, Mumbai, 19 August, THE HINDU, Chennai, 19 August, INDIAN EXPRESS, Chandigarh, 20 August.

Law on fishers' rights on sea and coast soon

The Centre is planning to enact a law that will ensure the rights of the fishing community on sea and coast and to ensure their livelihood security. He also announced the establishment of a national centre for sustainable coastal zone management in Anna University. The Minister said, the Centre will help fishers and their families improve their living standard and cope better with climate change and its consequences.

Ramesh was in Chennai to chair a public consultation on the MS Swaminathan committee report titled "Final Frontier: agenda to protect the ecosystem and habitat of India coast for conservation and livelihood security." The four member committee had submitted its report in July, 2009. The committee had recommended to let lapse the controversial Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification 2008 and to incorporate amendments as recommended in the existing Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 1991 for better coastal management. Fishermen as well as representatives of several fishermen association from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry had participated in the three-hour meet and registered their points to strengthen the CRZ-1991.

Source: FINANCLAL EXPRESS, New Delhi, INDIAN EXPRESS, Chennai, 20 August

Biological diversity rules to be revised

Rules under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 will be revised by November this year to ensure equitable sharing of revenue from commercial use of biological diversity with the community, said Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh at the inauguration of an office of the national biodiversity authority in Chennai. Only when local communities protected forests, a sustainable solution for conservation could be achieved, he remarked. The National Biodiversity Authority would be soon made independent of the Ministry.

Source: THE HINDU, Chennai, 20 August.

Govt. body to protect environment soon

The Centre will soon set up a national environmental protection authority, which would be empowered to give clearances on environment issues and enforce environmental laws and standards, Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said at a meeting with state environment and forests minister in Delhi. It was decided that we need an institutional set up, which will enforce environmental laws and standards and impose harsh penalty for non-compliance.

Source: ASLAN AGE, New Delhi, THE HINDU, Chennai, 20 August.

Govt. identifies 24 eco hotspots

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified 24 "environmental hotspots. Terming them "Mini-Bhopals". The Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, said

that the list included Wapi and Ankleshwar in Gujarat; Ranipat in Tamil Nadu; Trombay near Mumbai; Korba in Chhattisgarh; and Singaruli in Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry has engaged the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, to do a study of these 24 regions and come up with recommendations.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 21 August

8-point plan to preserve natural resources

Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit spoke of an eight-point programme of her government that would help preserve natural resources and also serve as a code of conduct for the citizens of Delhi.

Inaugurating a conference on Climate Change and relevance of New And Renewable Energy system' Ms Dikshit said the programme would involve campaigns on no to plastic bags, propagation of solar energy, water harvesting, recycling of water, segregation of waste management, car pooling, no to posters and conservation of water and power.

She said her government had for the sake of protecting the environment introduced eco-friendly CNG for its fleet of public transport, expanded the Delhi Metro rail network, taken up massive forestation and introduced measures to conserve water, install waste water treatment plants and interceptor sewers, banned use of plastic bags, subsidized electric cars and solar water heating systems, brought in gas-based power plants in place of thermal plants, and established bio-diversity park and eco-clubs.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 26 August

Govt. sees Bhopal as nation's environmental capital

Union Minister of State for forests and Environment Jairam Ramesh said he wanted to see Bhopal as the environmental capital of the country. Ramesh said setting up of an environment green tribunal in the state capital was under consideration which would lead to the establishment of many environment-related institutions in the State capital. He said the Centre would provide assistance to government to upgrade the state Government's disaster management institute to a national industry trail safety institute. Ramesh assured necessary central assistance for consideration of a national highway through Pench Sanctuary, establishment of private forest nursery, raising of a union carbide tragedy memorial and bringing tigers to Palpur Kuno from zoo and assured necessary central assistance to the integrated scheme for conservation of lakes in Bhopal.

He informed that the states like Madhya Pradesh having more than national average of forest area would be provided financial assistance as green grant. He said the Centre was considering providing green fund incentive to states with large forest cover. Madhya Pradesh was one of these few states.

Source: THE HINDU, Nagpur, 13 September

Jairam unveils blueprint for body to regulate green norms

Environment minister Jairam Ramesh revealed the blueprint for a new authority to regulate all environment norms and regulation just like the US' Environment Protection Authority. A discussion paper on the possible structures and powers of the new National Environment Projection Authority has been circulated to the states for their views.

The Ministry has recommended four alternative structures for the authority. The authority would have the power to set up standards, grant clearances as well as monitor the compliance of these clearances and other rules.

Releasing the Discussion paper, Ramesh said, "The three pillars of environmental regulation are the ministry, the national environmental protection authority and the national green tribunal. The government now plans to introduce a bill or amendment to the Environment Protection act in the winter session of Parliament.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, 17 September, TIMES OF INDIA, MINT, 18 September, TIMES OF INDIA, INDIAN EXPRESS, 19 September New Delhi

Ministry seeks feedback on new environmental agency

Union Minister of state for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh said a proposal for setting up an autonomous National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) has been put in public domain with the idea to create a mechanism that would be responsible for monitoring and compliance of environmental standards. The draft proposal for creation of the NEPA had been circulated to various Ministries and the State

Governments to seek their comments on the issue. The proposal has been put on the ministry's website for public opinion.

Minister said that his Ministry would receive feedback till October 20 and is likely to move a Bill for setting up this new institution, during the winter session of Parliament. NEPA would be an executive body that would complement the judicial National Green Tribunal

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 29 September

Pollution

Polythene politics: Ban on but plastic gets minister support in Parliament

Environment and Forest Minister Jairam Ramesh threw open the debate on the ban on plastic bags in Lok Sabha, in Delhi once again. According to him, Poor handling of solid waste management by Delhi's civic authorities has led to the ban.

Ramesh said the entire world uses plastic, which is chemically inert substance and not hazardous per se to health and environment. Ramesh also said he does not fully agree with alternative the Delhi government has pitched- paper and jute bags- and said use of paper bags would lead to cutting of trees, instead, he suggested use of biodegradable plastic bags, which the government has allowed only in very restricted areas: minor markets and small restaurants.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, THE TRIBUNE, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi Date: 9 July.

Sheila takes on Jairam over plastic bags ban

A day after minister of state for environment and forests Jairam Ramesh said in Lok Sabha that a total ban on plastic bags was a bad idea, Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit left no one in any doubt that she was at odds with the minister. She told that there was no question of revoking the ban in the capital.

