

Green Voice

October - December 2007

Quarterly Newsletter

CMS ENVIS

Newsletter on Environment & Media

Theme: Climate Change



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CMS *environment*

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The CMS Environment Team is involved in policy research and programs evaluation aimed at creating sustainable solutions for environment protection and improving the quality of the environment. Creating capacities, undertaking outreach and advocacy and formulating strategies are its strengths.

Key Areas

- Urban and Rural Environment
- Climate Change
- Water Sector Reforms: Water Supply and Sanitation
- Natural Resource Management: Watershed, Forestry and Livelihoods
- Wildlife Conservation
- Environmental Education and Awareness

Services

- EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES
 - Water Sector Reforms; Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation
 - Natural Resource Management (Watershed, Forestry and Livelihood)
 - Environmental Education and Awareness
- CAPACITY BUILDING
- OUTREACH PROGRAMMES
 - Environmental Communication Strategies and Studies
 - Environmental Education and Advocacy
- ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE

October - December 2007

G r e e n V o i c e

In Black & White

Anglican leader hits YouTube for green New Year message

Correspondent : Staff Reporter

LONDON: The leader of the world's Anglicans is hitting the video-sharing website YouTube for the first time on Monday to preach environmental awareness in his New Year message. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury said "God does not do waste," in a message filmed at Canterbury Cathedral in south-east England, and a nearby recycling centre. The Church of England leader is following in the footsteps of Queen Elizabeth II, who put her traditional Christmas Day message on YouTube for the first time this year in an attempt to reach a younger audience. "In a society where we think of so many things as disposable, where we expect to be constantly discarding last year's gadget and replacing it with this year's model - do we end up tempted to think of people and relationships as disposable?" Williams asked. "Are we so fixated on keeping up with change that we lose any sense of our need for stability? "A lot of the time, we just don't let ourselves think about the future with realism. "A culture of vast material waste and emotional short-terms is a culture that is a lot more fragile than it knows. "How much investment are we going to put in towards a safer and more balanced future?" God "does not do waste" and does not regard human life as disposable, Williams said. "He doesn't regard anyone as a 'waste of space', as not worth his time -- from the very beginnings of life to its end, whether they are successful, articulate, productive or not.

Source : Times of India, Monday, 31 December 2007.

Utility of GIS technology in wildlife conservation highlighted

Correspondent : Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Dec 9 – A two-day training programme on "GIS in Conservation and Management" was organized for senior officials of the Assam Forest Department at the NIC Training Centre, Guwahati recently. The training was mainly targeted for DFO-level officers having elephant reserves or protected areas (PAs) under their jurisdiction. The training was organized jointly by the Assam Forest Department, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and was coordinated by Ajit

Kumar Nath of NIC and Amit Sharma of WWF. BS Bonal, CCF (Wildlife), in his welcome speech, said that the Forest Department was going for modernization and in this aspect was developing a GIS cell at Forest School, Jalukbari. He stressed the need for the development of a real time field-based database development system on poaching to keep a check on it. He also impressed upon the officers to use the tools to develop the plans and maps of their respective areas, and also collaborates with NIC and WWF for the same. He also appreciated the efforts made by WWF for already undertaking collaborative works with the Forest Department of Assam. Deepak Goswami, senior technical director, NIC Guwahati, spoke on the development of WEB technology and the benefits that can be derived thereof for the purpose of information gathering, interactive mapping and free resources. Prof BS Mipun of North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) was the theme speaker in the inaugural session who spoke on "Recent trends in GIS & Remote Sensing." He highlighted the use of the technology in different aspects of wildlife management and conservation. He also illustrated the use and the developments in different parts of the globe and how the same can be used in the State for conservation.

The training focused on the needs of the Forest Department like use of GPS in the field, management of databases and preparation of maps using GIS. Software training provided to the participants is expected to give them the opportunity to use it in the actual field condition and develop plans with the help of the technology. The resource persons gave demonstrations on the use of instruments and software and allowed hands-on learning making the training practical and effective. The participants' feedback showed that the actual use of the instruments and equipment helped in gaining confidence rather than just the theoretical knowledge. The training concluded with the distribution of a copy of the software on which the participants were trained along with other resource material.

