

Venue: Dumduma, Saidabad, Allahabad
Organized by: Organized by: President, Association for Development Initiative, 1820/2, 1st Floor, Gurudwara road, Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi- 110003

Title: Availability of Water & Contamination
Date: 29th to 30th September, 2008
Venue: Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan
Organized by: Convenor, INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), Sawai Madhopur Chapter Ahmed Mension, Ward No. 22, Near Hammalon Ki Masjid Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan

Title: Carbon Markets India
Date: 29th to 30th September 2008
Venue: Mumbai, India
Organized by: Greenpower conferences
Objectives: Migrating business to a low carbon economy How can industry curb emissions without affecting economic growth? What strategies can be employed attract investment to small scale projects? How can companies use the CDM to benefit financially

Select Upcoming Events in the Country during July-September, 2008

Title: Seminar on Environmental Preservation of Organic Wastes Recycling through Hygienic Waste Disposal
Date: 3rd to 4th October, 2008
Venue: Thiruvavur
Organized by: Dr. LMH. Abdul Salam, Secretary, Social Welfare Centre, 19.A/I.P. Koil North street, Thiruvavur 610001, Tamilnadu

Title: State level Workshop on Olive Ridley Turtle Conservation Status and Way Forward
Date: 4th October, 2008
Venue: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Organized by: Mr. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director, WWF-India, Kerala state Office, Co. Madhavan road, Moolavilakom, Vanchiyoor, P.O., Thiruvananthapuram-35, Kerala

Title: International Seminar on Multidisciplinary Approaches in Angiosperm Systematics
Date: 11th to 13th October, 2008
Venue: Department of Botany, Kalyani University, Kalyani-741235, Nadia, West Bengal
Organized by: Prof. G.G. Maiti, Organizing Secretary, Department of Botany, Kalyani University, Kalyani- 741235, Nadia, West Bengal

Title: National conference on "Organic Farming in Horticultural Crops with Special Reference to Plantation crops" with the theme "Promoting Organic Horticulture for Safe Food and Healthy Environment"
Date: 15th to 18th October, 2008
Venue: Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kudlu Po., Kasaragod, Kerala
Organized by: Mr. George V. Thomas, Director, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kudlu Po., Kasaragod 671124, Kerala

Title: Seminar on Causes and Consequences of wet-land Depletion in Kashmir Valley
Date: 20th October, 2008
Venue: Village Haigam of District Baramulla
Organized by: Mr. Rafi Razaqi, Chairman, Peoples Social and Cultural Society (PSCS), 12-13 B, III Floor, Sulaiman Shopping Complex, Dalgate, Srinagar, Kashmir- 190001

Title: National Conference on Biodiversity Present Status

Date: 20th to 22nd October, 2008
Venue: Department of Botany, the University of Kashmir, Srinagar
Organized by: Prof. G.H. Dar, Chairman, Department of Botany, The University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar- 190006, Jammu & Kashmir

Title: Seminar on Anthropological Influence in South Orissa Coast and its Impact on Olive Ridley Turtle and Environmental Consequences
Date: 20th to 22nd October, 2008
Venue: Auditorium of Bankabihari wetland Institute, Chandrapur
Organized by: Dr. Nilalohita Harichandan, Executive Secretary, AABAHANA, Malyabanta, At/Po.-Nachuni, Dist.-Khurda-752028, Orissa

Title: State level Seminar on Reside of Pesticide in Environment A Global Challenge towards healthy Future of Mankind
Date: 22nd to 23rd October, 2008
Venue: Govt. of Boys Sr. Secondary School No.3 (Dakshin Puri) and Govt. of Girls Secondary School No.5 (Madangir), Private Schools in Sangam Vihar area New Delhi- 62
Organized by: Mr. Jagdish Prasad, General Secretary, New Indian Educational & Cultural Society (NIECS), L-264, (Shyam Bhawan) Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (Dakshin Puri), Sector-5, New Delhi - 110062

Title: International Convention on Water Resources Development and Management (ICWRDM-2008)
Date: 23rd to 26th October, 2008
Venue: Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani
Organized by: Prof. M.M.S. Anand, Registrar, Civil Engineering Group, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan

Title: National Conference on Climate Change, Crop Productivity and Sustainability
Date: 3rd to 5th November, 2008
Venue: College of Horticulture and Forestry, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh
Organized by: Mr. Gaj Raj Singh, Director, Central Agricultural University, Imphal 795004, Manipur

Title: National seminar on Environmental Management in Mining & Allied Industries (EMMA- 2008)
Date: 7th to 8th November, 2008
Venue: Department of Mining Engineering, Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
Organized by: Prof. N. C. Karmakar, Head & Chairman, Department of Mining Engineering, Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi- 221005

Title: Seminar on Contaminated Water Pollution
Date: 10th to 11th November, 2008
Venue: District Deoria, U.P.
Organized by: Mr. Nitya Nand Sharma, Secretary, Shyam Kavi Lok Kalyan Sansthan, Vill. Pindi, Block lar, Teh. Slemipur, District Deoria, U.P.

Title: 20th Conference of the International Association of Historians of Asia
Date: 14th to 17th November, 2008
Venue: JNU, New Delhi
Organized by: Mr. Yashwant Singh, Dy. Registrar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi - 110067

Title: Seminar on 8th Indian Fisheries Forum
Date: 22nd to 26th November, 2008
Venue: Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, IA 290, Sector III, Salt lake Kolkata
Organized by: Dr. S. Ayyappan, Chairman, Inland Fisheries Society of India, Barrackpore, C/o. Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, Kolkata- 700120, West Bengal

Title: State level Workshop on Mangrova Forest Ecology, Management and Restoration
Date: 24th to 25th November, 2008
Venue: Rajanagar, Kendrapara, Orissa
Organized by: Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Kabi, Secretary, Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA), At.-Hatapatana, Po.- Kadaliban, Dist.- Kendrapara-754222, Orissa

Title: National Conference on Green Building and Environmental Issues- 2008
Date: 25th to 26th November, 2008
Venue: TIFAC-CORE- in Env.Geomatics, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad, A.P.
Organized by: Dr. M. Anji Reddy, Secretary, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, TIFAC-CORE- in Env. Geomatics Institute of Science and Technology, Kukatpally, Hyderabad- 500085, A.P.

Title: International Symposium on "Perspectives in Pteridophytes"
Date: 27th to 29th November, 2008
Venue: National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow
Organized by: Dr. PB Khare, Organizing Secretary, National Botanical Research Institute, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow 226001, U.P.

Title: District level seminar for Promoting Basic Conceptual, Environmental Education and Mass Awareness on Theme "Climate Change, Bio-diversity, Water Contamination & Pollution in the Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal"
Date: 1st to 3rd December, 2008
Venue: Organization Own Centre, Vill.- Dakshin Charaikheya, Po.-Satmile, Dist.- Purba Medinipur, West Bengal
Organized by: Mr. Bijan Pusti, Secretary, Dakshin Charaikheya United Club, Vill.- Dakshin Charaikheya, Po.-Satmile, Dist.- Purba Medinipur-721452, West Bengal

Title: National Seminar on Technological options for Sustainable Solid Waste Management
Date: 3rd December, 2008
Venue: Gondia, Maharashtra
Organized by: Dr. P.A.S. Naidu, Principal, Dhote Bandhu Science College, Gondia 441614, Maharashtra

Title: Seminar on Environmental Degradation and Its Impact

Date: 4th to 5th December, 2008
Venue: District Sirohi (Rajasthan)
Organized by: Mr. Lalit Bhardwaj, Secretary, Sarojani Naidu Mahila Vikas Avam Kalyan Sansthan 13 A Opp. Laxmi Mandir Cinema, Jaipur

Title: Seminar on Reducing Environmental Impact of Vehicular Pollution in Deoria (UP)
Date: 4th to 5th December, 2008
Venue: Deoria, U.P.
Organized by: Mohd. Shakir Husain, President, Student Social Organization, Regional Office Rampur Gauri Bazar, Deoria- 274202, U.P.