The chief minister, who spoke to Ramesh, said through the city had not enforced a blanket ban, her aim was to discourage the use of plastic bags as much as possible.

Source: TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi 10 July.

Environmentalists upset over official stand on plastic bags

Environmentalists have expressed surprise at the recent statement of Union Minister of state for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh clarifying the government's stand against a total ban on plastic bags in the country. The High Court had considered all aspects before coming up with a ban in the Capital. The Court had directed use of jute, cloth bag and bags made of recycled paper instead of plastic. It has also suggested that there should be re-use of plastic bags so that throw away culture is kept under check and we are able to actively manage our growing solid waste. The Capital has some 2,000 plastic recycling units which don't adhere to BIS standards and are hazardous to both health and environment", said Vinod Jain, who has been working for ban on the use of plastic bags in the capital.

Source: THE HINDU New Delhi, 11 July.

Thermal units' poor emission norms

At least 23 thermal power plants in the country are not complying with the emission norms prescribed by the State Pollution Control Boards, the Lok Sabha was informed on 29 July. "Of these 23 plants, five are in Maharashtra, three each in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, and two each in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat", replied Minister of State MoEF.

All the defaulting States have been asked to take measures in a time bound manner to ensure compliance of environmental standards, he added.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi 30 July

Fresh and Marine water Conservation

Godavari, Krishna projects in danger: BJP leader

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party Leader Ch. Vidyasagar Rao has criticized the reported attempts of the ruling Congress in Andhra Pradesh to woo leaders from other parties under Operation Akarsh and urged the entire Opposition to identify People's problems and fight in unison under Operation Vikarsh. Referring to the erratic seasonal conditions, he said

the situation was serious and there would be no water in the Godavari, Krishna and Sriramsagar projects. Karnataka and Maharashtra were trampling the rights of the State by constructing projects across the Godavari and Krishna.

Source: THE HINDU New Delhi, 11 July.

Ganga, Yamuna no cleaner than they were 20 years ago: Jairam Ramesh

The Ganga and the Yamuna are no cleaner today than they were two decades ago, though the government is spending huge amounts on action plans for the rivers, Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh told the Lok Sabha. Mr. Ramesh was responding to clarification sought by the Bharatiya Janata Party Yogi Adityanath on a statement tabled by the government on his calling attention motion on the need to check pollution of rivers and lakes. Ramesh said his Ministry asked the 13th Finance Commission to allow the Centre to take up the full cost of operation and maintenance of sewage plants for the next five years.

Source: THE HINDU, ASLAN AGE New Delhi, 18 July

Ministry wants Centre to pay for upkeep of sewage plants along rivers

The Union Ministry of Environment and forests wants the Centre, instead of the urban local bodies, to pick up entirely the operation and maintenance (O&M) cost of the sewage treatment plants along major national rivers.

Mr. Ramesh said that his Ministry has shifted the focus from "town-based approach to basin-based approach" to clean up rivers and cited the case of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA). He said the NGRBA is an empowered authority headed by the Prime Minister with its other members being the Chief Minister of the State through which the river flows- Uttarakhnad, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar Jharkhand and West Bengal. He said the idea was to ensure not only the treatment of sewage but also its recycling, besides afforestation along the river to preserve the ecological balance. Hence, the NTPC executed hydro power projects in this region would run only five months a year leaving sufficient lean season flows in the river.

Source: BUSINESS LINE, New Delhi, 19 July

Ban on plastics on Marina in Chennai comes into force

Ban aim is to keep the Marina clean and free of used water packets, packaged water bottles, plastic packets and plastic bags and cups, said Mayor M. Subramanian. Five water-purifying plants would be installed on the beach. A fine of Rs. 50 will be imposed on those who litter on the beach. On an average, 16 tonnes of garbage is collected daily from the beach. Of this, around five per cent is plastic. Apart from the bins that it had placed for collecting wet waste; private conservancy agency Neel Metal Fanalca had placed six bins for plastic waste. The agency had also been asked to conduct an awareness campaign on the beach about the ban.

Source: THE HINDU, New Delhi, 16 August.

Yamuna clean-up in a mighty row

Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit says no work is getting done because too many government agencies are meddling with the river, not to mention the Centre-sponsored delays. Minister for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh says sewage treatment plants are not functioning to their full capacity. She requested Ramesh to create a single body to manage the Ridge to check violations.

Haryana's Forest Minister Kiran Chaudhary simply blames it on Delhi. And, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a policy for cleaning rivers.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 19 August

PM to chair first Ganga body meet

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be chairing the first meetings of the national Ganga River Basin Authority on October 5. The authority was conducted for the comprehensive management of the basin. One of the issues that would be taken up for discussion is to involve people, especially children and youth, to clean this river and create awareness regarding the issue

Source: ASLAN AGE, New Delhi, 17 September

Forest Conservation

7 Forests including Sultanpur declared as eco-sensitive zones

The Central government has issued a draft notification declaring areas around sites like Sultanpur National Park in Gurgaon, Bhindawas wildlife sanctuary in Jhajjar and many others as eco-sensitive zones (ESZs). Forest Minister Kiran Choudhry claimed that the notification would restrict the "destruction" of natural wealth in the garb of "development".

The national park covered by the notification other than Sultanpur is Kalesar and sanctuaries covered by it are Kalesar, Khol Hai Raitan, Bir Shikargarh, Nahar, Chhulchhila, Abushehar and Khaparwas besides Bhindawas.

Source: *TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 6 July*

Altat for shift in approach to meet environmental challenges

The Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment, Mian Altat Ahmad, Saturday emphasized for a shift in approach from traditional forestry to pro-people forestry, considering the growing requirements to timber, fodder and fuel wood.

The Minister said Forest department has a very significant role to play in view of the environmental threats that the world is facing today like climate change and global warming adding that on one hand the national objective of having thirty three percent of total area under the forest cover and on the other it has to meet the growing demands of timber, fuel wood and fodder.

Source: *GREATER KASHMIR, Srinagar, 26 July*

Tadoba coal mining protest reaches Delhi

Tadoba tiger reserve in Chandrapur district spread over 625 sq km, is one of the oldest national parks in India. It was upgraded as Tiger Project in 1993. The Ministry of Coal had allotted a coal on 1,573.86 hectares of forest land and 81.81 hectare of non-forest area near Tadoba Tiger Project to Adani Power Ltd in 2007. They had applied to the ministry of Environment and Forests for clearance to their mining lease as per provision. Local nature lovers and environmentalists have opposed the move. A delegation met the environment minister over the issue.

