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*From the Head's Desk...*

*Earth Day and World Environment Day were recently celebrated across the globe on a very wide scale. Even as the overexploitation and destruction of the earth's life-systems continue, events such as these are indicative of the unparalleled global awareness of the need to adopt environment-friendly practices starting from the highest levels of government to the grassroots level. And equally important, the extensive coverage of such events reflects the reality that the concept of sustainable development is now firmly entrenched in the agenda of all governments in the world.*

*The current issue of the quarterly ENVIS newsletter presents important information about the activities of NGOs, the discussions in Parliament and the measures implemented, planned or proposed by the government.*

*The tables of month-wise activities of NGOs highlight the nature and extent of involvement of NGOs in the generation of awareness and activism in the field of environment conservation.*

*A new section on Parliament in the print media has been included which contains print media reports of Parliament during the Budget Session, 2007. The statistical and graphical representations of Parliament compare the discussions initiated by political parties in 2005 and 2006.*

*Information on environment-related events and media reports of government activities are other sections providing useful information.*

*In sum, it is hoped that this latest issue would serve as an important resource to all those actively engaged in environment conservation.*

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Vol 7. No. 2, April - June, 2007

**WWF-India**

**ENVIS CENTRE**

**(NGOs, Parliament & Media)**

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## Non-Governmental Organisations in Environmental Management: An Overview

In some sectors of development such as health, nutrition, education, and rural development, non-governmental organizations have been recognized as a major complementary force to official development efforts at the field level. A similar recognition of the role of Environmental NGOs working on Environmental programmes is gaining increasing official recognition at the central level. A number of programmes designed to fund NGO activities in eco-development and environmental education besides research studies, have been initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Indeed a large number of new NGOs, voluntary agencies, registered societies, cooperatives, etc. whose objectives focus on environmental protection and improvement have come up all over the country. These are in addition to older groups whose work touched upon some environment-related activity involving natural resources, settlement planning, pollution, spread of environmental awareness, etc.

Environmental NGOs range from those involved in urban-based educational programmes to those involved in 'hands-on' rural development. These range from birdwatchers to water-drillers; from young volunteers to hard-core development professionals; from those funded by membership fees to those with substantial resources of overseas origin; from talkshops to sweatshops; from village associations to groups based in institutes of higher learning; from registered societies to small motley groups of enthusiasts. These diverse groups focus on various sectors - land, water, soil, flora, fauna, transport, energy, and people. In addition, the area of operation is varied ranging from immediate local environments to regional environments and over-all environment on the national scale. It is therefore inevitable then that NGOs differ from one another on any count including size, structure, objectives, work styles, and source of funds. Hence it is not easy to generalize on issues concerning this huge diversity of NGOs.

The recognition of this heterogeneity and factoring in this aspect in interactions with NGOs is a major challenge facing the government. Some salient features of such groups are:-

A large number of the groups were set up after the Government of India recognized integrated environmental planning as a formal subject area (i.e. post Stockholm Conference).

Many older development and social work groups added to or modified their objectives to include one or more environmental concerns.

As with NGOs set up for other aims and objectives, there is a high mortality rate (and turnover) among environmental NGOs.

Considering the crucial role of NGOs in both implementing and supplementing the government's efforts in environmental management, there is a need for regular updated information on the various groups engaged in the field of environment conservation.

The ENVIS Centre in WWF-India, set up in 1984 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, is the nodal point for information on NGOs working in the field of environment. The Centre is currently updating its existing database of environmental NGOs in the country. In addition to updating the information as given in the last edition of Directory of Environmental NGOs in 2004, it is also undertaking the inclusion of information about new and other NGOs that was not available in the previous edition of the Directory.

In providing the latest information on the many groups engaged in environment conservation at various levels, the latest edition of the Directory will serve as a vital resource in improvement of environmental management in the country.

ENVIS Centre, WWF-India

### NGOs and the Environment in the Print Media during April - June, 2007

NGOs were involved in a diverse range of activities during the period such as highlighting the potential adverse impacts of developmental activities, demanding governmental intervention in environmental protection and taking direct action in environmental clean-up activities etc. The modes of active engagement with environmental concerns ranged from conducting studies, organizing citizens in clean-up drives, holding workshops and conferences to staging demonstrations.

APRIL			
Name of the NGO	Activity(s)	Place	Source(s) of Information*
Aaranyak	Issued appeals to wildlife conservation NGOs across the globe to petition the Chief Minister (Assam) and the Prime Minister for immediate intervention in saving the rhino from poachers	Guwahati	Indian Express (18 <sup>th</sup> April)
Animal Saviour	Conducted raid seizing body parts of animals from a trader	New Delhi	Hindustan Times (7 <sup>th</sup> April)
Centre for Science and Environment	Released book, 'Sewage Canal: How to Clean the Yamuna'	New Delhi	Times of India (18 <sup>th</sup> April), Today (18 <sup>th</sup> April), Metro Now (18 <sup>th</sup> April), The Tribune (19 <sup>th</sup> April), Indian Express (19 <sup>th</sup> April), The Hindu (19 <sup>th</sup> April), Hindustan Times (Next) (20 <sup>th</sup> April)
Development Alternatives	Organized clean-up drive of Yamuna by school children	New Delhi	The Statesman (23 <sup>rd</sup> April), The Hindu (23 <sup>rd</sup> April)

Greenpeace	Demanded that the government de-carbonize its energy consumption	New Delhi	Financial Express (7 <sup>th</sup> April)
Greenpeace	Released report calling on the Indian government to adopt a renewable energy law	New Delhi	The Statesman (10 <sup>th</sup> April), Business Line (11 <sup>th</sup> April)
Greenpeace	Launched national campaign to phase out “energy inefficient” incandescent light bulbs from the country by 2010	New Delhi	Business Line (17 <sup>th</sup> April), DNA (20 <sup>th</sup> April)
Nature Lovers' Association	Staged dharna demanding more protection for lions and other animals in the state (Gujarat)	Ahmedabad	Deccan Herald (15 <sup>th</sup> April), The Hindu (16 <sup>th</sup> April)
People for Animals	Reported the rising number of peacock deaths in Rajasthan	Jaipur	Free Press Journal (3 <sup>rd</sup> April)
Wildlife SOS	Tip-off led to the rescue of bear cubs	Bihar	The Statesman (15 <sup>th</sup> April)
World Conservation Union	Photo of rare Sumatran striped rabbit	Bangkok	Mumbai Mirror (6 <sup>th</sup> April)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Released briefing on threats to the world's natural wonders from climate change	Brussels	Hindustan Times (6 <sup>th</sup> April), The Tribune (6 <sup>th</sup> April), Hindustan Times (Next) (6 <sup>th</sup> April), Times of India (6 <sup>th</sup> April), National Herald (6 <sup>th</sup> April), Business Standard (7 <sup>th</sup> April), Hindustan Times (Next) (7 <sup>th</sup> April), DNA (7 <sup>th</sup> April)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Reported that endangered Amur tiger has reached its highest population level in 100 years	Moscow	Hindustan Times (Next) (14 <sup>th</sup> April), Business Line (14 <sup>th</sup> April), Times of India (16 <sup>th</sup> April), The Hindu (16 <sup>th</sup> April)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Reported the steady resurgence of endangered mountain gorillas in Eastern Africa	Nairobi	Times of India (28 <sup>th</sup> April)
<b>MAY</b>			
Bio-Diversity Conservation Trust	Filed a petition stating that the opening of Mughal Road through a Sanctuary would harm bio-diversity in the area	Jammu	Indian Express (24 <sup>th</sup> May)
Bio-Tech Centre for Development of Biogas Technology and other Non-conventional Energy Sources	Shortlisted for Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy	Thiruvananthapuram	The Statesman (26 <sup>th</sup> May)
Christian Aid	Released report on impact of climate change on human migration	London	Financial Express (14 <sup>th</sup> May), Business Line (15 <sup>th</sup> May), The Statesman (15 <sup>th</sup> May), The Pioneer (15 <sup>th</sup> May), The Hindu (17 <sup>th</sup> May)
Community Environmental Monitoring	Held demonstration demanding the clean up of mercury in Kodaikanal area by Hindustan Lever	Mumbai	The Hindu (20 <sup>th</sup> May)
Enviro-Vigil	Conducted workshop for promotion of eco-friendly idols for immersion	Mumbai	Hindustan Times (26 <sup>th</sup> May)
Force	Declared plan to launch Jal Sanchay Abhiyaan for rainwater harvesting	New Delhi	Today (10 <sup>th</sup> May)
Greenpeace	Released ranking guide listing manufacturers with the highest contributors to climate change	Mumbai	Free Press Journal (1 <sup>st</sup> May), Times of India (2 <sup>nd</sup> May)
Greenpeace	Staged demonstration seeking a ban on the use of incandescent bulbs	New Delhi	Metro Now (4 <sup>th</sup> May)
Greenpeace	Demonstrated outside Japanese Embassy against the annual massacre of whales	New Delhi	Asian Age (23 <sup>rd</sup> May)
Greenpeace	Organized awareness walk on the implications of global warming and climate change	Chennai	The Hindu (28 <sup>th</sup> May)
Greenpeace	Released critique of the environmental impact assessment conducted for Dhamra port in Bhubaneswar	Orissa	Asian Age (31 <sup>st</sup> May) Business Standard (31 <sup>st</sup> May)