Title: National Conference on Zoology Congress/ Symposium and 19th All India Zoology Congress
Date: 6th to 8th December, 2008
Venue: Department of Zoology, Gauhati University
Organized by: Prof. O. K. Medhi, Vice-Chancellor, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, Guwahati 781014, Assam

Title: Conference on Participatory Management of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Forest Research
Date: 12th to 14th December, 2008
Venue: Srikrishana Vihar, At.-Gahirgadia, Po.-Puinchia, Via-Kalapathar, Dist.-Cuttack, Orissa
Organized by: Mr. Suresh Ch. Pattanaik, Secretary, National Institute for Community & Child Development (NICCD), At-Mangala nagar, Po./Dist.-Khurda, Orissa- 752055

Title: International Symposium on Plant Biology and Environment: Changing Scenario
Date: 17th to 19th December, 2008
Venue: Department of Botany, University of Allahabad, Allahabad
Organized by: Professor Anupam Dikshit, Org. Secretary, Department of Botany, University of Allahabad, Allahabad- 211002, U.P.

Title: Seminar on Conservation of Medicinal Plants and their Sustainable Development in Tribal Region of Chhattisgarh
Date: 19th to 20th December, 2008
Venue: RIBR Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)
Organized by: Dr. S. K. Srivastava, Chairman, Regional Institute of Basic Research Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh

Title: International Conference on Water Environment, Energy and Society- (WEES- 2009)
Date: 12th to 16th January, 2009
Venue: New Delhi
Organized by: Dr. K.D. Sharma, Director, National Institute of Hydrology, Jal Vigyan Bhawan, Roorkee 247667, Uttarakhand

Environment and the Government covered by the Print Media during July-September, 2008

The print media highlights information about the real threat to wildlife, pollution/degradation of water in the rivers and lakes, forests' depletion and negative impact of climate change on the environment. It emphasized the need for generating awareness among the people and the school children through panchayats in villages and through NGOs/Resident Welfare Associations in urban and suburban areas on wildlife conservation especially tigers & leopards including big cats, preservation of rivers and protection of forests. Similarly, it stressed the

need to prevent unauthorized discharge of municipal/domestic waste and effluents into the rivers and lakes and that every Hospital & Hotel in the urban/sub-urban area to recycle water for sanitary and horticulture use.

Rare porcupine brought to zoo

Mr. K.K. Singh, Deputy Conservator, Lakhimpur Kheri (North) has said that the forest department staff has picked up a baby Porcupine, a rare

creature in the State, which was swept in the heavy rains. The said Porcupine, brought to the Lucknow Zoological Gardens on 8th July, 2008, will be a big attraction especially for the children.

Source: *The Pioneer, Lucknow, 9th July*

Poachers evades arrest

In a raid, a joint team of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of India (WCCBI), Gurgaon police and Non-government organization, Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) have recovered the bones of a full grown tiger, believed to have been killed recently somewhere in the forests of Uttarakhand or Uttar Pradesh and also an ivory tusk, two deer horns, two teeth of wild boar and a turtle shell from a house in Gurgaon on Monday, 7th July, 2008. They also recovered iron traps and other contraptions used for trapping and killing wild animals, but could not nab the prime accused, poacher Bhima Bawaria and his two accomplices.

Source: *Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 9th July*

CII, WWF invited for sustainability of rivers

Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal has invited Gunbir Singh Vice Chairman CII Punjab State Council and chairperson, WWF-Punjab State to discuss the issue of sustainability of the state rivers. The Chief Minister has asked for suggestion for remedial measure. They have introduced PAANI to the Punjab Government.

Source: *Economic Times, Times of India, Chandigarh, The Tribune, Chandigarh, New Delhi, Jalandhar, 09th July*

Defenders of wildlife

In order to establish and maintain an Elephant Rehabilitation and Research Centre at Ban Santour in Yamunanagar district of Haryana, an agreement has been signed between Government of Haryana and Wildlife SOS, an NGO. On this occasion, Haryana's Minister of Forests, Environment, Tourism, Sports and Youth Affairs, Ms. Kiran Choudhry has said that this elephant rehabilitation and research centre would go a long way in generating awareness among people about the real threat to wildlife and also rehabilitation of illegally kept domestic elephants.

Source: *The Pioneer, New Delhi, 10th July, The Hindu, New Delhi, 11th July*

Center working on river links between Maharashtra, Gujarat

The Union Water Resources Minister Mr. Saifuddin Soz has appreciated the river-inter linking project and said that DRP for Ken- Betwa River would be ready by the year end. He added that several proposals had been received from various states on inter-linking of rivers. He also said that this project would increase rain water harvesting and would reduce wastage of rain water.

Source: *Business Line, Economic Times, New Delhi, 10th July*

Haryana plans special eco-zones

With the idea to protect the natural habitat for wild animals such as tigers, leopard and others, Minister of Forests, Environment, Tourism, Sports and Youth Affairs of Haryana, Ms. Kiran Choudhary said that she had taken up the issue of developing eco-zones with the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, as well as UPA Chairperson, Ms. Sonia Gandhi. While referring to the March 8, 2008 incident when a leopard was trapped in Sohna hills because of people, who developed farm houses there, she said that the State Government will notify such zones as eco-zones and will not allow any kind of human activity there.

Source: *Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 11th July*

Software to improve ecological protection

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has developed a web-based software for monitoring of laws related to environmental protection and industrial safety. The software will be introduced to the concerned authorities in the factories department, explosives department, mine safety and dock safety department among others, which would help in bringing out a consolidated information system through closer interaction with all the law enforcement agencies.

Source: *Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad, 12th July*

Punjab proposes to clean rivers

The Punjab state Council for Science and Technology has submitted a Vol. 8 No. 3, July-September, 2008

report which clearly shows the threat for thousands of people and aquatic life of Punjab rivers. The state has collaborated with different countries nodal agencies for cleaning the river.

Source: *Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 12th July*

Haryana bid to set up nuclear power plant:

Haryana Chief Minister Mr. Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that Haryana Government has planned to set up a nuclear power plant of 2,800 MW capacity to bridge the gap between demand and supply. He added that state decided to create State Energy Conservation Fund and make use of Energy Efficiency Street Lighting System mandatory and it will come in effect from April 2009.

Sources: *The Hindu, Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, July 12th*

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Sources: *The Hindu, Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, July 12th*

Plan to increase tiger population high on Government's agenda

The Government has chalked out an innovative plan for captive breeding of pure stocks to increase the population of the majestic striped cat. In this regard, the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has recently identified six Zoos in New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Chhatbir, Chennai and Bhopal as coordinating centres to raise atleast 100 physically, genetically and behaviourally healthy endangered species.

Source: *Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 14th July*

Kolkata Corp mulls private partnership

Mr. Sushil Kumar Sharma, Member, Mayor-in-Council, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) is mulling a solid waste management project in private collaboration. The project is expected to generate 54 MW of power daily, which would help ease power demand in the country. In this regard, KMC would shortly appoint a consultant to evaluate feasibility of the project after which global tenders would be floated. Kolkata city generates nearly 3200 tonnes of solid waste daily.

Source: *Business Line, New Delhi, 14th July*

CFL mandatory in Haryana

Govt steps to save energy in the state

A notification has been passed by Haryana Government to make the use of CFL and T-5 or 28 watt tube lights mandatory for indoor lighting and energy efficiency street lights for outdoor lighting. According to this notification the instructions have to be complied by all the electricity consumers in the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sectors, all the Central Government Offices and Central Public Sector Undertaking institutions have to replace conventional bulbs and tube lights with compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), TS of 28 Watt energy efficient tube lights or light Emitting Diode Lamps by August 15, 2008 at their own cost. Similarly all institutions would have to replace the conventional street lighting with energy efficient street lighting fixture using T-5 tube lights, Light Emitting diode Lamps, Low Pressure Sodium Vapor (LPSV), High Pressure Sodium Vapor (HPSV) and Induction Arc Lamp for street lighting before March 31st, 2009 at their own cost.

Source: *Political and Business Daily, New Delhi, July 15th, 2008*

Delhi eyes key role in global carbon trading

The Delhi government is planning to cut carbon dioxide, the main component for green house gases, emission by 7.7 lakh metric tones by 2010. Under the UNFCCC programme to earn carbon credits, the Delhi Metro has adopted a braking system in its trains that produce electricity when brakes are applied. The government has planned to generate electricity from daily waste.

Source: *Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 17th July*

Ministry admits to challenges faced by State' bio-diversity

Assam's Forest and Environment minister Rockbul Hussain admitted that challenges have been faced due to rich biodiversity of the state. He said that state earns huge amount of revenue through rich biodiversity of the state. CPM's MLA Ananta Deka said that the state is under severe strain in the biodiversity front and if immediate measures are not taken to protect the animals and flora and fauna of the State, the result will be adverse. In reply the Forest minister said that the main reason for this increasing pressure on natural resources of the state is due to boom in population and industrialization. Minister also said that State government has devised plants, apart from this the Chief Minister's Seuji Dhara scheme to establish tree research center in Jokia near Dibrugah.