Source : Assam Tribune, Monday, December 10, 2007.

Employee effort to create environmental advisory group wins Net Impact Green Challenge award

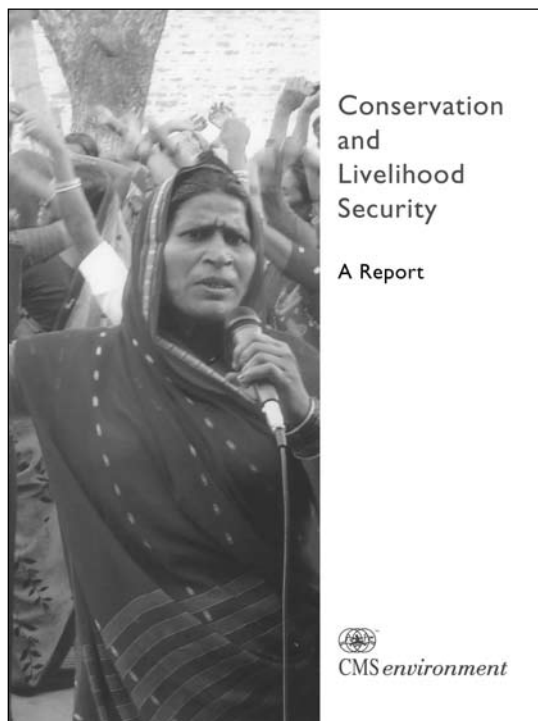
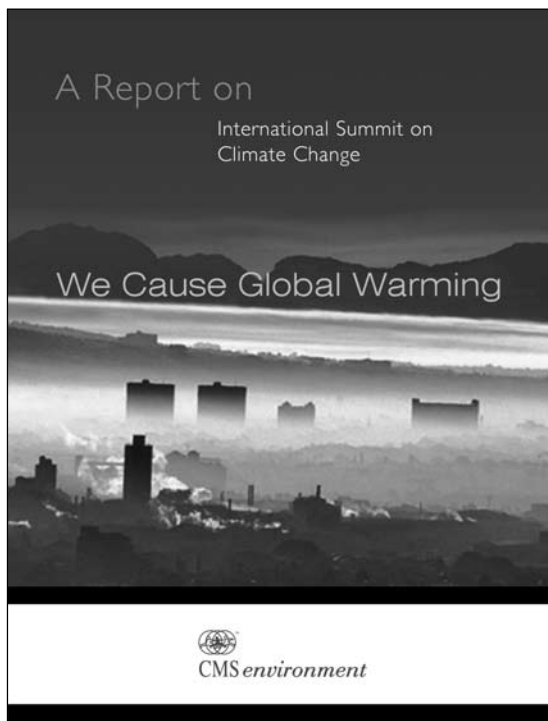
Correspondent : Staff Report

Accenture has won a Net Impact Green Challenge award for its efforts to promote sustainable environmental practices in the offices and communities

in which our US employees work and live. Lisa Neuberger, senior manager-Management Consulting & Integrated Markets, led the effort to form an advisory group of employees who worked together to collect success stories, share best practices and deepen understanding of the areas that could have the greatest potential impact on reducing Accenture's environmental footprint. The inaugural competition, sponsored by Seventh Generation and Office Depot, is intended to show how US companies and graduate students are improving the world through positive environmental change. Judges evaluated the projects based on the measurable difference of environmental impact, their strategic plan, the creativity of the approach and the stakeholder engagement process. Accenture is one of three winning corporate entries. "The Accenture Green Challenge team's goal is to help US Accenture employees become better environmental stewards of our company and leave

less of a 'footprint' in the communities in which we work," Neuberger said. "As part of our corporate citizenship efforts to bring high performance to our communities, these activities benefit the communities and build understanding among our people about how to individually influence change." The team of more than 70 Accenture employees focused on reduction opportunities in the areas of travel and facilities. Among the proposed solutions were reducing travel where possible through the use of video conferencing, developing and promoting employee environmental guides and tools with incentives, piloting environmental project toolkits for client teams to use to develop customized environmental strategies, and launching a program to celebrate Accenture "environmental heroes" once these other initiatives are in place.

