



ENVIS NEWSLETTER

for a living planet®

Vol. No. 12 • Issue No. 3 • July - September 2011



WWF-India ENVIS Centre (NGOs & Parliament)

From the Editor's Desk

Dear all,

India's got compassion. But it takes a lot more to change lifestyles, which are causing harm to the Environment. It takes optimism, to dream of a better tomorrow. Vision, to chart a course to get there. Tenacity, to confront challenges and overcome obstacles. And administrative acumen to design and implement projects and programmes that catapult people from deprivation and despair to hope and prosperity. In short, it takes a remarkable breed of men and women to make a lasting social impact.

Each day should become an opportunity to take a pledge for doing our bit to sustain our surrounding, to make it clean and beautiful. Everyone should be aware about small things like cutting down our electricity bill, keeping tab on our water consumption, not littering our surrounding, planting trees etc which will help in guarding our environment. The quarter July-September, 2011 saw many such efforts made by common masses, NGO, Government sections and ever the ministers.

This newsletter provides a rapid glance on the actions that have been taken by government departments, parliamentary deliberations on environmental issues and imperative conservation activities carried out by various non-governmental organization, institutions/universities/corporations etc. Significant Government initiatives, proposals and decisions as reported by print media during the quarter July-September 2011, are selectively highlighted in this newsletter along with the Parliamentarians concern and their take on the current situation of environment.

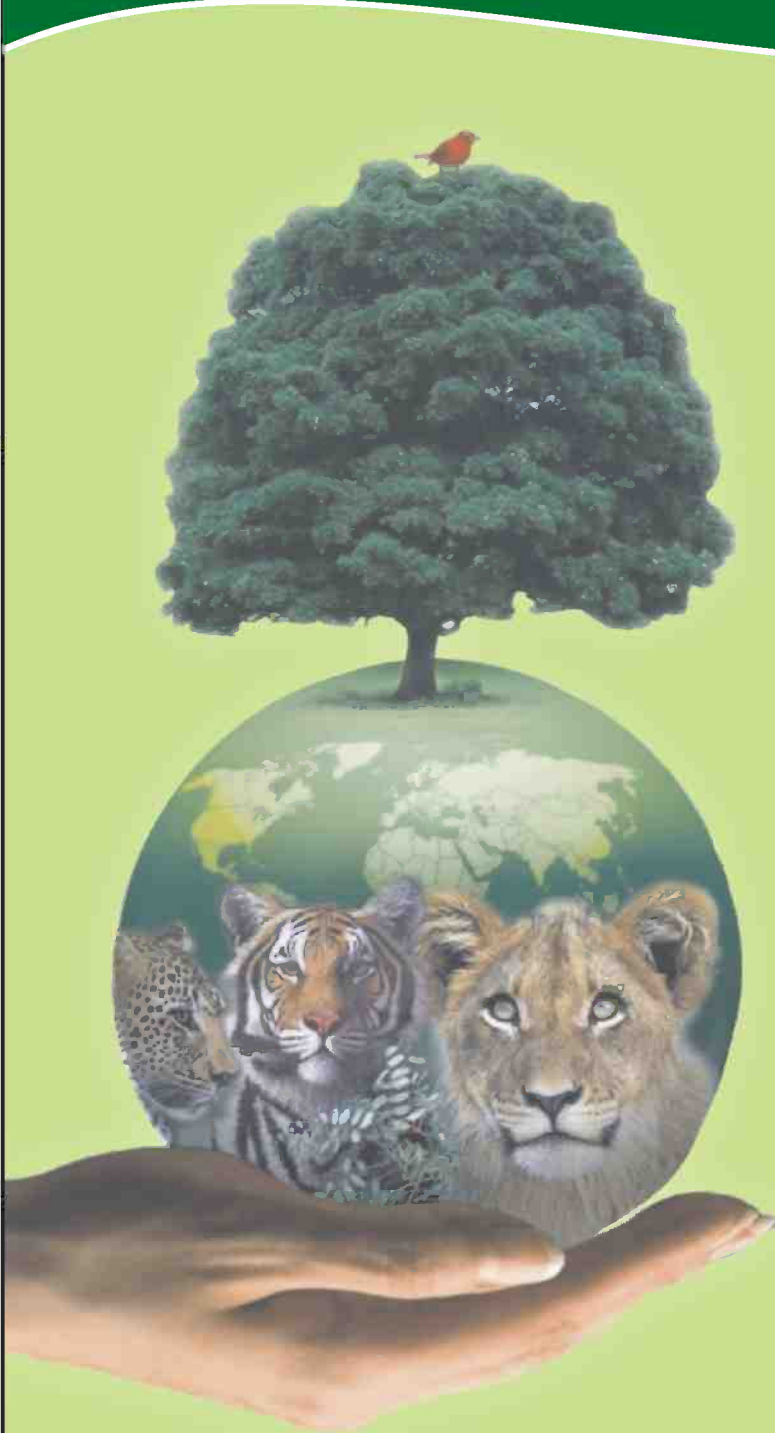
All workshops/symposia/seminars and other events on environmental issues during July-December, 2011 is also highlighted in this newsletter for the users.

We are please to share this information with you and look forward to your suggestions and feedback on the content published in this newsletter.

Dr. G. Arendran
Coordinator-ENVIS Programme
.WWF-India

For further details, visit our website
www.wwfenvis.nic.in

C O N T E N T S	Jairam raises performance bar for Jayanthi	2
	Overview on Environment	2
	Subject wise analysis of decisions taken by the Government on Environment	3
	Subject wise analysis of activities carried out by various NGO's	10
	Subject wise analysis of concern of Parliamentarians on Environment	15
	Reports & Studies on Environment	18
Events on Environment	21	



Supported By
Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Government of India



OVERVIEW

All members of human society are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the environment as a Whole-Life-System. Individual efforts can be enhanced through building networks within and among all levels of civil society and government, industry and business, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Major highlights of the quarter July-September, 2011 in the government section were the earning of Carbon credits by Municipal Corporation of Delhi, setting up of Rainwater Harvesting Systems by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, plan Introduction of GPS devices to curb illegal mining and biodiversity indexing for no-go areas, Clash of Commerce ministry and MoEF over environmental clearances, Acceptance of Lavasa project proponents over the "preconditions" specified by MoEF, Launch of updated edition of Drinking water guidelines by WHO, updates on Munak carrier-line channel project and waste water treatment plans of Delhi government, efforts to save big cats, elephants and various other wildlife species.

Education, especially at an early age, has a significant effect on how people form attitudes toward the environment, and is thus crucial. Educational programmes designed to enhance awareness of environmental issues and ethics must be developed and applied at all levels of society through all available and practical means. NGOs like Kalpavriksha and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) raise voice against Deforestation and WWF-India Launched awareness campaign like "Cities for Forests" and Adapt a Tree" to promote afforestation and save the existing ones. Centre for Science and Environment, Green Circle of Delhi and Toxic Links revealed many disheartening facts about rising pollution in India.

The newly appointed Environment minister, Jayanthi Natarajan, announced among the group of Ministers (GoM) that the system of 'go' and 'no-go' has not been mandated by the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (FCA) and does not have any legal standing.

JAIRAM RAISES PERFORMANCE BAR FOR JAYANTHI

The confident Jairam Ramesh, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology had upset many governments and business lobby's appercart after he took reins of his ministry in 2009. Ramesh has been reported to have listed these as some of the achievements of his tenure at MEF: Literal (glass doors at his office) and virtual (up-to-date website) transparency, public hearings on GM Brinjal (and others), speaking orders (e.g. on Posco, Vedanta, among others). His pronouncements stopped projects worth billions of dollars, creating powerful enemies for him in industry and business. His political colleagues have also turned against him, saying he has rejected proposals that would eradicate poverty. Every time Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh says no to a project, his critics give him a new label: Green fundamentalist, anti-business, anti-growth, obstructionist, Luddite and Dr. No. Before Ramesh, most Indians could not place who their environment minister was or what s/he said or did. According to him he is not against industrial expansion and that he is enforcing laws because India **cannot afford to pollute our way to prosperity.**

He announced that there is no conflict between economic growth and environment protection. It is a question of adhering to the existing environment laws. **"We Indians delight in passing new laws and then bypassing them. That has to stop."**

The projects he canceled include a four-lane highway that passed through a tiger reserve and construction of a dam in the Himalayas that would have destroyed thousands of trees. He denied permission for a \$ 7 billion bauxite mining project in the impoverished eastern state of Orissa because, he said, it would destroy forests. He also delayed giving the go-ahead to a coastal steel factory in Orissa on environmental grounds. Ramesh halted construction on a \$9 billion project to build a hillside township in western India because he said it violated environmental laws. But the builder said it had obtained all clearances from the Maharashtra state government.

Ramesh held public consultations, raised environment-related objections, and cancelled some projects. He set up a national green tribunal, and worked on forest dwellers' rights. Ramesh developed his unique style in the last two years bringing transparency in Paryavaran Bhawan, which preferred to be shrouded in secrecy for all these years. Not only he was available for everybody, who has an issue with the ministry but also made loads of documents public demystifying the decision-making process.

In 2010 he imposed a two-year moratorium on India's genetically engineered aborigine, and rebuked Indian science academies for their disappointing report on the subject. He has set up special environment courts to expedite cases. He is also forming an independent environment monitoring and assessment agency and launched an emissions trading scheme among Indian states to manage air pollution. He supported the information that the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report's prediction that Himalayan glaciers would vanish by 2035 was wrong, which set the ball rolling about the need for stricter verification in IPCC reports. He insisted India should not depend on western scientists' studies on climate change, and initiated a series of Indian studies on greenhouse gas emissions and black carbon. All decisions were made public on his ministry's websites, some running at more than 100 pages, with scores of appendices.

Analyst agreed that one of his most downfall was demarcation of forests into a "go" and "no-go" zone for coal plants. An estimated 660m tonnes of coal fell within the no-go zones. The most recent tussle was over coal projects in a forested area in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. The coal ministry sought the government's permission to mine 203 coal fields to generate 660 million tons of coal. But Ramesh rejected the plan, declaring the heavily forested areas where the fields are located "no-go" zones. Sriprakash Jaiswal, India's coal minister pledged that trees would be planted in the coal fields in 20 years, after the mining is done. But Ramesh said he would not jeopardize the 4.3 million acres of dense forest left in India.

At last India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh elevated Ramesh to a senior minister's rank, but also shifted him out of the environment and forests ministry to rural development where, Singh said, Ramesh's talents would be "better utilised".

Now his successor is Jayanti Natarajan, is an articulate lawyer, a spokesperson for Congress party and a former junior minister in the civil aviation ministry. Stepping into the footsteps of Jairam Ramesh in the Union Environment Ministry would be a tough task for Jayanthi Natarajan not only because of the controversies Ramesh stirred up but also due to his style of functioning. Ramesh raised the bar for the environment ministry's performance and if Natarajan raises it further, or at least maintains it, it will be good for India.

GOVERNMENT

This section reflects the approach of Indian government towards various environmental issues related to water, wildlife, pollution, rivers and energy etc. Major highlights of the quarter July-September, 2011 were the earning of Carbon credits by Municipal Corporation of Delhi, setting up of Rainwater Harvesting Systems by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, plan Introduction of GPS devices to curb illegal mining and biodiversity indexing for no-go areas, Clash of Commerce ministry and MoEF over environmental clearances, Acceptance of Lavasa project proponents over the "preconditions" specified by MoEF, Launch of updated edition of Drinking water guidelines by WHO, updates on Munak carrier-line channel project and waste water treatment plans of Delhi government, efforts to save big cats, elephants and various other wildlife species. This quarter also saw the success of the plantation drive by Delhi Government "Delhi Plants a Million Trees". The 'Delhi Plants a Million Trees' drive was initiated to increase the green cover of Delhi from the current 20 per cent to the national target of 33 per cent by the year 2012. The issue of rising pollution was the most stressed upon subject among the both states and central government.

BIOSAFETY

GM botch-up: The National Biodiversity Authority was likely to prosecute the makers of Bt brinjal for allegedly using at least 10 local varieties of the vegetable without permission, flouting a requirement under the National Biodiversity Act (*Hindustan Times, Times of India, New Delhi, 12 August*). The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), the apex guardian of biodiversity, announced that it plans to 'proceed legally' against Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco), for accessing Indian brinjal varieties for genetic modification without prior approval of "component authorities". (*The Telegraph, Kolkata, 14 August*).

CLIMATE CHANGE AND METEOROLOGY

Earning carbon credits- MCD and DMRC: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Okhla composting plant became the first municipal solid waste composting project in the world to obtain second insurance of Certified Emission Reduction (CERs) from the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) (*Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 9 July*). In a bid to decrease its carbon footprint and to conserve groundwater, Delhi metro plans to have rainwater harvesting system in every station in third phase. Rain water will be collected not just from the station premises, specifically the rooftop, but also from the viaducts or the elevated tracks on which the trains run (*The Times of India, New Delhi, 3 September*).

State of inaction on climate change plan: Assembly elections and lack of funds slowed the pace of the action plan on climate change being drafted by the state governments. Only 14 of the 28 states submitted drafts of the state-level strategy and action plan on climate change (SAPCC), for that the deadline was extended up to September 30 (*Financial Express, New Delhi, July 23*).