Source: *The Sentinel, Guwahati, July 18th 2008*

Four species of birds in Mizoram critically endangered

Mizoram Environment and Forest Minister, Dr. R. Lalthangliana'n has released a book "A pocket guide to the Birds of Mizoram", written by noted ornithologist, Dr. Anwaruddin Choudhury. As per the author, the aim of the book is to provide an up-to-date checklist on birds with brief description of a few threatened and notable species found in the State as also to generate awareness and interest on bird conservation. Out of more than 500 species of birds in Mizoram, four have been declared critically endangered, one endangered, five vulnerable, seven near threatened and nine restricted.

Source: *Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 14th July, The Sentinel, Guwahati, 23rd July*

Diclofenac continues to kill vultures

Despite repeated awareness campaigns, the banned painkiller Diclofenac continues to kill vultures in the State of Jharkhand. The forest department in the State has now begun to track down the scavenger birds for their proper rehabilitation. Simultaneously, the forest department officials have also started their campaign to create awareness among the people about the useful presence of vultures in the area.

Source: *The Pioneer, New Delhi, 15th July*

Hospitals and hotels told to recycle water

Bid to ensure that commercial establishments own up their responsibility for conserving the resource

The state Environment Forest and Wildlife Department has asked Hospital and Hotels in the city to make recycling water a habit and very soon it will become mandatory. One of the Hospitals has established its own Water Treatments plant and has been recycling water for use in toilets and horticulture department. Sir Ganga Ram Hospital is an example of it.

Source: *The Hindu, New Delhi, 15th July*

Clean up Yamuna before Games, says CM

Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit has given instruction to the stakeholder of Yamuna Action Plan-II to clean up the river before the Common wealth Games 2010.

Source: *Indian Express, New Delhi, 15th July*

Tiger conservation plans may get nod in a week

The Field Director of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), Dr. Sheshrao Patil, has said that their plans for expansion of buffer and corridors for Tadoba-Andhari, Melghat and Pench Tiger conservation Projects situated in Chandrapur, Amravati and Nagpur districts are likely to get sanction from National Tiger Conservation Authority within a week. The forest department officials have made livelihood option plans for the displaced villagers of around 100 villages so as to reduce their dependence on the forests located in the TATR, Melghat and Pench, which have 43, 35 and 19 tigers respectively.

Source: *The Hitavada, Nagpur, 15th July*

Cabinet nod to river conservation

The cabinet has approved the proposal for introduction of revamped river conservation strategy under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). It has also approved integration modalities with urban development and future roles of the MoUD and the MoEF with respect to revamp strategy under NRCP.

Source: *Financial Express, New Delhi, 18th, July*

Water treatment plants to save river

Mr. Parkash Singh Badal Chief Minister of Panjab said that four water treatment plants would be set up on the bank of Kalibenin River and in Begowal, Tanda, Dasuya towns to fight water pollution in river.

Source: *Financial Express, New Delhi, 18th, July*

Badal asks industry to cut down on water pollution

While addressing the "Van Maha Utsav" at Punjab Agriculture University (PAU) Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has appealed leaders and opinion makers to come forward to launch a crusade against the wide spread pollution of air, water and soil. He asked the representative of the industry, chairmen and vice chairmen of Punjab, large, medium and small-scale industry boards to suggest ways and means combat the water pollution.

Source: *Financial Express, New Delhi, 18th July*

State floats aqua farming proposal

The Fisheries Minister Anees Ahmed has announced to introduce *Aquaculture* in Maharashtra which will reduce the problem of fisherman and will increase the number of Marine life. He also proposed for amendment in Marine fishing Act and introduced several penalties for fishing during breeding time.

Source: *Hindustan Time, Mumbai, 18th July*

Five Asiatic black bears released in Pakke Tiger Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh

As per its animal rehabilitation programme, the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation and Conservation (CBRC) has released a batch of five hand-reared Asiatic black bears in Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.

Source: *The Sentinel, Guwahati, 18th July*

MCD to identify green drive, to plant two lakh saplings

Under the Green Delhi Action Plan the Delhi Municipal Corporation has decided to plant 2 lakh saplings in the Capital. The major plantation will take place in parks, roadsides, along with major drains, MCD schools, landfill sites and Municipal institutions. However, out of 2 lakh saplings only 42,000 saplings have been planted. MCD commissioner K.S. Mehra committed that MCD would put all the effort to fulfill the target.

(Sources: *The Pioneer, New Delhi, July 19th, 2008*)

Cut down forests to make way for road, ease traffic

The Environment Minister has given its nod to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to cut down 12 hectares of forests for an 11 km long by-pass. Work on the Parwanoo- Pinjore bypass can begin now and it will take 2 years to complete.

Sources: *Mumbai Mirror, Mumbai, July 19th, 2008*

Greater Noida to get a bird sanctuary by 2010

Mr. N.P. Singh, District Forest Officer, Gautam Budh Nagar, has said that with the administrative approval of the Uttar Pradesh government, they have started setting up Bird Sanctuary in Greater Noida with the help of Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA). In this regard, the forest department is studying the physical parameters of the jheel area, which is best suited for a rich natural habitat and already has an enormous presence of pythons, snakes, amphibians, neelgais, jackals and other animals.

Source: *Mail Today, New Delhi, 19th July*

25,000 saplings to be planted

Under "Urban Tree Planting Programme" the state Forest Department of Tamil Nadu will plant 25,000 saplings in Chennai and its suburbs this year. Resident Welfare Association, Non-Government Organisation and private individuals will be involved in watering and protection of saplings. The team of officers which includes N. Sundaradevan, Secretary, Environment and Forests Tamil Nadu, V. Prabakaran, Conservator of Forests, Chennai circle has inspected the nursery and identified places in residential areas for greening programme.

Sources: *The Hindu, Chennai, July 20th, 2008*

Rs. 3,394 cr for completing irrigation schemes

The government has allocated Rs. 3394.41 crore to complete the irrigation schemes in Krishna, Cauvery and Godavari basins and around 73,000 hectare has been proposed to bring under irrigation. The Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa has stated that a special authority will be set up for improving expertise on water uses resource management and policy making, Jala Samvardhana Yojane would be extended, work on the Kalsa- Banduri Canal Project would speed up. The CM provided Rs. 50 crore for the supply of drinking water to Kolar District through Yergol drinking water scheme.

Source: Deccan Herald, Bangalore, 18th July

Rs. 432 cr water plan to be taken up by AP

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) would take up two major Projects at a cost of over 432 crore as part of infrastructure development under the Jawaharlala Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). A sewage Master plan would be implemented in the Serilingampally municipal circle at a cost of Rs. 200 crore, the refurbishment of existing feeder system, including distribution network of drinking water supply on the north and south of river Musi, would be taken up at a cost of Rs. 232.22 crore in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Limits. The Central government has contributed Rs. 151 crore for both the Projects.

Source: Deccan Herald, Hyderabad, 18th July

Planning Commission may give funds for Bharatpur birds

The Planning Commission has come to the rescue of the much acclaimed bird haven in Bharatpur, listed as a heritage site and Ramsar wetland. In response to the proposal of Rajasthan Government, the Planning Commission has written a letter to Rajasthan Chief Secretary, Mr. D.C. Samant suggesting that the Rs.65 crores project could be taken up for special funding. The initiative is keeping in view the uniqueness of the eco-system and the capacity of the Keoladeo National Park to attract a variety of migratory birds and need for water supply stated in a letter from Ms. Indrani Chandrasekharan, Adviser (Environment and Forests), Planning Commission.

Source: The Hindu, New Delhi, 20th July

Ganga faces 'dry' threats

American environmentalist Mr. Lester R. Brown said that due to Climate Change Himalaya glaciers are receding and many could melt down by 2035. Due to fast melting of Gangotri glacier which feed Ganga at Uttarakhand, the Ganga would become a *Mausmi Nadi* (seasonal river). This will lead to politically unmanageable food shortage and more than 407 million people of India will face the shortage of drinking water.

Source: The Tribune, New Delhi, 21st July

Delhi government to share cost, to get 275 MGD water

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has given the environment clearance to Renuka Hydro-electricity Project. According to the accord, Delhi will receive 275 MGD of water and Himachal Pradesh will have share in electricity generated by dam.

