

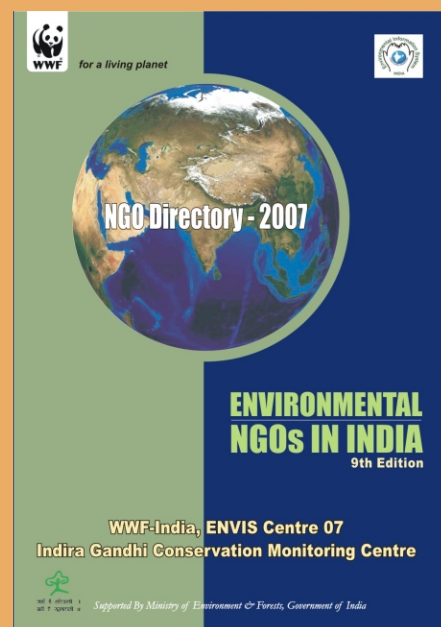
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Environmental NGOs in India - A Directory

The Ninth Edition of the Directory is now available in the ENVIS Centre, WWF-India, New Delhi.

The latest edition has listed a total of 2342 NGOs working on environment-related issues across the country. The vital information on the NGOs includes registration number and date, thematic areas of operation, contact address, website, major activities carried out recently including publications and activities planned for the near future.

Interested users may contact the ENVIS Centre for further details.



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

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 ENVIS CENTRE
 (NGOs, Parliament & Media)

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Photo : G. Areendran



Indian Rhino, Assam

Photo : G. Areendran

From the Head's Desk...

I am pleased to bring to you the first issue of the quarterly ENVIS newsletter for 2008. It is also my pleasure to announce that the Centre has come out with the latest edition of Environmental NGOs in India - A Directory. Details of the Directory are provided inside the issue.

In the section on activities of NGOs, various environment-related initiatives in the non-government sector as presented by the print media have been highlighted. The sections on Parliament include the print media reports of Parliamentary discussions during the Budget Session of Parliament, 2008 and also the statistical and graphical representations of Parliamentary discussions during 2006 and 2007. The other regular features include a summary of recent government initiatives and a detailed list of select events on environment.

I hope that the information provided in this issue will be an important resource for all those involved in environment protection in the country.

G. Areendran

Director - ENVIS Centre

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जहाँ है खिसायी ।
 वहाँ है खुशखबरी ॥

Supported By Ministry of Environment & Forests,
 Government of India

Activities Carried out by NGOs Reported by the Print Media during January-March, 2008

There was a wide range of activities carried out by NGOs in the past quarter which included awareness generation through workshops, events and protests; advocacy of greater governmental intervention in environment protection; demanding review of environmental policies; and providing assistance to enforcement agencies. These diverse activities as reported in the print media during the period highlight the multifarious roles of the sector comprising of vigilant, proactive and dynamic groups.

JANUARY

Name : **Aaranyak**
Activity : Called upon forest officials to take proactive steps on information given by NGOs about poaching in Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary
Place : Guwahati
Sources : Asian Age, 25th January; Assam Tribune, 25th January; The Sentinel, 25th January

Name : **Animal Saviour**
Activity : Rescued snakes from a snake charmer at the Basant Lok market
Place : New Delhi
Source : Indian Express, 7th January

Name : **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment**
Activity : Expressed concern about the impact of Indian research team's plan to conduct experiment in Antarctica in January 2009
Place : New Delhi
Sources : Mint, 10th January

Name : **Centre for Science and Environment**
Activity : Wrote to Finance Minister demanding fiscal measures to promote more 'sustainable means of transport'
Place : New Delhi
Sources : Times of India, 17th January; The Tribune, 17th January; The Statesman, 17th January

Name : **Delhi Cycling Club (part of Initiative for Transport and Development)**
Activity : Working to promote cycling as a measure for drastic improvement in Delhi's air pollution levels
Place : New Delhi
Source : Hindustan Times, 10th January

Name : **Delhi Cycling Club (part of Initiative for Transport and Development)**
Activity : Organized discussion and screened documentaries to highlight pollution issues
Place : New Delhi
Source : Asian Age, 21st January

Name : **Earth Matters Foundation**
Activity : Signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chhattisgarh government to help reduce man-animal conflict in elephants' corridor
Place : Chhattisgarh
Source : Mail Today, 5th January

Name : **Ecosystems of India**
Activity : Pointed out the threat to rhino in various parts of Assam
Place : Guwahati
Sources : Assam Tribune, 25th January; The Sentinel, 25th January

Name : **Exnora International**
Activity : Coordinating efforts for 'Lights out' campaign in Greater Chennai to promote awareness about global warming
Place : Chennai
Source : The Hindu, 24th January

Name : **Green Manas**
Activity : Highlighted the problem of illegal tree felling and poaching of deer in Manas National Park
Place : Assam
Source : Mail Today, 7th January

Name : **Greenpeace**
Activity : Demanded carbon dioxide emissions labeling on all new cars in India
Place : New Delhi
Source : The Tribune, 9th January

Name : **Greenpeace**
Activity : Expressed concern about the impact of Indian research team's plan to conduct experiment in Antarctica in January 2009
Place : New Delhi
Source : Mint, 10th January

Name : **Greenpeace**
Activity : Staged a protest at the venue of Auto Expo-2008 against the lax emission norms for cars in the country
Place : New Delhi
Sources : The Statesman, 11th January; The Hindu, 11th January; Hindustan Times, 11th January

Name : **Greenpeace**
Activity : Went on a protest march against the delay in the announcement of the Bachat Lamp Yojana
Place : New Delhi
Sources : The Pioneer, 21st January; The Hindu, 21st January; The Tribune, 21st January

Name : **Haryali**
Activity : Highlighted the adverse impact of indiscriminate use of plastic bags
Place : Gurgaon
Source : The Pioneer, 11th January

Name : **International Association for Human Values**
Activity : Hosted Sangam 2008, a national summit of NGOs for environment protection and access to social justice
Place : Bangalore
Source : Deccan Herald, 26th January

Name : **Maharashtra Institute of Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (MITTRA-BAIF)**
Activity : Assisting 'Greening Barrens' programme of Hindustan Unilever Ltd
Place : Vidarbha, Maharashtra
Source : Business Line, 29th January

Name : **Mangroves Society of India**
Activity : Expressed concern at the destruction of mangroves in Mumbai
Place : Mumbai
Source : Times of India, 24th January

Name : **People for Animals**
Activity : Collaborated with NOIDA Police to rescue black buck from village
Place : Ghaziabad
Source : Hindustan Times, 15th January

Name : **Prakriti Foundation**
Activity : Conducted story telling sessions for students as part of 'The Tree of Life Festival 2008'
Place : Chennai
Source : Indian Express, 30th January

Name : **Saviours**
Activity : Called for effective policies for preventing river pollution
Place : Ghaziabad
Source : Hindustan Times, 19th January