Indo-French climate satellite set for launch

Megha-Tropiques, the novel Indo-French climate satellite is planned for launch on October 12. Megha-Tropiques should give an integrated global picture of the tropics 20 degrees north and south of the Equator, in a band ranging from South-East Asia through Africa and South America and its data would form a big scientific base for the country

Business Line, New Delhi, 11 September

Basic countries back India on climate issues: In a crucial ministerial level climate talks in South Africa, India convinced the other three BASIC countries Brazil, South Africa and China to approve the Indian proposals, which had taken some strong negotiations to be put back on the table in the UN climate talks despite resistance from the developed countries (*Times of India, New Delhi, 1 September*)

India - tough on climate agreement: Ahead of the crucial Durban Conference on climate change in year 2011, India asserted that any legally binding commitment on emission of greenhouse gases would have to be under the Kyoto Protocol architecture (*The Tribune, New Delhi, 16 September*).

Indian-origin proof uses Cellphone to monitor black carbon in air

An Indian Origin professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, has developed a low cost, low power system to monitor black carbon concentrations in air using cellphone. Ramanathan's paper on the cell-phone-based black carbon monitoring system will be published in the August 2011 issue of the journal, Atmospheric Environment.

How it works

- A Small aerosol filter sampler containing a battery-operated air pump and a 25-mm air filter holder draws air inwards through a quartz filter. The filter, when exposed to black carbon aerosols, discolours
- An image of the filter with the black carbon deposits is taken using a cellphone camera and transmitted to an analytics component which compares it with a calibrated reference scale to estimate black carbon concentration in air.
- The sampler itself costs approximately \$600 and each filter cost approx. \$ 1.20. One filter is required each day of measurement.

Indian Express, New Delhi, 8 July

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Meet on disaster management: The North Eastern Council (NEC) and Indian Institute of Management, Shillong would hold the first three day international meet on disaster management. The objective of the meeting would be to keep up with the latest technological knowhow to mitigate losses from manmade and natural disasters. The World Health organization would introduce the Global Initiative for emergency and Essential Surgical Care Programme and toolkit during the meet. (*Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 19 August*)

Plans afoot to divide India into green zones

India is set to get a new environment protection framework wherein national institutions will frame and monitor zonal disaster management plans to be implemented by state governments. The new framework is aimed at reducing the burden of district magistrates in environmental regulation and would help prevent the ecological degradation.

Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 22 July

Shortage of trained people in Disaster Management at NDMA: The country's apex body for disaster planning and mitigation, NDMA said at the 7th formation day of the body that there is a huge shortage of trained people in the field of disaster management even as a number of challenges remain to be accomplished (*Financial World, New Delhi, 29 September*).



ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION

Curbing Illegal Mining: The centre in active coordination with the state governments stepped up efforts to curb illegal mining, especially by focusing on effective government and application of modern technologies. For this, state was told to use Geographical Positioning System (GPS) devices to detect and curb illegal mining (*Business Standard, New Delhi, 31 July*).

The Supreme Court refused to lift its ban order on iron ore mining in Bellary district of Karnataka by the private companies but permitted the central PSU, National Mineral Development Corporation to resume it under strict conditions for maintaining the supply to the domestic steel industry. It was added that the Karnataka government would charge the royalty from NMDC for the extracted iron ore at the rate of 10 per cent "per pit-head", which is the current market rate fixed by the Indian Bureau of Mines and the revenue so generated would be used for restoration of environment and rehabilitation of affected people (*The Asian Age, The Hindu, Mail Today, The Times of India, New Delhi, 6 August*).

Mining in forest areas will be subject to tough conditions like strict adherence to forest rights laws, consent of gram sabhas and a case-by-case approach (*Times of India, New Delhi, 21 September*).

For Green Signal

- Strict adherence to forest rights laws.
- Consent of Gram sabhas required
- No mining in some forest areas considered inviolate

No automatic environmental clearance for projects

Biodiversity indexing for the no go areas: To make the diversion more stringent, the ministry now plans to introduce biodiversity indexing for the no-go areas. As part of this, the ministry will also consider species of animals, insects, herbs, shrubs and reptiles which need to be preserved besides the forest cover (*Financial Express, New Delhi, 03 August*).

Six TP schemes in Gujarat: The Gujarat government put the work for introducing six town planning (TP) schemes across 902 sq km area of the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) in Ahemdabad district on the fast track. Already, two TP schemes are in the process of finalization with preliminary survey and village wise hearing having come to an end (*Times of India, Ahemdabad, 15 September*).

Mangrove conservation: Gujarat's Environment and Forest department is aiming to bring an additional area of 120 sq km along the state's coast line under mangrove cover by the end of the Financial Year 2011-2012 (*Business line, New Delhi, 23 August*). The state HC ordered a special team to visit the sea coast near Mundra in Kutch to find out whether the Adani group was involved in removal of mangrove cover in violation of HC directions (*Times of India, Ahemdabad, 20 September*).

Drafts guidelines for green large area development: The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in association with Association for Development and Research of Sustainable Habitats (ADARSH) formulated the "draft guidelines and benchmarks for green large area developments such as townships, neighborhoods, education and institutional campuses, special economic zones, medical colleges and hospitals" (*Financial Chronicle, New Delhi, 26 September*).

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION, NGO AND MEDIA

Go-Green Campaign: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated a "Go-Green" campaign of the Bharat Scout Guide by planting a neem (*Azadirachta indica*) sapling at his official residence. The campaign involved planting of 11 lakh saplings in 11000 schools across the state by 5.30 lakh scout guides (*The Hindu, New Delhi, 12 July*).

IIM initiative to protect environment: Three members of the ECoBiZ Club, IIM shilling came up with a noble initiative by placing bamboo-made

bins at various places in the campus. There is a three-fold objective behind this - to address the problems of the disposal, these containers would be environmentally friendly, to promote the cultivation and usage of bamboo (*The Shillong Times, Shillong, 21 July*)

Global Tiger Day celebrated: Forest department celebrated Global Tiger Day by organizing film show and inter-active programme in St Ursula School, Civil Lines, in which school children actively participated. The department also sent about four lakh SMSs to the people giving stress on importance of tiger, the flagship species, and need for its protection and conservation, as part of creating awareness (*The Hitavada, Nagpur, 30 July*)

Van Mahotsav 2011 celebrated: Van Mahotsava 2011 was celebrated at various places like at the Rail Eco Park at Chanakyapuri which was organized by the Delhi Division of Northern Railway, at various locations under aegis of Meerut Sub Area, at Guwahati and organized by State Forest Department. Sapling distribution, large scale plantation were some of the activities taken place during the event (*The Sentinel, Guwahati; Times of India, New Delhi 2, 8 July, The Hindu, New Delhi, 11 September*).

Facebook account of 'Green Leap Delhi' launched

Social Networking site Facebook is fast catching on with Government agencies as the fastest medium to reach out to the youth and keyboard tapping denizens. After the widespread response to the Delhi police and MCD pages, the Delhi Government's Environment and Forest department is the latest entrant on the popular website with its 'Green leap Delhi' link

The Pioneer, New Delhi, 25 July

Experts mull water policy: In the first step towards streamlining and managing Delhi's water, Delhi Jal Board and Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) organized the first consultative workshop on formulating 'Water Policy for Delhi' (*Times of India, New Delhi, 15 September*)

National Conference on Climate Change: Three day national conference on 'Science of Climate Change and Earth's sustainability; issues and challenges- a scientists and people partnership' was held at Malviya Hall, Lucknow University. The conference was organized by society of earth scientists (*The Pioneer, Lucknow, 13 September*).

Wildlife week celebrated by Forest Department: The Bangalore forest department organized a walkathon on October 2 to celebrate the 57th Wildlife Week which was started at High Court premises in Cubbon Park and Culminate at Lalbagh (*Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 28 September*). Wildlife wing of Nagpur Forest Department gave stress on mobilizing school students during Wildlife Week, to inculcate love among them about forest, wildlife and biodiversity as a whole by organizing a competition for children for selection of 'Student Wildlife Ambassador' at Patwardhan High School. (*The Hitavada, Nagpur, 30 September*).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No one-time clearance: The Environment ministry opposed the suggestion of the commerce ministry of providing one time environment clearance to manufacturing zones, proposed in the new manufacturing policy, rather than individual industries. However, it has agreed to fast track the clearance process (*Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 27 July*).

'High, Low-risk' categories in place of 'Go and No-Go' areas?: Mine Ministry suggested to categorize mineral-bearing areas as 'high-risk' and 'low-risk' regions in terms of their environmental impact on mining instead of 'go' and 'no-go' system for coalfields (*Indian Express, New Delhi, 24 July*). A government panel headed by Planning Commission member BK Chaturvedi and has representatives from power, Coal and finance

ministries, said the 'Go and No-Go' concept of the forest area classification for clearances to coal blocks is legally not tenable and should be abandoned (*Economic Times, New Delhi, 29 July*). Later on this, the meeting of group of ministries on "go-no go areas", or environmental issues relating to mining, saw Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan rejecting the dilution of forest clearance process suggested by the BK Chaturvedi (*Economic Times, New Delhi, 03 August*).

Ministerial Clash

EIA Notification of 2008:

- Gives power to the state and the centre to clear individual projects
- Makes it Mandatory for industries to seek approval for expansion of projects

Commerce Ministry wants:

- One time environment clearance to manufacturing zones rather than individual industries
- Industries should not be made to come to the ministry in case individual industries want to expand.

Environment Regulation soon: Prime Minister Manmohan singh gave a clear indication that an independent regulator will soon revamp the process of environmental clearance for major projects, but said there would be no return to the "hated license-permit raj of the para-1991era" (*Asian Age, New Delhi, 25 July*).

Lavasa Agrees will accept green riders: After a long legal battle, Lavasa Construction Ltd. the projects proponents of Lavasa, agreed to accept the five 'preconditions' specified by the MoEF, over which the clearance was stuck.

The conditions include:

- 'A credible action' by the Maharashtra government against Lavasa for violations under the Environment (Protection) Act;
- A resolution from the board of directors of Lavasa that violations would not be repeated;
- An undertaking that development of the hill town (also called Lavasa) shall be as per Hill Station Regulations
- A clear demarcation of 'no development/construction zone'

(*Business standard, New Delhi, 16 August*)

ENERGY STUDIES

Reliance Power plans big entry into green Energy: Anil Ambani-led reliance power Ltd. (RPL) that has power projects based on coal and gas, plans to foray into the renewable energy business with some big ticket investments (*Mail Today, New Delhi, 26 September*).

FRESH AND MARINE WATER CONSERVATION

Artificial Water body to be ready soon: Accepting its decade-long failure to fill up the drying Badkhal Lake, Haryana Tourism took a call last October and decided to construct an artificial lake at the Badkhal tourist complex. The water body will soon be ready to attract visitors from the national capital region (NCR). (*Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 7 July*).

Fact File

- The Badkhal Tourist Complex came into being in 1968.
- The lake spread over an area of 40 acres, started drying up in 2005.
- Over 20 gorges have formed in the catchment area.

Prohibitory orders imposed on illegal mining: Realizing that illegal mining in the Ravi bed in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir is posing a threat to the road and rail bridges on the Jammu Pathankot road, the Kathua Deputy Commissioner imposed Section 144 of the CrPC near the river (*The Tribune, New Delhi, 16 September*).

FOREST CONSERVATION

"Delhi Plants a Million Trees": The Government had launched the plantation drive on July 22 under which 10 lakh saplings are being planted within a span of one-and-half months in cooperation with NGOs, industry chambers, Government agencies RWAs and citizens. The 'Delhi Plants a Million Trees' drive was initiated to increase the green cover of Delhi from the current 20 per cent to the national target of 33 per cent by the year 2012. The Environment Department involve schools and residents welfare associations (RWAs) for the plantation and subsequent maintenance of the same (*Times of India, New Delhi, 17 July*).



The campaign is web based, making extensive use of twitter, facebook and specially created blogs. Authorities are also making extensive use of commercial advertising space like radio, print and bill boards to motivate Delhi residents to participate in the green project. Free saplings are being distributed at 50 Metro stations, 51 selected Petrol pumps, 52 CNG Stations, 10 major Government offices, and Dilli Haat at both Pitampura and INA Market (*Indian Express, New Delhi, 19 July*).

Delhi's Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit presented President Pratibha Patil with a sapling and apprised her of the Delhi Government's mega plantation drive. (*The Pioneer, The Tribune, New Delhi, 03 August*). To contribute towards this plan of the Government of Delhi, Sarita Vihar Harit Kranti (SHK) also organized a plantation drive in the colony (*Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 25 August*).



The national capital achieved its target of planting one million saplings which was initiated by Delhi Government on July 23, 2011 with an aim to plant one million saplings during this monsoon season. (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 19 August*).

Development Vs. Forest conservation: Nearly 50 trees were proposed to be cut for the construction of a six-storey Labour Court building adjacent to the mini-secretariat but Gurgaon Deputy Commissioner directed the officials concerned of the PWD to relocate the plants and trees coming in way of the proposed building. (*The Tribune, New Delhi, July 11*). The environment ministry has also decided that the mining projects will not get environmental clearance without the mandatory forest clearance. Despite pressure from the Planning Commission and other quarters within the government, the ministry stuck to its guns and will not amend its rules to permit mining and other projects to use the environmental clearances as fait accompli for forest lands (*Times of India, New Delhi, 5 August*). The Central Information Commission (CIC) also ruled that the citizens, who are informed through a sign board at the construction sites about the project details, must also be informed about the ecological cost and the compensatory plantation being done. All civic agencies carrying out any construction work would now be required to display at the project sites the environment cost of the project, indicating the number of trees being felled and the location of compensatory plantation (*The Hindu, New Delhi, 10 August*).