Hand-in-Hand	To assist municipality in solid waste management	Puducherry	The Hindu (14 <sup>th</sup> May)
Himalayan Nature and Adventure Foundation	Declared plan to launch awareness campaign of rare Brahmaputra dolphins	Kolkata	DNA (3 <sup>rd</sup> May)
International Fund for Animal Welfare	Called for a ban on ivory sales by e-Bay	London	Hindustan Times (16 <sup>th</sup> May)
Jal Biradari	Organized awareness programme about adverse impact of construction in the floodplains of the Yamuna river	New Delhi	Asian Age (24 <sup>th</sup> May)
Jharkhand Organisation against Radiation	Highlighted the pollution of stream and dam by leakage of toxic waste from Jadugoda mines East Singhbhum,	Orissa	Times of India (13 <sup>th</sup> May)
South-Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People	Pointed out that Indian hydropower projects emit significant amount of greenhouse gases	New Delhi	The Hindu (20 <sup>th</sup> May), Hindustan Times (21 <sup>st</sup> May)
SUSTAIN	Gave a critique of the second draft master plan of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority for not addressing waste reduction and citizens' participation at the local level through segregation	Chennai	The Hindu (17 <sup>th</sup> May)
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	Launched 'Delhi Energy Efficiency Programme' with Delhi Transco Ltd	New Delhi	The Hindu (7 <sup>th</sup> May)
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	Study 'National Energy Map for India: Technology Vision 2030'	New Delhi	The Hindu (23 <sup>rd</sup> May)
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	Conferred Corporate Awards for Environmental Excellence	New Delhi	The Pioneer (25 <sup>th</sup> May)
Toxics Link	Pointed to the dangers of mercury contamination by CFLs	New Delhi	Hindustan Times (23 <sup>rd</sup> May)
Wildlife SOS	Constructing an Elephant Welfare and Rescue Centre on the banks of the Yamuna in Agra	New Delhi	Hindustan Times (18 <sup>th</sup> May)
Wildlife Trust of India	Released book on wildlife laws	New Delhi	Asian Age (27 <sup>th</sup> May)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Co-hosted launch of Carbon Disclosure Project in the country	Mumbai	Mint (5 <sup>th</sup> May), Free Press Journal (5 <sup>th</sup> May), Assam Tribune (6 <sup>th</sup> May), The Hitavada (6 <sup>th</sup> May)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Photo of rare leopard in Cambodia	Phnom Penh	Business Line (5 <sup>th</sup> May)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Released 'Climate Solutions' report	Geneva	Hindustan Times (Next) (16 <sup>th</sup> May)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Stated that lifting ban on trade in tiger parts would encourage poaching	New Delhi	Hindustan Times (17 <sup>th</sup> May)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Released list of 10 most threatened species in the world	New Delhi	The Tribune (17 <sup>th</sup> May), The Hindu (17 <sup>th</sup> May), Times of India (18 <sup>th</sup> May), Asian Age (19 <sup>th</sup> May)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Launched NEAC 2006-07 on Solid Waste Management	Udhampur	Kashmir Times (18 <sup>th</sup> May), Daily Excelsior (18 <sup>th</sup> May)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Released hatchlings of 200 Olive Ridley eggs from hatchery near the Rushikulya river mouth	Bhubaneswar	Hindustan Times (20 <sup>th</sup> May), Asian Age (21 <sup>st</sup> May)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Issued statement calling for political will to save big cats	Mumbai	DNA (25 <sup>th</sup> May)
Youth Fraternity Foundation	Began drive to segregate material disposed in the Yamuna river as part of religious rituals	New Delhi	Mid Day (15 <sup>th</sup> May)
<b>JUNE</b>			
Aaranyak	Organized workshop on 'Enhancing Community Participation in Formulation and	Guwahati	Assam Tribune (19 <sup>th</sup> June)

	Implementation of Tiger Conservation and Education Programme'		
Arghyam	Conference on water management in Indian cities	New Delhi	The Hindu (28 <sup>th</sup> June)
Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)	Conducted workshop on rivers, river pollution and cleaning strategies	New Delhi	The Statesman (26 <sup>th</sup> June)
Centre for Social Markets	Collaborated with the US Consulate General to screen film on environment on World Environment Day	Mumbai	DNA (2 <sup>nd</sup> June)
Chintan	Conducted a study of health of waste-pickers	New Delhi	Times of India (2 <sup>nd</sup> June)
Citi Spaces, Citizen's Forum for Protection of Public Spaces, Mumbai Helpline and Urban Design Research Institute	Called for preservation and proper management of open spaces in Mumbai city	Mumbai	DNA (6 <sup>th</sup> June)
Climate Justice Programme	Petitioned UN to list six World Heritage sites, including Mt Everest as endangered by impact of climate change	London	Hindustan Times (26 <sup>th</sup> June), The Pioneer (26 <sup>th</sup> June)
Environment Support Group	Published a review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006	Bangalore	Deccan Herald (5 <sup>th</sup> June), The Hindu (25 <sup>th</sup> June)
Global Green Peace	Launched campaign 'Save Dal to Save Kashmir'	Srinagar	Kashmir Times (25 <sup>th</sup> June), Financial Express (25 <sup>th</sup> June)
Greenpeace	Released report criticizing the construction of Dhamra port (Orissa)	Mumbai	Free Press Journal (9 <sup>th</sup> June), Business Line (9 <sup>th</sup> June), Financial Express (9 <sup>th</sup> June)
Greenpeace	Produced estimated future number of refugees due to climate change	Berlin	Times of India (21 <sup>st</sup> June)
Greenpeace	Petitioned UN to list six World Heritage sites, including Mt Everest as endangered by impact of climate change	London	Hindustan Times (26 <sup>th</sup> June), The Pioneer (26 <sup>th</sup> June)
Greenpeace	Revealed the study of energy loss of several big buildings in Delhi	New Delhi	Indian Express (28 <sup>th</sup> June), Times of India (28 <sup>th</sup> June), The Tribune (28 <sup>th</sup> June)
Him Parivesh	Raised concern about discharge of untreated industrial effluents and the resultant destruction of aquatic life in the Sarsa	Solan	Indian Express (18 <sup>th</sup> June)
Himalaya Niti Abhiyan Samiti	Part of the delegation which met Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh concerning the construction of the Himalayan Ski Village Project	Shimla	Indian Express (24 <sup>th</sup> June)
Institute for Solid Waste Research and Ecological Balance	Expressed several objections to a draft notification of the Ministry of Environment and Forests on utilization of fly ash	New Delhi	Asian Age (2 <sup>nd</sup> June)
Jan Jagran and Vikas Manch	Spearheaded protest by environmentalists against proposed Ski Village Project in Himachal Pradesh	Manali	Financial World (18 <sup>th</sup> June)
Love Fazilka	Launched a campaign to create awareness about declining Peacock population in Badha region, Fazilka	Chandigarh	Political and Business Daily (2 <sup>nd</sup> June)
Manch, Powai Citizen's Committee	Pointed out the need for desilting the Powai Lake	Mumbai	DNA (27 <sup>th</sup> June)
People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)	Highlighted the plight of bears used for entertainment	New Delhi	The Hindu (23 <sup>rd</sup> June)
Prayaas	Held a panel discussion on the state disaster management policy (Maharashtra)	Pune	Indian Express (5 <sup>th</sup> June)
Rejuvenators for Environment and Nature and United Society	Called for greater involvement of the corporate sector in environmental protection	Kolkata	The Statesman (5 <sup>th</sup> June)
Swechha	Pointed out the risks of any construction on the floodplains of the River Yamuna	New Delhi	Hindustan Times (Next) (23 <sup>rd</sup> June)