Source: The Statesman, New Delhi, 21st July

Tiger Division launches plantation drive in J-K

Indian Army's Tiger Division has launched a major 'Tree Plantation Drive' in Satwari Cantonment area in Jammu & Kashmir on 20th July, 2008. While inaugurating the event, GOC emphasized the importance of environment and responsibility of all citizens in preserving the forests for the good of mankind and future generations.

Source: Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 21st July

Forest Department has to protect trees on private land

The Forest Department has taken up the responsibility to protect tree even on private lands. The tree protection Act is likely to pass on this monsoon session. Once the tree protection act comes into force the fine for felling a green tree will be raised from Rs.500 to Rs.50,000. No construction will be allowed within 5m radius of any green tree. In case of any damage to a tree the penalty will be charged above Rs 15,000.

Sources: The Tribune, New Delhi, July 22nd, 2008

Dal Lake conservation deadline

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Mr. N. N. Vora has set a deadline for completion of the mega drainage and sewage project for Srinagar and called for setting up a task force for ensuring round the clock work on the scheme.

Source: Daily Excelsior, Jammu, 22nd July, Business line, New Delhi, 23rd July

Haryana launches safe drinking water project

Haryana government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nandi Foundation, Hyderabad to implement a pilot project for safe drinking water system in selected villages of Haryana.

Source: The Hindu, Financial Express, New Delhi, 24th July

Maharashtra move on river pollution

The Maharashtra Water Resource Minister, Mr. Ajit Pawar said that Water quality report prepared by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board and the Land Water Survey Board contains 11 suggestions on increase pollution level and now government would come out with Action Plan he added.

Source: Business line, New Delhi, 25th July

Fifth new city forest for Delhi

The Delhi Government Environment and Forest Department began to work on the fifth new city forest at Rewla Khanpur-II in Najafgarh Block. Over 200 school students have planted 2,000 saplings in the presence of State Principal Secretary P. K. Tripathi. Mr. Trapathi said that the government had commissioned a tree helping to boost protection to trees and other than this government would increase the number of city forest up to 32.

Sources: The Hindu, The Statesman, New Delhi, 23rd July

Tiger population: end of the road?

The Ministry of Forests and Environment has decided to set up four more tiger reserves located at Sunbeda in Orissa, Sahyadri in Maharashtra, Philbit in Uttar Pradesh and Ratanpari in Madhya Pradesh so as to give a boost to the tiger population in the wild and forest reserves of the country.

Source: Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 23rd July

State Cement plants go green

Proposal to generate electricity from waste heat of kiln gases

Himachal government is likely to adopt Waste Heat Recovery System (WHRS). The technology can help in supplementing the power generation and reduction in emission of gases.

Source: Indian Express, Chandigarh, July 27th

Glaciers in Himalayas shrinking every year

Due to rising temperature the glaciers in Himalayas are shrinking at an alarming rate of 15-20 meters every year. One of the members of National Action Plan on Climatology suggested Himachal Pradesh government to set up a glacier commission on the pattern on one existing in Sikkim to carry out a field based scientific study of glacier retreat and drew future plans to tackle the problem.

Source: Assam Tribune Guwahati, Daily Excelsior, Jammu, July 28th

Climate Change policy for HP soon

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal said that draft policy on climate change has been prepared and circulated and was being discussed with stakeholder to give it a final shape. Chief Minister said that the new policy would include fixed upfront premium for allotment of projects, etc.

Source: The Tribune, New Delhi, July 28th, Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, July 29th

Green Imphal campaign launched with planting of trees

"Green Imphal City" mission launched by the State Irrigation and Flood Control Department with the other departments of the State

Government. Chief Minister Ibobi Singh urged the people, NGOs, clubs and associations to procure tree saplings from the state forest and environment or horticulture and soil conservation department and plant them on roadsides, colleges and school campuses etc.

Sources: The Sentinal, Gawahati, July 28th, 2008

Forest department organizes awareness camp

Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department, ERDC North, Jhelum Project, Varmul/ Budgem organized a Training and awareness Camp. The main issue which addressed in camp was to make the trainees aware to preserve the forest wealth of the state and conserve forest products trees and forest land. They also elaborated different programmes under watershed schemes.

Sources: Greater Kashmir, Srinagar, July 29th, 2008

August, 2008

Centre modifies rural water supply scheme

The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on Thursday, 31st July, 2008 gave a nod to the modification in the programme which would require rural drinking water supply projects to be implemented keeping in mind their sustainability both in terms of quality and quantity. The Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. P.R. Dasmuni, told reporters after the Cabinet meeting that higher allocations have been provided to bring in the sustainability component under all rural water supply programmes.

Source: Business Line, New Delhi, 1st August

Training prog on wildlife

In association with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), the Department of Wildlife Protection organized a 3-days training programme on Wildlife Crime Prevention in J&K on 30th July, 2008 for the 40 officers of the rank of DFOs, wildlife wardens, range officers and some senior officials of the wildlife and forest departments.

Source: Greater Kashmir, Srinagar, 1st August

Gogoi's 'Green Code' is first step to tackling climate change

Mr. Tarun Gogoi, Assam Chief Minister on Friday, 1st August, 2008 announced introduction of a Green Code in a bid to reduce or eliminate the negative impact of the climate change on the environment, people and economy of Assam.

Source: Indian Express, Mumbai, 2nd August

Rs.550 crores for relocation of tiger project villages

Mr. J.P. Dange, Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue & Forestry said here on Friday, 1st August, 2008 that the State Government will shortly get Rs.550 crores from the Central Government for rehabilitation of villages from the core areas of Tadoba-Andhari, Melghat and Pench Tiger Projects.

Source: The Hitavada, Nagpur, 2nd August

Agartala to get solar city tag

In order to encourage non-conventional energy, Union Ministry of Non-Renewable Energy (MNRE) has asked the Tripura Ministry for Science & Technology to send a project proposal for converting the entire street light system in three cities of the State into solar energy mode.

Source: Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 2nd August

Many schools planning forest cover in campus

Japan headquartered OISCA International has executed a children's Forest Programme (CFP) in four Southern and two Northern States in the country in collaboration with the State Governments to involve children from standard 6 to 10 in planting a green cover in school campuses.

Source: The Hitavada, Nagpur, 4th August

Tiger Protection Force on lines of CRPF soon

The Centre has expedited the process of creating a Tiger Protection Force on the lines of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which is to be

placed under tiger reserve authorities in various states to deal with poaching, increasing encroachments on the habitats of the wildlife.

Source: The Hitavada, Nagpur, 5th August

CM to attend UN meet on environment

Chief Minister of Delhi, Ms. Sheila Dikshit has been invited as a lead discussant for the Round Table to be convened on 25th September, 2008 on 'Environment Sustainability' to talk about now New Delhi has been made environmentally sustainable. In this regard, the CM has received an invitation for the event from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi, 4th August, The Times of India, Mumbai, Mumbai, 5th August

Climate change action plan set to be implemented soon

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has directed the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to work on the comprehensive action agenda spanning the remaining four years of Eleventh Plan period. The stage is all set for implementation of the National Action Plan on climate change (NAPCC).

Source: Economic Times, Kolkata, 6th August

Green rating must for new buildings

While launching green rating for integrated habitat assessment (GRIHA) for the first time in the city, the Urban Development Minister, Mr. Ashok Bhattacharya said that the State Government will soon make green rating mandatory for those commercial buildings which consume 100 MW of power or more in one hour. In this regard, the Minister has asked the West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation (WBGEDC) to send a proposal to his department.

Source: The Statesman, Kolkata, 7th August

SC notice to pollution boards on Ganga clean-up

The Supreme Court issued notices to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) to follow provisions of the Pollution Control Act to check unregulated discharge of industrial effluents and chemicals into the river Ganga making its water unfit for human consumption.

Source: The Statesman, New Delhi, Free Press Journal, Mumbai, 8th August

The boot is on the other leg: Sibal

Union Minister for Science and Technology, responding to a suggestion from one of the chief scientific advisers of the British government to prepare for a dangerous change that could raise global temperatures by perhaps four degree C, has called upon the developed world to take urgent steps to reduce emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases so as to minimize the adverse impact on global climate.