Source : <http://careers3.accenture.com>



The reports includes experts' views, their presentations in CD, discussions, conclusion and key recommendations.

Language: English

Cover Price: Rs. 200.00

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October - December 2007

G r e e n V o i c e

Talk Over



Meet **Bahar Dutt** the 2007 FEJI - CMS Academy Young Environmental Journalist (Broadcast) Award Winner. She speaks with Rohit Singh about her passion for environment media and her commitment to environment news coverage.

How did you take up environment to be your forum for journalism?

I had worked with several environment and wildlife NGOs and was trained as a conservation biologist for several years. In these years I studied Amazonian monkeys at the world famous Jersey Zoo in England, worked for conservation groups in Africa and represented the United Nations at international conservation conferences. My years in conservation have grounded me but also given me a firsthand insight into how urgent the problem was. Forests are quietly being signed away, very often the laws are just overlooked. That's why I entered journalism. There was a need to expose the nexus and to show just how lightly we are taking the current environment crisis.

Are there any specific issues you feel more drawn to while looking for stories?

Yes- my main aim was to shift environment from a 'soft, feel good' domain to the hard news investigative space in journalism. I work in the Investigation Team of CNN-IBN and through the year with my team we are reporting on forests are being sold to timber mafia, illegal companies, politicians. I have posed as a furniture designer to expose how illegal wood made from an endangered tree is being smuggled out from Tamil Nadu, how tribals are being uprooted from forest land in Orissa and how a cement company was silently operating in the forest after showing it as wasteland in north east India. I also specifically look

for stories, given my conservation background on species, which would otherwise never make it to news. We have to move beyond tiger-centric reporting, for instance the crisis facing the Gharials, Turtles and the Sarus Crane.

Environment journalism has not yet found its rightful place in news world. What is your opinion about the issue?

I think it has in abroad, less so in India. But even in India it is beginning to change slowly. I do see a slow change - editors of newspapers and TV channels are tuning in more into environment journalism. The fault also lies with reporters and their inability to pitch environment stories properly. Environment stories have to be hard hitting and be able to compete in the prime time news space. I am quite happy that at least at CNN-IBN every single story I have done has run in prime time news space- whether about a sanctuary in Haryana vanishing or a politician building an airport on the habitat of the Sarus Crane

Do you feel there is often more pressure on environment journalists to accommodate with respect to space and coverage vis-a-vis other news?

Yes there is a pressure but that exists for every other reporter covering another beat. The aim is to do clutter breaking stories that force your editor to sit and say - this is a great story we must cover it

Any interesting experience while covering some of your stories.

Many! While reporting on the Sarus Crane we had Mulayam Singh Yadav asking us on camera if we had been sent by the opposition! He was so flustered by the story we had done exposing how he was building an airport on the habitat of the Sarus. While shooting in the Sunderbans we suddenly came across a king cobra swimming in the waters. We didn't want to disturb the snake so we were shooting from a distance. But the snake panicked and came quite close to our boat and in all the chaos I dropped my still camera lens cap on the poor creature. This sent the snake into a panic - it must have thought I am trying to hunt it down with my camera lens cap. But it finally made it to land and slithered away into the forest. I felt quite bad for the creature- here it was merrily enjoying an afternoon swim and along come these strange humans! But it also raised a more poignant issue of shooting wildlife without disturbing it and that's one

thing I am absolutely careful about. That the greed to get the perfect picture we should not disturb the animal in any ways.

What difference do you see between broadcast coverage and print coverage of environment issues?

The advantage print has is that the reporter can get his/her story without actually visiting the place. I envy print journalists in that sense. For broadcast the number of stories we can do is less as it involves going to the place, getting people who are willing to talk on camera. So it's a must tougher task. So print by virtue of their medium can churn out stories much faster.

There is a tendency in media to forget the issue once the initial hype about it is over. How far has it been a setback to environment advocacy in India?

Yes- but that's a problem with stories in general across the media. There is a need to stay with the story or maybe revisit it a year later – to find out if the problem persists or how things have changed on the ground.

Environment is often labeled as a drab subject. How do you make your stories interesting and attractive?

