

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE.....YEAR 2003

Year 2003 saw a spate of awards functions being held both by Indian and International agencies to acknowledge work of eminent people in the field of environmental science.



To begin with Raman Sukumar who happens to be the fourth Indian in a row to receive Britain's 50,000 pound Whitley Gold Award was awarded in March 2003 for helping the survival of the Asian elephant.

This award got a lot of attention when Delhi CM Ms. Shiela Dixit was invited by the US to accept the Clean Cities International Partner of the Year Award on behalf of the people of Delhi for the progressive and successful CNG transport system.

In remembrance of the famous Chipko Movement and its founder Ms. Amrita Devi Bishnoi the Ministry of Environment and Forestry awarded the first Amrita Devi Bishnoi National Award for Wildlife Conservation award to Ganga Ram Bishnoi posthumously when he heroically chased away hunters who had killed a deer.

Interestingly a foreign banker by profession Mr. Ravindra Pal Singh chose to leave a lucrative job with the bank to serve the country as the Secretary General and CEO of WWF India at New Delhi.

Presenting Kerala's first environment award to leading environment scientist S. Faizi, former Chief Minister E.K. Nayanar said that the present trend of trading ecologically crucial wealth for money ought to be resisted.

Noted environmentalist Ms. Vandana Shiva, also a trained physicist, was awarded the Prabha Khaitan Purashkar for 2002 Calcutta Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

The People for Animals (PfA) presented the PfA Jaigopal Garodia Animal welfare Award 2003 recognizing the efforts of people from different walks of life towards the cause of animals. The award carried a citation from leading animal activist Ms. Maneka Gandhi, a gold plated silver medal and a cash prize.

WWF India Tamil Nadu State Office recently held a photo exhibition to celebrate the wildlife week.

From the biggest fauna to the tiniest flora there was a whole gamut of wildlife.

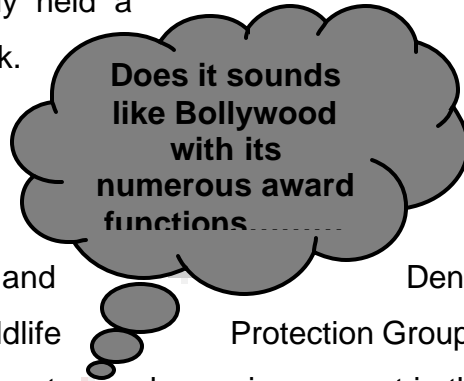
UNEP awarded the Sasakawa Environmental

Prize to a Xie Zhenua, a Chinese minister and Jose Giovanini who founded the Brazilian Wildlife

BNHS India's oldest conservation group has not been given a seat in the national wildlife board headed by the Prime Minister. This could have probably come in the wake of a report by BNHS saying that the national river linking project was not advisable, a dream project of the Vajpayee govt.

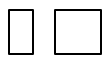
The British Airways tourism award was bagged by Bunaken National Marine Park in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. The park beat 70 other contestants to win the award.

In an yet another award the Tamil Nadu govt proposes to give environmental awards to meritorious individuals and organizations who are involved in the field of environmental education and awareness...



Dener

Protection Group.



Not yet.... There is more!!!!!!!!!!!!



Billy Arjan Singh the so called 'godfather' of the movement to save the Indian Tiger was presented Sanctuary Life Time Achievement Award for 2003.



The Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists, Dehradun announced an award for Management of Natural Resources for the years 2000-01 and 2003-03

Not an award for excellence but punishment for neglecting duties. 293 NGO's were blacklisted by CAPART for not completing their projects according to the norms set by the government.

Hang on! Another prize bagged by orient papers and industries ltd, the Greentech Environment for the paper industry for 2003-04.

WWF-India as an ENVIS Centre/Node has been keeping a tab on the media activity on environment related issues and carries out analysis on different issues in media.

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