Source: The Hindu, New Delhi, 9th August

Leopards multiply in Himachal

As per the spokesman of the forest department, the population of leopards has increased from 600 to 820 mark. The spokesman has further said that barking deer, which is declining in the state because of their hunting, was the main food for the leopards. In the absence of deers, children in the villages have been made target by the leopards. The reason for this the spokesman said that decline in vegetation in their habitats has been primarily responsible for it. Wildlife Department officials have been educating the people about preventive and safe measures which could help in reducing the density of leopard population in the area.

Source: Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 9th August

Govt. sets up a cell, which will identify projects using eco-services as ask them to pay for them Environment: It's payback time, says HP

Himachal Pradesh government has notified creation of the Eco-Services System Cell, which would keep a constant eye on climate change phenomenon and research. The main task of the Cell would be identification of projects where use of eco-services like water, would attract a cost to be paid by the beneficiaries like industries or hydropower projects. Additional Secretary Forest, Mr. Avay Shukla has said that the cell would combine initiatives of forest conservation and strategies for

combating climate change.

Source: Indian Express, Chandigarh, 11th August

75 institutions roped in to study climate change impact

The Ministry of Environment & Forests is coordinating the details of the largest ensemble of scientific and economic studies undertaken by the government as part of its official report to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Seventy five research, academic and government institutions are being coordinated into studying all kinds of possible impacts of global warming to Indian shores.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi, 12th August

India goes more ethanol with new policy

Union Cabinet on Tuesday, 9th September, 2008 has approved the new National Policy on Bio-fuels with the objective to mix the bio-fuel with petrol and diesel to 20 per cent by 2017. The Ethanol is already being mixed with petrol by domestic retailers to 5 per cent of volume. But the new plans are to double that to 10 per cent from October, 2008 with new sugarcane crushing season. Moreover, no taxes and duties should be levied on bio-diesel and that of bio-fuels. Indian consumes 40 million tonnes of diesel and 8-9 million tonnes of petrol a year. Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Mr. Vilas Muttemwar said bio-diesel plantation would be encouraged on wastelands.

Source: New Indian Express, Chennai, 12th September

Another panel to study pollution of Sutlej, Sirhind canal

The Punjab government has set up another committee to look into the problem of pollution in the Sutlej and the Sirhind canal. The committee, headed by special secretary, irrigation, Mr. Alok Shekhar, has been asked to undertake a survey of the entire reach of Sutlej and Sirhind canal system to identify unauthorized discharge of effluents into the rivers and canals on the one hand and the treated effluents being discharged in the rivers, which did not comply the prescribed pollution norms as well as the municipal/domestic waste on the other. The committee has been asked to submit its report within a fortnight.

Source: The Tribune, New Delhi, 12th August

PAEDA to achieve targets: Majithia

While interacting with media persons at village Noorpur on 11th August, 2008, Mr. Bikram Singh Majithia, Punjab Minister for Information and Public Relations, Water and Sanitation and Science and Technology said that the government had signed MOUs with the India Bull, a USA Solar Energy Company for executing 17 MW power projects, the first of its kind in the country. The Minister further said that Punjab Energy Development (PAEDA) has also signed MOU with the Bharat Petroleum to execute 1 MW Solar Power Project at Lalru and is all set to achieve power potential of 1581 MW in New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE) by 2010.

Source: Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 12th August

Tigers migrating from Rajaji's western section

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr. Shrikant Chandola said that number of tigers in the western section of Rajaji National Park has come down to as low as one or two from six or seven. He added that the park has more than a dozen tigers and mostly concentrated in the eastern section of the park. The main cause for this is that tigers having migrated from this section of the forest because of the human colonies close by and possibility of poaching. Similarly, Mr. Chandola also gave an account of the elephant population in the forest and disclosed that in the last four years, four elephants have died on account of coming in contact with electric fences put by farmers to save their farms from the animals. The principal chief conservator, Dr. R.B.S. Rawat said that special emphasis will be made to generate awareness on wildlife conservation amongst the people and the school children living in these fringe villages.

Source: Indian Express, New Delhi, 12th August

Plastics no more, vows admn.

The state government has decided to take the help of NGOs for awareness against plastics as it believes that plastics and encroachment

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are the main culprits of water logging as in Patna. In this regard, Mr. Praveen Amanullah, Secretary of the Humlog Trust that launched "Pawan Patna Abhiyan" on Monday said that their campaign against plastics and garbage will continue till the State Capital is rid of them.

Source: Hindustan Times, Patna, 12th August

Exhibition on global warming launched

Delhi Chief Minister, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit has inaugurated sixth cartoon exhibition at Experimental Art Gallery at India Habitat Centre on 11th August, 2008, which has tried to put out various problems, causes and solutions of the growing environmental hazard through the eyes and hands of a cartoonist.

Source: The Hindu, New Delhi, 14th August

Nature is victim in power play

Mr. V. Baskara Ramana Murthy, member-secretary of the State Biodiversity Authority said that he has already informed the National Biodiversity Authority that allowing thermal power plants at Naupada Swamps and at Polatitippa village will certainly destroy the bird habitat and local ecosystem. As per Mr. Murthy, Andhra Pradesh state government has allowed the East Coast Energy Private Limited to set up a thermal power plant at Naupada Swamps, a famous bird habitat located six km. away from Telinelpuram of Srikakulam district. Similarly, the Thermal Power Tech Corporation (India) Limited is also setting up another thermal power plant at Polatitippa village of Machilipatnam mandal in Krishna district, which is famous for its mangroves and mud flats and is an ecologically sensitive area.

Source: Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad, 17th August

Two wildlife rescue centres being built in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand has started work on setting up two rescue centres for leopards and tusker elephants, which are most vulnerable to poaching and revenge killings caused due to human-animal conflict situations. In this regard, Uttarakhand Chief Wildlife Warden, Mr. Srikant Chandola has said that though the centres will be for all animals but the focus will be on these two species.

Source: Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 18th August

Peafowl count on the anvil

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) had carried out a study on the national bird and realized that the population status of Peacock, the national bird of the country, is under threat. As per the study report, the Peafowl population in areas adjoining cultivated land due to excessive use of insecticide and pesticide during the sowing and cropping season is one of the threats to the peafowl population. By submitting an abridged report to the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests, the WII has proposed to the government the steps to be taken to determine the population status of the Peacock.

Source: The Statesman, New Delhi, 18th August

Drinking water scheme

Haryana minister for power, water supply and sanitation, Mr. Randeep Singh Surjewala on Tuesday, 19th August, 2008 has launched the Indira Gandhi Pey Jal Yojna (Urban) to provide the drinking water facility to Scheduled Caste families in urban areas of the State. Besides, the department would provide a 200 litre tank to each Scheduled Caste house, which would be fitted with a tap.

Source: The Tribune, New Delhi, 20th August

Use of renewable energy must for a clean environ

In a lecture on "Role of Forestry in the Climate Change for Sustainability" jointly organized by the Sustainable Development Forum and the Bihar State Centre of the Institution of Engineers (India), Mr. M.K. Sharma, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) has drawn attention that urbanization has led to high dependence on modern day electronic gadgets which emitted highly toxic gases. Mr. Sharma has emphasized the need to use the devices operated by renewable energy like solar, hydel and wind sources.

Source: Hindustan Times, Patna, 18th August

Bio-diversity & Bio-technology award 2007-08 to Fr. Paul Pallipadan CMI

State Minister of Health Medical Education and Family Welfare & Energy, Dr. Gaurishankar Shejwar has awarded Biodiversity and Biotechnology prize of Rs.5000/- and merit certificate from District Forest Office & Horticulture Department and Agriculture Department of Raisen to Fr. Paul Pallipadan CMI, Seva Asharam Tulsipar Block Begamganj at Police grounds, on the occasion of Independence Day. Fr. Paul has been working in the field of Biodiversity for the last 20 years and has conserved many hard species of medicinal and other types of plants.

Source: Central Chronicle, Bhopal, 18th August

2nd Green Revolution needed

Inaugurating a national level meeting of wheat and jowar breeders in Hissar, Haryana Governor and Chancellor of Haryana Agricultural University, Mr. A.R. Kidwai on 19th August, 2008 said that India needed a second Green Revolution to meet the demand for foodgrains due to an increase in population. He called up scientists to develop high yielding disease resistant varieties of wheat which would use minimal natural resources.