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	Study titled 'A National Energy Map for India: Technology Vision, 2030'	New Delhi	Central Chronicle (21 <sup>st</sup> June), Political and Business Daily (21 <sup>st</sup> June), Times of India (25 <sup>th</sup> June)
Toxics Link	Pointed out the improper disposal of hazardous products by households	New Delhi	The Hindu (18 <sup>th</sup> June)
Trees for Life	Conducted a tree plantation drive to celebrate World Environment Day	Guwahati	Assam Tribune (6 <sup>th</sup> June)
Valley Citizen's Council	Participated in the clean-up drive of the Dal Lake	Srinagar	Hindustan Times (18 <sup>th</sup> June)
Wildlife Protection Society of India	Reported that the number of leopard skins in the market much higher than that of the tiger	Mumbai	The Pioneer (26 <sup>th</sup> June)
Wildlife SOS	Rescued rat snake and monitor lizards from several areas in the city of Delhi	New Delhi	The Statesman (23 <sup>rd</sup> June)
Wildlife SOS	Rescued monitor lizards from two areas in Delhi	New Delhi	Indian Express (26 <sup>th</sup> June)
Wildlife Trust of India	Initiated an insurance scheme to cover frontline forest staff in Gir and other wildlife reserves of Gujarat against death and injury	New Delhi	Times of India (14 <sup>th</sup> June)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Highlighted growing threat to wild tigers and urged greater global action for protection	New Delhi New Delhi	Free Press Journal (2 <sup>nd</sup> June)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Exhibition of drawings on theme, 'The Majestic Tiger' for the entire month of June	New Delhi	Asian Age (8 <sup>th</sup> June)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Held a workshop on 'Melting Ice: Hot Topic' in collaboration with the Wildlife Department, Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Indian Express (8 <sup>th</sup> June)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Organized a clean-up of forest area in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park	Mumbai	Hindustan Times (8 <sup>th</sup> June)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Licensed the Climate Savers Computing Initiative (launched by Google and Intel) from its WWF Climate Savers Programme	New Delhi	Economic Times (14 <sup>th</sup> June)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Stated that China's plan to build a road up to the Mount Everest base camp would further affect the fragile eco-system of the region	New Delhi	National Herald (21 <sup>st</sup> June)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Training youth to study birds, especially migratory birds, in the wetlands of Himachal Pradesh and work as tourist guides	Shimla	The Statesman (22 <sup>nd</sup> June)
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Reported that brown bears are threatened with extinction in the Alps region in Europe	Vienna	National Herald (22 <sup>nd</sup> June)
Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan	Pointed out the risks of construction on the floodplains of the River Yamuna	New Delhi	Hindustan Times (Next) (23 <sup>rd</sup> June)

## Parliament and the Environment in the Print Media during the Budget Session of Parliament, 2007

The Budget Session of the Indian Parliament in 2007 spanned several months with the first half commencing on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and the second half concluding on 18<sup>th</sup> May. The media reports on the Parliament during this period have been reproduced below.\* The majority of the selected clippings relate to the report of the Question Hour discussions in both Houses of the Parliament. The reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committees pertaining to environment during the period have been included as well.

The print media reports during the Budget Session, 2007 were focused

\* Almost all the information has been excerpted and reproduced verbatim from the media clippings collected by the Centre. However, in a few cases, the information from the clippings has been rephrased and modified for the purpose of maintaining consistency in the section.

on the information provided by the government during the Question Hour in both Houses of the Parliament. The reports have been categorized according to the list of subjects prepared by the ENVIS Centre. Parliamentarians' concerns on Climate Change were particularly highlighted in the media reports during the Budget Session.

### Climate Change and Meteorology

*Panel on Climate Change Proposed:* Finance Minister P Chidambaram in his budget speech in the Parliament highlighted several environment-related initiatives including the proposal to appoint an expert committee on climate change, reduction of excise duty on plywood, exemption of biodiesel from excise duty, subsidy to farmers for groundwater recharge and allocations for water bodies' restoration etc.

*Source: The Tribune (New Delhi), 1st March*

'Global Warming May Kill Ganga by 2030': With mercury rising to unprecedented levels in several parts of the world, global warming and the United Nation's Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change report has drawn the attention of the Lok Sabha. The matter was raised in the House and speaker Somnath Chatterjee said on Saturday that global warming was a cause of concern and should be discussed in Parliament. The issue was first raised on Thursday by East Delhi MP (Congress) Sandeep Dikshit who, quoting the IPCC report, said global warming has now become a part of reality. He said steps are required at the international level to tackle the problem and at the same time, the Indian government should consult all parties and gear up to meet the grim situation.

*Source: DNA (Mumbai), 30<sup>th</sup> April*

\$105-million Environment Aid for India: The Global Environment Facility has announced that India would get \$30 million for investing in biodiversity conservation and \$75 million for climate change controls on the next four years, the Rajya Sabha was informed. In a reply during Question Hour, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Mr N.N. Meena, said the Ministry would spend the money according to the project proposals and concept notes received on biodiversity and climate change on the rolling basis throughout the year. The Minister said that the Government has taken a number of steps towards controlling the adverse effects of climate change.

*Source: Business Line (New Delhi), 5<sup>th</sup> May*

India Too Faces U.N. Heat, House Debate on May 8: As the U.N. apex body on climate change released its dramatic report on reducing greenhouse gases, India too woke up to the crisis with the Parliament deciding to hold a full-day debate on the issue on May 8. Responding to a calling attention motion moved by Jyotiraditya Scindia (Congress) in the Lok Sabha, Environment Minister A. Raja responded by repeating the Indian position that only the developed countries should undertake emission cuts.

*Source: Times of India (New Delhi), 5<sup>th</sup> May*

Global Warming Worries Lok Sabha: Global warming evoked serious concern among Parliamentarians who urged the government to take urgent measures for combating it. At a special discussion on the subject in the Lok Sabha, members from all parties expressed apprehensions about the fallout of global warming on India and suggested various ways to combat it. C.K. Chandrappan of CPI who initiated the discussion pointed out the consequences of melting of glaciers in the Tibetan plateau and Himalayas.

*Source: Hindustan Times (New Delhi), 9<sup>th</sup> May*

Government Urged to Combat Global Warming: Sensing grave environmental danger to the country and its effect on people, Members of the Lok Sabha participated in a discussion on global warming, urging the government to take steps to combat it, without losing time. Initiating the discussion, C.K. Chandrappan suggested that a proper study by experts in the subject be taken up. Maneka Gandhi (BJP) said that the effect of global warming on people was already being felt and that the government should stress the use of renewable energy sources and discourage the use of diesel and petrol. Sandeep Dikshit (Congress) suggested that developing countries initiate steps to attack the problem.

*Source: The Hindu (New Delhi), 9<sup>th</sup> May*

India is the Lowest Polluter: Minister: The former environment minister A. Raja informed the Lok Sabha that though India is contributing only four percent of emissions as against the global ratio of 23 percent, it is mobilizing developing nations' concern over high industrial emission levels which are augmenting global warming. In addition to discussing the consequences of global warming, he pointed out that adequate

steps have been taken by the government to minimize pollution.

*Source: DNA (Mumbai), 18<sup>th</sup> May*

## Environmental Conservation

Parliamentary Panel for Review of Environment Policy: Worried over colossal wastage of water, a Parliamentary Committee has favoured a "relook" at the National Environment Policy with regard to construction of dams as one-third of usable water goes waste into the sea. The Union Water Resources Ministry has suggested the modification of the clause related to mandatory environmental clearance for major projects to the Environment and Forest Ministry. However, the National Environment Policy of 2006 did not include these suggestions, Parliamentary Standing Commission on Water Resources said in its report. To increase storage capacity, the Ministry's suggestions on the environmental angle needed to be relooked at as more than one-third of useable water is going waste into the sea, the report presented in the Lok Sabha said.

*Source: Daily Excelsior (Jammu), 30<sup>th</sup> April*

## Freshwater and Marine Conservation

Yamuna Plan a Flop: Govt: In a reply to an unstarred question, the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, N. N. Meena said that Rs.686 crores spent till date under the YAP-I and YAP-II had not achieved the desired results because the population upstream was increasing and cities were diverting water from the river for drinking and other purposes.

*Source: Times of India (New Delhi), 12<sup>th</sup> March; The Tribune (New Delhi), 12<sup>th</sup> March*

Sharp Dip in Groundwater Level: Minister of State for Water Resources, J.P.N. Yadav informed the Rajya Sabha that overexploitation was the cause of the significant decline in groundwater levels in several parts of Delhi. He pointed out that steps had been taken by the Delhi Jal Board and the Central Ground Water Board to help groundwater recharge.

*Source: Times of India (New Delhi), 14<sup>th</sup> March*

Centre Steps up Efforts to Clean Up Yamuna: Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests N.N. Meena announced in the Lok Sabha that for facilitating implementation of YAP-II, a project management consultant comprising a number of experts in the field of environmental pollution control has been appointed. And an integrated action plan has been prepared with a number of agencies identified towards its implementation for undertaking pollution abatement measures in the Yamuna in Delhi.

*Source: The Hindu (New Delhi), 21<sup>st</sup> March*

Panel Indicts Officials of Clean Yamuna Plan: Observing that huge funds spent on cleaning the Yamuna have virtually gone down the drain, a Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended that action be taken against officials for their failure to improve the quality of water. In a recent report submitted to the Rajya Sabha, the Committee said the quality of water in the river remained below the acceptable norms though sufficient funds were available and various plans were in place.

*Source: The Tribune (New Delhi), 28<sup>th</sup> April*

'Ganga's Water Quality Better': Water quality of river Ganga has shown improvement after completion of pollution abatement works under the Ganga Action Plan, government told the Lok Sabha on Monday. The improvement in water quality has been witnessed at major locations as per the Water Quality Monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions like the Central Pollution Control Board, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Indian Institute of Technology (Kanpur) and Indian Toxicological Research Centre

(Lucknow), Environment and Forests Minister A. Raja said in reply to questions.

*Source: Free Press Journal (Mumbai), 1<sup>st</sup> May*

## Health and Sanitation

Clean Drinking Water for All by 2009: Rural Development Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh stated that the government will make available clean drinking water to each and every human habitation by 2009, during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha. The Minister further discussed the allocation of funds to states in the House.