Name : **Swechcha**
Activity : Advocated solutions for cleaning the Yamuna river
Place : New Delhi
Source : Hindustan Times, 1st January

Name : **The Energy and Resources Institute**
Activity : Advocated a better public transportation policy
Place : New Delhi
Source : The Tribune, 11th January

Name : **The Energy and Resources Institute**
Activity : Conducted an environmental audit of Coca Cola India plants
Place : New Delhi
Sources : Political and Business Daily, 15th January; Indian Express, 15th January, 17th January; Business Line, 15th January; Hindustan Times, 15th January; The Tribune, 15th January; Mail Today, 15th January; Asian Age, 15th January

Name : **Toxics Link**
Activity : Expressed concern about landfill site management policy in the country

Place : New Delhi
Source : Metro Now, 11th January

Name : **Toxics Link**
Activity : Conducted survey of disposal of old batteries and lead smelting operations
Place : New Delhi
Source : The Hindu, 21st January

Name : **Trees for Free**
Activity : Member volunteers plant trees around the city of Bangalore
Place : Bangalore
Source : Deccan Herald, 10th January

Name : **Utthan Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation**
Activity : Received Alcan Prize for Sustainability 2007
Place : New Delhi
Source : Sahara Time, 27th January

Name : **Water Initiatives Orissa**
Activity : Conducted perception survey of farms and farm dependent people about impact of climate change in Orissa
Place : Bhubaneswar
Source : Sahara Time, 20th January

Name : **Wildlife Trust of India**
Activity : Called for thorough investigation of rhino death in Kaziranga National Park
Place : New Delhi
Source : Mail Today, 13th January

Name : **WWF**
Activity : Pointed out that global warming is occurring 5 times faster in the Antarctic than the rest of the world
Place : UK
Source : Deccan Herald, 8th January

Name : **WWF**
Activity : Team confirmed the presence of dolphins in the Beas-Sutlej system
Place : Chandigarh
Sources : Hindustan Times, 9th January; Financial World, 9th January; Economic Times, 9th January; The Hindu, 11th January; Mail Today, 12th January; Times of India, 14th January; Sahara Times, 20th January

Name : **WWF**
Activity : Unveiled plan to construct a community centre at Indri village near Mandla
Place : Bhopal
Source : Hindustan Times, 9th January

Name : **WWF**
Activity : Recommended more efficient anti-poaching measures for rhino protection
Place : Guwahati, Assam
Sources : Tribune, 25th January; The Sentinel, 25th January

Name: **WWF**
Activity: Headed the probe into deaths of ghariyals in the National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary
Place: Kanpur
Source: Indian Express, 30th January

FEbruary

Name: **A Rocha**
Activity: Popularizing the use of rope smeared with used engine oil spiked with tobacco and chilli powder to keep away marauding elephants, around the Bannerghatta National Park
Place: Bangalore
Source: Mail Today, 22nd February

Name: **Bombay Natural History Society**
Activity: Filed PIL challenging the constitutional validity of the Forest Rights Act
Place: New Delhi
Source: Times of India, 21st February

Name: **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**
Activity: Carried out comparative assessment of air pollution control measures in Delhi and Beijing
Place: New Delhi
Sources: Times of India, 7th February; The Hindu, 8th February; Economic Times, 8th February

Name: **Consumer Voice**
Activity: To begin testing CFL samples in India, in collaboration with Eco-Asia, as part of the programme to develop 'green benchmark' for manufacturing CFLs
Place: New Delhi
Source: Hindustan Times, 29th February

Name: **Developmental and Eco-Friendly Enterprises**
Activity: Gave a memorandum to the Union Finance Minister seeking levy of zero percent excise on composting plant and allied equipment and machinery
Place: New Delhi
Source: The Tribune, 5th February

Name: **Enca**
Activity: Discovered new lizard species
Place: Satara (Maharashtra)
Source: DNA, 13th February

Name: **Goa Foundation**
Activity: Released report on the nature of environmental clearances given to mining projects in Goa
Place: New Delhi
Source: Mail Today, 5th February

Name: **Greenpeace**
Activity: Launched its Gujarat office
Place: Ahmedabad
Sources: Times of India, 5th February

Name: **Greenpeace**
Activity: Released ranking of Indian electronic companies on the basis of their policies and practice regarding electronic waste
Place: Chennai
Source: The Hindu, 9th February

Name: **Greenpeace**
Activity: Presented the Orissa government an 'upper limit' target of turtle mortality along the Orissa coast
Place: Bhubaneswar
Source: Economic Times, 22nd February

Name: **Jal Bhagirathi Foundation**
Activity: Announced yatra for protection of the Luni river in Rajasthan
Place: Jaipur
Sources: The Hindu, 3rd February

Name: **Janhit Foundation**
Activity: Conducted a survey in village afflicted by contaminated drinking water
Place: Lucknow
Source: Mail Today, 21st February

Name: **Kalpavriksh**
Activity: Wrote a letter to the Prime Minister expressing concern over the 3000 MW Dibang multipurpose project
Place: Guwahati
Source: Hindustan Times (Next), 2nd February

Name: **Kalpavriksh**
Activity: Pointed out that there was a spurt in approvals for diversion of forestland during 2003 and 2007
Place: New Delhi
Sources: Mint, 13th February

Name: **Narmada Samagra**
Activity: Organized the International River Festival on the banks of the Narmada
Place: Bhopal
Source: Indian Express, 27th February

Name: **Nature Care Society**
Activity: Highlighted the threats to the Harike Pattan wetland
Place: Harike (Punjab)
Source: Indian Express, 5th February

Name: **Nature, Environment and Wildlife Society**
Activity: Collaborating with the British High Commission's Foreign Office 'Climate Change Initiative' project in the Sunderbans
Place: Bali Island, Sunderbans (West Bengal)
Source: The Sentinel, 12th February

Name: **Nature's Beckon**
Activity: Called for a CBI probe into the stock of seized wildlife body parts in the custody of the Assam Forest Department
Place: Guwahati

Sources: Assam Tribune, 5th February; The Hitavada, 6th February

Name: **Navdanya**
Activity: Organized international conference on 'Gandhi, Globalization and Climate Change'
Place: New Delhi
Sources: The Hindu, 8th February; Asian Age, 11th February

Name: **Parmarth**
Activity: Carried out a resources management project in Lachmanpura (UP)
Place: Uttar Pradesh
Source: Business Standard, 26th February

Name: **People for Animals**
Activity: Pointed out the disturbance caused to wildlife by heavy traffic in Sariska
Place: Jaipur
Source: Sahara Time, 3rd February

Name: **People for Animals**
Activity: Rescued cobras from snake charmers in Ithera village
Place: Greater Noida, U.P.
Source: Hindustan Times, 18th February