Source: The Tribune, New Delhi, 20th August

HP's drive to combat climate change

Himachal Pradesh Forest Minister, Mr. J.P. Nadda has said that in first micro-level initiative to combat climate change, 1.5 million saplings planted under the Jan Jan Sanjivani programme in the state exceeded their target of 1.27 million. The Forest Minister further said that the state government plans to involve the people in an even bigger way in the next plantation drive to plant 45-50 lakhs medicinal plants and wild fruit plants under the programme next year to take in the polluted air and release life sustaining oxygen for us and play host to animals and insects.

Source: Central Chronicle, Bhopal, 21st August

State to set up Tiger Conservation Foundation

As per the government resolution (GR) issued, the state government of Maharashtra has decided to set up Tiger Conservation Foundation (TCF) as per the guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which will solve the chronic problem of tiger conservation funds not reaching the tiger reserves in time.

Source: Indian Express, Mumbai, 25th August

Water management scheme

The Union Water Resources Ministry has integrated four water-based existing schemes to create the Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme which will help in strengthening ground water resource management system, delineation of ground water development-worthy areas and developing area specific artificial recharge and rain water harvest techniques.

Source: Business Line, New Delhi, 22nd August and 26th August

Groundwater scheme launched

The Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India has launched a new Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme by merging existing schemes with the objective to develop web-enabled ground water information services, design artificial recharge and rain water harvesting projects for replication by states and arrest depletion of ground water through regulatory measures.

Source: The Tribune, New Delhi, 27th August

Armed forces roped in to save Tibetan antelope, yak

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in collaboration with forest department of Jammu & Kashmir, ITBP and Army in Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary's Changchenmo valley in Ladakh, has initiated a research project to identify threats and management issues for the survival of endangered animals Tibetan antelope, popularly known as Chiru, blue sheep, wild Yak and many other rare and threatened species in the high altitude Himalayan region.

Source: The Sentinel, Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 27th August

Committees on climate change formed

Himachal Pradesh government has notified State level governing

council headed by Chief Minister, Mr. Prem Kumar Dhumal and state level steering committee to monitor targets, objectives and achievements of eight national missions on climate change. The Director, Department of Environment and Scientific Technologies, Mr. Nagin Nanda said that focus of the bodies would be on promoting understanding of climate change, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation.

Source: Indian Express, Chandigarh, 30th August

Pollution down in eco-friendly Delhi: CM

Inaugurating a plantation drive and addressing school children in the Research and Referral Army Hospital at Delhi Cantonment, the Chief Minister, Smt. Sheila Dikshit, said that planting one million saplings every year in Delhi has resulted in an expansion of the green area, which has earned it the distinction of being the greenest Capital city in the world. The credit this feat goes to school children, who have been contributing substantially through more than 2,000 eco-clubs function in educational institutions.

Source: The Tribune, New Delhi, 30th August

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Bio-waste disposal satisfactory, says pollution control panel

As per the inspection reports available with them, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has disclosed that the status of medical waste disposal is satisfactory in Delhi's major 10 hospitals including Ganga Ram, Mool Chand, G.V. Modi, R.M. Lohia, Guru Tegh Bahadur, Lala Ram Swaroop T.B. Hospital and Maternity Hospital

Source: The Tribune, New Delhi, 2nd September and 22nd September

Save water sources during idol immersions

In view of large scale immersions to be undertaken on the impending conclusion of ten-day Ganesh Utsav, the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board has issued instructions to its zonal offices to undertake precautionary methods as well as make people aware about the adverse effects of immersing idols in water sources. The board has further instructed its zonal offices to test the quality of water a day before the immersions, during the process and one week after the immersions for finding out various chemical elements.

Source: Central Chronicle, Bhopal, 3rd September

GR issued for Tiger Conservation Foundations for Tiger Projects

With the issuance of GR by the State Government in the last week of August, the much awaited Tiger Conservation Foundations for Pench, Tadoba-Andhari and Melghat Tiger Projects would now be established to facilitate and support tiger project management in bio-diversity conservation initiatives through education, research, eco-development by involvement of people in such developmental process.

Source: The Hitavada, Nagpur, 3rd September

Mega dams

Shaken by the string of protests against mega dams both in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the Centre has asked the Central Electricity Authority to conduct a detailed study on the impact of the proposed dams in the region. The Centre without taking the region into confidence has chalked up a grandiose plan of generating 55,000 MW power by setting up around 100 dams in Arunachal Pradesh. The environmentalists are, however, anxious over the fact that no serious attempts have been made to prepare a comprehensive environment impact assessment report for such projects.

Source: Assam Tribune, Guwahati, 4th September

Signature Bridge to claim 5000 trees

About 5,000 trees are likely to be felled by the Delhi Government to facilitate the constructions of the highly ambitious project state of art Signature Bridge on river Yamuna.

Source: The Pioneer, New Delhi, 4th September

Global warming making tropical cyclones 'fiercer'

The study conducted by Florida State University's (FSU) professor James

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B. Elsner, University of Wisconsin professor James P. Kossin and FSU postdoctoral researcher H. Jagger says that global warming is a contributing factor in increasing intensity of hurricanes in the Atlantic over last 30 years leading to aggressive tropical cyclones. The researchers found that ocean temperatures play a role in driving this trend which is consistent with "heat engine" theory of cyclones.

Source: Assam Tribune, Guwahati, Free Press Journal, Mumbai, Indore, Finance Express, New Delhi, 5th September

Meet to assess water management in Asia

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras will host an Asia level colloquium on water, an event later this month that will attract policymakers, water planners, public water managers, water rights groups and activists. The colloquium is preparatory to the World Water Forum summit scheduled for March next in Istanbul, which is expected to help assess the water management systems across Asia.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai, 5th September

One more Chinkara killed

The Gujarat forest department has launched a search operation to nab a gang of poachers for killing a chinkara, a protected species, near Modhukuba village in Kutch district on Tuesday night. The hunters fled leaving behind the dead chinkara and a motorbike as the villagers rushed to the spot on hearing a gunshot.

Source: Asian Age, New Delhi, 5th September

2010 Games: govt. goes green, will procure 10 million potted plants

Chief Minister, Smt. Sheila Dikshit has given a green signal to the proposal of Chief Secretary, Delhi that nearly 10 million potted plants be procured for the 2010 Commonwealth Games. In this regard, the Chief Secretary, Delhi has said that work on this will start soon and it will be divided between different agencies including PWD, DDA and the MCD among others, as a single agency will not be able to handle such requirements.

Source: Indian Express, New Delhi, 5th September

Water conservation meet held

The Confederation of India Industry (CII) organized a colloquium on water conservation on 4th September, in NOIDA in which senior officials of Jubilant Organosys Limited, U.P. State Council CII, Maintenance and Utilities Subros Limited, Coca Cola India Limited, Jain Irrigation Systems and President, FORCE also participated, who spoke on their management practices adopted for conservation of water. One of the representatives said that water might be the reason behind the next world war.

Source: The Tribune, New Delhi, 5th September

Pbi varsity harnessing solar energy

The scholars in Punjabi University's Physics Department engaged in transforming solar cells into electrical energy, possessing the capacity to charge inverter and other kinds of betteries. The project assigned by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, "Preparation of Silicon Sheets by Capillary Action Shaping Technique (CAST) for Solar Cell Application" is being handled by Prof. R.C. Verma, Prof. in Physics Department and Dean, Faculty of Physical Sciences, in collaboration with Mr. V.K. Mittal, Dr. Anup Thakur of Physics Department and Dr. S.M.D. Rao an internationally renowned expert from Taiwan.

Source: Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 5th September

PWD, MCD to build plastic-bitumen roads

Delhi Government and Municipal Corporation Development (MCD) are planning to switch its normal pitch road to waste plastic-bituminous mix road. This technology helps in improving the environment by clearing waste plastic, which is a major source of pollution, and also helps in providing extra income to rag pickers.

Source: The Statesman, New Delhi, 7th September

Why rivers decide to run away

Shri A.K. Bajaj, Chairman of the Central Water Commission has Vol. 8 No. 3, July-September, 2008

explained that fast flowing rivers are prone to silting up as they surge down the hills and spread out on the plains, allowing sand and suspended matter to deposit in their slower, wider depths. These deposits create resistance, forcing the river to move to an area of lower resistance, which is called changing course.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi, 7th September

Plantation scheme launched

The forest department has launched a new scheme in Allahabad "Forestry at your doorstep" under which people wanting to set up a garden can dial a number and the forest people will land at their doorstep. Mr. S.N. Misra, the district official said that hope to make Allahabad green in the coming years for which they will undertake the task of land scaping and planting trees and will give tips on garden maintenance. However, the service is not entire free of cost. Customers will be required to pay Rs.20/- for saplings of the ordinary variety and Rs.40/- for saplings of special trees.