*Source: Financial Express (New Delhi), 19<sup>th</sup> March*

Over 1 Lakh Rural Schools Still Thirst for Water: A 29-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on rural development, which submitted its report recently, noted that despite the Union government's ambitious Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, there was a big shortfall in terms of achieving targets over the past four years. It also underscored the lack of accurate statistics on the number of schools without drinking water.

*Source: Mint (New Delhi), 21<sup>st</sup> March*

## Water Management

Poojary Raises Water Issue in Rajya Sabha: Senior Congress leader Janardhan Poojary declared in the Rajya Sabha that injustice has been done to Karnataka by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. He said that environmental needs of only Tamil Nadu were looked after, while ignoring the needs of Karnataka.

*Source: Asian Age (New Delhi), 7<sup>th</sup> March*

Ken-Betwa Project to Start in a Year: The inter-linking of the Ken and Betwa rivers, between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, is expected

to start in a year, the Lok Sabha was informed today. "Besides Ken Betwa, four other projects are under consideration," Water Resources Minister Saifuddin Soz said. Terms of reference for Ken-Betwa project have been finalized, environmental clearance received and detailed project report is being prepared, Soz said.

*Source: Business Standard (New Delhi), 1<sup>st</sup> May*

## Wildlife Management

Centre Approves 8 New Tiger Reserves Projects: The government has decided to grant "in principle approval" to 8 new tiger reserves spread over seven states, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, N.N. Meena informed the Lok Sabha.

*Source: Daily Excelsior (Jammu), 20<sup>th</sup> March*

Gir Lions to be Relocated in Madhya Pradesh: Death of 17 endangered Asiatic Lions in the Gir national sanctuary in Gujarat since January has prompted the Centre to plan shifting many Gir lions to Kuno-Palpur sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as recommended by the experts of the Wildlife Protection Board. This was revealed by the Minister of State for Forests and Environment, N.N. Meena in the Lok Sabha in reply to a question. He said his senior minister has already written to Chief Ministers of both Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh in this regard.

*Source: Free Press Journal (Mumbai), 1<sup>st</sup> May*

Wildlife Institute Told to Map Tiger Reserves Core Areas: The government has said it has directed the Wildlife Institute of India to assess the core areas of tiger reserves where village relocation has to be undertaken within a timeframe. Minister of State for Environment and Forests, N.N. Meena, in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, said action has been initiated for developing a model in voluntary village relocation/rehabilitation package through a professional agency.

*Source: The Hitavada (Nagpur), 9<sup>th</sup> May*

## Statistical & Graphical Representation of Parliamentary Discussions on Environment

The ENVIS Centre has been actively tracking parliamentary discussions on environmental issues every year. A large amount of environment-related information is presented in both the Houses of Parliament in response to queries and call attention notices from the Members. Such information relates largely to development activities with environmental implications, implementation of environment programmes, legislation, policies, etc. This information is compiled and analysed by the Centre in separate volumes (House-wise and Session-wise) on an annual basis.

The Members of Parliament belong to different political parties while also representing the rich geographical and cultural diversity of the country. The Members, elected into office on the basis of adult franchise in a democratic set-up, voice the concerns of the common man and the discussions in the Parliament therefore highlight the issues of immediate concern to the ordinary citizen.

The following representations indicate the share of Political Parties which has been prepared through Party-wise classification of Members who initiated environment-related discussions.

## Questions Addressed by Different Political Parties on Environment: Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha, Session-wise: A Comparison of 2005-2006

### Lok Sabha

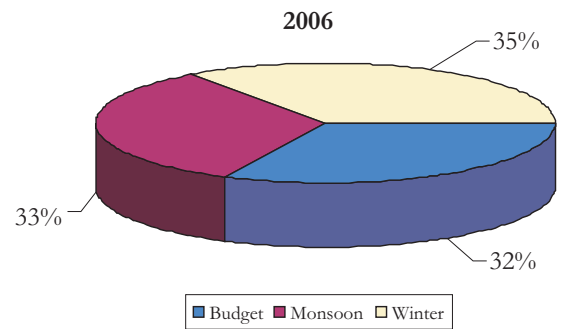
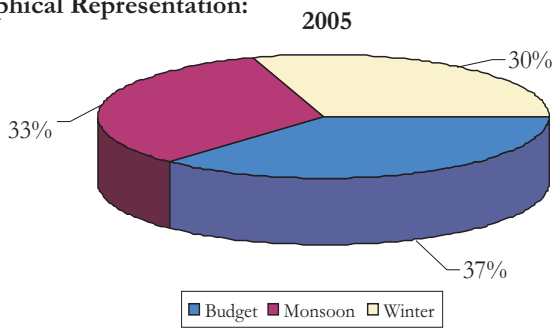
The total count of queries in 2006 was nearly a hundred count less than that of 2005. While the Budget Session share of queries in the total number of environment-related queries in 2006 fell by 5 percent from that of 2005, the number of queries during the Winter Session increased by 5 percent. The share of questions during the Monsoon Session remained unchanged in both the two years.

### Statistical Representation:

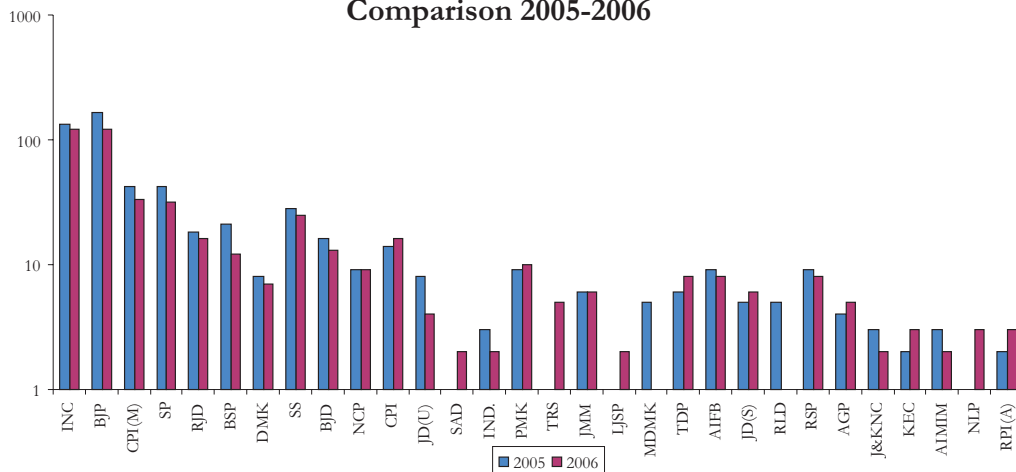
Parties	2005				2006			
	Budget	Monsoon	Winter	Total	Budget	Monsoon	Winter	Total
Indian National Congress (INC)	52	44	36	132	38	36	48	122
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	60	62	44	166	41	37	42	120
Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M))	14	13	15	42	10	10	13	33
Samajwadi Party (SP)	17	13	12	42	12	11	9	32

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)	7	5	6	18	5	5	6	16
Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	7	7	7	21	5	4	3	12
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)	2	2	4	8	3	2	2	7
Shiv Sena (SS)	9	9	10	28	6	12	7	25
Biju Janata Dal (BJD)	7	3	6	16	2	6	5	13
Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	3	2	4	9	3	3	3	9
Communist Party of India (CPI)	4	7	3	14	6	3	7	16
Janata Dal (United) (JD(U))	3	3	2	8	2	1	1	4
Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2
Independent (Ind.)	3	0	0	3	0	1	1	2
Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK)	3	4	2	9	3	3	4	10
Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS)	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	5
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)	2	1	3	6	3	2	1	6
Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJSP)	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2
Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK)	2	1	2	5	1	0	0	1
Telugu Desam Party (TDP)	2	2	2	6	2	3	3	8
All India Forward Bloc (AIFB)	3	3	3	9	3	3	2	8
Janata Dal (Secular) (JD(S))	2	2	1	5	1	2	3	6
Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD)	2	1	2	5	0	1	0	1
Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)	3	3	3	9	2	3	3	8
Asom Gana Parishad (AGP)	0	2	2	4	2	1	2	5
Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (J&KNC)	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	2
Kerala Congress (KEC)	1		1	2	0	1	2	3
All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM)	1	1	1	3	0	1	1	2
National Loktantrik Party (NLP)	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	3
Republican Party of India (A) (RPI(A))	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	3
Total	214	192	173	579	157	159	170	486

**Graphical Representation:**



**Comparison 2005-2006**



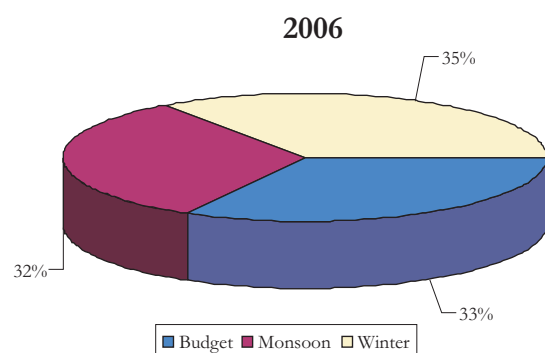
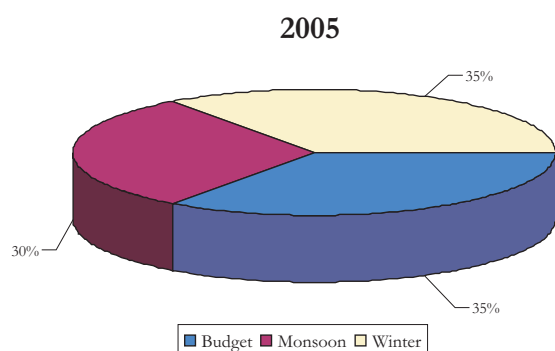
## Rajya Sabha

There was a marginal decline in the total number of queries on environment in 2006 compared to 2005. While the Budget Session share of queries in the total number of environment-related queries in 2006 fell by 2 percent from that of 2005, the number of queries during the Monsoon Session increased by 2 percent. The share of questions during the Winter Session remained unchanged in both the two years.