Ramesh told the delegation: "if such a proposal come to the ministry, it would be assessed as per laws and regulations on wildlife conservation and environment protection."

Source: *HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 3 August*

Local administration to clear forest projects

According to the Ministry of environment and forests, 50,000ha of forest area will need to be diverted for coal exploration and production in the next seven-eight years, only for Coal India Ltd.

The ministry said that all proposals involving use of forest land need to be backed by the consent of the corresponding gram sabha. According to that law, forest land can be used for non-forest purpose forest dwellers in so-called green areas. It is finally an acknowledgment that what has been happening is completely illegal vis-à-vis the forest land diversions without ensuring recognition of rights or consent of the gram sabhas, said shankar Gopalkrishnan, secretary, campaign for survival and dignity, an activist group.

Source: *MINT, New Delhi, 4 August*

States have primacy on Campa, reassures Ramesh

Mr. Ramesh spoke about benefits of forest cover to counter the greenhouse gas emissions. Announcing India's first effort at quantifying the climate benefits of forest cover, Mr. Ramesh said that the country's 65 million hectare forest cover absorbed 10% of carbon dioxide emissions every year. The Minister's insistence on natural forest cover received an impetus from the study that has quantified the benefits of forest as a carbon sink. If we take the forestry cover further, then you can imagine how much green house gas emission we can absorb, Mr. Ramesh said.

Source: *ECONOMIC TIMES, New Delhi, 5 August*

Govt. to set up green tribunal

Jairam promises to create ATM (Accountable, Transparent Ministry). The Member also drew the Minister's attention to issues of illegal mining and toxic waste disposal. "The Minister said that this was the best Budget for the Ministry in last 25 years with an annual increase of 25 years with an annual increase of 25 per cent and a separate Rs. 500 crore assistance to the

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States as part of the stimulus package for regeneration of forests across the country.

In addition there is a separate allocation of Rs. 100 crore for the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and respectable amount to the Botanical and Zoological Survey of India. We are in the process of finalizing the establishment of a National Environmental Protection Authority empowered by the Environment Protection Act of 1986. He said that other than Bhopal where toxic wastes were lying for a long time, the Ministry had identified 24 critically polluted areas in the country. There are: Angul Talcher in Orissa, Ankleshwar in Gujarat, Bhadravathi in Karnataka, Chembur in Maharashtra, Dhanbad in Jharkhand, Digboi in Assam, Durgapur in West Bengal, Greater Cochin, Howrah, Jodhpur, Korba, Manali Govindgarh, Najafgarh, Nagda, North Arcot, Pali, Parwanoo, Singrauli, Tarapur, Vapi, Vishakhapatnam and Vellore, he said.

Minutes of the Meeting:

- National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) to be set up to enforce environment regulation
- It will become mandatory for Industrial units to file environmental audit report that would reflect the measures undertaken by them to check pollution
- A National Green Tribunal will come up to for speedy trial of environment related cases
- Minister says he will bring in comprehensive Bill for the protection of Wildlife
- He admitted that the monitoring of pollution containment programmes was also not up to the mark
- Minister says Rs. 11,000 crore will be transferred to States once they open separate bank accounts for afforestation.
- He says there was no violation of law in Mayawati Govt's Ganga Expressway project.

Source: *THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 5 August*

Chair on ecology, environment at varsity in J&K

Minister for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh said several mega projects for conservation of forest and environment in the State were in the pipeline and negotiations were on with Japan for one of them. Mr. Ramesh also announced a Rs. 5 crore grant for the Pir Panchal Biodiversity Park, which has come up on 470 acres of land.

Source: *THE HINDU, New Delhi, 6 August*

Green agenda for change

In his reply to what was one of the most substantive debates in the Rajya Sabha, during which a host of issues linked to the degradation of our environment and the urgent need to prevent further destruction as well as punish the guilty, were raised, Mr. Ramesh has solemnly promised to reverse the trend and put in place an accountable and transparent system. Among other things, he has listed the setting up of a National Environment Protection Authority to enforce relevant laws, making it mandatory for industrial units to conduct and file environment audit reports, ensuring speedy disposal of cases by a national green tribunal, and focusing on river cleaning projects as his ministry's priorities. He also let it be known that a comprehensive Bill for the protection of wildlife will be introduced during Parliament's Winter Session.

Source: *THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 6 August*

Focus to be on forest cover at climate meet

India is focusing on the issue of recognition of tree and forest cover as carbon sinks during the global climate change negotiations.

"India is one of the few developing countries where forest cover has increased in the last 20 years... By government's estimates, the annual carbon dioxide removal by India's forest and tree cover is enough to neutralize 11.25 per cent of India total greenhouse gas emissions. This is equivalent to offsetting 100 per cent emission from all energy in transport of residential sectors or 40 per cent of the total emissions from agriculture. Our objective is to increase forest cover every year so that it can absorb at least 10 per cent of the emissions. Interestingly, Delhi has emerged as the city with the highest air pollution among the four metros according to the 2007 data in the report. Kolkata was the noisiest city in residential area.

Source: *MAIL TODAY, FINANCIAL EXPRESS, New Delhi 12 August*

12 lakh ha forests lost in 29 years

India will need to regenerate a forest cover of over 12 lakh hectare. As per the Government's own assessment, the nation's total forest land diverted for non forest purpose since 1980. When the forest conservation Act Staggering 11.82 lakh hectare. The figure is based on the details provided by different State Governments. There have been varied accounts of it. But now that we have an official figure about the total forest land diverted, it should put the rest all speculations over the exact forest cover loss, a Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) official said.

However, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Forests had an entirely different take. It said that compared to a forest cover loss of 20,639.99 ha per annum between October 25, 1980, and October 31, 2002, it increased to 30,997.34 ha per annum between November 1, 2002 and July 31, 2008.

Another estimate maintains that India lost 2.62 lakh ha of forest land in just two years flat (2005 and 2006). Speaking about the Government initiatives, the official said: "The Ministry has already made it mandatory that any proposal for use of forest land needs to have the consent of the gram sabha concerned and the use of the CAMPA funds would be strictly monitored as the progress report has to be submitted to the Supreme Court after six months."