A scheme where money grows on trees

In a bid to arrest the dwindling forest cover across the State, the government has come out with a new scheme under which cash incentives will be given to farmers and members of the public for cultivating plants in non-forest areas and increasing the green cover. Christened the 'Krishi Aranya Protsaha Yojane' (Farm Forest Incentive Scheme), the scheme rewards beneficiaries with cash incentives for plants, which survive for the first three years after planting them in the fields.

Decan Herald, Bangalore, 23 July



Afforestation efforts: The Ministry of Environment and Forest for the first time admitted, in the High Court, that nearly Rs 816.08 crore of compensatory afforestation fund deposited by the Private Power Producers and companies engaged in the hydro-power generation was lying idle stashed in different banks for the past 15 years (*Indian Express, Chandigarh, 12 August*). A direction by the First Bench of the Madras High Court said that whenever dead trees are removed, new saplings should be planted in the ratio of 1:10. (*The Hindu, Chennai, 13 August*). Concerned about the green cover, the Maharashtra State government came up with an ambitious plan of sowing 100 crore trees in the next five years, where 11.3 crore plants will be sown this year alone (*Hindustan Times, Mumbai, 26 August*).

Timber thief in preventive detention

The Supreme Court has ruled that if a person habitually violates forest laws and fells precious trees, the concerned state government can brand him a 'goonda' and take him in preventive custody to protect forest wealth.

Times of India, New Delhi, September 11

Forest official flouting all provisions and guidelines of forestland: Chief Conservator of Forest AK Rana, heading regional office of the Ministry at Bhopal, had been "doling out" dense forest areas for mining, flouting all provisions and guidelines. Rana had cleared out-of-tern projects related to petrol pumps and tunnel construction, besides other irregularation. (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 21 September*). Environment minister Natarajan ordered immediate transfer of AK Rana, chief conservator of forests and in charge of Ministry's Bhopal office, following allegations of him favoring project proponents in violation of norms. (*Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 26 September*)

Health and Sanitation

New guidelines on drinking water quality: The World Health Organization (WHO) launched an updated edition of drinking water guidelines on July 4 to push water suppliers to systematically manage the potential risk of contaminants entering water, from the catchment to the consumer. Launched at the Singapore International Water Week (<http://www.who.int/en/> and <http://www.siww.com.sg/>), they can help governments strengthen their management of drinking water quality by adopting water safety planning (*The Hindu, New Delhi, 5 July*).

Leaking trouble

The MCD records show that 13 out of 448 water pipelines passing through drains were reported to be leaking-causing the drinking water to mix with sewer lines-of which only two were repaired. Until July, the MCD had lifted 20,618 samples of water for testing, of which 2,084 samples, about one-tenth of the total water samples, were found unfit for drinking. Infected dirty water is the most common cause of diseases like diarrhea and Gastroenteritis that have hit Delhi this year.

Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 11 July

Take these Precautions

Safeguards to follow to keep all diseases and infections at bay:

- Drinking water should be boiled and properly filtered
- Cook the Vegetables well and steam them properly to kill all germs.
- Avoid eating roadside food, especially cut fruits and fresh juices.
- Never buy or consume readymade ice
- Avoid frozen meats as it may get infected during thawing
- Avoid eating salads in restaurant.
- Don't allow mosquitoes to breed near your home
- Clean your coolers and ensure you don't leave any water in them.
- If your water supply is unclean lodge a complaint with the MCD and the Delhi Jal Board.

Bio-toilets to keep Dal Lake clean: According to the chief Controller, Defence Research and Development Organization DRDO, the Tourism Ministry decided to install bio toilets, developed by DRDO, in the house boats in Dal lake to ensure proper disposal of human wastes without contaminating the water (*Financial World, New Delhi, September 26*)

POLLUTION

Curbing Plastic waste: In an effort to make the last abode of the Asiatic lions completely green, from October, when the GIR sanctuary opens for tourism, each tourist will be given a paper bag to dispose their plastic pouches or any other waste instead of throwing it in the sanctuary (*Times of India, Ahmadabad, 1 July*). According to the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, "No carry bags shall be made available free of cost by retailers to customers." More retailers in the Chennai started charging for plastic bags in accordance with the new rules framed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for plastic waste management. (*The New Indian Express, Chennai, 2 August*).

The Delhi assembly had passed a bill to complete ban on manufacture, sale, storage and usage of plastic bags, including non-woven plastic bags in the capital and repealing of the existing Delhi Degradable plastic Bag and Garbage act 2000. (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 21 September*). The shoddy implementation of the ban prompted the environment department to propose a blanket ban on all plastic carry bags and covers, including manufacture and import of plastic bags into the city (*Times of India, New Delhi, 22 September*)

Penalty for environmental damage: The Supreme Court asked the central government to appoint a national regulator for appraising projects from an ecology angle, enforcing environmental conditions for approval and to impose penalties on polluters (*Business Standard, New Delhi, July 7*). Karnataka government also imposed Rs 140 crore in penalties on 13 iron ore mining companies in Tumkur for encroaching on government land and dumping mineral waste, thereby causing damage to the environment. (*Business Standard, New Delhi, 11 September*)

Limiting Water pollution: The Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) will soon prohibit industries, offices and residences under its jurisdiction from disposing sewage water at non-designated places. This step is meant to stop the present practice of sewage water and other effluents being dumped in green belts and roads across the city (*Indian Express, New Delhi, 05 July*).

Sea wall to help stop erosion

The Orissa state government is all set to raise a 700 metre-long geo-tube wall near the shoes of Pentha village in Kenrapara district since the rampaging sea is precariously close to the village's protective embankment. Geo-tubes made of geotextile filled with sand are expected to prevent the sea moving into the village. *Asian Age, New Delhi, 25 July*

HC nod to toxic waste disposal: Regarding the MP High Court order to dispose toxic waste lying at defunct Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal within 10 days, the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) informed the court that it has the facility to dispose of half to one tone of the toxic waste per day, which means to treat 346 tons of hazardous material lying at the Union Carbide factory, it requires nearly two years of time (*Asian age, New Delhi, 13 July*).

Pollution control boards cracks whip on hospitals and industrial establishments: Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has slapped notices on 54 government and private hospitals for violation of various norms for managing and handling bio-medical waste. (*Financial Express, New Delhi, July 18*). The outcome of the efforts could be gauged from the fact that collection of bio-medical waste in Punjab has increased about 50% during the last 2 months. (*Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 24 August*).

As many as 41 of the 49 samples collected by Haryana Pollution control Board from industrial establishments in Gurgaon were found to have

exceeded permissible limits. Officers felt that checking of the units in Gurgaon was difficult as industrialists would get wind of raids, or try to get samples changed at the time of testing. To tackle the problem, the pollution control board has devised a strategy by constituting teams of regional officers (ROs) from Panipat, Sonapat, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh and Dharuhera and each RO is accompanied by two Sub-divisional officers (SDOs) from the Public Health Department and an Sub Divisional Magistrate (*Indian Express, New Delhi, 20 July*).

E-waste imports ban dumped from rules: With India becoming a dumping ground of e-waste from the West which is seriously impacting environment and human health, the draft notification of E-waste Management & Handling Rules, released in May 2010, clearly proposed “banning of Import”. But the final E-waste Rules notified this year surreptitiously avoids mention of e-waste imports (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 04 August*).

Detailed Project Report on waste management: A resolution to prepare a detailed project report for a comprehensive plan for storm water drains and solid waste management in local bodies that are to be merged with the Chennai Corporation was adopted by civic body's council. The Corporation through the Tamil Nadu Urban infrastructure and financial services Limited would ask KFW, a German government owned development bank to prepare the DPR (*The Hindu, Chennai, 30 August*).

Managing waste

Fed up with the mounting heaps of garbage in his area, Christopher Pereria, conceived the idea of a compost tumbler which turns biodegradable garbage into high grade compost without any smell. The tumbler is a plastic drum which is pivoted on a metal stand and covered with a lid which is clasped from both sides. It can accommodate waste from 5-6 families, which is about 5 to 10 kg per day. (*Indian Express, Mumbai, 25 September*)

LPG to fuel crematoriums to curb Pollution: After Kerala's success, the Punjab Pollution Control Board has envisaged an ambitious plan to convert state's major cremation grounds into LPG-run crematoriums and has started a pilot project at Chatiwind Gate cremation ground. Less costly and less hazardous, the new system is aimed at providing eco-friendly cremations by checking pollution from wood and saving precious trees (*Indian Express, Chandigarh, 2 August*).

WATER MANAGEMENT

No Commercial rates for water: A city consumer court has ruled that if a business establishment, firm or factory is using water only for drinking purpose, they cannot be charged for it at commercial rates which is significant as Delhi Jal Board is at present charging commercial rates from malls, shopping complexes or from those running small shops (*Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 1 July*)

Court Speak

- Just because a business premises is run from residence would not render the category of water connection liable to be changed on the said count alone, unless it is shown that water was being used for business.
- Nexus must be established between use of water and carrying on commercial activity either inside the house or in shop for charging commercial rate.

BMC to plug leakages: Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is planning to set up a special Leak Detection Unit (LDU) in each of the city's 24 wards to check massive loss of water due to leakages and thefts. This body would be responsible for detection and plugging leakages. (*Hindustan Times, Mumbai, 23 July*)

Delhi Jal Board in action: Despite strict regulations in place, declining groundwater levels in the city's south and south-west districts prompted the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to take up the matter with Delhi chief secretary who in turn has notified DJB, the nodal agency for

monitoring the regulating the city's ground water resources (*Times of India, New Delhi, 27 July*). The Central Information Commission directed the DJB to put out its website the information pertaining to all memorandums of understanding (MOUs), contracts or other documents entered into between it and any private company or individual to engage them in these operations. (*The Hindu, New Delhi, 28 July*). DJB has also sanctioned Rs 50 crore as payment to Haryana immediately, against a final demand of Rs 150 crore put up by the neighboring state as the last installment for the Munak carrier-line channel project (*Indian Express, New Delhi, 04 August*)

DJB to lay parallel pipelines for potable and treated wastewater

In wake of the continuous increase in demand, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has proposed to lay parallel pipelines for providing potable and treated wastewater for non-drinking purpose. With an aim to reduce and/or avoid use of potable water for flushing toilets, washing cars and other non-drinking purposes, DJB has been promoting use of grey water (as treated waste-water is called) keeping in view global trends. (*Hindustan Times, Times of India, Asian Age, New Delhi, 4, 5 September*)

New web portal to help manage water resources in dry State

A new web portal providing relevant data and the latest reports on rainfall, availability of water in dams and the quantity of water released in various canals was launched with a call to agricultural and irrigation experts, researchers and farmers to use the information in a meaningful way. Water Resources Minister Mahipal Maderna, inaugurating the website at Sinchai Bhavan here, said Rajasthan is the first State in the country to initiate a water resources information system through a web portal. (*The Hindu, New Delhi, 22 July*)

DELHI'S WATER WORRIES

- Delhi's average demand of potable water is approximately 1,100 million gallons per day as against the availability of around 845 millions gallons per day (MGD) from all sources.
- DJB is looking at approximately 45 MGD water that it plans to reclaim from wastewater from treatment process plants at Haiderpur, Wazirabad, Bhagirathi and Chandrawal (recycling plant)
- DJB has been promoting use of grey water (as treated wastewater is called) keeping in view global trends.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Big Cat Conservation: The Forest and Wildlife Department have installed camera traps to monitor the population of big cats in the sanctuary. Dividing the sanctuary into 5 sq.km grids, a pair of cameras would be set up in each grid, opposite each other on a selected spot or path close to the tiger trails (*The Hindu, Chennai, 1 August*).

The camera traps installed by the Kerala Forest and Wildlife Department in the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary to monitor the movement, assess the population and study the peculiarities of habitats of tigers are proving to be of immense value in the efforts to formulate better methods for the conservation of the big cats, according to Wildlife officials (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 8 August*). The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an upward revision of the cost estimates for the ongoing centrally sponsored scheme of Project Tiger during the XI plan period from Rs 650 crore to Rs 1216.86 crore of Central assistance (*The Hitavada, Nagpur, 12 August*).

Plan panel blow to tigers

The Planning Commission has proposed to merge the three centrally sponsored schemes Project Tiger, Project Elephant, and the Integrated Development under Wildlife Habitat into one.

Times of India, New Delhi, 30 September



In a major step to end commercialization of wildlife tourism, the state forest department has banned the movement of private vehicles in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve with effect from September (Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 30 August). The Union Government declared Bandipur National Park as 'Ecologically Sensitive area'. Project Tiger is presently under implementation at the park (Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 25 September).

SC to take call on tourism in core tiger reserve:

The problem is acute in Madhya Pradesh since the state till October 2010, failed to define the core areas in its tiger reserves, which accounts for two third of the country's tiger population. After Dubey filed the petition in HC, the State classified critical or core areas in five tiger reserves. The State obviously does not wish to displease the tour operators as the ring in cash into government coffers. The NTCA on its part has indicated that core areas are strictly to be kept out of bounds for tourists.

The Pioneer, New Delhi, 8 August

Wildlife forest park spread over 103 square kilometers from Malad to Thane, will open its door to citizens to involve them in a campaign to save the leopard the only wildcat in Mumbai. Beside this the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) issued guidelines to states on handling incidents of man-animal conflict, the Maharashtra state government has charted out the first of its kind, eight-point programme to assist leopard conservation and mitigate man-animal conflict (Hindustan Times, Mumbai, 5 September).