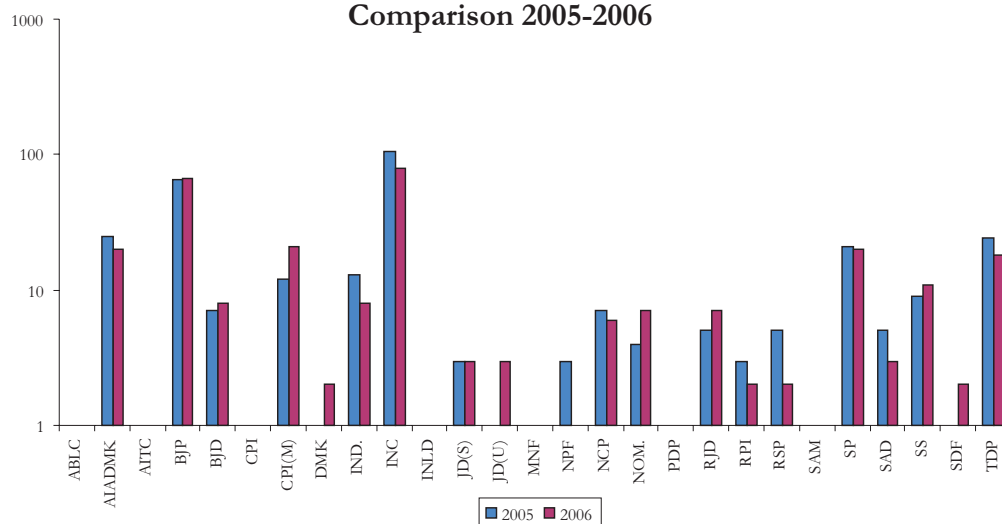
### Statistical Representation:

Parties	2005				2006			
	Budget	Monsoon	Winter	Total	Budget	Monsoon	Winter	Total
Akhil Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress (ABLC)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK)	7	9	9	25	7	7	6	20
All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	25	17	24	66	21	19	27	67
Biju Janata Dal (BJD)	2	3	2	7	2	4	2	8
Communist Party of India (CPI)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M))	5	1	6	12	7	6	8	21
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	2
Independent (Ind.)	5	5	3	13	2	2	4	8
Indian National Congress (INC)	38	32	36	106	31	27	22	80
Indian National Lok Dal (INLD)	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Janata Dal (Secular) (JD(S))	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3
Janata Dal (United) (JD(U))	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Mizo National Front (MNF)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Nagaland Peoples Front (NPF)	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	1
Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)	2	3	2	7	1	2	3	6
Nominated	2	0	2	4	2	3	2	7
People's Democratic Party (PDP)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)	1	2	2	5	2	2	3	7
Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Republican Party of India (RPI)	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	2
Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)	2	1	2	5	2	0	0	2
Samata (SAM)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Samajwadi Party (SP)	6	8	7	21	3	9	8	20
Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)	1	2	2	5	1	1	1	3
Shiv Sena (SS)	4	2	3	9	4	3	4	11
Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Telugu Desam Party (TDP)	9	7	8	24	8	4	6	18
Total	113	97	113	323	97	95	102	294

### Graphical Representation:



## Comparison 2005-2006



## Events on Environment

### Selected Events in the Country during April to June, 2007\*

**Title:** Citizen's Forum to Discuss the Health Threats from Wastewater Irrigation in Varanasi

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2007

**Venue:** Indian Medical Association (IMA) Hall, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

**Organised by:** Toxics Link in partnership with IMA (Varanasi branch) and FRIENDS

**Title:** Economic, Societal and Environmental Benefits Provided by the Indian Forests

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2007

**Venue:** India International Centre Annexe, 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi

**Organised by:** India-IIASA Joint Workshop

**Title:** International Congress on "Advances in Zoo and Management" and Symposium on "Impact of Diseases on Conservation of Wild Animals"

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2007

**Venue:** Faculty of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu

**Organised by:** Mr. A. K. Srivastava, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu

**Title:** Importance of Coastal Plantation to Protect against Cyclones

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

**Venue:** CYSD Conference Ball, Bhubaneswar

**Organised by:** Mr. Prabira Kumar Das, Secretary, People's Council for Social Welfare, Bhubaneswar, Orissa

**Title:** Role of Mass Media in Mitigating Environmental Conflict

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

**Venue:** Amity University Campus, Sector-125, Noida

**Organised by:** Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, President, Amity School of National Resources & Sustainable Development (ASNR & SD), Amity University Campus, Uttar Pradesh

**Title:** Traditional Techniques and Sources of Water Conservation in the Mand Area of Eastern Rajasthan

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

**Venue:** Gangapur City

**Organised by:** Dr. Ved Prakash Meena, President, Paryavaran Sanrakshan Sansthan, Bamanwas, Sawaimadhopur, Rajasthan

**Title:** Vermitechnology in Human Welfare

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

**Venue:** PG and Research Departments of Zoology and Biochemistry, Kongunadu Arts and Science College (Autonomous), Tamil Nadu

**Organised by:** Dr. A.A. Sivakumar, Principal, Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

**Title:** Seminar on Alternate Fuel, Energy and Environment - Melting Ice - A Hot Topic?

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

**Venue:** Bangalore

**Organized by:** K. S. R. T. C. & SAFEE - 2007 in collaboration with Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, Bangalore, India

**Title:** Seminar focusing on the harmful effects of greenhouse gases, consumption of water, and generation of solid waste

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

**Venue:** ITC Hotel, The Maurya

**Organised by:** United Nations Development Programme, The Energy and Resources Institute, Dept of Environment.

**Title:** Environmental Impact Assessment

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

**Venue:** NMPT Training Centre, Mangalore, Karnataka

**Organised by:** New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT), in association with Indian Institute of Port Management (IIPM)

**Title:** Status of Vehicular Pollution in Delhi after Court's Directions - An Assessment

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

**Venue:** Arts and Aesthetics Auditorium, J.N.U., New Delhi

**Organised by:** Mr. A. K. Shamsuddeen, Secretary, Green Institute for Research and Development, New Delhi

**Title:** Agricultural Biotechnology for Rural Development, Self-employment and Healthy Environment

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

**Venue:** Bio-Tech Science College, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu

**Organised by:** Dr. P. Rajamainckam, Principal, Mahendra Arts and Science College, Biotech Sciences, Kalippatti, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu

## Environment and the Government Covered by the Print Media during April-June, 2007

The print media carried reports of many government initiatives, decisions and proposals during April to June. The reports have been classified into government activities at the Centre and State/UT/Local levels. At these two levels, the reports have been further categorized according to the list of subjects as prepared by the ENVIS Centre. The information provided in the reports range from the setting up of institutions, proposal for new undertakings, formulation of policies to the issue of new guidelines.\*

### Centre Level:

#### Alternative Technologies

Target 2020: Government Takes the Wheel for One Million Hydrogen Cars on the Road - The government has announced the setting of 2020 as the target year to have 1 million carbon-free hydrogen vehicles on the road.

Source: *Indian Express (New Delhi)*, 5<sup>th</sup> June

Petrol Soon to be Ethanol-Blended - The government would soon mandate ethanol-blended petrol later during the year. And by October 2008, the 5 percent ethanol content will be doubled to 10 percent in all the states except the North East, the island regions and Jammu and Kashmir. The Department of Food and Public Distribution has mooted a cabinet note proposing mandatory ethanol blending in the country. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, which looks at crude oil management, has agreed to the proposal.

Source: *Hindustan Times (New Delhi)*, 6<sup>th</sup> June

#### Climate Change and Meteorology

PMO Wants Mass Rapid Bus Transport to Take CDM Route - The Prime Minister's Office has asked the Urban Development Ministry to follow the clean development mechanism for all mass rapid transport projects which can avail of carbon credits. It asked the Ministry to work in tandem with the Ministry of Environment and Forests that gives country approval for carrying out CDM projects. The Ministry of Urban Development has also been asked to co-opt an official dealing with CDM in the MoEF or alternatively develop a template through MoEF to guide such projects that can avail of CDM-related credits.