Source: *THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 15 August.*

Wildlife Management

Jairam asks MP to snuff out Panna poachers

Environment minister Jairam Ramesh has requested the Madhya Pradesh government to crack down on poachers and make Panna a model for other tiger reserves with diminishing feline population. Ramesh's statement was in response to a Rajya Sabha question by BJP MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy on the depleting tiger population in protected areas. He informed that sixteen of the 37 tiger sanctuaries were in the danger zone "where tigers had either vanished or were on the brink of vanishing. Mr. Ramesh said rampant killing of tigers had virtually led to extinction of the big cats in Sariska and Panna due to poaching.

Mr. Ramesh announced the setting up of a Social Tiger Protection Force comprising the local communities and van gujjars, to protect the Tiger population from further damage.

Source: *MAIL TODAY, THE PIONEER, TIMES OF INDIA, THE HINDU, ECONOMIC TIMES, THE STATESMAN, INDIAN EXPRESS- New Delhi, DNA- Mumbai, THE SENTINEL- Ganulati, THE STATESMAN- Kolkata, INDIAN EXPRESS- Chandigarh, THE PIONEER- Lucknow, 8 July.*

Bihar was asked for their tigers by the centre.

The Ministry of Environment has directed the Bihar Government to fill the vacant post of full-time conservator in Valmiki Tiger Reserve in the State at the earliest to ensure better management in the park. Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said in his communication, that the Centre was concerned at the slip in the number of tigers and other wildlife in the park spread over 880.78 sq km in Champaran.

Source: *HINDUSTAN TIME, New Delhi, 11 July.*

Focus back on Salman, Pataudi poaching cases

Expressing "disappointment" over the delay in trial of poaching cases, Environment and Forests Minister Jairam Ramesh on Monday brought the spotlight back on Salman Khan and Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi- both accused in separate cases of poaching of black bucks. Ramesh not only termed the existing penalties for the "serious issue" of poaching "laughable", but also expressed his anguish over the progress in the two high profile case involving a "film star and a cricketer".

Source: *THE PIONEER- New Delhi, THE TELEGRAPH- Kolkata, 14 July*

Rajasthan signs tripartite pact on saving tigers

Rajasthan became the first State in the country to sign a tripartite agreement with the Centre, promising accountability and adequate utilization of funds in its two tiger reserves of Sariska and Ranthambore. "This is a historic step taken by Rajasthan Government which will go a long way in protection of the endangered species in the State, Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said at twoday all India meet of

field directors of tiger reserves in Lucknow after the signing of the pact. With the signing of this agreement, the Centre will soon release Rs. 30 crore to the two tiger reserves, he said.

Source: *THE PIONEER, Lucknow, THE PIONEER, THE HINDU, New Delhi, 26 July*

India says no to WB fund for tiger conservation

India, which is home to 70 per cent of the world's tiger population, does not need any fund, aid or expertise from the World Bank for conservation of big cats in the country, Union Minister of Environment Jairam Ramesh has said at the two day meeting of all India field Directors in Sariska.

"However, the government is open to the idea of World Bank's funding for the purpose of holding conferences and workshop aiming to boost the tiger conservation. He said while informing that India will host World Tiger Summit next year in November or October. Conservationists strongly feel that the World Bank's move to invest in tiger protection programme is just an attempt to "meddle" with the India's green efforts give its huge investments in several development projects such as dams which will damage wildlife habitat.

Source: *THE STATESMAN, New Delhi, 27 July*

Wildlife Act to be amended

Forest Preservation, Curbing Poachers and relocation of forest-dwellers were the three major challenges before the government, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh said in the capital, at a function to launch the Bengal Tiger Conservation Programme. The Minister said amendments to the Wildlife Protection Act were on the anvil to deter poachers further and for anti-wildlife smuggling activities.

Source: *THE HINDU, BUSINESS STANDARDS, New Delhi, 29 July.*

Tiger parks to be developed with money from tickets

Revenue generated through the sale of entry tickets at Tiger Reserves (TR) should be ploughed back for developing the parks further, Environment and Forests Minister Jairam Ramesh has said in a letter to Chief Minister recently. Ramesh has also asked them to set up Tiger Conservation Foundation (TCF) at their respective reserves at the earliest to ensure the gate receipts were retained by the tiger reserves.

The Minister's letter is in line with his plans to ensure that the "bulk of revenue flowed back for its further development". The tripartite Memorandum of Understandings between the centre, State and project authorities will ensure more and more revenue gets shared and ploughed back. He had maintained. The MoUs will be signed in the next few days.

Source: *THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 30 July*

Rajya Sabha worried about of Wildlife

Rajya Sabha expressed concern over depletion of Forest Resources and Wildlife. Initiating a discussion on the working of MoEF, Ministry AIADMK member V. Maitreyan said there was perception that the ministry acts only at the behest of the judiciary, adding that this was not a healthy trend. DMK member Kanimozhi said, "There are many species which are endangered in the country". She felt that bringing something from outside will not help in its breeding in the country. BJP member and former Uttarakhhand chief minister Bhagat Singh Koshiari spoke about cultural and spiritual aspects of environment and said destruction of forest in s the main cause of all ills.

Source: *ASLAN AGE, New Delhi, 4 August*

India to host world tiger summit

Rajasthan will be hosting the world tiger summit at Ranthambore next year in October or November. About 200 experts from across the countries are to participate in the summit including those from the world renowned organization, Global Tiger Initiative-- Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh.

"Who else but we being the holder of a large number of world's tiger population could know the problems better. We do not intend to take any grants or loans from them. We will, however, remain in touch with the technical experts of other countries and will send our field directors to

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these countries in case they need expertise in the area, he said.
Source: THE TRIBUNE, BUSINESS LINE, THE HINDU, New Delhi, THE HITTAVADA, Nagpur 10 August

50% of tiger reserves in bad shapes

A study by the ministry of environment and forests has found that 16 of the country's 37 tiger reserves (that's about 50%) are in terrible condition. The reserves were mainly graded on density of tiger population.