One of the most rejoicing news of the quarter is the expected reintroduction of Cheetahs in Kuno-Palpur wildlife sanctuary in Sheopur district in Madhya Pradesh from Gujarat (Times of India, Ahmadabad, 12 September).

The Gujarat state forest department has sought immediate disbursement of Rs 236.17 crore fund that was approved in-principal by the Planning Commission deputy chairperson the department officials pressed for the immediate release of the funds for the long term conservation of Asiatic lions in greater Gir Area (Times of India, Ahmadabad, 11 July).

8-Point conservation Programme for Leopard Conservation

- Collection of bio-diversity data
- Involving Mumbaiites online through social networking
- Assessing leopard presence through literature review and forest department records
- Use of camera traps to obtain images of wild animal species in and around the park
- Identifying major threats to leopard; interaction between SNGP authorities and media, politicians, NGOs
- Estimating dog population, a major prey for leopards, in and around SGNP
- Chalking out a management plan for the captive centre at SGNP

Birds Conservation: The Gujarat forest department decided to declare 956 sq km area around the Great Indian Bustard sanctuary in Abdasa, Kutch, as eco-sensitive zone. Forest officials said the department will have to ban agricultural activities around the sanctuary because they pose a threat to the birds (Times of India, Ahemdabad, 5 August). Oil and natural Gas corporation Limited and the Assam State Forest Department decided to set up a bird conservation centre near Jorhat-Mariani road at Cinnamora, in which the local migratory birds fly around frequently (Assam Tribute, Guwahati, 10 August). The world heritage site of Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary in Rajasthan was marked critical in the evaluation meeting of UNESCO committee and the Ministry of Environment and Forest. However the review found satisfactory the status of three other sites Nanda Devi in Uttarakhand, besides Kaziranga and Manas in Assam (The Pioneer, New Delhi, 26 August).

Forest reserve for lion-tailed macaque: Karnataka State Government notified the Aghanashini river valley in Western Ghats as 'Aghanashini Lion Tailed Macaque Conservation Reserve'. A recently discovered frog species (*Phylatus neelantrunsus*) is also protected through the notification in the region (Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 7 July).

Flora and fauna from four continents to beautify Delhi zoo: Zoo officials conducted a survey of the flora, and decided that decaying trees must be replaced by new ones. The future plan of action also includes re-introducing the concept of dividing the zoo into four zones- African, American, Asian and Australian placing the flora and fauna accordingly (Indian Express, New Delhi, 20 July).

Funds for wildlife protection: In a bid to step up conservation of critically endangered "Ghosts of Mountain" or the charismatic Snow Leopards and Hangul, a species of Red deer, endemic to Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) has given Rs 4.6 cr to three states J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. This comes under the recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitat (The Pioneer, New Delhi, 30 July). Manas regained its world heritage site status at the UNESCO's 35th World Heritage Committee (WHC) meeting in Paris last month (Asian Age, Guwahati, 01 August).

Elephant Conservation: Confronted with widespread manipulation of implanted micro-chips to keep tract of the elephant population, the Kerala state Government decided to use DNA fingerprinting technology, the ultimate method in identification of individuals, to keep track of the captive elephants in the state at a cost of Rs 40 Lakhs. The move is being adopted in the context of widespread manipulation of microchips implanted in the tamed elephants by their owners (Asian Age, The Pioneer, New Delhi, 18, 23 July).

After three laborious days, Forest Department officials and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) experts tranquilized a 20-year old female elephant and radio-collared it. The elephant's herd could also be monitored as the radio-collar functions using both wireless technology and satellite. A dedicated team is monitoring the reports generated by radio-collar (The Hindu, Chennai, 8 July). A 20 year old male elephant that was shot with a tranquilizing dart by Forest and WWF experts for fixing the radio collar in the small hours of Sunday was later found dead. The team involved in the elephant darting operations declared that the male elephant died due to respiratory arrest (Hypoxia due to suffocation) (The Hindu, New Delhi, 11 July).



RADIO COLLARING

Do you know how they do it?

- Humans shoot the target animal with a dart which has a medicine which makes them drowsy.
- The victim begins to feel woolly headed, I guess he or she falls to the ground helpless, a little like a fainting fit.
- The humans approach, fit in the collar which has a radio transmitter on it.
- The radio collar helps them track the animal.



जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहीं है खुशहाली।।

Experts warn against cattle scheme in forest fringes: Wildlife experts warn against implementing the initiative in six forest fringe regions in western Tamil Nadu on the plea it would aggravate man-animal conflict after, the Jayalithaa Government gears up to launch the free cattle scheme aspiring for a 'second green revolution. (*The pioneer, New Delhi, August 8*)

Protection of Wildlife Sanctuaries: The Gujarat state forest department decided to construct a ring road around the Gir sanctuary on the public-private partnership model. The Road, according to the state government, will divert traffic that now trespasses on the Asiatic lion's kingdom (*Times of India, Ahemdabad, 31 July*). Acting against the erratic resort owners, who have encroached upon land belonging to government and tribals in

Bandhavgarh (Umaria), the Madhya Pradesh district administration slapped notices on around two dozen such resort owners. The encroached land piece either belongs to the state government or to the local tribal, claims local social activists (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 9 August*).

Workshop on Vulture Conservation

Forest Department has organized a workshop on 'Vulture Conservation' on 3rd September at Sabhagruha Seminary Hills, to mark International Vulture Awareness Day. International Vulture Awareness Day is celebrated on the first Saturday of September month.

The Hitavada, Nagpur, 3 September





NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

This Section represents the activities of various Nongovernmental Organizations working for Environmental Conservation all over Country. This quarter same as earlier ones saw many of these NGOs holding awareness drives here and there. NGOs like Kalpavriksha and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) raise voice against Deforestation and WWF-India Launched awareness campaign like "Cities for Forests" and Adapt a Tree" to promote afforestation and save the existing ones. NGOs like Centre for Science and Environment, Green Circle of Delhi and Toxic Links revealed many disheartening facts about rising pollution in India. In this quarter, a team of Scientists from Delhi University, **Bombay Natural History Society**, Zoological Survey of India and Brussels' Vrije University discovered 12 new frog species in the Western Ghats.

BIOSAFETY

Bio-safety violations: Environmental activists, civil society members, **Greenpeace** officials and Farmers' Unions accused US-based multinational seed giant Monsanto of violating bio-safety rules in conducting field trials of corn on a farmers land in Bijapur district in Karnataka. Members of these organizations demanded action against Monsanto and also ban a further field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) crops in India (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 5 July*)

BT Brinjal Battle in a unique way: 300 Kg of organic brinjals was being cooked as bharta to mark a fiery protest against a proposed move to approve genetically modified crops, including brinjals. It was a unique protest organized by **Greenpeace** activists, along with chefs of hotel Le Meridien, at Dilli Haat, making it a world record. Some bharta was also dispatched to prime Minister's house with a letter of protest (*Financial World, The Hindu, New Delhi, 5 September, Hindustan Times, 7 September*)

ENERGY CONSERVATION

MNRE ropes in ADARSH to develop green zones: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) entrusted **ADARSH** (Association for Development and Research of Sustainable Habitats) an independent registered society formed by TERI for promotion and implementation of Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) rating system in the country to formulate a comprehensive set of inclusive and integrated guidelines to address large developments across the country (*Financial World, New Delhi, 21 September*)

These slippers help generate electricity

Two students of Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon-Suravi Gupta, and Prateek Goyal have developed this concept, which they call 'the green walk journey'. The concept won the second prize at the Schneider Electric's international Case Challenge 'Go Green in the City', held in Paris recently. "When a person wearing the Green Walk Slippers walks, the mechanical pressure applied on the slipper will be converted to electrical energy. This energy will be stored in a battery attached to the ankle of the person wearing the slipper," said Surabhi.

Indian Express, New Delhi, 11 July

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION, NGO AND MEDIA

Environmental awareness drives: The Delhi Circle of Archaeological Survey of India celebrated "Van Mahotsav" at Purana Quila under the supervision of ASI Director-General. Students from various schools planted 195 saplings of different plants. (*The Hindu, New Delhi, July 6*) **WWF-India, Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) and Kanchandzonga Conservation Committee (KCC)** jointly organized a two-day training workshop on Practicing Responsible Tourism at Gangtok. The workshop was part of WWF's Green Hiker campaign. (*Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 14 August*). Artees 2011, an annual t-shirt painting competition was organized by **ROPIO Foundation** in association with **WWF** at St. Columba's School to educate the underprivileged children about wildlife conservation using alternative mediums of education like creative arts. (*Hindustan Times, New Delhi, August*)



Green Hiker Campaign launched in Bhutan

WWF's Green Hiker Campaign was formally launched in Bhutan on September 27, 2011 on the occasion of World Tourism Day. The event was

organised in collaboration with the Nature Recreation and Ecotourism Division, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, and the Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators. Mr. Kesang Wangdi, Director General, Department of Tourism, Bhutan flagging off the Green Hiker launch

www.wwfindia.org, Thimphu, Bhutan, 28 September

Schools turn green chapters into reality

Rain water harvesting, waste management, tree plantation, conserving energy were mere chapters in the environmental sciences book till a few schools in the city turned them into practice. Seventeen of them were given the annual Gobar Times Green Schools award by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) for their efforts to make sure that the environment lands up in wise hands tomorrow. Five city schools were awarded for making a change over the past few years while five others were felicitated for a successful debut in the Green Schools Programme launched by CSE in 2006

Times of India, New Delhi, 11 July

Action plans for climate change: The **North East Dialogue Forum (NEDF)** organized a civil society consultation on the First Draft Recommendations for the State Assam Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change. (*The Sentinel, Guwahati, 19 August*).

WWF-India concluded its three-year-long "Young Climate Savers" programme with the participation of 11 schools that have been part of this awareness raising initiative. The programme was a collective effort of WWF-India and Tetra Pak. The initiative was a climate change and lifestyle education programme based on suitable development and people's participation. (*The Hindu, New Delhi, September 7*). It was launched in 2007 and has targeted more than 2, 50,000 students directly and indirectly across 10 cities in India. On this occasion the Grow a Green Gene Book was also released. This book talks about the need to make shifts in one's attitude in our day to day life for living a greener lifestyle. (www.wwfindia.org)



The Young Climate Savers receiving their appreciation certificate from Mr. Ravi Singh (SG and CEO WWF-India) and Mr. Jaideep Gokhale Director Environment and communication Tetra Pak. On the successful completion of the three year long project called "Young Climate Savers" programme.

Activists request ban on poaching drug Nuvan: Wildlife activists sought ban on the sale of the insecticide Nuvan because of its unabated abuse for poaching of leopards in Uttarakhand (*The Pioneer, Dehradun, 1 September*)

About Tetra Pak

Tetra Pak is the world's leading food processing and packaging solutions company.

Dolphin awareness programme: The *Kalpadroom Foundation*, representatives of the *Centre for Environment Education* (Northeast) and research scholars from Guwahati University took part in a Dolphin Watch Programme recently at Kuiuia river which connects the Kulsu river in Satpakhalia near Kukurmara or South Kamrup, with an aim to create awareness among the people about the national aquatic animal- Ganges River Dolphin (*Plantanista gangetica*) (*The Sentinel, Guwahati, 12 September*).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Facts about mining revealed: Convener of the *Centre for Environment and Education (CEE)* an NGO commissioned by the Goa state Government to examine the effects of open cast iron ore mining on environment in the state, revealed that the impact assessment reports filed by the mining companies were based on the false data (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 19 July*).

Using the RTI, *Greenpeace* highlighted that the MoEF had refused to grant approval to 222 coal blocks in Madhya Pradesh's singrauli district because they fell under the category of thick sal forests but the irrelevancy was found when one year later, the number of coal blocks in the "no go" list had been shot down to 153 (*Asian Age, New Delhi, 16 September*).

Earth Care Awards celebrates efforts of individuals and corporate houses

The mad rush for greater development and growth was eclipsing serious environment concerns that could endanger the existence of the planet itself and urgent steps were needed to factor in the green aspects in every sphere of planting and activity. This was overreaching message that resounded amid warnings of melting glaciers, climate swings and deforestation at the third edition of the Earth Care Awards hosted by the Times of India and JSW Foundation in association with *Centre for Environment Education*.

Times of India, New Delhi, 11 September

Techie powers green idea, wins challenge

The Take Care Take Charge (TCTC) campaign, a Times of India and Garnier joint initiative, programme pioneered last year to award green ideas has been seen phenomenal response from across the country. In its second year the campaign was flagged off with a contest inviting readers to send in their green ideas to make a better world. Centre for Environment Education is the knowledge partner and National Innovation Foundation is innovation partner. Top six ideas are being shortlisted in the six cities- Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad- where the campaign is taking place.

Times of India, New Delhi, 16 July

Environment Fund to sponsor project

Having accumulated over Rs 50 lakh by way of voluntary contributions, the hill state will for the first time sponsor projects from the State Environment Fund with the *Malana Ajivika Vikalp Society* and *World Wide Fund (WWF)* having been chosen from 114 organizations which had sought funds for environment conservation and protection.

The Tribune, New Delhi, 15 July

The Myth that environmental regulations were throttling the country's growth was busted by the *Centre for Science & Environment* which has found that an unprecedented number of environment and forest

clearances have been granted to five key industry sector during the 11th Five Year Plan. These sectors include mining, thermal power, hydropower, cement and iron and steel (*Asian Age, New Delhi, 23 September*).