Source: *Economic Times, (Mumbai)*, 24<sup>th</sup> April

Panel on Climate Change - An expert committee on climate change has been formed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, as recommended by the Union Budget last February. The nine-member committee will have as its chairperson, R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. There are also 12 ex-officio members. The committee will "study the impact of anthropogenic (human induced) climate change on India" and "identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing the vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impact."

Source: *The Hindu (Chennai)*, 11<sup>th</sup> May; *Mint (New Delhi)*, 14<sup>th</sup> May

Manmohan Calls Meet to Discuss Climate Change - Prime Minister Manmohan Singh convened a high-level meeting to discuss the implications of recent international reports on climate change. He said that, "...India should adopt a pro-active approach based on national interests and developmental goals to address problems of global warming." The Energy and Resources Institute has been asked to conduct a study focusing on India, giving the current energy consumption in various sectors of the economy. Following the submission of the report in the next six months, the Prime Minister will hold an inter-ministerial meeting to examine the report whose recommendations would be included as a document in the next Plan period.

Source: *Indian Express (New Delhi)*, 17<sup>th</sup> May

\* Most of the information is excerpted and reproduced verbatim from the media clippings that have been collected by the Centre. However, in some cases, sentences have been modified or rephrased in order to maintain the consistency of the section.

Panel on Climate Change Set Up - Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced the formation of a high-level advisory group to coordinate national plans on climate change issues. To be known as the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, the advisory group will include several ministers, environmentalists and eminent persons. The Council would coordinate national action plans for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. It would advise government on pro-active measures required to be taken by India to deal with the challenge of climate change. The Council would also facilitate inter-ministerial coordination and guide policy in relevant areas.

Source: *The Statesman (New Delhi)*, 6<sup>th</sup> June; *Business Standard*, 6<sup>th</sup> June; *Business Line (New Delhi)*, 6<sup>th</sup> June; *Indian Express*, 6<sup>th</sup> June; *Times of India*, 6<sup>th</sup> June

Urban Bodies to Devise Ways to Earn Carbon Credits - The Urban Development Ministry has set up a mechanism to vet all urban development infrastructure projects so that they can avail the credits under the Clean Development Mechanism. Chaired by Urban Development Secretary M. Ramachandran and Director Savitir Prasad as Member Secretary, the panel will comprise members from CPWD, DDA, National Buildings Construction Corporation and three senior joint-secretary level officials to "oversee formulation and development of projects" pertaining to Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, CPWD, NBCC, road transport and Delhi's local bodies like DDA, MCD and NDMC.

Source: *Indian Express (New Delhi)*, 6<sup>th</sup> June

#### Disaster Management

Guidelines on Chemical Disaster Management Released - The National Disaster Management Authority has released a set of guidelines focusing on enforcement, emergency management during transport and an audit and inspection system for industrial units. The norms deal with industrial units, chemical godowns, transport services and pipelines.

Source: *Indian Express (New Delhi)*, 29<sup>th</sup> May

#### Pollution

Coal and Cars May Carry Green Cess - The Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a tax-neutral duty rejig proposal to incentivise environment-friendly sectors while taxing polluting products. So, while it has recommended a cess on coal which has high ash content and an eco-tax on polluting automobiles, it has proposed excise concessions for industries like blended cement and bio-pesticides. The environment ministry has already submitted the proposal to the finance ministry.

Source: *Economic Times (New Delhi)*, 31<sup>st</sup> May

#### Wildlife Management

Centre Forms Three-Member Panel to Probe Gir Lion Deaths - The Centre formed a three-member committee to investigate into the lion killings in March in the Gir reserve. An official said, "The type of poachers, involving villagers or professionals, natural deaths of the lions by falling into the forest's well or maladies striking them would be looked into." The tribal forest dwellers and frequency of man-animal conflicts would also be scrutinized. The Committee, together with state officials, is expected to submit its report within a month.

Source: *The Statesman, (New Delhi)*, 8<sup>th</sup> April; *The Pioneer, (New Delhi)*, 10<sup>th</sup> April; *The Hindu (New Delhi)* 10<sup>th</sup> April

Forest Ministry Announces Inter-State Panel to Check Poaching - The Union Environment and Forests Ministry has announced setting up of an inter-state coordination committee as part of its anti-poaching strategy. The committee will periodically review poaching problems along the borders. It would work out a strategy for networking and daily exchange of information at field level apart from preparing crime dossiers of perpetual offenders along with photo identities. It will meet every three months to exchange information on poaching cases.

Source: *The Hindu, (New Delhi)*, 16<sup>th</sup> May; *Indian Express, New Delhi*, 16<sup>th</sup> May

Wildlife Crime Bureau Gets Green Light - The government has finalized the proposal for setting up of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. The bureau will have 105 posts and will be under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Bureau will have its own public prosecutor as well as constables for making arrests. It will collect intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and share it with the states and establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank.

Source: *Times of India (New Delhi)*, 25<sup>th</sup> May

New Conservation Policy to Protect Tigers - The newly-constituted Tiger Conservation Authority is finalizing an eco-tourism policy for the benefit of the people living in the vicinity of the tiger reserves. The move is aimed at providing livelihood to the locals to wean them away from exploiting the natural resources of the tiger reserves in an unsustainable way, an official of the Authority said.

Source: *DNA (Mumbai)*, 20<sup>th</sup> June

Bureau to Help Combat Wildlife Crimes - A cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh approved the proposal of the Ministry of Environment and Forests to constitute a "Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau." The bureau's headquarters would be Delhi and will have four regional and three sub-regional offices.

Source: *Asian Age (New Delhi)*, 25<sup>th</sup> June

Panel Chalks Out Strategy for Tiger Conservation - The National Tiger Conservation Authority has adopted eight resolutions to be included in the agenda of the meeting of the national board for wildlife in July. These include management of the source-sink dynamics on top, re-introduction of tigers in Sariska, involvement of NGOs in tiger protection, prevention of illegal trading in tiger body parts and involvement of locals in tiger protection programme.

Source: *Hindustan Times (New Delhi)*, 29<sup>th</sup> June

## States/UT/Local Level:

### Climate Change and Meteorology

Pollution-Hit Bangalore Seeks Respite in Greenhouse Plan - The country's IT capital, Bangalore has taken a step towards becoming the first city in the country to prepare greenhouse gas inventory. The **Karnataka** State Pollution Control Board has started the project to evaluate the quantum of greenhouse gases emitted in Greater Bangalore. The Board will study the quantum of greenhouse gases emitted in three sectors - transport, power and sewage treatment plants - in the city. The project had been taken up jointly with Enzen Global Solutions, a business solutions organization focused on global energy and utility business.

Source: *Financial Express, (New Delhi)*, 19<sup>th</sup> April

Punjab to Study Impact of Global Warming on Flora, Fauna - The **Punjab** government has decided to get a scientific and comprehensive study done on the short and long term impact of global warming on flora and fauna of the state. The decision to this effect was taken in a meeting of the Forest and Wildlife officials of the state presided over by the Forest and Wildlife Preservation Minister.

Source: *Political and Business Daily (New Delhi)*, 20<sup>th</sup> June

### Disaster Management

Disaster Risk Management Project to Be Extended - The **Tamil Nadu** government has signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Programme to extend its ongoing Disaster Risk Management project in six districts to seven more coastal districts, thereby covering the entire coastline in the state. The focus of the programme would continue to be on enabling local communities to cope with any disaster in the initial stages.

Source: *The Hindu (Chennai)*, 24<sup>th</sup> May

### Energy Studies

Energy Conservation Fund Panel Set Up - The **Tamil Nadu** government has notified a State-level steering committee which will be the authority to administer the Tamil Nadu Energy Conservation Fund. The application of the Fund would include meeting the expenditure incurred by the designated agency to take measures to create public awareness and

disseminate information for efficient use of energy and its conservation, promote research and development in energy conservation by the designated agency and the use of energy efficient processes from equipment, devices and systems.

Source: *The Hindu (Chennai)*, 14<sup>th</sup> June

Haryana Lowers Tax on Energy Saving Devices, Parts of Rail Coaches - The **Haryana** government has decided to reduce rate of tax under Value Added Tax on Compact Fluorescent Lamps and tubes from 12.5% to 4% by including the same in Schedule C of Haryana Value Added Tax, 2003.

Source: *Political and Business Daily (New Delhi)*, 28<sup>th</sup> June

### Environmental Conservation

HP Sets Up New Environment Department - The **Himachal Pradesh** government has set up a new department of environment protection and pollution control to enforce and strictly monitor the implementation of the environmental legislations. The notification was issued last week. The functions assigned to the department also include grant of environmental clearances to new projects, examining Environmental Impact Assessments and monitoring Environment Management Plans and Catchment Area Treatment plans, earlier handled by the Himachal Pollution Control Board.

Source: *Indian Express, (Chandigarh)*, 20<sup>th</sup> April

Protected Areas in Punjab for Saving Biodiversity - With a view to conserving the state's biodiversity, the **Punjab** government has declared three more protected areas and decided to constitute community reserve management committees. The state government would also constitute the Community Reserve Management Committees comprising representatives nominated by village panchayat, NGOs and Honorary Wildlife Wardens.