The study takes into account the density of tigers in each reserves and how well protected they are, said Jairam Ramesh, the minister for environment and forests. In all reserves, tiger density is low or very low, said the minister. To prevent further damage, tiger reserves are working on an elaborate security plan to protect those inhabitants. We have asked officials from each reserve to prepare a detailed security plan that can be implemented in six months. We will also run a security audit of the original plan at the end of the six month period, said a sources in the ministry.
Source: DNA, Mumbai, 13 August

Wildlife expert to take stock of tiger protection measures

A team has already conducted its study in the Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Orissa and come back. Other teams too would visit the other reserves in the days to come after we make them aware of the terms and reference, the monsoons in North-East are a factor. There are eight teams for the eight reserves with varying number of independent wildlife experts in each team, said Dr. Rajesh Gopal, member Secretary, Project Tiger. The team of experts will focus primarily on the protective measures undertaken by the respective State Government and analyse and identifying the problematic areas. Dampa (Mizoram), Namdapha (Arunachal Pradesh), Valmiki (Bihar), Palamau (Jharkhand), Manas (Assam), Indravati (Chhattisgarh) and Simlipal (Orissa) are the eight reserves identified as critical.
Source: THE PIONEER, New Delhi, 14 August

Environment Ministry 'no' to canal in Buxa Tiger Sanctuary

Ministry of Environment and Forests has said a firm 'no' to the proposal of the power ministry to build a canal through the famous Buxa Tiger Sanctuary in West Bengal. Tehri Hydro Development Corporation executing the Indo-Bhutan power project, wanted to build the canal passing through the Tiger Reserve to bring water to the Kolkata port. The canal virtually bifurcates the tiger reserve and other protected areas which are very rich in flora and fauna and home to a large number of Schedule-I animals like tiger, leopard, elephant, rhino etc. The Committee recommended that the canal portion of Sankosh multipurpose project be dropped.

According to wildlife experts, the canal would have been a permanent barrier for wildlife the construction work by itself involves the use of heavy machinery and a large labour force. Moreover, the construction would take place in winter, which is the main breeding season for most wildlife species, and their mobility during this time is also at its peak. The canal would have disturbed the corridors connecting various protected area and reserve forests which is considered important for the well being of wildlife. Particularly for large mammals. Such corridors facilitate the movement of animals between two habitats and provide temporary shelter and allow genetic exchange
Source: THE HITTAVADA, Nagpur, 14 August

Zoo authority told to explain minister's cage visit



The state forest Department, too, has sought an immediate report from the Maharajbagh Zoo authorities. The Zoo controversy involves Maharashtra agriculture and guardian minister of Nagpur, Balasaheb Throat. He had entered the cage of orphaned tiger cubs, in complete violation of CZA rules and regulations. It stipulates that only the animal's keeper, a vet and a person authorized by the zoo director, can enter and handle the animals.

"If it's a forcible intrusion, the minister could be fined up to 2,000 or jailed for up to 6 months or both under section 38(j) of the Wildlife Protection Act. But in this case it wasn't forcible entry. He went inside with the Zoo director's permission. We've asked the zoo director to explain why he allowed the minister to get in and risked his life as well as that of the animal.

Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 17 August, HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, INDIAN EXPRESS, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi, 18 August, DNA, Mumbai, 20 August

Jairam plans to get tigers to Gujarat

Minister of Environment and Forests Jairam Ramesh has written to Gujarat proposing that tigers be translocated to the state. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has been asked to conduct a technical study on this.

If tiger are translocated to Gujarat, these are likely to be brought from Madhya Pradesh. The Site being looked into for tiger re-introduction are Surpaneshwar near Narmada Dam and Dang.

Source: INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi, 19 August

24 tigers per 100 sq km

Claiming that conservation, asom forest and Environment Minister Rockybul Hussain said the density of tiger population in the State could be as high as 24 tigers per 100sq km as per the preliminary findings of a survey on tiger population agencies. Hussain said Asom is among the five States in the country which have already entered into tripartite agreements with national Park authorities and Central Government for Implementations of the Project Tiger Foundation.

Hussain claimed there has been no tiger poaching incident in the State in recent years. He said the Central Government has been approached for a similar conservation project for the one-horned rhinoceros. Faced with the grave man-elephant conflict, Asom is now advocating revival of the traditional mela shikhar, to capture marauding wild elephants that destroy house and crops, and has approached the Central Government for permission to resume practice.
Source: THE SENTINEL, Guwahati, 21 August

Nabard to fund Rs. 300 cr for HP's Doodh Ganha project

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal has said that Nabard (National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank) has agreed to provide Rs. 300 crore to Doodh Ganga project for promoting and upgrading animal husbandry programmes in the state. Rs. 4.50 crore market yard would provide marketing facilities to over 50,000 farmers of the region.

He said the prestigious project would be launched on 25th of this month on birth day of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya who dedicated his life for the people of this country especially the farmer community.
Source: POLITICAL & BUSINESS DAILY, New Delhi, 11 September.

Cheetah's comeback possible

The Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India had been given the task to prepare a roadmap and identifying seven-eight places where the extinct big cat could be reintroduced. Ramesh's announcement in Parliament that the government had been looking into the possibility of bringing the extinct animal to India, wildlife experts recently met at Gajner to identify the possibility for release of African cheetahs in India. Cheetah is the only animal that has been declared extinct in India in the last 1,000 years.
Source: THE TRIBUNE, New Delhi, 18 September

Modi-Ramesh spat over lions

Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh refused to clear a 2.5 km long ropeway to the famous Ambaji temple in the middle of the Gir forest, the habitat of the endangered Asiatic lion. At a meeting of the planning Commission in Delhi, Modi reportedly singled out Ramesh for vitriol and accused him of blocking Gujarat's development and of not doing anything to save the lion.

Ramesh denied the charges saying, "There are wildlife issues with Gujarat, which are being sorted out through dialogue. We are not pursuing any policy against the Gujarat government".

The real reason for Modi's anger, Ministry's officials felt, is the environment ministry's refusal to clear the construction and expansion of seven ports along Gujarat's coast. Modi has been resisting moves to translocate a few lions from Gir, 315 km south west of Ahmedabad, to the Kanupalpur Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.
Source: HINDUSTAN TIMES, Mumbai, 20 September

Save tiger panel inducts Maneka

The government has included Maneka Gandhi as a member of the reconstituted panel for tiger conservation. The National Tiger Conservation Authority was set up in August 2006 following amendments

to the Wildlife Protection Act. Maneka had opposed the Bill terming it as the worst since 1947 and which would kill tigers. Maneka said she finally supported the Bill as the least it was a step to save wildlife.
Source: MAIL TODAY, New Delhi, 22 September

Activities of Parliament during January - June, 2009 : An Overview

This column shows the picture of the trends of Parliamentarian's concern towards various Environmental issues. Mr. Jairam Ramesh, the New Environment and Forest Minister took charge of his Ministry. His priority list includes Forest conservation, Climate Change and Fresh and Marine water conservation. Given below are some of the highlights of the Parliamentarians verdicts/actions covered in the last two issues of the Newsletter.