Source: Asian Age, 9th September

Chinkara Killing Case: Atram, 5 Others Get Bail

A Sessions Court on Monday, 8th September, 2008 granted bail to former Maharashtra minister Dharmarao Baba Atram, charged with killing a Chinkara deer under the Wildlife Act. Additional Sessions judge Sanjay Patil directed the accused not to leave the country without permission of the court and not to temper with the evidence and witnesses in the case.

Source: Metro Now, New Delhi, 9th September

Cabinet okays ban on use of plastic

Delhi Cabinet on Monday cleared the Degradable Plastic Bag Manufacture, Sales and Usage and Garbage (Control) (Amendment) Bill 2008 which officials say pack on enough deterrence for indiscriminate use of plastic bags. The Bill specifies that only biodegradable natural or white colour plastic bags of atleast 40 micron thickness or more should be used, failing which a first time penalty of Rs.500/- will be imposed.

Source: Metro, Hindustan Times, New Delhi, 9th September

Joshi for change in lifestyle to fight global warming

During a presentation on Global warming and climate change at Raj Bhawan here on 9th September, 2008, Uttarakhand Governor B.L. Joshi called for a change in lifestyles, stop using polythene bags, cleanse rivers and other water bodies and use electronic gadgets to the minimum to maintain ecological balance and fight the effects of global warming. He also advocated growing crops which not only give a better yield but are also environment friendly.

Source: Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 10th September

World Bank to help Tiger Reserve in Mizoram

The Dampa Tiger Reserve, situated on the western part of Mizoram along the international border with Bangladesh, about 127 km. from Aizawl, is one of the six approved tiger reserves across India to receive the World Bank aid to the tune of Rs.1,700 lakhs for its maintenance. The Environment and Forest Minister R. Lalthanglina, also the president of the Mizoram Tiger Conservation Foundation, in a special meeting of the executive committee on tiger conservation society held on 9th September, 2008, stated that the programme also seeks to provide people of the surrounding areas with reasonable means of livelihood.

Source: The Sentinel, Guwahati, 10th September

Great Indian Bustard fights for survival

The Great Indian Bustard sanctuary located around 400 km. from Mumbai and spread over the adjoining areas of Solapur and Ahmedagar districts covering over vast area of 8,496.44 square km. The sanctuary is now all set to be drastically reduced by 96 per cent to merely 395 square kilometer with the Maharashtra Government filing an affidavit in the Supreme Court for its approval in the matter. Justifying the government's move, Rajendra Magrulkar, joint secretary in Forest ministry in Maharashtra government told PTI that the decision to cut down the area of the Great Indian Bustard sanctuary as a result of legal tussle between people and officials since no commercial activities can be allowed in the region.

Source: Times of India, Mumbai, The Sentinel, Guwahati, 10th September

Poaching from across the border worries Forest Dept

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has warned that the poachers from Bawanriya community are active on the other side of the border in Nepal and can sneak into Indian side anytime. Shukla Phanta forest in Nepal is touching with Lagga-bagga range in Pilibhit division in U.P. The decline in the number of tigers from 12 to three gives evidence that the poachers are very much present across the border. At present there are 23 sanctuaries and one national park in U.P. and tiger population is 119 as per Wildlife Institute of India.

Source: Hindustan Times, Lucknow, 10th September

Srinagar fed with poisonous Dal waters

The convener of the Public Interest Litigation Forum, Advocate Mr. G.M. Wani has alleged that the Dal lake water has turned poisonous and unfit for human consumption due to extensive inflow of sewage and garbage into it. Dal lake is a major source of drinking water for over a million inhabitants of Srinagar and its outskirts. But the waste of nearly 50,000 people living in and around the Lake is directly discharged into the water body. Therefore, to ensure health and safety of the Srinagar city inhabitants, the PIL seeks an order from the High Court in the nature of Mandamus directing them to find an alternative source of drinking water.

Source: Greater Kashmir, Srinagar, 11th September

At Yamuna, a plan to tap rainwater, restore its ecosystem

The Yamuna Biodiversity Park, thought up by the University's Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems (CEMDE), has been developed over 156 acres by a group of scientists from Delhi University. Owned by the Delhi Development Authority, this is a manmade waterbody with dry areas where scientists have also tried to simulate the Yamuna's original ecosystem. It will not only arrest flood water but will also improve the underground reservoir that caters to North Delhi's growing water needs.

Source: Indian Express, New Delhi, 12th September and Indian Express, Mumbai, 13th September

Myth of power

The Union Ministry of Power has set up a committee to look into the questions raised by Shri G.D. Agarwal, former member secretary of the Central Pollution Control Board demanding that no hydropower projects should come up on the 125 km. stretch between Uttarkashi and Gangotri on the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda basins, the tributaries of the Ganga river as these would affect the flow of the river and its purity. This has also led to a debate on how much flow is needed to sustain the ecology and nearby groundwater. But the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) says there is no use of having a designated minimum flow for all rivers. It is different from different rivers and depends on how much flow is needed for ecology sustenance in that area.

Source: Central Chronicle, Bhopal, 15th September

Sunderbans people turning into refugees due to global warming

A research team led by Prof. Sugata Hazra, Director, School of Oceanographic Studies in Jadavpur University in Kolkata has found that 82 square km. land has been inundated over the past three decades. He predicted that 70,000 people out of 4.1 million people living in the islands would be rendered homeless by 2020 from the Indian part of Sunderbans by the sea rises fed by melting ice. He demands an international provision for the displaced people whom he terms as 'environmental refugees'.

Source: The Hitavada, Nagpur, 15th September

Pact on water management mechanism

During the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) signalling a desire to expedite work on the outstanding water projects between India and Nepal, a bilateral meeting between Nepal Water Resources Minister, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Poudel and Union Water Resources Minister, Mr. Saifuddin Soz was held on Tuesday, 16th September. In that meeting, it was agreed to set up a three-tier joint water management mechanism which will focus against the backdrop of the

recent devastating floods in Nepal.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai, 17th September

Madras University to get back Metrowater connection

The University of Madras will connect its sewers with the Metrowater system, rather than dumping its filth into the Buckingham Canal. Vice-Chancellor, Mr. S. Ramachandran announced on 17th September that within the next month, the University's Chepauk campus would get a drainage connection for the first time and reconnect the Metrowater water supply system disconnected several decades ago.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai, 18th September

City's green to grow greener

Delhi Government's environment secretary, Mr. J.K. Dadoo said that they have planned to develop nine forest cities this year which will be in addition to the 23 existing cities in Delhi. In this regard, they have identified around 220 hectares of land belonging to east, northwest and south west districts of the city.

Source: Metro, New Delhi, 20th September

Carbon count in forests

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education has taken up a study to find out the rate of absorption of carbon by forest soils and also focus on the variation in absorption of carbon by different kinds of plants in the country. The study will also help scientists to assess levels of emissions into the atmosphere and initiate measures to control it.

Source: Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad, 20th September

Global warming a cause of concern

While inaugurating ceremony of Blue Planet an innovative project on global warming, organized by Diva, youth wing of Rajasthani Mahila Mandal at Naivedyam Hall, Director Dr. Tapan Chakrabarty of NEERI said that growing population has increased the consumption by two times. He stressed on the need to check the habit of consuming more than our needs.

Source: The Hitavada, Nagpur, 21st September

Wildlife experts demand revival of Kailadevi sanctuary to save tigers

In order to avoid territorial fights among big cats in the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, the wildlife experts have stressed that the adjacent Kailadevi Sanctuary should be revived immediately for free movement of the royal predator. In a recent meeting of the Standing Committee of the Wildlife Board, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) member-secretary Rajesh Gopal expressed his displeasure over the Rajasthan Government not identifying buffer areas.

Source: The Hitavada, Nagpur, 23rd September

Sariska to welcome more tigers from Ranthambhore reserve

With the aim to boost the tiger population in the reserve, the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will shift three more big cats, one tiger and two tigresses from Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve to Sariska by October.

Source: Mail Today, New Delhi, 23rd September

500 crocodiles to make Mumbai their home

Mr. Babanrao Pachpute, Maharashtra state forest minister said that along with Conservation Action Trust (CAT), they are planning a unique crocodile park within the upcoming Mangrove Wetland Centre (MWC) between Vikhroli and Mulund to attract more people.