Name: **Pitchandikulam Bio-resource Centre**
Activity: Undertaking community outreach and education activities in the Kaliveli bio-region
Place: Tamil Nadu
Source: The Hindu, 28th February

Name: **Safe Animal Initiative Sanctuary**
Activity: Highlighted the importance of water conservation for environment and species protection
Place: Bangalore
Source: Hindustan Times, 4th February

Name: **The Energy and Resources Institute**
Activity: Organized the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit during February 7-9
Place: Delhi
Sources: Indian Express, 8th February; The Statesman, 8th February; Deccan Herald, 8th February; Mint, 8th February; The Tribune, 8th February; Asian Express, 8th February; The Hindu, 8th February; Times of India, 8th February; Financial Express, 8th February; Hindustan Times, 8th February; National Herald, 10th February; State Times, 10th February

Name: **The Energy and Resources Institute**
Activity: Organized a workshop on Sustainable Energy Technologies at Work
Place: New Delhi
Source: National Herald, 28th February

Name: **The Energy and Resources Institute**
Activity: Organized a workshop on Sustainable Energy Technologies at Work
Place: New Delhi
Source: National Herald, 28th February

Name: **Toxics Link**
Activity: Pointed out the nature of e-waste generation in

Chennai
Place: Chennai
Source: The Hindu, 12th February

Name: **Uthaan**
Activity: Organizing a women's car rally to spread awareness about proposed animal shelter on NH-8
Place: Gurgaon
Source: Indian Express, 15th February

Name: **Wildlife Conservation Society**
Activity: Held event, 'Conservation at Crossroads'
Place: New Delhi
Source: Indian Express, 18th February

Name: **Wildlife Conservation Trust**
Activity: Called for increased allocation for lion conservation from the Central government
Place: Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Source: Times of India, 6th February

Name: **Wildlife Society of India**
Activity: Filed PIL challenging the constitutional validity of the Forest Rights Act
Place: New Delhi
Source: Times of India, 21st February

Name: **Wildlife Trust of India**
Activity: Carried out inspection to confirm the presence of tiger in Teekli village near Gurgaon
Place: Gurgaon
Source: Hindustan Times, 11th February

Name: **Wildlife Trust of India**
Activity: Highlighted the shortage of forest guards in tiger reserves
Place: New Delhi
Source: Mail Today, 15th February

Name: **Wildlife Trust of India**
Activity: Filed PIL challenging the constitutional validity of the Forest Rights Act
Place: New Delhi
Source: Times of India, 21st February

Name: **Winrock International India**
Activity: Undertook project on power generation using biofuels in a village in Chhattisgarh
Place: New Delhi
Source: The Pioneer, 8th February

Name: **WWF**
Activity: Conducted orientation workshops for army officials
Place: Tenga and Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)
Source: The Telegraph, 11th February

Name: **WWF**
Activity: Held event, 'Conservation at Crossroads'
Place: New Delhi
Source: Indian Express, 18th February

Name: **WWF**
Activity: Conducted investigation into the reported sighting of Siberian cranes
Place: Palwal, Haryana
Source: Hindustan Times, 23rd February

Name: **WWF**
Activity: Developed, in collaboration with the University of Tokyo, an acoustic survey method for detecting dolphin presence
Place: New Delhi
Source: The Hitavada, 23rd February

Name: **WWF**
Activity: Warned of the growing illegal wildlife trade through the Nathu La border trade
Place: Gangtok
Source: The Sentinel, 29th February

Name: **Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan**
Activity: Sent appeal letter to Delhi's Lt. Governor asking for an environmental impact assessment before construction of East-West corridor from the Akshardam Temple to Minto Road
Place: New Delhi
Sources: Hindustan Times, 1st February; Hindustan Times (Next), 1st February

MARCH

Name: **Centre for Science and Environment**
Activity: Commented on Delhi Jal Board's plan for installation of interceptor sewer system
Place: New Delhi
Source: Times of India, 28th March

Name: **Early Birds**
Activity: Submitted a memorandum to the State Forest department demanding its urgent intervention to stop tree-felling in the Garbhanga Reserve Forest
Place: Guwahati
Source: Assam Tribune, 16th March

Name: **Greenpeace**
Activity: Presented a 'Climate Cop' award to the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited (KREDL)
Place: Bangalore
Source: Deccan Herald, 14th March

Name: **Greenpeace**
Activity: Demanded disclosure of data related to GM crops
Place: New Delhi
Source: Mail Today, 28th March

Name: **Greenpeace**
Activity: Roped in sand sculptor in Puri to sensitize people about global warming impact
Place: Puri, Orissa
Source: Times of India, 30th March

Name: **Gujarat Ecology Society**
Activity: Highlighted the need to protect heritage treasures along Gujarat's coastline
Place: Valsad, Gujarat
Source: Times of India, 20th March

Name: **Humlog**
Activity: Staged protest against the cutting of trees on the Punjab university campus
Place: Chandigarh
Source: The Hindu, 22nd March

Name: **Isha Foundation**
Activity: Launched the Bangalore Chapter of Project Green Hands
Place: Bangalore
Source: Deccan Herald, 24th March

Name: **People for Animals**
Activity: Pointed out that the illegal movement of trawlers in prohibited areas has led to the death of nearly 5000 turtles in Puri, Orissa
Place: Bhubaneswar, Orissa
Source: Hindustan Times, 17th March

Name: **Sankat Mochan Foundation**
Activity: Tested samples of river Ganga's water at several points
Place: Lucknow
Source: The Tribune, 31st March

Name: **Satpuda Foundation**
Activity: Pointed out the causes of forest fires in the Melghat-Gugamal tiger reserves in Amravati district
Place: Nagpur, Maharashtra
Source: Hindustan Times, 26th March

Name: **Tapas**
Activity: Commented on Delhi Jal Board's plan for installation of interceptor sewer system
Place: New Delhi
Source: Times of India, 28th March

Name: **The Energy and Resources Institute**
Activity: Launched the India chapter of the US-based The Climate Project, in a joint initiative with the Jindal South West Foundation
Place: New Delhi
Sources: The Hindu, 16th March; Business Line, 16th March; Mail Today, 16th March

Name: **The Energy and Resources Institute**
Activity: Released two books on climate change jointly published with the JSW Foundation
Place: New Delhi
Source: Times of India, 17th March; Times of India, 31st March

Name: **Wildlife Society of Orissa**
Activity: Pointed out the threats to Irrawaddy dolphins at the Chilka lake in Orissa

Place: New Delhi
Source: Mail Today, 2nd March

Name: **Wildlife Society of Orissa**
Activity: Called for regulation of tourism activities in the Chilika lake to protect the Irrawaddy dolphins

Place: Bhubaneswar
Source: Sahara Time, 16th March

Name: **Wildlife SOS**
Activity: Tied up with travel agency Le Passage to India to spread awareness about 'performing' bears among foreign tourists

Place: New Delhi
Source: Financial Express, 16th March

Name: **Wildlife Trust of India**
Activity: Was part of the release of a hand-raised rhino in the Manas National Park
Place: Assam
Sources: The Sentinel, 3rd March; The Hindu, 4th March

Environment and the Parliament in the Print Media during the Budget Session of Parliament, 2008

The first half of the Budget Session of Parliament, 2008 (25th February-21st March) was held in the past quarter, during which a total number of 16 sittings was scheduled for both Houses. The following is the summary of print media highlights on discussions in both Houses during this period.