I don't know about attractive but they need to be solid on research - which is why in addition to just talking to 'sources' I spend a lot of time in libraries doing research reading up on scientific papers sifting through information to write my scripts. Which is why my output is also slow - as I have spent that much more time on a story. But then that way at least I can ensure the story has depth.

Do you think awards like this will encourage journalist to cover environmental stories.

I hope so - I have seen a sea change already. In the first year that I started we got three awards - the Wildscreen Panda Award, the Express award for environment reporting and the Young Broadcast Journalist award. More and more reporters who are just a year into journalism come to me daily asking me if they can do environment stories. There is an enthusiasm it just needs to be channelised. But one point that needs urgent attention is not too many reporters in broadcast journalism want to do field reporting. Environment reporting is particularly tough – many times for days on end you are sitting in an isolated forest – its not very

glamorous and can get very lonely. Many reporters also enter broadcast journalism because they want to become anchors – so the desire to go to the field is less. That's something, which definitely needs to be addressed. We need more and more reporters willing to go out there and get their hands dirty.

Do you think with all the focus on political and crime stories, environment reporting will find a space of its own?

I hope so - editors more and more must be willing to send out reporters to get hard hitting stories on environment issues - not just wildlife but how our lakes, rivers are getting polluted and affecting human health. Its important to make that link to the urban viewer but also telling your story well. A well-researched story will make it to prime time news

What does FEJI - CMS Academy Young Environmental Journalist Award matter to you?

The award matters a lot. Ironically I was told that I had received it as I was sitting on a boat off the coast of the Gulf of Mannar shooting a story on the controversial Sethusamudram project. Of course it is good to be recognized for the work one does, its even nicer when it comes from a jury that has worked on environmental issues for years and recognizes the value of what you are doing. It was a good reminder that maybe I am on the right track.

You can reach Bahar Dutt at: bahardutt@yahoo.com

About ENVIS Network

Working towards the conservation of environment, an environment information system (ENVIS) was established by the government in Dec 1982, with a view to provide information regarding environment to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and engineers, research workers etc all over the country. Environment being a broad ranged and multidisciplinary subject, requires an involvement of concerned institutes/organizations that are actively engaged in the different subject areas of environment, therefore a large number of nodes have been established to cover the broad subject areas of environment. ENVIS is a decentralized system, which ensures collection, collation, storage, retrieval and dissemination of environmental information to all concerned. These centers have been set up in the areas of pollution control, toxic chemicals, central and offshore ecology, environmentally sound and appropriate technology, bio-degradation of wastes and environmental management etc.



www.envis.nic.in

October - December 2007

G r e e n V o i c e

On Air

In the year 2007 All India Radio (AIR), on its Rajdhani and Indraprastha channel had occasionally broadcasted programmes for environment awareness. Given below details of these programmes.

03.10.2007	Punjabi ProgrammeCompeering on environment in nalle galla nalle geet
04.10.2007	Apni DhartiVarta- Badhti Jansankhya Ka Paryavarn Par Prabhav--- K.K.Gupta
18.10.2007	Apni Dharti"paryavarn par prabhadhan"---Anant Dube
01.11.2007	Apni DhartiBhentvarta- "Janglon ka varisht vyagyanik Dr.B.C.Sabata se Rajeev Dube Ki Baatcheet
02.11.2007	Goonjeswar Gaon KeAaj Ki Baat: Vriksh Lagayen
20.11.2007	Adha Akash HamaraParyanvaran Saptah Par Baatcheet
28.11.2007	Punjabi ProgrammeCompeering on environment in nalle galla nalle geet
29.11.2007	Apni DhartiVarta-Gramin Jiwan Aur Paryanaran Vartakar: Shripal Sanjwan
30.11.2007	Pratibimb: Paryavaran Sangrakshan Aur Jandayitva Vishay Par Sh. Rajendra Singh, Paryavaran Vid Aur Anupam Mishra Ki Baatcheet
06.12.2007	Apni DhartiJaankari: Adhunik Samaj Ki Nitant Avashayakta Paryavaran Jagriti-Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta
08.12.2007	Adha Akash HamaraParyavaran Sangrakshan aur Vartakar- Ritu Gupta
08.12.2007	Punjabi ProgrammePradooshan-Ik Gambhir Samasya Talk By Balvinder Kaur.
12.12.2007	Adha Akash HamaraCharcha Paryavaran Aur Swasthya
13.12.2007	Aaj SubahParyavarn Ke Liye Sanasya Bane Purane Tyron Se Eco Friendly Furniture Ki Khoj Par Logon Ki Partikriya Va Avishkar Karne Wali Varisht Mahila Rama Anand Se Baatcheet
15.12.2007	Adha Akash HamaraParyavaran Suraksha Avam Jaroori Dayitva-Salila & Shashikant
19.12.2007	Goonje Swar Gaon KeAaj Ki Baat: Dhooan Paryavaran Ke Liye Kitna Hanikarak