Agriculture

Parliamentary Committee urged the government to grow crop other than growing methane emissions and avoid negative impacts of paddy cultivation of paddy cultivation on the environment and climate

Alternative Technologies

Union Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal said developing need-oriented human nature and lifestyle was necessary to save the Earth from "eco-terrorism".

Climate Change

"No bailout for climate crisis. The financial crisis should not become an excuse for developed countries to renege on their commitments," said external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee

Chief minister Sheila Dikshit planned to have an Earth Hour on last working day of every month.

Energy Studies

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Murli Deora presided over the launch of a nationwide awareness campaign "Save Fuel Yaani Save Money" initiated by Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. President Pratibha Patil said that the government is pro-actively addressing national mission and some of them will be launched by year-end.

Environmental Conservation

The ministry of environment and forest formally launched the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) for conservation for protecting the country's fragile and huge biodiversity resources from the ill effects of climate change and industrialization. Delhi Government draws up plans to develop various picnic sports, bird-watching centers across the city.

Forest Conservation

Delhi Cabinet on Monday decided to make it obligatory for land allotment agencies to seek its "No Objection Certificate" before putting to use the Delhi Ridge, forest or deemed forest land for non-forestry purposes and allowing construction projects or activity in or around them.

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 in Kashmir.

Jairam Ramesh wrote a letter to Karnataka chief minister B.S. Yeddyurappa on the issue of proposed Gundia hydel project in the Hassan District, saying that the hydel project will affect about 1,900 acres of dense forest area which in the already endangered Western Ghats.

Fresh and marine water Conservation

The Union Environment & Forests Ministry issued environmental clearance to the Rs. 4,500-crore Krishna delta modernization project taken up to rehabilitate the canals in the delta.

CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda promised to revive all dried up lakes in Badkhal, Surajkund and Damdama in Haryana's Faridabad district before the Commonwealth Games begin in 2010.

Jairam survey valley lakes along with the chief minister, Omar Abdullah in Srinagar. 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.

Pollution

Chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee lauded the high court for banning polluting auto rickshaws and old diesel vehicles from the city before goofing up on his green facts at an environment summit in Bangalore.

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.

Water management

Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit exhorted the citizen of Delhi to adopt Rainwater harvesting system to curb fast depleting underground water level.

Wildlife Management

Forest Minister Ananta Roy announced a Centre for treating ill and aged tigers in Sunderbans:

The MP forest department got permission to relocate two tigresses but evidence shows no tiger left there now.

Statistical Representation of Parliamentary Discussion on Environment

Total no of Questions addressed in the Lok Sabha, 2009

This Section represent of total trend of questions and answers asked in both the houses of parliament during budget cum monsoon session 2009. In total 9154 questions were asked out of rich 621 questions were pertaining to environment for Lok Sabha.

Ministry	Starred			Unstarred			Grand Total	Pertaining to Environment
	Total Question	Received Question	Pending Question	Total Question	Received Question	Pending Question		
Agriculture	38	38	0	455	455	0	493	59
Agro And Rural Industries	5	5	0	8	8	0	13	0
Atomic Energy	4	4	0	27	27	0	31	0
Chemicals And Fertilizers	19	19	0	122	77	45	141	4
Civil Aviation	30	30	0	315	314	1	345	1
Coal	8	8	0	107	107	0	115	7
Commerce And Industry	28	28	0	317	317	0	345	18
Communications And Information Technology	23	22	1	251	240	11	274	0
Consumer Affairs, Food And Public Distribution	29	29	0	185	156	29	214	0
Corporate Affairs	3	3	0	32	32	0	35	0
Culture	3	3	0	35	35	0	38	0
Defence	24	24	0	182	182	0	206	1
Development Of North Eastern Region	1	1	0	6	6	0	7	0
Disinvestment	2	2	0	30	30	0	32	0
Earth Sciences	3	3	0	10	10	0	13	16
Environment And Forests	22	22	0	203	203	0	225	193
External Affairs	22	22	0	160	160	0	182	2
Finance	62	56	6	706	478	228	768	7
Food Processing Industries	6	6	0	43	43	0	49	3
Health And Family Welfare	55	55	0	449	422	27	504	16
Heavy Industries And Public Enterprises	7	7	0	75	61	14	82	1
Home Affairs	41	41	0	362	362	0	403	7
Housing And Urban Poverty Alleviation	4	4	0	54	50	4	58	0
Human Resource Development	34	34	0	362	300	62	396	1
Information And Broadcasting	21	21	0	163	163	0	184	0
Labour	13	13	0	78	78	0	91	0
Labour And Employment	9	9	0	108	108	0	117	1
Law And Justice	6	6	0	99	65	34	105	0
Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises	6	6	0	54	54	0	60	1
Mines	4	4	0	57	57	0	61	6
Minority Affairs	3	3	0	20	14	6	23	1
New And Renewable Energy	7	7	0	60	56	4	67	0
Non-Conventional Energy Sources	5	5	0	27	27	0	32	45
Ocean Development				3	3	0	3	0
Overseas Indian Affairs	3	3	0	25	25	0	28	0
Panchayati Raj	6	6	0	23	23	0	29	0
Parliamentary Affairs				3	3	0	3	0
Personnel,Public Grievances And Pensions	4	4	0	87	86	1	91	0
Petroleum And Natural Gas	35	35	0	321	316	5	356	62
Planning	5	5	0	57	51	6	62	0
Power	37	37	0	273	273	0	310	32
Prime Minister	5	5	0	5	6			
Railways	35	35	0	609	609	0	644	6
Road Transport And Highways	23	23	0	274	274	0	297	5
Rural Development	42	42	0	192	191	1	234	19
Shipping	12	12	0	92	92	0	104	4

Science And Technology				33	33	0	33	5
Small Scale Industries	5	5	0	9	9	0	14	0
Social Justice And Empowerment	15	15	0	97	43	54	112	6
Space	1	1	0	16	16	0	17	0
Statistics And Programme Implementation	1	1	0	19	19	0	20	1
Steel	5	5	0	107	107	0	112	1
Textiles	14	14	0	147	131	16	161	4
Tourism	5	5	0	70	70	0	75	7
Tourism And Culture	8	8	0	99	99	0	107	0
Tribal Affairs	3	3	0	61	61	0	64	8
Urban Development	10	10	0	100	100	0	110	19
Urban Development And Poverty Alleviation	10	10	0	127	127	0	137	0
Water Resources	14	14	0	124	124	0	138	50
Women And Child Development	6	6	0	76	66	13	82	2
Youth Affairs And Sports	11	11	0	86	86	0	97	0
	857	850	7	8297	7739	561	9154	621

Source of all this information has been prepared on the basis of the questions/Answers & Statement published by the Parliament of India, Lok Sabha Secretariat during the Budget cum Monsoon Session, 2009

Total no of Questions addressed in the Lok Sabha, 2009

This Section represent of total trend of questions and answers asked in both the houses of parliament during budget cum monsoon session 2009. In total 5622 questions were asked out of rich 345 questions were pertaining to environment for Rajya Sabha.