Agriculture

Shivaliks worst affected - Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar told the Lok Sabha that the Shivalik hills of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh are among the worst affected by soil erosion, resulting in continuous and gradual depletion of fertility and productivity in these regions. The Minister informed that several measures are being undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in this regard.

The Tribune (New Delhi), 13th March

Climate Change and Meteorology

Climate study panel - The government had formed an expert committee to study the impact of climate change on the country and suggest an action plan to deal with the danger, the Environment and Forest Minister said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

Business Standard (New Delhi), 13th March

Himalayan glaciers receding - The Minister of State for Environment and Forests informed the Lok Sabha that retreat parameters of 35 glaciers have shown that 43 percent of glaciers in the Himalayan region are retreating in the range of 10 to 20 m/year, attributing causative factors for the variable retreat to subnormal snowfall, higher temperature during summer, less severe winter, or a combination of all of them.

The Tribune (New Delhi), 7th March

Name: **WWF**
Activity: Issued posters advising tourists to be careful about what they buy as souvenirs during their travels
Place: New Delhi
Sources: The Hindu, 1st March, Hindustan Times, 3rd March

Name: **WWF**
Activity: Recommended checking high levels of toxins in Yamuna waters following the deaths of gharials in the National Chambal Sanctuary
Place: New Delhi
Sources: The Pioneer, 6th March; The Hitavada, 7th March

Name: **WWF**
Activity: Monitoring the mass nesting of Olive Ridley turtles at the Rushikulya Rookery in Orissa's Ganjam district
Place: Purunabandha (Orissa)
Source: The Hindu, 7th March

National plan on climate change soon - The Prime Minister, responding to the issue of environment impact on crops, stated in the Rajya Sabha that the government was preparing a National Action Plan at the highest level to deal with the issues of climate change, including the remedial measures for mitigating the impact of foodgrains production.

The Pioneer (New Delhi), 21st March; Asian Age (New Delhi), 21st March; Hindustan Times (New Delhi), 21st March; National Herald (New Delhi), 21st March

Pollution

India generates 146,000 tonnes of e-waste - The Rajya Sabha was informed by the Minister of State for Environment and Forests that the country is generating about 146,000 tonnes of e-waste every year. The Minister also informed the House that the task force set up to look into the issue had nearly finalized a set of guidelines for the sound disposal of the e-waste.

Business Standard (New Delhi), 17th March

'Delhi biggest contributor to pollution of Yamuna' - The Environment and Forests Minister informed the Rajya Sabha, in a written reply, that the stretch of river Yamuna between Wazirabad and Okhla in Delhi is among the most polluted stretches of major rivers across the country. The House was informed that the national capital accounts for about 79 percent of the total waste water that is poured into the river by the major towns along its banks.

Business Line (New Delhi), 21st March; Mumbai Mirror (Mumbai), 21st March; Hindustan Times (Next) (New Delhi), 21st March; Political and Business Daily (New Delhi), 21st March; State Times (New Delhi), 21st March

Water Management

Punjab ground water table down - The Water Resources Minister, in his reply to supplementaries during Question Hour, informed the Rajya Sabha that groundwater table in Punjab is going down rapidly due to use of tubewells for irrigation purposes.

Business Line (New Delhi), 19th March

Wildlife Management

Rescue package for national animal - In his annual budget speech in the Lok Sabha, the Union Finance Minister announced the government's express intent to form an exclusive Tiger Protection Force. An amount of Rs.50 crores has been earmarked and the National Tiger Conservation Authority created to expedite tiger protection efforts.

Business Line (New Delhi), 1st March

Tiger population put at 1,411 - The Rajya Sabha was informed by the Minister of State for Environment and Forests that the recent assessment of the country's tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a

statistical framework. According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the recent all estimation of tiger in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India shows that the total country-level population of tiger is 1,411, he said.

Business Line (New Delhi), 14th March; Political and Business Daily (New Delhi), 14th March

Committee for appraisal of tiger population of Panna Tiger Reserve - The Minister of State for Environment and Forests informed the Lok Sabha that the Central government has constituted a committee to appraise the status of tiger population in the Panna Tiger Reserve. In addition, the Wildlife Institute of India has been directed by the government to look into the matter. The Minister also enumerated the various measures taken by the government for tiger conservation in the country.

The Hitavada (Nagpur), 21st March

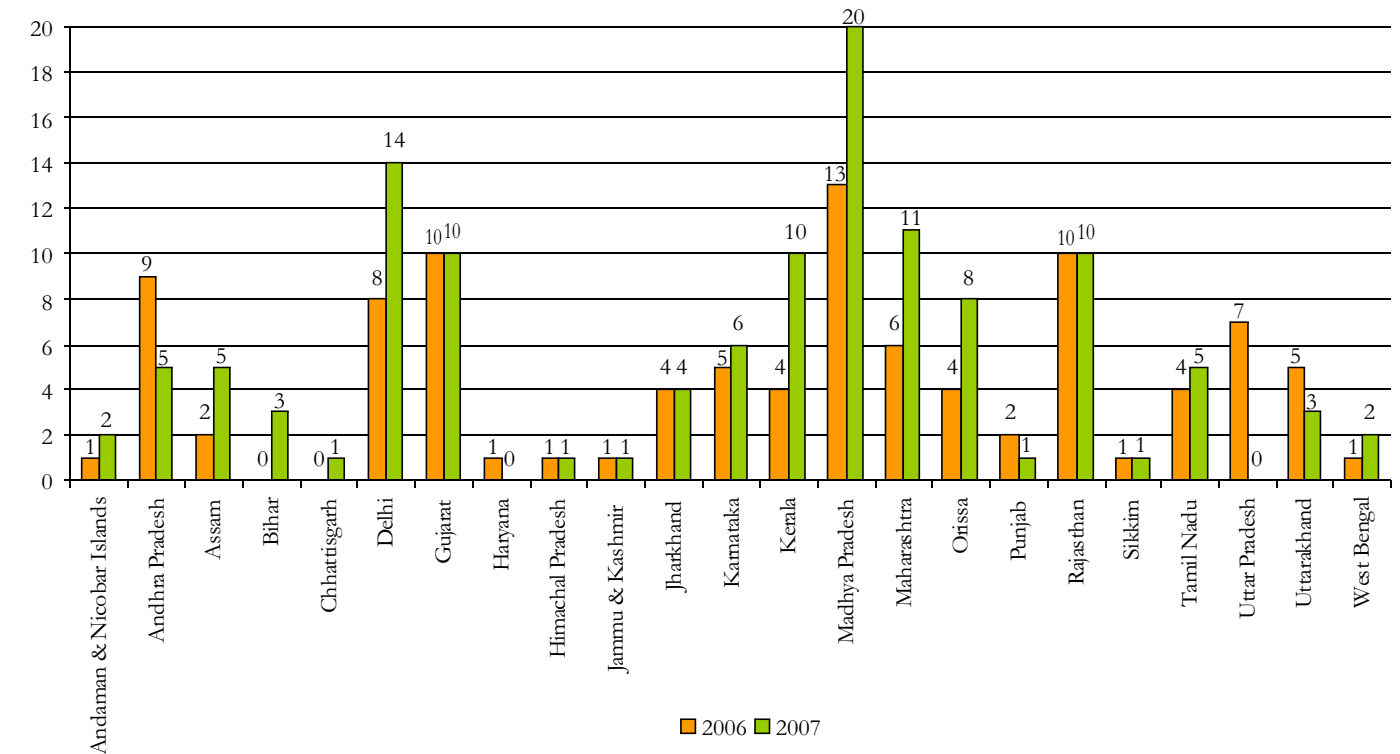
Note: Much of the information is excerpted and reproduced verbatim from the print media clippings compiled by the ENVIS Centre. In several cases, though, information has been rephrased and slightly modified to maintain consistency in the section.