FOREST CONSERVATION

Beautification Vs Tree protection: The Delhi government's idea of beautification with paved side-walks, fancy tiles on footpaths and plastering every inch of road with tar and concrete left trees on the sidewalks shriveled and choked. NGO *Kalpavriksha*, on whose PIL the court issued an order in 2006 telling the Delhi government to follow the ministry guidelines, said if action is not taken to protect the trees; it won't hesitate to move court again (*Times of India, New Delhi, 12 July*).

Debunking the claim on the necessity for widening Sankey Road, ecologists from *Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)*, along with 71 academicians and researchers, have term the project "misguided", short-term and environmentally destructive (*Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 15 July*). Hundreds of citizens from across Bangalore and Malleswaram, along with a few green activists held a candle light vigil to protest against the widening of the Sankey Tank Bund Road because it partly acquiesced the 18th cross play ground, the only open space available for children of Malleswaram (*Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 18 July*). Expressing grave concern at the wanton destruction of forests in the Assam state, *Aranya Suraksha Samiti-* Assam urged the Government to come up with adequate laws and foolproof implementation to ensure that the state regained its lost green cover (*Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 25 July*).

WWF India's Contribution towards Forest conservation: 'Adopt a Tree' Campaign got started in July by the *World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)* where various Institutions, corporate houses, resident welfare associations and students participated (*Business Line, The Hindu, New Delhi, 3 July*). The campaign, which began in July, aims to allow people to experience this happiness while making the planet a greener place to live in. The saplings can be adopted free of cost (*The Hindu, Chennai, 6 August*).

J&K Social Forestry Department and *WWF-India* jointly launched green Jammu plantation campaign at SOS Children Village Chhnai Rama. During the campaign more than 100 plants of medical and other economical values were planted by the students and others (*Daily Excelsior, Jammu, 28 July*).

In this quarter, *WWF-India* also launched a national youth-level campaign in the city known as 'Cities for Forests', focuses on creating awareness about the link between forests and human wellbeing. The campaign will be launched in 20 cities across the country. The campaign will culminate in October, when WWF, in partnership with schools, will organize events where the findings of groups of students or individuals will be presented to key decision-makers, local politicians and experts and advisors to the city government, to build positive pressure towards the issue and bring about a change (*Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 1 August*). The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2011 as the International year of Forests. As part of the 'Cities for Forests' campaign, WWF India launched a website www.citiesforforests.in that will serve as a platform for participants and supporters to interact, share and document their stories and observations. (*Hindustan Times, Mumbai, 14 July*). To take part in the campaign, visit a nearby forest or a green space in the city, record your experience and share it online (*The Hindu, Chennai, 15 September*).



Volunteers and supporters form a human chain along Nelson Mandela Marg, New Delhi holding up placards with conversation messages for passing cars.



Forest land diversification: An assessment done by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), an NGO, revealed that coal mining accounted for more than half of all the forest land diverted for mining. (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 23 September*)

FRESH AND MARINE WATER CONSERVATION

River regulation zone required to stop floods: The convener of the *Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan* stated that a river regulation zone (RRZ) notification should be top priority for the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) to stop annual flooding of rivers in the sub-continent (*Asian Age, New Delhi, 15 September*)

POLLUTION

States give wrong data to evade eco norms: State governments furnished misleading information on critically polluted industrial areas to let the regions off an environment Ministry moratorium list, an investigation by the *Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)* has revealed (*Mail Today, New Delhi, 17 July*)

Guidelines issued in 2000


- Porous materials must be used for tiling pavements around trees, so water can percolate into the ground.
- Tiling should not be done in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic.
- Adequate space must be left around trees, and an area of 6x6 inches should be left uncemented.
- Growing grass should be encouraged.
- Digging near trees is to be avoided.
- Horticulture Department must initiate Green awareness campaign for school students.

Ignored rules must be followed to make Delhi Greener: A recent meeting convened by the NGO *Green Circle of Delhi*, and attended by officials from the forest department and cities civic bodies, has brought to light the fact that a series of Guidelines for the afforestation of urban areas issued by Union Ministry of Urban Development in 2000 are currently not followed in Delhi (*Indian Express, New Delhi, July 20*)

E-Waste to get more toxic for humans: Experts at *Toxics Link* warned that recycled plastic (from e-waste) contains Brominated Flame Retardants (BFR). These chemicals are extremely harmful for humans but are used in a number of toys and households items causing a threat both to the user and to those involved in the recycling process (*Asian Age, New Delhi, September 10*)

The Process

The grey water is passed through the canna bed, which is created over layers of blue metal and soil. The canna plants help in decomposition of the suspended solids. The soil layers beneath filters the water. A collection pit is constructed to prevent percolation of the filtered water, which, in turn, is pumped to the overhead tank. A separate partition is made in the overhead tank for storing the water.



A filtering system at a residential complex in T.Nagar, Chennai.

After rain water harvesting, now it is recycling of grey water: A voluntary organization, *Rain Centre*, is promoting recycling of grey water used for washing and bathing purposes or recharge ground water in residential complexes using a natural and economical method. A simple treatment process using of canna plants ('Kalvazhai' in Tamil) was implemented in many residential complexes to filter the waste water. It has been informed that the organization is able to recover about 500 litres of water from the process daily and a minimum of 60 square feet of area and moderate sunlight are required for the treatment. (*The Hindu, Chennai, 16 September*)

WATER MANAGEMENT

Capital wakes up to threat of water scarcity: Delhiites have come together in a unique initiative to make the city self sufficient by 2016 through the *Blue Delhi programme* which will be joined by resident welfare associations, students, concern citizens, NGOs and government bodies, including Delhi Jal Board, who will work through various task forces to educate, monitor and implement programme on water conservation. Blue Delhi will see groups working towards conserving ground water, implementing projects at ground level, implementation of ground water bill, recycling and reuse of waste water for horticulture, promoting techniques for saving water at household level and bringing about equality in distribution. Statistics compiled by Forum of Organised Resource Conservation and Enhancement (FORCE), say that Delhi's poor face a water-supply shortfall of between 40 and 100 per cent. The Director of this Voluntary organization feels that the Blue Delhi plan will minimize additional resource requirements by using existing schemes and funding opportunities towards the objective. The plan will recognize that the city will have no additional water very soon and work towards making Delhi self sufficient in its water resources (*Times of India, New Delhi, July 19*).

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

South Asian countries to upscale skills on wildlife law enforcement: Under the guidance of the newly established *SAWEN (South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network)*, a training programme on "Strengthening Wildlife Law Enforcement for Wildlife Protection in South Asia" commenced at the University of Forensic Sciences, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Senior-level government officials working in the field of wildlife conservation of South Asian countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lankawere attending the programme which has been organized by *TRAFFIC, WWF-India* with support from the Global Tiger Forum, the Directorate of Forensic Sciences, Govt. of Gujarat and the Gujarat Forest Department. The programme brought together various national and international experts and agencies working in this field to exchange ideas, experiences and knowledge on curbing illegal wildlife trade (*www.wwfindia.org, 11 July*)



Hunters turn protectors in Manas reserve: *UNESCO* acknowledged that Manas' resurrection was possible because of the synergy between the government, wildlife activists and people living around the reserve. The poachers-turned-guards are all locals, some 40 of them. Ten others are working with the NGO *Manas Maozingendri Ecotourism Society (MMES)* (*DNA, Mumbai, 17 July*)



जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहीं है खुशहाली।।

INDIA FELICITATES ITS TIGER HEROES



On 10 September 2011, India honored two courageous men who fought all odds to revive and protect tiger populations in the country. Shri R. Sreenivasa Murthy, Chief Conservator of Forests and Field

Director, Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh and Shri Tana Tapi, Divisional Forest Officer, Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary Assam received WWF-PATA's Bagh Mitra Awards 2011 at a function hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi.



About South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

The South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) was recently launched at an inter-governmental meeting hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan on 29-30 January 2011 in Paro. All eight countries of South Asia are members of SAWEN. With this, a new chapter has been opened in regional cooperation in South Asia for strengthening wildlife law enforcement. The SAWEN Secretariat is based in Nepal and currently headed by the Director General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Govt. of Nepal.

About TRAFFIC India

TRAFFIC is the world's largest wildlife trade monitoring network and a joint programme of WWF, the conservation organization and IUCN-the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It was established in 1976 and since then it has developed a considerable international reputation for helping to identify and address conservation challenges linked to trade in wild animals and plants. In India, TRAFFIC carries out research and provides analysis, support and encouragement to efforts aimed at ensuring that wildlife trade is not a threat to conservation of nature in India. TRAFFIC-India works as a programme division of WWF India, the largest conservation organization in India.

Protecting animal's jeopardy:

On the occasion of Naag Panchami, various organizations like *PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)* and *PFA (People for Animal)* organised awareness drive to urge people to report incidents of cruelty against snakes (*Asian Age, New Delhi, August 4*).



A project on establishing vulture safe zones in Terai region of Uttar Pradesh was launched by *Katarniyaghat Foundation and Terai Nature Conservation Society* along with Forest Department (*The Pioneer, Lucknow, 8 August*.)

Concerned over the sharp decline in number of Kashmiri Stages (Hanguls), a group of youth from *Youth Parliament of Jammu and Kashmir*, an NGO working on youth empowerment and environmental issues, launched 'Save Hangul Campaign' to save the rare animal from extinction. (*Kashmir Times, Jammu, 15 August*).

NGO Wildlife SOS Helpline team was contacted by the police, who had received a call about a porcupine who had fallen into a well at the Signature Bridge construction site in Wazirabad, Delhi, SOS Helpline team rushed to the location at midnight and rescued the animal safely (*Indian Express, New Delhi, 14 September*)

Project Tiger put on endangered list

India's first wildlife protection programme project Tiger launched 38 years ago may cease to be if the planning commission's move to downsize centrally sponsored schemes is accepted. The panel asked the environment ministry to merge Project Tiger, initiated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1973, with other programmes such as the Project Elephant to have one scheme for wildlife protection from the next fiscal. *HT Edge, New Delhi, 29 September*

New Frog Varieties Found: A team of Scientists from Delhi University, **Bombay Natural History Society**, Zoological Survey of India and Brussels' Vrije University discovered 12 new frog species in the Western Ghats. It was found for the first that at least six of the new species have a unique trait- they can produce offspring without actually mating or having intercourse. (*The Times of India, Mail Today, DNA, New Delhi, Mumbai, September 17*).



The researchers have named the new species as *Nyctibatrachus acanthodermis*, *Nyctibatrachus danieli*, *Nyctibatrachus devein*, *Nyctibatrachus gavi*, *Nyctibatrachus grandis*, *Nyctibatrachus indraneili*, *Nyctibatrachus jog*, *Nyctibatrachus periyar*, *Nyctibatrachus pillaii*, *Nyctibatrachus poocha*, *Nyctibatrachus shiradi* and *Nyctibatrachus vrijeuni*. (The name *Nyctibatrachus* is composed of two words 'nycti' derived from the Greek 'nux' meaning night and 'batrachus' meaning frog).



BNHS to give MoEF great Indian Bustard revival plan: The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) will submit a national recovery plan for the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), which will cover various aspects that directly or indirectly affect conservation of the endangered species like identifying direct threats like hunting, habitat alteration and loss, captive breeding, involvement of local community in conservation, use of pesticides and its effect on environment and bustards, population monitoring and research work done on the species (Indian Express, Mumbai, 30 September)

PARLIAMENT

This Section represents Parliamentarians approach towards various environmental issues like Climate Change, Energy production, Waste Utilization, Environmental clearances and Wildlife protection etc. During this quarter, the charge of Environment Ministry was given to Jayanthi Natarajan and Jairam Ramesh was shifted to Rural Ministry. This quarter, therefore includes the activities of both these ministers while in-charge. This year, Farmland rainwater harvesting systems receives an award under JSW-Times of India Earth Care Awards (2010) for excellence in climate change mitigation and adaptation from the Minister of State for Communications and Technology, Sachin Pilot. Not convinced with the "go, no-go" policy of former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, the Current Environment minister, Jayanthi Natarajan, announced among the group of Ministers (GoM) that the system of 'go' and 'no-go' has not been mandated by the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (FCA) and does not have any legal standing.

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Parliament goes green: Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar inaugurated an 80 kilowatt-peak units (KWp) solar photovoltaic power plant and a 2000 litre per day solar water heater system at the Parliament House Complex in Delhi. The new systems are part of demonstration of renewable energy systems at the Parliament House Complex under the Special Area Development Project of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 11 August*).

Delhi will strive for more solar, waste-to-energy projects

Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit said with limited land resources at its disposal, it was essential for the capital to develop more solar and Waste-to-energy projects to not only supplement its energy needs but also address its gargantuan waste disposal problem. Inaugurating the Akshay Urja Diwas celebration in the presence of Union Minister for New and renewable Energy Farooq Abdullah at National Bal Bhawan it was said by Dr. Abdullah that India was blessed with a variety of renewable energy sources biomass, sun, wind, and small hydro power and energy recovery from waste and geothermal energy-and these sources can be utilized for producing power through different technologies.

The Hindu, New Delhi, 21 August

CLIMATE CHANGE AND METEOROLOGY

'Climate Change' a real challenge: A symposium on "Climate Change and Geo-Hydrology" organised by Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany where Hon. Member of Parliament and Padma Vibhushan Prof. MS Swaminathan, chief guest said that farmers must be trained to tackle the climate change. In addition to this, it was stated that convention on Bio-diversity and an action plan for sustainable human security and well-being and diversification should also be in place as soon as possible. (*The Pioneer, Lucknow, 29 August*).

Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan expressed that India wants second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol instead of any next agreement (*Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 16 September*)

Mountaineers see dramatic climate change in the Himalayan region

The veteran mountaineer Apa Sherpa, who dropped out of school at 12 to work as a porter for expeditions to support his family told the Hindu that the lake burst at 2 a.m and he had a narrow escape. Now his worry is another glacial lake in the Everest region, Imja, which is growing bigger. Imja located in Khumbu region close to the Everest base camp, did not exist in photographs taken in the 1950s but now has rapidly expanded to 1.012 sq km.

The Hindu, New Delhi, 17 July

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Delhi's disaster management preparedness: Delhi Government reviewed the preparations for a major disaster by directing the divisional Commissioner to prepare a list of all structural engineers and directed all the Deputy Commissioners to submit information on availability and requirement of resources and equipment within a fortnight. Delhi Revenue Minister demanded to put this information on their website along with information on help lines (*The Hindu, New Delhi, 22 September*)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Study on the impact of earth excavation: Minister of Agriculture directed for constitution of an expert committee to study impact of the Watson/reckless earth excavation going on in various areas to the district Budgam. The expert committee shall suggest measures to conserve the landscape and environment in the Budgam district (*Kashmir Times, Jammu, 15 July*)

Times of India honors the work of climate heroes

Since 2007, the JSW-Times of India Earth Care Awards for excellence in climate change mitigation and adaptation



recognized and honored the work of our climate heroes. Farmland rainwater harvesting systems receives an award from the Minister of State for Communications and Technology, Sachin Pilot in "Innovation in Climate Protection" category during 'Earth Care Awards 2010' organised by JSW Steel Ltd and The Times of India in New Delhi on September 10, 2010

(Times of India, New Delhi, September 9)

"Go", "No-Go" for Projects: Eleven realty projects, including those developed by Indiabulls, Raheja Pvt Ltd and Neelkanth techpark, which had been given stop-work notices for environmental violations have been allowed to begin construction at their site for Rs10 lakh bank guarantee (*Hindustan Times, Mumbai, 02 August*). As stated by Mine Minister, mining had been stopped in as many as 133 mines in Karnataka, including 93 in Bellary, 157 mines in Rajasthan, 87 mines have been shut in Haryana, 64 in Madhya Pradesh, 10 in Goa and two in Tamil Nadu on directions of courts on account of environmental hazards (*Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 3 September*).

Amid sharp objections by Environment and Forest as well as Labour ministries, the Union Cabinet decided to 'defer a decision' on the much anticipated new National Manufacturing Policy (*The Hindu, New Delhi, 16 September*)

Environmental concerns: Priority areas of new Environment minister Natarajan includes greater convergence between forestry and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme, bringing in an environmental component in ministries like rural development, health, water resources and agriculture, river cleaning, creating a bio-diversity index that would form the basis of afforestation efforts and building up climate change or environmental warriors to deal with issues at the grassroots or panchayat level (*Economic Times, New Delhi, 11 August*).

Governor NN Vohra has stressed the need for sensitivity towards environmental concerns by the Tourism Departments of all the states and all other stakeholders while evolving a national tourism policy during the Valedictory session of the three-day ninth annual convention of the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) at the SKICC. (*The Tribune, New Delhi, 15 September*).

Environment Ministry agreed to hear coal projects: At the meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by the Finance Minister which has been trying to resolve differences between the MoEF on the one hand and Ministries of Coal and Power on the



Other, Ministry of Environment and Forest agreed to discuss the coal projects on a case-by-case basis. (Asian Age, New Delhi, 21 September)

Environmental protection lacks leadership at global level

R. Seshasayee, Executive Vice-Chairman of Ashok Leyland Ltd., was presented by Uma Lele the development economist and former senior adviser to the World Bank Dr. M. S. Swaminathan



Award for Environment Protection-2011 for his leadership role in the company achieving a balance between corporate success and environmental sustenance, at a function in Chennai. (The Hindu, Chennai, 7 August) M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, MSSRF, and N.S. Udayakumar, president, Rotary Club of Madras East, are in the picture.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Rahul stand with tribal people: Mr. Gandhi, who has been lending his support to the agitating farmers against the setting up of the Posco steel plant in an interaction with tribals in Jharsuguda had warned that while he supported development, it was essential that the project affected people should be provided proper compensation and rehabilitation. (Asian Age, New Delhi, 15 July).

'Go', 'No-Go'- Where to go?: While Former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh refused to issue forest clearance to the Mahan coal block in the Singrauli field on Madhya Pradesh, meant for the use of Essar and Hindalco power plants (The Hindu, New Delhi, 11 July), the Current environment minister, Jayanthi Natarajan, announced among the group of Ministers (GoM) that the system of 'go' and 'no-go' has not been mandated by the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (FCA) and does not have any legal standing. She also added that the environment minister cannot grant blanket permission for diversion of forest land for non forest purpose (Indian Express, New Delhi, 17 August)

Mandatory green investment: Commerce and Industry Minister has suggested that corporate entities should mandatorily invest in improving the local environment clearance norms (Business Standard, New Delhi, 19 August).

FOREST CONSERVATION

Education Minister defends tree-felling: At a World Environment Day event, while defending the chopping of trees for widening Sankey Road, Higher Education Minister V S Acharya said it was not possible to give preference to trees over the road. He, however, cautioned people not to destroy the environment and to protect the resources (Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 5 July)



Amendments in Tree Act: The Karnataka government is proposing to amend the Tree Act to make sandalwood cultivation viable for farmers. According to State Forest Minister the proposed amendment is aimed at allowing the farmers to grow sandalwood tree in their farms, and sell them at market price. This would not only help improve the tree cover in the state but also make sandalwood a viable alternative to their sustainability (The Pioneer, New Delhi, 18 July)

Forest officials pose danger to forests: Three non-official members on the statutory Forest Advisory Committee have told that forest

officials are fudging data, hiding facts, sidestepping laws, overlooking violations and finding ways of clearing even projects that are dangerous for forests (Times of India, New Delhi, September 19, 2011)

TN 'Greens' its way to Third Spot in India

Tamil Nadu is third best state in terms of increasing its forest cover since 1995, according to Union Minister for Environment and Forests Jayanthi Natarajan.

The Sunday Standard, New Delhi, 18 September

Dilution of Forest act on GoM agenda: A group of Ministries (GoM) will soon discuss a proposal to dilute provisions of the Forest Rights Act to speed up clearance for coal and Mining projects in forest areas. (Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 20 September).

POLLUTION

Assam's First Solid Waste Management facility:

Assam Public Works Department and Urban Development Minister Ajanta Neog inaugurated the Rs 6.85-crore solid waste management facility in Balichapori at Tezpur, Assam. The multi crore rupee



municipal solid waste management facility includes construction of an MSW treatment plant and collection and carriage of solid waste besides creation of awareness among the citizens about the safe disposal of solid waste (Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 22 August).

Air pollution on the rise in India, Delhi Tops list

Air toxicity is on the rise across Indian cities. Delhi heads the list with the dubious distinction of having the highest concentration of hazardous Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) which is double the national limit and six times the threshold set by the World Health Organization.

Asian Age, New Delhi, 26 July

E-waste expected to increase by 2012: According to the information given by Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan in a written reply to Rajya Sabha, the central pollution Control Board has set alarm bells ringing with its latest findings of nearly 7.5-fold increase in generation of e-waste material in the country by 2012 (The Pioneer, New Delhi, 7 September).

WATER MANAGEMENT

Measures to solve Country's water issues: A worried Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development, is planning to take stringent measures to regulate the over extraction of ground water for purpose of agriculture and industry especially since ground water sources are "expected to dry up due to unregulated extraction". (Asian Age, New Delhi, 18 July)

Minister of Water Resources addressed key notes that water resources either be rationed or "adequately priced", at the launch of CII-triveni Water Institute, organized by the CII to mark Corporate India's entry into the field of water conservation. The CII-triveni Institute which would have centers in Delhi, Jaipur, Bangalore and Pune would bring together the government, industry and civil society in changing water conservation and management practices of the industry. (Indian Express, New Delhi, 28 July).



जहाँ है हरियाली।
वहाँ है खुशहाली।

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Goa Minister not keen on tiger reserve: The Union Minister of Goa had said that the tiger was a resident animal in the State and not transitory and the proposed reserve was contiguous with the Dandeli tiger reserve in neighboring Karnataka. Wildlife activists in Goa had already stood against the decision and started an online campaign lobbying for setting up a tiger reserve in Mhadei wildlife sanctuary in the state (*The Pioneer, New Delhi, 20 July*).

Gir Lion Safe, but vulnerable: US diplomats have shown deep interest in the efforts made by the state by sending detailed notes on lions of Gir. A 2008 Wikileaks cable titled 'Wildlife Conservation in India's Gujrat state Yields Impressive Dividends but Pride Leaves Lions Exposed' reads: "Although Gujrat Exemplifies what political will, education, and effective enforcement can be done to protect wildlife, the justifiable pride Gujarati's feel in their conservation

efforts stand in the way of ensuring the continued viability of the Asiatic Lion (*Times of India, Ahemdabad, 21 September*)

Harmless pregnancy test for wild animals devised

In a major effort to save wild and rare animals from extinction, scientists at the city-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology have perfected the art of ascertaining whether an animal is pregnant or not by measuring the steroids present in its faeces.

Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad, 16 August

Railways, MoEF meet to save elephant: Newly-appointed Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi chaired a meeting, attended by officials from his ministry as well as the Ministry of Environment and Forest to find ways to prevent wild elephants from dying, as they stray on to railway tracks and get hit by moving trains (*Asian Age, New Delhi, 21 July*)





CLIMATE CHANGE AND METEOROLOGY

Global Carbon Sink- Vanishing

The Arctic would drastically reduce its capability to act as a “Global Carbon Sink” in the future due to the quickly receding glacier cover, according to the Indian mission on the region. Researcher from the national Institute of Oceanography (NIO), who returned from the Arctic assignment recently, has said the trend is a serious concern as it may fuel global warming. NIO's senior scientist S Prasannakumar said that Arctic seas and land together accounts for about 25 per cent of the world's carbon sink.

Financial World, New Delhi, 1 July

Global Warming: Cities too are Carbon Sinks

Scientists reported that cities can be of surprising help in soaking up carbon dioxide (CO₂). A new study though says the contribution can be significant. British scientists carried out their survey on the central English city of Leicester. They measured the carbon-absorbing capacity of its parks, domestic gardens, abandoned industrial land, golf courses, school playing fields, road verges and river banks. Urban sinks are not by themselves a solution to the billions of tone of carbon emitted globally but can help mitigate their impact, especially if gardeners grow trees, which absorb far more CO₂ than grass and shrubs, the report highlighted. The new study appears in the journal of Applied Ecology, published by the British Ecological Society.

Financial World, New Delhi, 13 July

Climate Change to affect cultivation, vegetation in NE state

A warning has been sent out from two district studies particularly for the Northeast and the Western Ghats: prepare for 45 percent change in forest vegetation by 2100 and fall in rice, sorghum and maize production by 2030. The studies were published in the latest issue of Indian Science Journal 'Current Science' that focuses on various impacts of climate change. The forest impact study is by four-member team scientists from Bengaluru-based Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST), Centre for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and Divecha Centre for Climate Change. The crop impact report is by a six-member team from the New Delhi-based Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and International Water Management Institute.

The Shillong Times, Shillong, 8 August

Northern and central parts of Western Ghats most vulnerable to climate change

Before the turn of Century no less than 56 per cent of India's forest will be transformed under global warming, and among the most vulnerable will be the Western Ghats, says a new study published in the latest edition of Current Science. The northern and central portion of the Western portion of the Western Ghats, primarily the most deciduous and evergreen forests of Karnataka, are at the greatest risk says the research paper authored by scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

The Hindu, New Delhi, 17 August

Centre confirms possible climate change in North East

The Centre has confirmed that reports of possible climate change in the North East in the next 20 years. Temperatures are projected to rise and the change in the rainfall pattern is likely to affect forest cover in the region. The Assam State Pollution Control Board has directed the units to ensure compliance of standards and guidelines for pollution prevention notified for beehive hard coke oven.

Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 30 August

Study on Sunderbans climate change impact

Accepting the realities of the challenges of climate change in the Sunderbans, forest Department has for the first time initiated a scientific study for in-situ monitoring of hydrological parameters on a regular real time basis. A major highlight of the study would be the availability of data

from the remote core areas of the tiger reserve, which so far had not been accessed by the researchers.

The Pioneer, New Delhi, 12 August

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

UN tells Asian-pacific countries to go green

A report launched has prepared by the UN Environment Programme, the Energy and resource Institute, CSIRO (Australia), IGES (Japan) and Chinese Academy of sciences. The report pointed out that Asia Pacific's dynamic growth in the past few decades has reduced poverty and increased wealth and per capita income. But that has come at a price that is “exacting a high current and future environmental cost. Problem includes pollution including green house gas emissions, biodiversity loss, deteriorating ecosystems and rapid resource depletion.