Source: *Assam Tribune (Guwahati)*, 16<sup>th</sup> June

### Environmental Education, NGOs and Media

Earth Charter for Clean Delhi - The **Delhi** Chief Minister launched the declaration of the Earth Charter for eco-clubs schools as part of the Earth Day 2007 celebration. Launch of the Earth Charter for Delhi schools is the first initiative in the country and the Delhi government is the first government in India to adopt the Charter.

Source: *Asian Age (New Delhi)*, 22<sup>nd</sup> April

### Environmental Impact Assessment

MPCB Clearance a Click Away - The **Maharashtra** Pollution Control Board will soon launch an e-governance initiative offering online consent to firms seeking an environmental clearance. Applicants will have the option of filing their submissions online, tracking the progress of their applications and getting consent, without visiting the MPCB even once. Also, the applicant firm can count down to four months and then assume that consent has been granted if there is no response from the authority. The RS.14-crore project is set to be launched soon.

Source: *DNA (Mumbai)*, 29<sup>th</sup> May

HP Cancels Several Hydel Projects to Save Environment - The **Himachal Pradesh** government has shelved several big and small hydro-electric projects of 425 MW capacity in the wake of environmental dangers posed by it, Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh said. Almost all hydro-electric projects in Tirthan valley of Kullu district will be cancelled to save the trout fish, an important part of the ecological system in the region. Besides, several other projects in Kinnaur district have also been cancelled for the conservation of the "Bhojpatra" forest in the area.

Source: *Indian Express (New Delhi)*, 6<sup>th</sup> June

### Forest Conservation

Government to Develop 9 New Forests Soon - The **Delhi** government has decided to keep up momentum by planting 18.30 lakh saplings and developing 9 new city forests in 2007-08. The Chief Minister, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, chairing a meeting in this regard, directed all concerned departments to achieve greening targets for the year 2007-08. She stressed the need of enhancing survival rate of saplings. She further directed the Department of Forests and Wildlife to involve traders' associations, RWAs, eco-clubs, kitchen garden associations

and other NGOs in this work.

Source: *National Herald (New Delhi)*, 8<sup>th</sup> May

## Freshwater and Marine Conservation

Kerala to Subsidise 6,000 Water-harvesting Units - The **Kerala** government will subsidise construction of nearly 6,000 water-harvesting units this financial year. Minister for Water Resources N.K. Premachandran said that more funds would be allocated if there was demand. He said the government was targeting the maximum storage of water during the monsoon.

Source: *The Hindu (New Delhi)*, 9<sup>th</sup> May

New Yamuna Cleanup Plan Unveiled - An innovative plan to clean the Yamuna river, envisaging drastic reduction of pollution levels on its 22-km stretch from Wazirabad to Okhla, which accounts for a major proportion of the pollution load from various drains emptying in the river, has been unveiled by the **Delhi** Jal Board. The plan is based on the concept of interceptor sewers where the sewage emanating from smaller drains into three major drains in Nazafgarh, supplementary and Shahdara will be intercepted before it enters bigger drains. The DJB CEO, Arun Mathur said the DJB scheme would bring about a nearly 80 percent reduction in pollution levels in the Yamuna.

Source: *Hindustan Times (Next) (New Delhi)*, 11<sup>th</sup> May

Biggest-Ever Expedition to Survey Pollution along State Coastline (Maharashtra) - In a first-of-its-kind expedition, 10 oceanography experts and scientists in Maharashtra and Goa have embarked on special boats along with a crew to unearth pollution levels and monitor condition of aquatic life across the 720 kms-long coastal belt of **Maharashtra**. The year-long expedition had commenced on February 15. Experts from National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) began their historic joint exercise to collect samples and analyse the nature of pollution in sea across the coastal stretch between Mumbai and Ratnagiri. The mission will also take stock of the sea life inside the Arabic Ocean.

Source: *DNA (Mumbai)*, 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Panel to Monitor Yamuna Action Plan - The Municipal Corporation of **Delhi** has set up a committee to monitor the working of Phase II of the Yamuna Action Plan. The committee comprises four members from the MCD, the chairman standing committee, leader of the House, leader of Opposition, additional commissioner member secretary, director-in-chief, assessor and Collector and Additional Commissioner-in-charge of the Yamuna Action Plan and representatives from Ministry of Environment, Japan Bank for International Cooperation and project management consultant. Monthly meetings will be held to look after the progress of the project.

Source: *The Pioneer (New Delhi)*, 7<sup>th</sup> June; *The Statesman (New Delhi)*, 7<sup>th</sup> June

## Pollution

Plastic Bags Banned - The **West Bengal** environment department has banned manufacturers from producing plastic bags below 40 microns, and will come into effect from 5<sup>th</sup> June. It has set up a committee headed by the environment secretary, M.L. Meena, to monitor and control pollution through plastic waste. Government offices, aided institutions and statutory bodies have been asked to stop using plastic cups and plates in their offices and during programmes.

Source: *The Statesman (Kolkata)*, 5<sup>th</sup> May

Spot Checks to Curb Pollution - A portable remote-sensing device that tests auto-emissions will soon be used by the **West Bengal** environment department to conduct spot checks on vehicles to crack down on drivers who get fake "fit certificates" and flout emission norms. State environment secretary, M.L. Meena said the device will be installed in a vehicle, "...taken to any part of the city and ... check whether any passing vehicles was flouting emission norms at any particular junction of the city." He also said, "The drive will be launched primarily in Kolkata and Howrah."

Source: *The Statesman (Kolkata)*, 15<sup>th</sup> June

GPCB Issues Notice to VMC on Solid Waste - The **Gujarat** Pollution Control Board has directed the Vadodara Municipal Corporation to clean up the waste at Vadsar. The notice stated that the dumping of municipal solid waste on Vishwamatri's banks near Vadsar is being done, disregarding environment of surrounding areas. At present, the VMC dumps municipal wastes near Vadsar, Akota Garden and VUDA office located on the natural waterways, blocking excess rainwater to flow out of the city and creating flood situation every monsoon.

Source: *Times of India (Ahmedabad)*, 18<sup>th</sup> May

Plastic Bags Banned in City - The (**Assam**) government has clamped a ban on the common plastic (polythene carrybag) with effect from 20<sup>th</sup> June. The ban will stay for three months initially.

Source: *Assam Tribune (Guwahati)*, 20<sup>th</sup> June

Chandrapur Industries Told to Clean Up Their Act - The regional office of the **Maharashtra** Pollution Control Board has issued ultimatums to several industries in the Vidarbha city, some 800 kilometers from Mumbai including the Chandrapur Thermal Power Station and Cement factories to upgrade their pollution control equipment within this month or face further action, including possible closure. The regional office of the Board also recommended closure notices to two cement factories for not complying with its directives on pollution control. Besides, the board has closed down one sponge iron factory and a coal washery for not upgrading their equipment.

Source: *Hindustan Times (Mumbai)*, 25<sup>th</sup> June

Punjab to Have Modern Wasteland - The first hazardous waste disposal site in North India is being set up at Nimbuan village in **Punjab** with the state government having provided the land for the site and the Central government providing financial assistance. The facility would start functioning by July and is the first in North India with a disposal pit of 10 acre, which is the largest in the country. Of the 2,700 hazardous waste producing units in the state, 1,800 have given their consent to send it to this site.

Source: *Indian Express (Chandigarh)*, 26<sup>th</sup> June

## Water Management

Amritsar to Use Laser to Conserve Water - The Amritsar administration, in association with the **Punjab** Agriculture department, has developed a plan to check falling groundwater table by adopting laser leveling technique for cultivation, which will reduce consumption of water by 20 percent.

Source: *Business Standard (New Delhi)*, 20<sup>th</sup> April

Water Harvesting Gets Boost - The **Haryana** Urban Development Authority has decided to appoint an agency to carry out a survey to find out whether rainwater harvesting systems installed by colonies and institutions are functioning or not. The audit team would also include water harvesting experts.

Source: *Times of India (New Delhi)*, 24<sup>th</sup> April

Water Harvesting Plan to be Extended - Encouraged by the success of the Rs. 6.78 crores community water harvesting and natural resources management scheme in Hamirpur district, the (**Himachal Pradesh**) government has decided to replicate it in other areas of the state too. After conducting a survey, 12 projects involving an expenditure of Rs. 9.94 crores have been formulated and the Centre has released the first installment of Rs. 1 crores for the implementation.

Source: *The Tribune (New Delhi)*, 25<sup>th</sup> April

DJB Wants Water Recycled to Meet Shortage - The **Delhi** Jal Board is drafting a new policy which will exhort industrial units, malls and big commercial establishments to recycle water for processes that do not require drinking water. DJB CEO Arun Mathur says, "...We are working on a new policy that will make it compulsory for industrial or large commercial units to maintain a water recycling unit. This should be enforced from the building stage itself. ... Next, we will involve stakeholders like the CII to help rope in industrial units...."