Statistical and Graphical Representation of Parliamentary Discussions on Environment

Comparison of State/UT Specific Discussions in the Lok Sabha during Budget Session, 2006 and Budget Session, 2007

The number of state/UT specific discussions in 2007 was significantly higher than that of 2006. The highest increase in the share of Delhi, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in the total number of questions is noted in 2007, with increase in queries ranging from 3-4% increase from 2006. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh registered a 5% fall and Uttar Pradesh a 7% fall in the share of questions. Other states like Gujarat and Rajasthan had a 2% decrease in the share of the total number of questions in 2007.

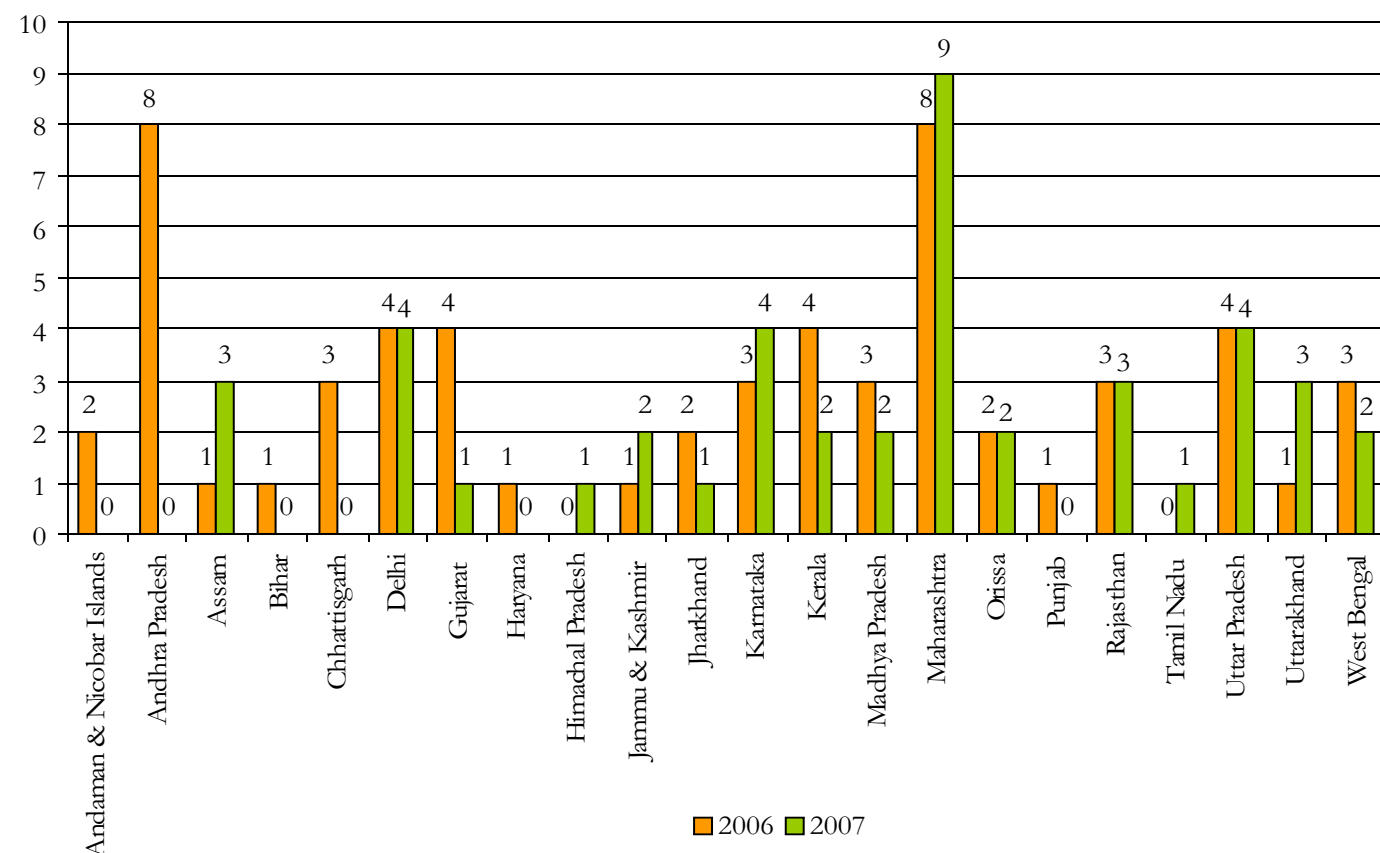
State	Number of Questions	
	2006	2007
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	2
Andhra Pradesh	9	5
Assam	2	5
Bihar	0	3
Chhattisgarh	0	1
Delhi	8	14
Gujarat	10	10
Haryana	1	0
Himachal Pradesh	1	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1	1
Jharkhand	4	4
Karnataka	5	6
Kerala	4	10
Madhya Pradesh	13	20
Maharashtra	6	11
Orissa	4	8
Punjab	2	1
Rajasthan	10	10
Sikkim	1	1
Tamil Nadu	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	7	0
Uttarakhand	5	3
West Bengal	1	2
Total	99	123



Comparison of State/UT Specific Discussions in the Lok Sabha during Monsoon Session, 2006 and Monsoon Session, 2007

There was a marginal drop in the number of state/UT specific discussions in 2007 compared to 2006. The most significant fall is observed for Andhra Pradesh which had a 14% share in 2006 compared to 0% in 2007. There were also relatively fewer questions raised for Chhattisgarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Gujarat and Kerala ranging between 2-5% decrease in share. On the other hand, there were several increases for others, such as Assam and Uttarakhand which both registered a 5% increase from 2006.