The Pioneer, New Delhi, 27 September

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As mines, Power plants rush in, Green Cover Goes

According to a study by the Centre for Science and Environment, 8,284 projects were granted environmental clearance and 2, 03,576 hectares of forest land diverted between 2007 and Aug 2011. The other findings Includes:

- 2, 03,576 ha are 25 per cent of all forest land diverted for development projects since 1981. The pace has doubled in five years.
- In one single year 2009 as much as 87,883,67 ha of forest land was cleared.
- The area of forest land diverted is equal to the average area of two tiger reserves.
- Large portion of land (50,000 ha) has been diverted for mining and power projects.
- Coal mining accounted for more than half of all the forest land diverted for mining. As many as 113 coal mining projects were granted forest clearance the highest number cleared in any five year plan since 1981.
- 181 coal mines, 267 thermal power plants, 200 coal-based thermal power plants, 188 steel plants and 106 cement units have been accorded clearance. This enormous splurge has led to a doubling of capacity in almost all sectors.

New Indian Express, Chennai, 23 September

8,000 projects granted forest clearance in 5 year

Trashing the allegation that environmental considerations are proving an impediment in India's growth, a recent study found the environment ministry has cleared an “unprecedented number” of infrastructure projects in the last five years. In the report, CSE has analyzed environment and forest clearances granted by the ministry in the 11th Plan. The study looked five sectors Thermal power, hydropower, cement iron and steel and mining.

Business Standard, New Delhi, 26 September

FRESH AND MARINE WATER CONSERVATION

Bhagirathi Water as dirty as a toilet

A Central Pollution Control Board report on the Bahgirathi River's quality of water, one of the main tributaries of Ganga in Uttarakhand, warns of an increase in pathogenic contamination at some of its key pilgrimage and tourist spots because of open defecation and seepage of sewage from septic tanks, toilets and hotels. The pollution is acute in Gangotri, Utterkashi, Dharashu- Chinyalisaur and Devprayag where there has been an increase in human settlements along the river bank, the report says.

Mail Today, New Delhi, 19 July

FOREST CONSERVATION

Govt claim on rise of Forest cover false

While the Government claims nearly 5% increase in forest cover from 1997 to 2007, three scientist two from India and one from Australia, have shown down decline in India's natural forest cover by 1.5% - 2.7% per year. The government claim is presented in the Forest Survey of India's biennial status of Forest Report, 2009 the latest. The scientist's research paper shows that the government claim was made based on a definition of forests that include both natural forest and exotic plantations. The paper titled Cryptic Destruction of India's Native Forests says if the area of plantations is deducted, there has been a decline in forest cover.

Times of India, New Delhi, 11 July

3,540 trees have concretized base

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, in a recent inspection, has found that 3,540 trees in the city have been concretized or asphalted at their base, leaving no space for water to enter, making them more likely to collapse as in the absence of water, the roots become weak.

Hindustan Times, Mumbai, 31 August

Evaporated water can cool surface of earth

According to scientists evaporated water helps in cooling earth as a whole, not just the local area of evaporation, a study said. A new study by scientists at the Indian Institute of Science, the Carnegie Institution for Science at Stanford University and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have demonstrated that evaporation of water from trees and irrigated crop areas could cool the planet which could have major implications on decision making for land use. These findings were published online on September 14 in Environmental Research Letter.

Asian Age, New Delhi, 19 September

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Unsafe Caffeine levels in Energy drinks: CSE study

Energy drinks being sold in India have dangerous levels of caffeine. NGO CSE has said after conducting lab tests in which 44% of their samples failed the maximum permissible limits as prescribed by the government. CSE carried out tests on leading energy drink brands 'Red Bull and Cloud 9' and found that several samples had breached the govt. set standard of 145 parts per million of caffeine.

Times of India, New Delhi, 19 July

High mercury levels in CFL bulbs

After analyzing 22 samples of CFLs of well-known Indian Brands for Mercury content, NGO **Toxics Link** has found that CFL bulbs being sold in India contain much higher levels of mercury than prescribed by international standards.

Asian Age, New Delhi, 30 September

MEDICINAL PLANTS

Genome sequence to give a peek into neem's medicinal qualities

A laboratory has completed the genome sequencing and translational genomics of neem, traditionally known for its medicinal and pesticide qualities. The Firm, Giant Labs, a public-private initiative, is geared to sending the results of the genome sequencing of neem plant to peer review journal and has also communicated its findings to Karnataka state biodiversity board. It is also in the process of setting up information knowledge portal to upload, retrieve and share neem data.

Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 30 September

POLLUTION

Air Pollution may lead to Brain Damage and Depression

Prolonged exposure to dirty air can have visible negative effects on the brain which may lead to learning and memory problems, and even cause

depression, a new study has claimed. Researchers at the Ohio State University in the US carried out tests on mice and found that long term exposure to air pollution caused physical changes to their brain which in turn had negative effects. While other studies have shown the damaging effects of polluted air on the heart and lungs, this is one of the first long-term studies to show the negative impact on the brain, said Laura Fonken, Lead author of the study that appeared online in the journal Molecular Psychiatry.

Financial world, New Delhi, 7 July

Toxic Air is choking Delhi

A new study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has found that the concentration of hazardous Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) in Delhi's air is double the national limit and six times the threshold set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Mail Today, New Delhi, 24 July

City cycle schemes save lives and cut down CO2, says study

Public bicycle sharing schemes such as Barcelona's "Bicing" program or London's "Boris Bikes" save lives and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to a study. Researchers at the Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology in Barcelona found in a study, that around 9,000 tons of carbon dioxide pollution is averted and some 12 lives saved each year by Barcelona's scheme, which was introduced in March 2007. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends adults should do at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise a week and says this could be done by walking for 30 minutes five times per week or by cycling to work every day.

Times of India, New Delhi, 7 August

Toxic Plastic makes way into your home

Delhi-based NGO **Toxics Link**, in its study, has found the presence of Brominated Flame Retardants (BFR) in recycled plastic across the city. BFRs are used in electronic items to make them fire resistant, but the chemicals are extremely harmful to humans. The chemical leaks from plastic products very slowly; but when recycling, it becomes particularly hazardous, especially in India where waste recycling is mostly done in the unorganized sector without any proper safety measures in place.

Times of India, New Delhi, 5 September

'Oil spill caused Rs 525.186 cr. Harm to climate

The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in its report on the oil spill in the aftermath of the collision between MSC Chitra and MV Khalijia III that occurred in August 2010 has estimated damage to the environment to the tune of Rs. 525.186 crores.

Asian Age, New Delhi, 21 September

Delhi third most polluted city in India

Indian cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Ludhiana and Kanpur are among the worst polluted cities in the country, according to a survey by the World Health Organization. Ludhiana ranks as the most polluted city in the country with 251 micrograms per cubic meter of PM10 with Kanpur following at 209 micrograms per cubic meter. Delhi ranks third with 198 while Luknow and Indore round off the top five list with 186 and 174 micrograms per cubic meter of PM10 respectively. Out of the 32 cities in the country considered by the report, Amritsar is the least polluted with 41 micrograms per cubic meter of PM10.

Indian Express, New Delhi, 27 September

Pollution 'chokes' monsoon

Air pollution over India is choking the Indian monsoon and may explain an observed drop in monsoon rainfall over the past 50 years- US scientist said, rekindling a debate on the impact of pollution on rains. The scientists said their climate simulation experiments suggest that the observed 5% decrease in monsoon rainfall over the past five decades may be attributed to human-



induced aerosols, or tiny particles, emitted by industrial and vehicular emissions and burning wood.

The Telegraph, Kolkata, 30 September

RECYCLED WASTE

- City generates 8,000 MT of e-waste plastic daily, and recycles nearly double the amount.
- Recycling takes place in Narela, Sardar Bazar, Mayapuri, Mundka, Shastri park
- About 20,000-25,000 workers are engaged in recycling e-waste
- 44% samples of e-waste tested in Delhi show presence of Brominated Flame Retardants

WATER MANAGEMENT

Goa loses 40% rainwater due to natural discharge

A study titled 'Dynamic Groundwater Resources of Goa', by the state's department of water resources and Bangalore-based Central Groundwater Board revealed that Goa loses as much as 40 per cent of its share of rainwater due to natural discharge but there was no decline in Goa's ground water reserves in the last two years. The state is one of the top rainfall garnering states in the country with an average of 3,005 mm annually, third after Karnataka and Kerala. The net groundwater availability is 132.74 million cubic metres and the state figure for groundwater development is only 33 percent, indicating enormous opportunity for future development.

The Pioneer, New Delhi, 12 August

Rajasthan Website on water

The Rajasthan Government launched a Web site allowing people access to the "latest" information on rain measurement, dam gauge and other water-related inputs. The State Water Resources Minister, Mr. Mahipal Maderna, launched the Web site at the irrigation office.

Business Line, New Delhi, 22 July

CAG pulls up Rajasthan over Jaipur water schemes

The comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pulled up Rajasthan Government for deficiencies in planning, execution and monitoring of schemes for supply of drinking water to the capital city of Jaipur with "time and cost overruns" plaguing every such project.

The Hindu, New Delhi, 10 September

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

20% increase in Tiger population

India registered a 20 per cent increase in tiger population last year, says a report, 'Status of Tigers, co predators and prey in India 2010 released by Jagdish Kishwan, additional director General (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The Hindu, New Delhi, 29 July

Tiger numbers up, but habitat of big cats, co-predators and prey shrinks

Statistics from 'Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey in India, 2010' officially released by the Ministry of Environment and Forests reveal that the tiger population in the State has risen by 114 per cent from 76 in 2006 to 163 in 2010. As the tiger count is not absolute, the upper limit is pegged at 173 and the lower limit at 153. While tiger numbers have more than doubled in the past four years in the State, the habitat of the big cats, as well as co-predators and prey has shown a considerable decrease.

The Hindu, Chennai, 2 August

Resettlement of big cats can cause problem on livestock

The study on "The Relevance of Maldhari Livestock to Lion Conservation" was conducted by Kaushi Banerjee as a part of main study, "Social Organisation and Dispersal of Asiatic Lions." Banerjee monitored six Maldhari nesses to determine significance of Maldhari livestock to the conservation of Lion. He concluded that if livestock was removed from the sanctuary area, lion density, pride size and structure are likely to be altered significantly.

Times of India, Ahemdabad, 1 September

The Lion-tailed macaque become highly endangered

Nelliampathy, the second biggest abode of the most endangered lion-tailed macaque after the famous Silent Valley National Park, is facing destruction of its habitat due to "unregulated plantation activities, fragmentation and conservation of forest land." A recent study on "Ecology and behavior of the arboreal mammals of Nelliampathy" found a total of 13 lion-tailed macaque troops with 200 individuals in the area.

The Hindu, New Delhi, 6 September

Breaking ban on diclofenac hits vulture population

A study published in the Oryx, a leading international scientific journal of conservation, and reported by Bird Life International, has found that widely-available diclofenac was being purchased by farmers illegally in conveniently large bottles to treat their cattle. On the other hand, the drug formulated for veterinary use too continues to be manufactured after a ban was declared in 2006 owing to its toxicity to "critically endangered" vultures. The research was conducted in over 250 veterinary and general pharmacy shops in 11 Indian States from November 2007 to June 2010.

The Hindu, New Delhi, 12 September

Prescribed drug poses continuous threat to vultures

The illegal use of diclofenac for veterinary purpose is posing a threat to the vulture population in the country despite a ban on its veterinary use since 2006. Recent studies showed that it is available in number of pharmacies. The drug was banned after its traces were found in cattle carcasses. The drug proved fatal for vultures feeding on carcasses, resulting in sharp decline in their population.

The Hindu, Chennai, 21 September

16% freshwater species under threat

A study released by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has revealed that 16% of freshwater species (Freshwater fishes, mollusks, dragon flies, damselflies and aquatic plants) in the Western Ghats are threatened. The two-year Western Ghats assessment project, 'the status and distribution of Freshwater Biodiversity in Western Ghats,' completed in September, 2011 also revealed that the Southern part of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and southern Karnataka have the highest fresh water species richness and levels of endemism, but also contain the highest number of threatened species.

Mint, New Delhi, 23 September

Poaching mafia-official nexus cause for decreasing numbers of big cats in Panna

A "highly confidential" investigation report on tiger poaching filed by the field director of the Panna Tiger reserve and handed over to the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has brought the role of field officials in the reserve under the scanner. It also warns that unless the State Forest Department took cognizance of this fact and acted accordingly, the reintroduced tigers and their progenies are not in a safe haven. The Report was obtained by wildlife activist Ajay Dube under the Right to Information Act.