Source: *Indian Express (New Delhi)*, 18<sup>th</sup> May

KMC Wakes Up to Perils of Global Warming - The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has taken a series of initiatives including drafting new rules which will allow builders, especially those of high rises and housing complexes, to make provisions for rainwater harvesting. The civic body is also contemplating to make waste water recycling mandatory for big residential complexes as well as hotels. The changes in building rules have already been drafted and are likely to be implemented by this year end. It will also undertake energy audits at its pumping stations.

Source: *The Statesman (Kolkata)*, 7<sup>th</sup> June

## Wildlife Management

Modi Launches Platform to Conserve Lions - The **Gujarat** Chief Minister announced the setting up of the Gujarat Lion Conservation Society to take up 'Project Lion' and create a corpus of Rs.40 crores for five years. A wildlife crime cell will be set up in CID (crime) as well as forest department to deal "effectively" with poaching crimes by exchanging information with other agencies in India, wildlife experts and other state governments.

Source: *Times of India, (New Delhi)*, 8<sup>th</sup> April

Census in Gir Launched by the Gujarat Forest Department - The **Gujarat** Forest Department has launched an unofficial census of lions in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary and the reserve forests on the periphery. The exercise is two-pronged: officials are on the one hand monitoring and taking note of lions while on the other hand also investigating all the kills found on the way.

Source: *Indian Express, (New Delhi)*, 12<sup>th</sup> April

Tamil Nadu to Breed Endangered Macaques - A zoological park in **Tamil Nadu**, has initiated a special project, the first of its kind in India, to breed the endangered lion-tailed macaques, an Old World monkey found in the Western Ghats. The project at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, one of the largest zoos in South Asia located in Vandalur, is a part of a coordinated captive breeding programme of the species. Under the state-sponsored project, animals taken from Chennai, Trivandrum and Mysore zoos will be pooled into groups.

Source: *Hindustan Times (Next), (New Delhi)*, 16<sup>th</sup> April

Permanent Panel to Protect Asiatic Lions - Following the poaching of Asiatic lions in their only abode, the Gir sanctuary in the Saurashtra region of **Gujarat**, the state government has appointed a permanent 10-member committee of experts for the conservation of the endangered species. The committee would review the security systems from time to time. A state government spokesman said the committee was also expected to suggest additional sites in the state for the protection and growth of the lions and help overcome the managerial constraints in the protected areas.

Source: *The Hindu, (Chennai)*, 18<sup>th</sup> April

Mission to Protect Elephant Pathways - In a bid to protect elephant habitats and avoid corridor fragmentation, the **Tamil Nadu** Forest Department has embarked on a mission to protect elephant pathways in unprotected areas. The Corridor Management scheme intends to identify and protect the pathways in view of increased urbanization and human intervention with wildlife. In another initiative to keep track of elephants, a microchip will be affixed behind their ear.

Source: *The Hindu, (New Delhi)*, 20<sup>th</sup> April

Bengal Has Census for Elephants - Wildlife authorities began a census of elephants in the wildlife sanctuaries across **West Bengal** on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The census, expected to be completed in four days will help wildlife authorities to devise ways to protect the Asiatic Elephant and its habitat in the region. It will cover Jaldapara, Gorumara, Chapramari and Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuaries and Buxar Tiger Reserve in the northern forest range of West Bengal.

Source: *Metro Now (New Delhi)*, 24<sup>th</sup> April

Anamalais, Mudumalai Notified as Project Tiger Reserves - The Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park in the Anamalais, the biggest in the state, and the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary in the Nilgiris have been

notified as Project Tiger reserves by the **Tamil Nadu** government. A senior official said that a detailed plan for development of these reserves would be sent to the Union Government in a couple of days.

Source: *The Hindu (New Delhi)*, 25<sup>th</sup> April

3 More Habitats under Project Tiger - Three tiger habitats in **Chhattisgarh** have been brought under Project Tiger by the Central Government which will provide extra funds for conservation of the big cats that are fast disappearing in India. "The habitats - Achanakmar, Sitanadi, and Udanti - have been included in Project Tiger and the Central government has formally informed the state government," forest minister Brijmohan Agrawal said.

Source: *Hindustan Times (Next) (New Delhi)*, 5<sup>th</sup> May

Elephant Corridor under Scrutiny - The four-day long task of counting the number of elephants present in the states of **Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh** and **West Bengal**, concluded on 12<sup>th</sup> May. The counting was done by forest department officials of all four states along with a number of non-governmental organizations, associated with wildlife conservation who had volunteered for the task. The last elephant census was taken in 2002.

Source: *The Statesman (New Delhi)*, 13<sup>th</sup> May

3 Chhattisgarh Habitats in Project Tiger - The Centre has brought three **Chhattisgarh** tiger habitats Achanakmar, Sitanadi and Udanti under Project Tiger. The rising number of tigers and support species of herbivores required for healthy growth of these ecosystems in the three reserves had forced the Centre to take this decision.

Source: *Indian Express (New Delhi)*, 15<sup>th</sup> May

Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department Tightens Noose on Furriers, Traders - The **Jammu and Kashmir** Wildlife Department has resumed collection of illegal animal skins and products made of animal fur from artisans and furriers following the High Court's directions in this regard. Officials informed that the seized specimens would be destroyed following the completion of the drive.

Source: *Political and Business Daily (New Delhi)*, 29<sup>th</sup> May; *The Telegraph (Kolkata)*, 29<sup>th</sup> May

Crime Bureau, Research Wing to Save MP Tigers - The **Madhya Pradesh** government is preparing a preliminary scheme which includes the setting up of a new bureau to deal exclusively with wildlife crime. It also mentions imparting wildlife training to forest officials, adequate vehicles for patrolling, resettlement of human population and conservation and management of corridors linking tiger reserves. In the meeting to chalk out the new strategy, recommendation was also made for the constitution of a research wing.

Source: *Indian Express (Chandigarh)*, 9<sup>th</sup> June

Poaching: Gir to Have Beat Guards - The **Gujarat** government has taken new steps to strengthen management in and around the Gir sanctuary areas by recruiting additional field staff. The state will also augment the existing fleet of vehicles and improve communication networks to protect the big cats. The Forest Department has been ordered to recruit over 100 young beat guards and 300 "vanya prani mitras" to be deployed in the Gir sanctuary. The department has also decided to provide firearms to foresters and beat guards, acquire additional wireless sets and more jeeps equipped with wireless sets.

Source: *Indian Express (New Delhi)*, 11<sup>th</sup> June

UP Gov Shows Concern for Tigers - The **Uttar Pradesh** forest department would soon be setting up a Tiger Conservation Society which would have representatives from Regional Transport Office, Irrigation Department, Police, NGOs and wildlife activists. The state government has accepted the Society in principle and it would get a corpus fund. The society would concentrate on Dudhwa and neighbouring sanctuaries.

Source: *Political and Business Daily (New Delhi)*, 13<sup>th</sup> June

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### Useful Links

The ENVIS Centre is currently preparing the database for the latest edition of the Directory of Environmental NGOs in India, 2007. A large amount of information has been received from NGOs across the country. Given below is the list of NGOs from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal which have provided their website addresses.

Name of the Organisations	Website
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>	
Action in Rural Technology and Service (ARTS)	<a href="http://www.artsindia.org">www.artsindia.org</a>
Environment Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI)	<a href="http://www.eptri.com">www.eptri.com</a>
People's Action for Social Service (PASS)	<a href="http://www.passindia.org">www.passindia.org</a>
Relief Organisation for Handicapped (ROH)	<a href="http://www.roh_hdp.tripod.com">www.roh_hdp.tripod.com</a>
Social Education and Environment Development Society (SEEDS)	<a href="http://www.propoor.org">www.propoor.org</a>
<b>KARNATAKA</b>	
Centre for Action, Research & Technology for Man, Animal & Nature (CARTMAN)	<a href="http://www.heritage-cartman.org">www.heritage-cartman.org</a>
Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resources (CEENR)	<a href="http://www.isec.ac.in">www.isec.ac.in</a>
Centre for Symbiosis of Technology, Environment & Management (CSTEM)	<a href="http://www.stemgroup.org">www.stemgroup.org</a>
Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Environment and Development (CISED)	<a href="http://www.cised.org">www.cised.org</a>
Suma Khadi Gramodyoga Sangha (SKG Sangha)	<a href="http://www.skgsangha.org">www.skgsangha.org</a>
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>	
Consumer Unit and Trust Society (CUTS)	<a href="http://www.cuts-international.org">www.cuts-international.org</a>
Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRSCC)	<a href="http://www.drsc.org">www.drsc.org</a>
Jadavpur Viveknagar Nature Lovers' Association (JVNLA)	<a href="http://www.javinla.tripod.com">www.javinla.tripod.com</a>
Keliapathar Sabuj Sangha & Library (KSS&L)	<a href="http://www.kssandl.org">www.kssandl.org</a>
Professional Institute for Development and Socio-Environmental Management (PRISM)	<a href="http://www.giveindia.org">www.giveindia.org</a>
Ullon Social Welfare Society (USWS)	<a href="http://www.uswsindia.org">www.uswsindia.org</a>

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