State	Number of Questions	
	2006	2007
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	0
Andhra Pradesh	8	0
Assam	1	3
Bihar	1	0
Chhattisgarh	3	0
Delhi	4	4
Gujarat	4	1
Haryana	1	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1	2
Jharkhand	2	1
Karnataka	3	4
Kerala	4	2
Madhya Pradesh	3	2
Maharashtra	8	9
Orissa	2	2
Punjab	1	0
Rajasthan	3	3
Tamil Nadu	0	1
Uttar Pradesh	4	4
Uttarakhand	1	3
West Bengal	3	2
Total	59	44



Events on Environment

Select Events in the Country during January - March, 2008

Title: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development
Date: 7-9 January, 2008
Venue: RTM Nagpur University, Botany Dept.
Organized by: Head, Department of Botany, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur, Maharashtra

Title: The Environment and Indian History
Date: 11-12 January, 2008
Venue: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Organized by: C.P.R. Institute of Indological Research & C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre
 Website: <http://www.cprfoundation.org>
 Objective: - Analyze human interaction with the natural world and how historical events and the environment have impacted on each other.

Title: Regional Workshop on Environmental Engineering
Date: 19-20 January, 2008
Venue: (CES) Visva-Bharati
Organized by: In-Charge, Centre for Environmental Studies (CES), Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal

Title: Towards Sustainable Development - Emerging issues, Challenges and Strategies
Date: 24-25 January, 2008
Venue: Mumbai, Maharashtra
Organized by: Nagindas Khandwala College of Commerce,

Arts & Management Studies.
 Website: <http://www.khandwalacollege.ac.in>
 Objective: - To provide innovative and adaptive ideas, a platform to drive meaningful contribution towards the theme on a broader landscape and introducing intellectual storming.

Title: Remediation on and Management of Urban Waste
Date: 28-29 January, 2008
Venue: PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Peelamedu, Coimbatore Tamilnadu
Organized by: Dean, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

Title: Sustainable Development and Environmental Responsibilities: Strengthening Interface between households, Industries, Government and NGOs
Date: 1-2 February, 2008
Venue: Vadodara, Gujarat
Organized by: Department of Home Management, Faculty of Family and Community Sciences, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat

Objective: - To bring the households, industries, government & NGOs & educational institutions on a common

platform where collectively various issues & challenges would be discussed & relevant strategies would be evolved.

Title: International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation and Management (BIOCAM 2008)
Date: 3-6 February, 2008
Venue: Cochin University of Science & Technology, Kochi, Kerala
Organized by: Organizing Secretary, Rajiv Gandhi Chair in Contemporary Studies, School of Environmental Studies, Cochin University of Science & Technology, Kochi, Kerala

Title: International Workshop on Biohydrogen Production Technology
Date: 7-9 February, 2008
Venue: Kharagpur, West Bengal
Organized by: Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
 Website: <http://www.iwbt2008.com/>
 Objective: - Bring together several distinguished scientists from India and abroad who are focusing on biohydrogen production, with the broader perspective of building a network of the biohydrogen research in India.

Title: Delhi Sustainable Development Summit
Date: 7-9 February, 2008
Venue: New Delhi
Organized by: The Energy and Resources Institute
 Website: <http://www.teriin.org/dsds>
 Objective: - Inspire leaders and mobilize public opinion on the objectives of the MDGs. DSDS 2008 will focus on the theme, Sustainable Development and Climate Change.

Title: 2 Days National Workshop Cum-Conference on "Green Buildings: Striding Towards Environment Protection and Clearance"
Date: 8-9 February, 2008
Venue: India International Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
Organized by: Chairman, Search Foundation, New Delhi

Title: Workshop on Capacity Building of Community Organizations in Local Medicinal Plants Conservation and its Sustainable use
Date: 9-11 February, 2008
Venue: Fatehpur, in Distt. Kangra
Organized by: Director, Organisation for Social Environmental and Rural Development (SERD), Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Title: Adverse Impact of Industrial Air Pollution on Human Health around Rourkela Steel Plant site, Orissa
Date: 10 February, 2008

Venue: Conference hall, D.R.D.A, Jharsuguda
Organized by: Secretary, Netajee Seva Pratishan (NSP), Jharsuguda- 768203, Orissa

Title: All India Seminar on Advances in Environmental Science and Technology
Date: 15-16 February, 2008
Venue: Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh
Organized by: Institution of Engineers, India
 Objective:- N.A.

Title: 5th International Conference "Environmental Micropaleontology, Microbiology and Meibentology"
Date: 17-25 February, 2008
Venue: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Organized by: Department of Applied Geology, University of Madras
 Website: <http://www.isemmm.org>
 Objective: - To introduce the utilization of micro and meioorganisms to a broader audience and to bridge the gap between science, industry, national governments and interactive organizations

Title: Role of Green Computing in Mitigating Environmental Conflict
Date: 18-19 February, 2008
Venue: Technology, Mesra, Ranchi, Jharkhand
Organized by: Symposium Convener, Birla Institute Of Technology, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Title: Workshop on wildlife rehabilitation and first meeting of members from emergency relief network (ERN) to strengthen and streamline wildlife rehabilitation in the country and Book release of 2nd ERN Digest.
Date: 18-22 February, 2008
Venue: Kaziranga National Park, Assam
Organized by: Wildlife Trust of India, New Friends Colony, New Delhi

Title: International Workshop on Climate Change and its Impact on Flora
Date: 19-22 February, 2008
Venue: National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow
Organized by: Director, National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow, U.P.

Title: Community Forest Management in North East India
Date: 22-23 February, 2008
Venue: Guwahati, Assam
Organized by: National Institute of Rural Development, GOI
 Website: <http://www.nird.org.in/wnew.html>
 Objective: - Serve as a forum for researchers who are working on Community Forest Management to present research findings and network with policy makers. e-mail, (jacobgeorge_nird@yahoo.co.in)

Title: Reduce Emissions & Fossil Fuel Bills upto 15%
Date: 22 February, 2008
Venue: Delhi
Organized by: Growdiesel Climate Care Council
 Website: <http://www.growdiesel.com>
 Objective: - Provide an in-depth knowledge about saving of fossil fuel consumption by using renewable energy sources.