The Hindu, New Delhi, 27 September

ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS IN THE COUNTRY DURING JULY- SEPTEMBER, 2011

AGRICULTURE

Title: Agritech Asia 2011

Date: 6th-8th September 2011

Venue: Bombay Exhibition Center, NSE Complex in Mumbai, Maharashtra

Website: <http://www2.kenes.com/agritech-asia/Pages/Home.aspx>

Email: agritechasia@kenes.com

Organized by: Kenes Exhibition and Radeecal communications\

Agritech Asia 2011 will continue this tradition of uniting the worldwide agriculture community to see at a single site the latest developments in agriculture and advanced agro-technologies, especially in the fields of irrigation, water management

ALTERNATE TECHNOLOGY

Title: 5th Renewable Energy India 2011 Expo\

Date: 10th - 12th August 2011

Venue: Pragati maidan, New Delhi

Website: [http://renewableenergyindiaexpo.com/\](http://renewableenergyindiaexpo.com/)

Email: rajneeshk@eigroup.in

Organized by: Exhibition India Group

The 5th Renewable Energy India 2011 Expo is a global platform to jointly address policy initiatives and innovative finance models to accelerate development of collaborative R&D and technology transfers to India in the field of renewable.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND METEOROLOGY

Title: Civil Society Consultation on First Draft Recommendations for State of Assam's Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change

Date: 18th August, 2011

Venue: Bosco Reach Out, Guwahati

Organized by: North East Dialogue Forum

Title: National Symposium on "Climate Change and Environment Management" (NSCCEM-2011)

Date: 24th August 2011

Venue: Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Website: <http://www.medicaps-institute.ac.in/nrteec2011.asp>

Email: nsccem2011@gmail.com

Organized by: Medi-Caps Institute of Technology and Management, Indore

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST TRADE

Title: National Conference on Tourism, Environment and Sustainable Development: Strategies and Policies

Date: 28th - 29th July 2011

Venue: Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University Tamil Nadu

Website: <http://www.ruraluniv.ac.in/ncte11.pdf>

Email: nctesd2011@gmail.com

Organized by: Gandhigram University

ENERGY STUDIES

Title: The Future of Jatropha Bioenergy and Biofuels

Date: 11th - 13th September 2011

Venue: Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Website: <http://www.mgrbiodiesel.com>

Email: alagarsamy@gmail.com

Organized by: Dr. MGR Jatropha Bio Diesel Project

Title: 4th Jatropha World Training Programme

Date: 14th - 18th September 2011

Venue: Jaipur, Rajasthan

Website: www.jatrophabiodiesel.org

E-mail: jatrophatraining@gmail.com

Organized by: Centre for Jatropha Promotion & Biodiesel (CJP)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, NGOS AND MEDIA

Title: 15th Conference of the International Association for Ladakh Studies

Date: 19th - 22nd August 2011

Venue: Sherab Tshogs-Khang (Wisdom auditorium hall), Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh, Ladakh

Website: [http://ladakhstudies.org/\](http://ladakhstudies.org/)

Email: sonamleh2@gmail.com

Organized by: International Association for Ladakh Studies

The central theme of the conference is defined as 'Responding to Climate, Biodiversity and Resource Changes in Ladakh and the Western Himalaya'.

Title: International Conference on Membranes: Environmental and Biological Applications (ICM-2011)

Date: 16th - 19th September 2011

Venue: Kottayam, Kerala

Website: <http://www.ceetindia.org/icm2011>

Email: membrane11@gmail.com

Organized by: Centre for Environmental Education and Technology (CEET) and The Common Instrumentation Centre (CIC), Mahatma Gandhi University

ICM-2011 intends to bring together chemists, physicists, biologists, environmental scientists and engineers to display their latest findings and to discuss potential avenues in both environmental and biological applications of membranes.

Title: 15th IALS Conference

Date: 19th - 21st August 2011

Venue: Sherab Tshogs-Khang Hall of Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh,

Website: <http://ladakhstudies.org>

Organized by: International Association for Ladakh Studies

The central theme of the conference is 'Responding to Climate, Biodiversity and Resource Changes in Ladakh and elsewhere in the Western Himalaya'. It will also be a multidisciplinary event, where scholars from many disciplines can interact.

POLLUTION

Title: Wastetech -Ahemedabad

Date: 28th - 30th September 2011

Venue: Gujarat University Exhibition Hall

Website: <http://www.watertechindia.com/index.html>

The show will bring together international players from the worldwide cleaning and environmental hygiene industry to display technologies, products and methods to the potential consumers.



UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS IN THE COUNTRY

AGRICULTURE

Title: National Conference on Recent Advances in Plant Sciences
Date: 15th - 16th October 2011
Venue: Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India
Website: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FJjEInqt_gMcnRtoXZnKcSyR4AWfwaYJQ7lInfcC4lQ/edit?hl=en_US

Organized by: Dharm Samaj College, Aligarh

It is a conference to discuss and exchange the views on recent advances in plant sciences

Title: Sustaining agricultural productivity and food security under changing climate

Date: 11th - 12th, November, 2011

Venue: Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India

Website: <http://www.gugly.org>

Organized by: Gugly Centre for Biological Research

CLIMATE CHANGE AND METEOROLOGY

Title: International Conclave on Climate Change (ICCC-1)

Date: 12th - 14th, October 2011

Venue: Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

Website: <http://www.iccc-esci.com>

Organized by: Centre for Climate Change, Engineering Staff College of India

Supported by: Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Coal Govt. of India

The comprehensive ICCC (2011) conclave program considers highlighting the GHG monitoring, reporting and verification requirements, international consultancy and analysis issues; emerging technologies, technology transfer, renewable and clean technologies and India's status on Climate Change Abatement.

Title: International Conference on Corporate and Business Response to Climate Change - From Awareness to Adoption (Transcending the Boundaries)

Date: 7th to 9th, December 2011

Venue: Salem, Tamil Nadu, South India, India

Website: <http://www.cbrcc2011.weebly.com>

Organized by: Department of Commerce, Periyar University

Title: The Carbon Congress 2011

Date: 19th - 20th December, 2011

Venue: New Delhi, India

Website: <http://www.cinbcorp.com/carboncongress.html>

Email: info@cinbcorp.com, contact@renewablebazaar.com

Organized by: CINB in partnership with Renewable Bazaar and Paryavaran

The Carbon Congress 2011 is one of the most remarkable Carbon Neutral Global Business Meet, officially endorsed by MNRE, providing a Hawk-Eyed view on the insights of Durban Meet (COP17).

ENERGY STUDIES

Title: International Conference on Energy, Economy and Environment

Date: 28th - 30th December 2011

Venue: Calicut (Kozhikkode), Kerala, India

Website: <http://www.iceee2011.nitc.ac.in/>

Organized by: National Institute of Technology Calicut

International Conference on Energy, Economy and Environment (ICEEE 2011) will be a forum for the presentation and discussion of new advances and research results in the field of theoretical, experimental and applied energy technologies.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, NGOS AND MEDIA

Title: World Congress for Man and Nature "Global Climate Change & Biodiversity Conservation"

Date: 11th - 13th, November, 2011

Venue: Department of Zoology & Environmental Science, Gurukula Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar, Uttarakhand

Website: <http://wcmanu.com>

Organized by: Gurukula Kangri University, Haridwar, MANU International Council for Man and Nature (Asia Chapter) & Applied and Natural Science Foundation

Title: UGC Sponsored National Seminar on "Changing Environmental Scenario of Indian Subcontinent: A Geographical Appraisal"

Date: 25th - 26th, November 2011

Venue: Barrackpore, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Website: http://www.brsnc.org/geo%20seminar_first%20circular_2011.pdf

Organized by: Department of Geography Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College in collaboration with Department of Geography West Bengal State University

Title: International conference on Climate Change, Forest resource and Environment- ICCFRE-2011

Date: 9th - 11th December 2011

Venue: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

Website: <http://www.neaindia.org/iccfre2011/br1.htm>

Organized by: University of Kerala

The conference includes various aspects like climate change - causes and consequences, forest resources, wild life and biodiversity conservation, environmental management, green technology, waste management

Title: 4th International Congress of Environmental Research (ICER-11)

Date: 15th - 17th December 2011

Venue: Surat, Gujarat, India

Website: <http://www.icer11.jerad.org>

Email: icer2011@gmail.com

Sponsored by: Journal of Environmental Research and Development (JERAD)

Theme of the congress is Environmental Research, Planning and Management. Hence abstracts/research papers of all the disciplines of technology, physical sciences, social sciences, law, management and life sciences will be entertained.

Title: 26th Indian Engineering Congress

Date: 15th - 18th December 2011

Venue: Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Website: <http://iec2011.in/>

Organized by: The Institution of Engineers (India), Karnataka State Centre

For the first time in India, 15 different Engineering disciplines will be addressed in colloquium separately. The 26th IEC 2011 is intended to broaden the scope of interaction of Academicians with Industry and R&D professionals.

Title: International Conference on Advances in Ecological Research

Date: 19th-21st, December 2011

Venue: Bikaner, Rajasthan, India

Website: <http://icaer.ac.in>

Organized by: MGS University Bikaner

The biological diversity, land cover, atmospheric composition, climate system etc., are altering at an unprecedented rate. Losses to Biodiversity and changes in ecosystems are some of the most vulnerable issues and need immediate attention.

Title: International Conference on Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering (ICBEE-2011)

Date: 31st December 2011

Venue: Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Website: <http://www.interscience.ac.in/ICBEE/index.html>

Organized by: Interscience Research Network (India), Bhubaneswar
International Conference on Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering (ICBEE 2011) is the premier forum for the presentation of new advances and research results in the fields of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Title: Green Conclave

Date: 13th - 14th October 2011

Venue: New Delhi, India

Website: <http://www.greenconclave.in>

Organized by: Gateway Media Pvt. Ltd.

It is a platform where Earth System Sciences and research can integrate with industry and policy. It brings together people who can propose a holistic vision of a better, greener Earth and can be the frontrunners in achieving the vision.

Title: International Conference on Green Technology & Environmental Conservation (GTEC - 2011)

Date: 15th - 17th December 2011

Venue: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Website: <http://www.gtec2011.com>

Organized by: Sathyabama University in association with NSWAI, ISWA & Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)

The field of green technology encompasses a continuously evolving group of methods and materials from techniques for generating energy to non-toxic cleaning products. Wastes, pollution, loss of biodiversity are some of the issues to be addressed

Title: National Conference on Environment and Biodiversity of India EBI 2011

Date: 30th - 31st December 2011

Venue: New Delhi, Delhi, India

Website: <http://www.ebi2011.in>

Organized by: North East Centre for Environmental Education and Research, Imphal (Manipur, India)

FRESH AND MARINE WATER CONSERVATION

Title: National Students' Conference on River Basin Planning (BRiP-2011)

Date: 4th - 5th November 2011

Venue: IIT Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Website: <http://gangapedia.iitk.ac.in/sites/default/files/BRiP-2011%20Flyer%281%29.pdf>

Organized by: Consortia of 7IITs

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Title: International Conference on Environment, Genes, Health and Diseases (EGHD)

Date: 9th - 11th December 2011

Venue: Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Website: <http://www.eghd2011.webs.com>

Organized by: Unit of Human Genetics, Bharathiar University

WATER MANAGEMENT

Title: Vth World Aqua Congress

Date: 16th - 18th November, 2011

Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Website: <http://www.worldaquacongress.org/>

Organized by: Aqua Foundation

Sustainable water management is a key environmental challenge of the 21st century. Developing and implementing innovative management approaches and how to cope with the increasing complexity and uncertainties is the theme of the Vth World Aqua Congress.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS QUARTER

- WII to Uttar Pradesh administration in identifying eco sensitive zone around Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary
- Madhya Pradesh Park is soon expected to achieve the unique distinction of having almost all the big cat species.
- Package by West Bengal government to rehabilitate widows of tiger victims in villages surrounding the Sunderbans.
- Permission granted permission to implement the Rs 680 cr. Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP) funded by Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA).
- Forest departments of Ranthambore and Sariska reserves getting ready to introduce new regulations on the growing number of visitors
- Pratibha Industries along with its joint venture partner Mosinzhstroi Open Joint Stock Company bagged two orders worth Rs 1,249 cr for Delhi Jal Board (DJB) projects to clean the Yamuna River in Delhi.
- Himachal Pradesh ready with Environment Policy to be placed before Cabinet for approval.
- Anil Ambani's Reliance Power expect to earn Rs 3100 cr over a 10 year period from carbon credits generated by the two ultra-mega power projects (UMPPs).
- Training programme on wildlife protection begins at DFS.
- Black pika joins India's mammal family.
- French aid to bio-diversity conservation project in Assam.
- Endangered bisons get a reserve in Tripura's Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Six more solar plants to be commissioned by year end.
- The Country's biggest tiger reserve Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailam, gets bigger with around 70 adults and 20 cubs.
- India made it clear that it wanted extension of the current Kyoto Protocol on emission cuts, but said it would not accept any further legally binding emission framework.
- A total of 114 projects of Public sector firm are awaiting stage I clearance.
- Green nod to Goa mining firm scrapped for concealing information



EDITORIAL BOARD

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

Dr. Dipankar Ghose
Head-Eastern Himalaya and Terai
Programme, WWF India

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

Ms. Moulika Arabhi
Programme Coordinator,
Centre for Environmental Law, WWF India

ENVIS TEAM

Mr. Rajeev Kumar
Programme Officer, ENVIS Centre, WWF-India

Ms. Preeti Bathla
Programme Officer, ENVIS Centre, WWF-India

Mr. Sandeep Kumar
Programme Assistant, ENVIS Centre, WWF-India

Mr. Ranjeet Bisht
IT Officer, ENVIS Centre, WWF-India

CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. Krishna Raj
Sr. Programme Officer, IGCMC, WWF-India

Ms. Sraboni Mazumdar
Programme Officer, IGCMC, WWF-India

Ms. Kanchan Puri
Asstt. GIS Officer, IGCMC, WWF-India

Ms. Anushka Bose
Intern, IGCMC, WWF-India

Ms. Aditi Gupta
Intern, IGCMC, WWF-India

Mrs. Gita Warrior
Library & Documentation Officer, WWF-India

All queries, feedback and further details regarding the specific subjects/environmental issues are invited from individuals, organizations and institutions etc. For further enquiries and advertisements, please contact:

ENVIS Centre, WWF-India
172-B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi - 110 003
Tel: + 91-11 - 41504793/4791,
Fax: +91-11-41505779/4795/24691226
E-mail: wwf@envis.nic.in
Website : <http://www.wwfenvis.nic.in>

Disclaimer

The data and content on the ENVIS newsletter is made available with the sole purpose of providing information and is not meant for commercial use and purposes. The information on the newsletter has been obtained from different national & regional newspapers across the country and does not necessarily depict the views of the ENVIS Centre.