Ministry	Starred			Unstarred			Grand Total	Pertaining to Environment
	Total Question	Received Question	Pending Question	Total Question	Received Question	Pending Question		
Agriculture	26	26	0	245	245	0	271	64
Atomic Energy	5	5	0	29	29	0	34	0
Chemicals And Fertilizers	14	14	0	75	75	0	89	5
Civil Aviation	26	26	0	176	176	0	202	2
Coal	10	10	0	49	49	0	59	8
Commerce And Industry	26	26	0	189	189	0	215	9
Communications And Information Technology	20	20	0	163	163	0	183	0
Consumer Affairs, Food And Public Distribution	27	27	0	161	161	0	188	4
Corporate Affairs	6	6	0	140	140	0	146	0
Culture	3	3	0	60	60	0	63	2
Defence	14	14	0	99	99	0	113	0
Development Of North Eastern Region	1	1	0	10	10	0	11	0
Earth Sciences	1	1	0	21	21	0	22	17
Environment And Forests	17	17	0	153	153	0	170	0
External Affairs	26	26	0	140	140	0	166	5
Finance	50	50	0	330	330	0	380	0
Food Processing Industries	1	1	0	16	16	0	17	0
Health And Family Welfare	45	45	0	349	349	0	394	15
Heavy Industries And Public Enterprises	6	6	0	41	41	0	47	0
Home Affairs	32	32	0	280	280	0	312	21
Housing And Urban Poverty Alleviation	5	5	0	51	51	0	56	0
Human Resource Development	25	25	0	241	241	0	266	2
Information And Broadcasting	8	8	0	51	51	0	59	0
Labour	14	14	0	99	99	0	113	0
Law And Justice	8	8	0	49	49	0	57	0
Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises	9	9	0	33	33	0	42	2
Mines	1	1	0	18	18	0	19	1
Minority Affairs	3	3	0	25	25	0	28	1
New And Renewable Energy	2	2	0	22	22	0	24	14
Overseas Indian Affairs	12	12	0	62	62	0	74	0

Panchayati Raj	0	0	0	16	16	0	16	0
Personnel,Public Grievances And Pensions	11	11	1	43	43	0	54	0
Petroleum And Natural Gas Planning	33	33	0	178	178	0	211	12
Power	9	9	0	70	70	0	79	16
Railways	10	10	0	96	96	0	106	0
Road Transport And Highways	38	38	0	285	285	0	323	0
Rural Development Shipping	16	16	0	142	142	0	158	4
Social Justice And Empowerment	17	17	0	143	143	0	160	15
Space	10	10	0	63	63	0	73	0
Steel	4	4	0	46	46	0	50	0
Textiles	1	1	0	6	6	0	7	0
Tourism And Culture	1	1	0	37	37	0	38	2
Urban Development And Poverty Allevation	13	13	0	69	69	0	82	0
Water Resources	17	17	0	106	106	0	123	16
Youth Affairs And Sports	14	14	0	107	107	0	121	5
	11	11	0	141	141	0	152	101
	3	3	0	46	46	0	49	2
	651	651	1	4971	4971	0	5622	345

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 Budget cum Monsoon Session, 2009

Events on Environment

Select Events in the Country during July - September, 2009

Events during July-September, 2009

Symposium on legal issues of Tiger Project

Date: 7 July, 2009
Venue: Narmen National Park
Organized by: Sonitpur District Forest Department supported by Tiger Project

National Seminar on Impact of Environmental Legislation on Industrial Effluents

Date: 10th July, 2009
Venue: Department of Mechatronics Engineering, Kongu engineering college, Perundurai
Organized by: Dr. K. Krishnamurthy, Head of the Department, Kongu Engineering College, Perundurai- 638052, Erode (Dt), Tamilnadu

First International Conference on Recycling and Reuse of Materials (Polymers, Wood, Leather, Water)

Date: 17th to 19th July, 2009
Venue: The Windsorcastle Hotel Kottayam, Kerala
Organized by: Dr. S. Thomas, Director, Institute of Macromolecular Science and Engineering Chathukulam Buildings, Parumbaikadu P.O. Kottayam Kerala, India, 686028,

Tribal Act 2006 and Tribal Society

Date: 24th to 25th July, 2009
Venue: SGG Government College, Banswara, Rajasthan -327001
Organized by: Principal, SGG Government College, Banswara, Rajasthan - 327001

Workshop on Awareness and Capacity Building on Climate Change and its Mitigation Measures

Date: 3rd to 4th August, 2009
Venue: Seminar Hall, Indira Gandhi, Planetarium, Patna, Bihar
Organized by: Mr. L.N. Jha, Managing Director, Institute of Environment & Eco Development, (IEED), 3-A 3rd Floor, Niket Anand Complex, Jagdeo Path, Bailey road, Patna- 800 014, Bihar

District level Seminar on Community Based Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal Plants and its Biodiversity

Date: 5th to 6th August, 2009
Venue: Theni, Tamil Nadu
Organized by: Mr. M. Anbalagan, Secretary, VOICE, A-48 forest Road, 6th Cross Street, Theni 625 531, Tamil Nadu,

National Seminar on Environmental Bioremediation Technologies

Date: 5th to 6th August, 2009
Venue: Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli-620 024, Tamilnadu
Organized by: Dr. N.D. ShrinithivuthahShini, Chairperson, Department of Environmental

Climate Change & Water resources in South Asia

Date: 8 August, 2009
Venue: Delhi College of Engineering, Delhi
Organized by: The Delhi Technological University(DCE)

Developments in ECOSMART TEXTILE Processes and Products - ECO STEPS 2009

Date: 13th to 14th August, 2009
Venue: Sona College of Technology, Sona Nagar, Thiagarajar Polytechnic Road Salem-636 005, Tamil Nadu
Organized by: Dr. P. Govindarajan, Principal, Sona College of Technology, Sona Nagar, Thiagarajar Polytechnic Road Salem-636 005, Tamilnadu