Title: National level Training cum workshop on GIS and Marine Biodiversity
Date: 26-29 February, 2008
Venue: Loyola College
Organized by: Principal, Department of Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology, Loyola College, Nungambakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Title: International Symposium on Environment and Waste Management of Mining & Mineral Based Industries (EWMMI-2008)
Date: 27-29 February, 2008
Venue: Bhubaneswar
Organized by: Chairman, Institute of Advance Technology & Environmental Studies (IATES), Bhubaneswar, Orissa

Title: National Seminar on Geoinformatics for Natural Resources Management
Date: 28-29 February, 2008
Venue: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Organized by: Department of Geography, University of Madras
 Website: <http://www.unom.ac.in/seminars.php>
 Objective: - Highlight the Geoinformatics applications in land and water resources management action plans as well as in the fields of Disaster Risk Management, Sustainable Development, and Coastal Zone Management amongst others

Title: BIOCONCORRENZA'08
Date: 28 February, 2008
Venue: Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
Organized by: Centre for Plant Molecular Biology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Title: Persistent Organic Pollutants and its Impact on Human Health & Biodiversity
Date: 28 February-1 March, 2008
Venue: Azamgarh, U.P.
Organized by: Director, National Institute for Environment & Agriculture, Azamgarh, U.P.

Title: Workshop on Bio Medical Waste Management
Date: 29 February - 1 March, 2008
Venue: Bhubaneswar
Organized by: Secretary, ALAP, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Orissa

Title: Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Development
Date: 1-2 March, 2008
Venue: Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh
Organized by: Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
 Objective: - Discuss the present day environmental challenges and steps to be taken for attaining sustainable development.

Title: Seminar on Global Environment
Date: 7 March, 2008
Venue: New Delhi
Organized by: National Academy of Energy & Environment
 Website: http://www.geocities.com/ecoseminar2003_association/attention.html
 Objective: - To address a serious concern in Global Environmental Sector, the acute shortage of trained experts and professionals in Environmental contamination assessment, bio remediation and Energy Management with particular reference to India as high

Title: National Conference on Environmental Degradation: Challenges and Remedies
Date: 13-14 March, 2008
Venue: Mullana (Ambala), Haryana
Organized by: Maharishi Markandeshwar University
 Website: <http://www.mmetmullana.com/edcr08/main1.html>

Title: National Seminar on Population, Environment and Development in Uttarakhand
Date: 17-19 March, 2008
Venue: Dehradun
Organized by: International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai

Title: Safe and Sustainable Water Conference
Date: 19 March, 2008
Venue: Mumbai, Maharashtra
Organized by: Whitman Direct Action
 Website: <http://www.whitmandirectaction.Org/cleanwater/conference/>
 Objective: - To foster clean water development in rural India

Title: International Ground Water Conference on "Groundwater Dynamics and Global Change"
Date: 19-22 March, 2008
Venue: University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India
 Organized by: Dr. N.K. Jain, Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajasthan

Title: International Conference on Issues in Public Policy and Sustainable Development
Date: 26-28 March, 2008
Venue: New Delhi

Organized by: Discipline of Economics, Indira Gandhi National Open University
 Website: <http://www.ignou.ac.in>
 Objective: - The conference covers social and economic dimensions, implementation strategy, role of major social groups, and evaluation tools for sustainable development.

Title: National Conference on Animal Ethics and Welfare
Date: 28-30 March, 2008
Venue: Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu
Organized by: Annamalai University

Select Upcoming Events in the Country during April - June, 2008

Title: Pathways to Green Publishing
Date: 5 April, 2008
Venue: New Delhi
Organized by: Mr. M M Joshi, Director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), IHC Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

Title: FICCI Environment Conclave 2008 "Facilitating an Integrated Approach for Sustainable Waste Management"
Date: 8-9 April, 2008
Venue: Federation house, 1 Tansen marg, New Delhi-110001
Organized by: Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

Title: Contemporary Trends in Life Sciences: Prospects and Challenges Ahead
Date: 16-17 April, 2008
Venue: Department of Botany and Microbiology, St. Aloysius' College
Organized by: Department of Botany and Microbiology, St. Aloysius' College
 Website: <http://www.stalloysiuscollege.ac.in>
 Objective: - Provide a forum for discussion on all aspects of Biological Sciences, and foster the exchange of ideas, techniques, and experimental applications.

Title: Disaster Management
Date: 16-18 April, 2008
Venue: Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
Organized by: Services International, New Delhi, India

Title: Climate Change India, 2008
Date: 22-23 April, 2008
Venue: Le Meridien, Pune, Maharashtra
Organized by: World Institute of Sustainable Energy
 Website: <http://www.wisein.org>
 Objective: - To establish a policy dialogue on climate change and its impacts on India as well as strategies for adaptation and mitigation. Focus will be on the problems and

solutions for rapid implementation, keeping national perspectives in mind.

Title: National workshop on "Environmental Sanitation, Health & Hygiene"
Date: 22-24 April, 2008
Venue: Thrissur, Kerala
Organized by: Executive Director, Centre for Environment and Development (CED), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Title: 3rd South Asia Renewable Energy Conference
Date: 24-25 April, 2008
Venue: Hotel Le-Meridien, New Delhi
Organized by: Secretary General, The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, (Assocham)
 Website: <http://www.assocham.org/3rdasia/index.php>

Title: Availability of Water and Contamination
Date: 26-27 April, 2008
Venue: Champawat, Uttarakhand
Organized by: Mr. P.N. Joshi, Vice President, Sambandh, Champawat, Uttarakhand

Title: Environmental Degradation and its Impact on Health and Well-being
Date: 23-24 May, 2008
Venue: Jeypore, Koraput, Orissa
Organized by: Secretary, Association for Rural Youth Awareness Network (ARYAN), Orissa

Title: National Symposium on Water Resources Assessment and Management
Date: 26-28 May, 2008
Venue: International conference centre, Srinagar, Kashmir
Organized by: Head of Department, Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, Kashmir

Title: Seminar on Solid Waste Management
Date: 2-3 June, 2008
Venue: Jaipur, Rajasthan
Organized by: Secretary, Bal Avam Mahila Utthan Samiti, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Environmental Calendar for the period April - June, 2008

- April 7 - World Health Day
- April 22 - World Earth Day
- April 28 - World Heritage Day
- May 12-13 - World Migratory Bird Day
- May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity
- June 5 - World Environment Day
- June 17 - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Environment and the Government Covered by the Print Media during January-March, 2008

The print media provided important information about government initiatives on the environment, ranging from the formulation of new policies to the enhancement of existing environment protection mechanisms. The subject area of Wildlife Management received wide coverage, in particular, the increased financial allocation for tiger protection efforts in the country.

Disaster Management

Himachal Pradesh okays National Disaster Response Force - The Centre has okayed a National Disaster Response Force for Himachal Pradesh. The State Chief Minister said that the Force is likely to be managed by eight composite teams which would consist of skilled and trained manpower.

Political and Business Daily (New Delhi), 25th January

Environment Conservation

Himachal Pradesh government to draw policy on environment - The state forest minister has informed that the government will soon come out with a policy document on environment, which would be formulated after consulting the departments of science and technology, environment, industries and forest. In addition, the state will soon have its environmental master plan in place to tackle critical areas of environmental degradation. The State government also plans to revive the nearly 70 cooperative forest societies in the state.