Source: Yuva, Mumbai, 24th September

Sheila's 'Save the Peacock' mission shows results

Under the 'Save the Peacock' mission launched by the Chief Minister, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) released four adult pea fowls, which were trapped and caged when they were young to save them from being eaten by mongooses and cats. The NDMC's horticulture department chairperson, Mr. Parimal Rai and the Chief Minister released the birds at Lodhi Gardens.

Source: The Statesman, New Delhi, 25th September

Centre moots special force to protect tigers

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has moved a proposal to the Environment Ministry seeking its approval for deploying a fully armed force to protect the highly endangered royal big cats in the 15 tiger reserves in the country which are left with around 1,400 big cats.

Source: Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, Financial World, Chandigarh, 25th September

Rains threaten precious vulture nestling

Mr. Ramesh Singh, Haryana Chief Wildlife Warden said that Wildlife officials are on their toes to ensure that heavy rains in Haryana in the past few days do not wash away the two vulture nestling at a breeding centre for the endangered birds in Pinjore. He also said that as a precautionary measure, a stone embankment is being built to divert the water from the stream so that it does not enter the centre and spread over five acres.

Source: Political & Business Daily, New Delhi, 25th September

Ministry turns turtle-friendly

Mr. R.B. Lal, Inspector General of Forest (Wildlife) in Ministry of Environment said that they are writing to the Agriculture Ministry to replace the classic J hooks with circular hooks to reduce the incidental catch of marine turtles without affecting the fisheries activity.

Source: Metro Now, New Delhi, 26th September

Project for mapping of water resources

Kerala Water Resources Minister, Mr. N.K. Premachandran said on Friday that a project for mapping of water resources has been envisaged to chalk out programmes for optimum utilization of the available resources and prepare data of the resources for the future in the state

Source: The Hindu, New Delhi, 27th September

Global warming will damage Himalayan range

At the Seminar organized by the Uttarakhand Tourism on Saturday to mark the World Tourism Day, noted ecologist, Prof. S.P. Singh warned that it was high time that a clear policy was formulated so as to check the disastrous impact the climate change on the world's biggest mountain range.

Source: Hindustan Times, Indore, 29th September

Environmental Calender

October 1	International day of the Elderly.
October 3	World Habitat Day.
October 4	World Animal Welfare Day.
October 8	Indian Air Force Day.
October 9	World Post Office day.
October 10	National Post Day.
October 13	UN International Day for National disaster reduction.
October 14	World Standards Day.
October 15	World White Cane Day (guiding the Blind).
October 16	World Food Day.
October 24	UN Day, World development information Day.
October 30	World Thrift Day.
November 14	Children's Day (in India)
November 20	Africa Industrialization Day.
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People.
December 1	World Aids Day.
December 4	Navy Day.
December 7	Armed Forces Flag Day.
December 10	Human Right Day.
December 23	Kisan Divas Farmer's Day).
December 25	X-Mas day
December 31	Last day of the year

Source: <http://www.didwana.com/impdays.htm>

Useful Links

The latest edition of the Directory of Environmental NGOs in India 2008 is being finalized by the ENVIS Centre. Detailed information has been received from NGOs working in the field of conservation across the country. The website addresses provided by Delhi based NGOs.

Greentech Foundation It is working to promote education, training, research and dissemination of knowledge, advancing the scientific, technical and practical aspects of wastes management and climate change to safeguard environment	http://www.greentech.org/
Human Resource Development Foundation (HRDF) It is working for environment protection and development of weaker sections of the society in rural areas.	http://www.hrdf.org.in/
Indian Environment Society It is working to provide development framework that are ecologically sound, self sustaining and equitable in the distribution of resource and opportunities.	http://www.iespanchayat.net.in/
Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH) It has been working at village, town, tehsil, block, district and state levels to conserve natural, cultural and material heritage of India	http://www.intach.org/home.htm
Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) It has been working for handling recycling work of 20 tonnes of municipal waste every day in Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida and Ghaziabad	www.ipcaworld.org
Indian Social Institute (ISI) It has been working to advocate the cause of poor, scheduled castes, dalits, tribals, indigenous people and other marginalized communities through research, training and action for socio-economic development and human rights	http://www.isidelhi.org.in/
Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) It is a development support organization seeking to reach out to the most marginalized and vulnerable communities of the Indian subcontinent. Our objective is to make a difference in the lives of these sections by establishing meaningful partnerships with NGOs and communities at the grassroots.	http://www.igsss.org/
Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) It is dedicated to systematic study of social issue and problems that confront India, in trans-disciplinary perspective. Its finding and recommendations are made available to the member of the decision-making organization such as government bodies and scientific communities to encourage them to enlarge the options for action. The evolution of an informed and action-oriented public opinion is its primary aim.	http://www.issin.org/

Institute of Social Studies Trust It is dedicated to conducting research and action programmes to promote social justice and equity for the under-privileged with a focus on women	www.isst.india.org
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) It has been working towards enhancing the worldwide supply of food and fibre.	http://www.icid.org/
Kindness to Animal and respect for Environment It is working for the welfare and the rights of animals. It spreads awareness on animal rights, exposes cruelty to animals/nature, disseminates information on solution to the problems faced by these animals through research, publication, workshops and sharing its knowledge with all Indian and international organization.	www.kareindia.org
Lokayan It is working for linking and strengthening local groups working to protect civil liberties, women's rights and the environment	www.education.vsnl.com
National Academy of Agriculture Sciences It is working to provide a forum to Agriculture Scientists to deliberate on important issues of agricultural research, education and extension and present views of the scientific community as policy inputs to planners, decision/opinion makers at various levels.	www.naas-india.org
National Bal Bhavan (NBB) It has been contributing towards enhancing creativity among children in the age group 5-16 years especially from weaker sections of the Society through activities of their choice in a joyful manner.	http://www.nationalbalbhavan.nic.in/
People for animals (PFA) It has been working for the welfare and to fight against cruelty and to protect animals around the country.	http://www.peopleforanimals.org/
Pravah It is working for building leadership and citizenship action initiative among youth change.	http://www.pravah.org/
Press Institute of India It is working to create and sustain a high and responsible standards of journalism for democratic functioning in cities and rural areas of Delhi	http://www.pressinstitute.org/
Ranthambore Foundation It is working for creation of a natural integration between man, natural and wildlife	http://www.indiantiger.com/trust/
Resource Development Centre (RDC) It is working to raise sustainable sources of income generation to reduce poverty and to promote decentralization and beneficiary participation in development	http://www.rdcindia.org/
Sita Devi Foundation (SDF) It is working for raising the socio-economic conditions of the downtrodden on the one hand and makes small contribution in the big task of protecting the environment.	http://www.sitadevifoundation.org/
Society for Development Alternatives (SDA) It is working for sustainable development process, the design and large scale dissemination of appropriate technologies, environmental management systems and effective people oriented institution and people.	http://www.devalt.org/
Society for Environment Information and sustainable Development It is working to unite hundreds of organization and individuals in India and is dedicated to providing extensive environmental information and news.	www.indianenvironmentonline.net
Society for Himalayan glaciology, Hydrology, Ice Climate and Environment (High Ice- India) It has been working to identify specific threats by rapidly retreating Himalayan Glacier and to study the climate signals by measuring mass balance and also to assess regional trends in melting by analyzing satellite imageries also to assess vulnerable communities ecosystem and economic impact.	http://www.highice.org/
Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) It has been working for the welfare and improving the socio-economic status of grass root people particularly women, dalits, tribal and minorities.	http://www.pria.org/
Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD) It has been working to prevent degradation of life support systems particularly land and water so as to expend livelihood opportunities in suitable and equitable manner.	http://www.spwdindia.org/
Socio Educational Health & Allied Team (SEHAT) It has been working for the welfare and integrated physical, mental and spiritual development of human beings.	www.sehatngo.org.in
Sulabh International Social Service Organisation (SISSO) It is working for the liberation of scavengers from the appalling job of cleaning dry latrines and finding them other respectable professions, thereby facilitating them into the mainstream of the society.	http://www.sulabhinternational.org/ http://www.sulabhenvnis.nic.in/index.asp
Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) It is working at the grassroot level to make vulnerable communities resilient to disaster	http://www.seedsindia.org/
The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) It has been doing research in the areas of environment energy, sustainable development, policy, technology development and the bio-technology.	http://www.teriin.org/

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