Seminar on Bio-Diversity Conservation For Youth and Mahila Group Leaders

Date: 15th to 17th August, 2009
Venue: Mangalar Village, Periyakulam Taluk, Theni District, Tamilnadu
Organized by: Mr. I. Ayyannan, Managing Trustee, Grace Trust, Thendral Nagar, Ghat Road, Genguvartypati Post, Periyakulam TK, Theni 625203, Tamilnadu

International Conference on Community Rights, Forests, and Climate Change

Date: 17-18 August 2009
Venue: The Oberoi, New Delhi
Organized by: The Energy & Resources Institute

Climate change & Himalayan Ecology

Date: 17-18 August
Venue: Shimla
Organized by: Himachal Pradesh Government

Workshop on conservation of medicinal Plants and their sustainable utilisation

Date: 22nd to 23rd August, 2009
Venue: Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan)
Organized by: Mr. Padam Khari, Convener, INTACH, (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage Ward No. 22, Near

hammalon ki Masjid Sawai Mdhopur (Rajasthan)

National Seminar on the Impacts of Anthropogenic Activities on the Safety and Quality of Environment

Date: 11th to 13th September, 2009
Venue: Dept. of Environmental Sciences Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjunanagar, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh
Organized by: Prof. Z. Vishnuvardhan, Director, Dept. of Environmental Sciences Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjunanagar, 522510, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh

Environment Action Plan For India: Charting A Path Of Community Participation

Date: 16th September, 2009
Venue: Exposition Hall, Delhi College of Engineering, Delhi-110042
Organized by: Mr. Shamsuddeen, A.K., Secretary, Green Institute for Research and development, 129, First Floor, No. 8 Gautam Nagar, New Delhi-110049

Seminar on climate change

Date: 24-26 September, 2009
Venue: India habitat centre
Organized by: The Climate Project India & the Sierra club.

3 day National conference on recent trends of biodiversity researches

Date: 25 September, 2009
Venue: Silchar at Bipin Chandra Paul
Organized by: Department of Life Sciences, Assam University

State Level Seminar on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Jharkhand

Date: 27th September, 2009
Venue: Town Hall Deoghar
Organized by: Mr. J. B. Ram, Secretary, Gramin Vikas Parishad, Castairs Town, B Deoghar-814112, Jharkhand.

Improved Dynamic Performance of Environmental Friendly Green Power Generation

Date: 27th to 28th September, 2009
Venue: Electrical and Electronics Engineering Dept. Institute of Road and Transport Technology, ERODE- 638316 Tamil Nadu
Organized by: Prof. L. Peter Stanley, Bebington, Principal, Institute of Road and Transport Technology, ERODE- 638316, Tamilnadu

Select Upcoming Events in the Country during October-December, 2009

National Workshop on Solar/Hybrid Cooling

Date: 5 October 2009
Venue: Magnolia, IHC, New Delhi
Organized by: The Energy & Resources Institute

Seminar on Natural Heritage

Date: 8th October, 2009
Venue: Guwahati
Organized by: Mr. Samar Singh, Senior Adviser & Principal Director, INTACH, (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, 71, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi -110003

5 day meet on Hangul Conservation Plans

Date: 9 October
Venue: Srinagar
Organized by: Wildlife Institute of India

International Conference on Separation Processes

Date: 20th to 22nd October, 2009
Venue: Swantara Bhawan, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi - 22105
Organized by: Dr. P.K. Mishra, Convener, Department of Chemical Engineering & Technology, Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221005, U.P.

High-Level Conference On Climate Change: Technology Development And Transfer

Date: 22nd to 23rd October 2009
Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Organized by: Government of India, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) (For more details see: <http://www.newdelhiectechconference.com/>)

5th International Canopy Conference 2009, on "Forest Canopies: Conservation, Climate Change and Sustainable use"

Date: 25th to 31st October, 2009
Venue: Bangalore,
Organized by: Mr. Gladwin Joseph, Phd, Director, ATREE, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), Royal Enclave, Sriampur, Jakkur post, Bangalore- 560064, Karnataka

International Conference on Emerging Technologies in Environmental Science an Engineering;

Date: 26-28 October 2009
Venue: Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India
Organized by: Aligarh Muslim university (For more details see: <http://www.amu.ac.in/shared/linkimages/toledo.pdf>)

Managing Common Property Resources a Focus on Forestry

Date: 29th - 30th October 2009
Venue: Bangalore, India
Organized by: Bangalore Management Academy (BMA) (For more details see: <http://www.bmaindia.com/call-for-papers/call-for-paper.html>)

Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources

Date: 10-12 November 2009
Venue: Gwalior, India;
Organized by: ITM Universe, Gwalior (For more details see: <http://www.itmuniverse.in>)

XIX Annual Conference of Indian association for Angiosperm Taxonomy & Symposium on Angiosperm Systematic and Phylogeny: Retrospect's an Prospects

Date: 12th to 14th November, 2009
Venue: National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow
Organized by: Dr. Rakesh Tuli, Director, National Botanical Research Institute, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow 226001, U.P.

National Conference on Indigenous Technology, Livelihood Options and Habitat Utilization :Concepts and Perspectives of Development;

Date: 23rd to 24th November 2009
Venue: Guwahati, Assam
Organized by: The North East Center for Research and Development (NECRD) & Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) (For more details see: <http://www.ignou.ac.in/>)

International Conference on New Frontiers in Biofuels

Date: 18-20 January 2010
Venue: Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India
Organized by: Delhi Technological University, Delhi (For more details see: <http://www.newfrontiersinbiofuels.org>)

International Conference 'Wildlife Conservation, Health and Disease Management'

Date: 3-5 February 2010
Venue: Chennai, India
Organized by: The Department of Wildlife Science Madras Veterinary College, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Chennai- 600 007, Tamil Nadu INDIA (for more details see: http://www.tanuvas.tn.in/nea/docs/wildlife_brochure.pdf)

Beyond Copenhagen: new pathways to sustainable development

Date: 5-7 February 2010
Venue: Taj Palace, New Delhi
Organized by: TERI

International Symposium on Alcohol Fuels (ISAF -XVIII)

Date: 9th to 12th March, 2010
Venue: Hotel Claridges, Suraj Kund, NCR, Delhi
Organized by: Mr. V.N. Raina, Director General, All India Distillers Association, 805, Siddarth, 96, Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019.