Political and Business Daily (New Delhi), 16th January; Indian Express (Chandigarh), 11th February

Rewards for eco-clubs planned - The Principal Secretary, Science and Technology announced that the state government (**Himachal Pradesh**) will give cash rewards to encourage the eco-clubs to take up various environment-related activities. The top-three eco-clubs which excel in various activities would be given the awards on the basis of annual performance.

The Tribune (New Delhi), 4th March

Forest Conservation

Delhi Cabinet approves society for maintaining city green cover - The State cabinet has passed a proposal to set up the Delhi Parks and Gardens Society to maintain around 15,000 parks and gardens in the Capital. The Society will have an initial corpus fund of Rs. 3 crores. The Chief Minister stated that the green cover will be increased from 19 percent to 33 percent of the total area of the city.

Indian Express (New Delhi), 22nd January; Asian Age (New Delhi), 22nd January

Freshwater and Marine Conservation

Conservation of water resources to form core of new forest policy - The proposed new forest policy of **Himachal Pradesh** would focus on conservation of natural water streams within the forests. According to the state Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, "The success of the proposed forest policy would be measured by the number of water sources conserved through forest management."

Indian Express (Chandigarh), 19th January

Centre approves 90 percent funding for water conservation projects - The Union Minister for Water Resources has informed that the Union Cabinet has selected 14 river projects in the country which will receive at least 90 percent funding for conserving, avoiding wastage and making optimum utilization of existing water resources. He further stated that the projects will be considered on par as national projects. A Steering Committee would be set up to monitor the projects' early completion.

State Times (New Delhi), 8th February; Free Press Journal (Mumbai), 8th February; Assam Tribune (Guwahati), 8th February; Indian Express (New Delhi), 8th February; The Hindu (New Delhi), 8th February

Rainwater harvesting tips at park - The **Bangalore** Water Supply and Sewerage Board will create the first theme park at Jayanagar to create awareness on rainwater harvesting. The Park will have a demonstration and information centre on rainwater harvesting as well as a solar lighting facility and a summer house.

Deccan Herald (Bangalore), 15th March

Pollution

Haryana bans polythene bags - The **Haryana** government has decided to ban manufacture of plastic carry bags having thickness of less than 30 microns and size less than 8x12 inches and also imposed a complete ban on use of all types of plastic articles within the municipal limits of Thanesar and Kurukshetra towns, all wildlife sanctuaries and national parks and Gram Panchayat, Morni. It was also announced that the government will observe 2008 as eco-friendly year.

The Hindu (New Delhi), 3rd January; The Hindu (New Delhi), 4th January

Gurgaon bans manufacture of plastic bags - The district administration, falling in line with the state government's decision, has imposed a ban on the manufacture of plastic bags of less than 30 micron thickness and less than 8 by 12 inches in size. It has also put a complete ban on all types of plastic articles in the Sultanpur Lake area.

The Pioneer (New Delhi), 11th January

Wildlife Management

After losing 64 gharials, govt to conduct census - The government has decided to conduct the first ever census on the gharial population in India. A senior environment ministry official said that the government has also decided that a core group would be formed with representatives from the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, who would conduct the census.

Hindustan Times (New Delhi), 9th January

UP to create special tiger corridors - The state government has proposed to create special corridors in the Dudhwa National Park, Katarniaghat and Kishanpur reserved sanctuaries for the free movement of tigers. It has been decided

to evict villagers from these areas. In the first phase, villages falling in the way of the special tiger corridors will be relocated.

Indian Express (New Delhi), 23rd January

Tiger areas to be converted to reserves - The **Maharashtra** forest department has decided to convert all territorial areas around the national parks, tiger reserves and sanctuaries into 'conservation areas.'

DNA (Mumbai), 29th January

Rs.600 crore boost for 'Project Tiger' - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs cleared expenditure of Rs.600 crores for the ongoing centrally sponsored scheme of Project Tiger during the 11th Five Year Plan, including development of eight new tiger reserves. In the 10th Five Year Plan, the budget of Project Tiger was only about Rs. 150 crores.

The Hitavada (Nagpur), 31st January; Hindustan Times (Mumbai), 31st January; National Herald (New Delhi), 31st January; Hindustan Times (New Delhi), 31st January; Indian Express (New Delhi), 31st January; Asian Age (New Delhi), 31st January; Mail Today (New Delhi), 31st January; Central Chronicle (Bhopal), 31st January

Norms for elephant mercy killing - The central government has formulated guidelines for mercy killing of elephants suffering from debilitating injury in a bid to relieve the animal from pain and distress. It has set up a panel comprising experts from the veterinary field, animal welfare NGOs and zoos which will give approval whether the animal can be put to sleep or treatment can ensure its cure.

Asian Age (New Delhi), 18th February

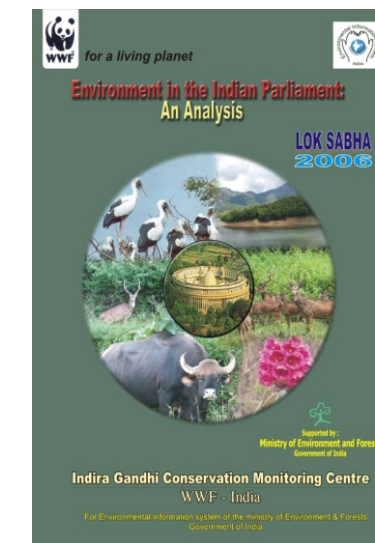
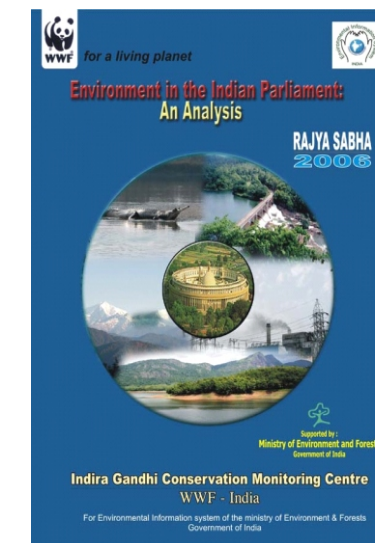
Wildlife Department says no to gypsum mines - The **Jammu and Kashmir** Wildlife Department, in order to save the near extinct Marhkore in the Uri Baramulla area, has asked the geology and mining department to close down all the gypsum mines that were leased out to private operators in the area.

Kashmir Times (Jammu), 10th March

Note: Much of the information is excerpted and reproduced verbatim from the print media clippings compiled by the ENVIS Centre. In several cases, though, information has been rephrased and slightly modified to maintain consistency in the section.



Upcoming Publications...



The Centre is currently finalizing, *Environment in the Indian Parliament: An Analysis, 2006*. Two separate reports containing comprehensive analysis and data of discussions on environment in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha have been prepared.