Source: All India Radio, Audience Research Unit

NGO Vignettes

Sewa Academy

<http://www.sewaacademy.org/>



SEWA Academy is the focal point for all of SEWA's capacity building and research efforts. It is the organizational wing responsible for basic education and for capacity building, leadership training, communications and research.

SEWA Academy's objective is to take the SEWA movement forward. It does this in four ways - through **training and capacity building**, **action-oriented research** of its members, and by building strong **communication** channels, within the organization as well as with the outside world. **Training and capacity building** represents SEWA's systematic efforts at enhancing the capacity of its members to achieve greater personal and organizational development. This enables them to participate more effectively in the processes of change. Membership education (including literacy) and leadership training courses are the core of SEWA Academy. It also carries out many other educational programmes that reinforce the philosophy and principles of the SEWA movement.

Through **research**, the effort is to bring the self employed women into the mainstream of the world of knowledge. Credible, scientifically based research has been a critical tool in SEWA's advocacy efforts. Its research is designed not only to clearly demonstrate the need for overall policy changes but also identify specific measures for implementation.

Communication is a very important aspect of poor self-employed women's lives and struggles. There is the need to develop and strengthen communication between members within the SEWA movement, and also between poor women and the world outside. Different media for communication are used by the women, so that they are both seen and heard.

View Point

Global warming and climate change: Are mass media reporting the truth?

Global warming and climate change: Are mass media reporting true scientific facts or are they spinning a panic wheel again to favour a hidden economic agenda?

Global warming and climate change are suddenly very hot topics in the global mass media.

According to the UN framework convention on climate change, national governments, mass media broadcasters and even advertisers, we all need to be doing our bit to prevent a climatic cataclysm.

An apocalyptic portrait of our future is being painted by governments and mass media.

We are told to expect the worst, and to prepare ourselves for great sacrifices and sweeping changes that will effect us not just at the environmental level, but also at a very real economic level. The British government's recent Stern report makes some very serious claims as to what we have to look forward to, and the future, it seems, is very bleak unless we all make some big changes. Temperatures, we are told, are to increase by 3.6 degrees by the middle of the century, resulting in melting glaciers, flooding and choked water supplies that will threaten the livelihood of millions. Crops will fail, we are told, disease will run rampant, rising sea levels and intense droughts will create hundreds of millions of refugees, and up to 40% of species will face extinction.

The claims are biblical in scale, and filled with the apocalyptic fire and brimstone of revelations.

As more and more people question the nebulous and ill defined war on terror, perhaps the greatest seed of mass panic this decade has seen, it seems that a new "story" is indeed necessary to keep people in a state of constant fear. From such apparently paranoid and "conspiracist" viewpoint, global warming and climate change could very well be that "story".

But challenging the claims of the climate change convention new research indicates that the whole truth is **NOT** being given to the public. Could

it be that information is being deliberately filtered to create a climate of fear, sneak in new taxes, ensure the longevity of cheap third world labour and increase government control of citizens' rights?

In the following guide to the mounting evidence running contrary to the fear and panic being peddled by governments and mass media across the developed world, I look at the other side of the story, along with the responses that this research has gathered.

Carbon Footprints - this seasons WMDs?

The mass media rely heavily on the use of buzzwords to slowly but surely drive home their point. There are few people that wouldn't now be familiar with the fact that the term WMD stands for Weapons of Mass Destruction, and fewer still that could claim not to have heard this term used countless hundreds of times. The Carbon Footprint is this seasons WMD, a phrase we will hear and see again and again, ad infinitum, in broadcast after broadcast for some time to come.

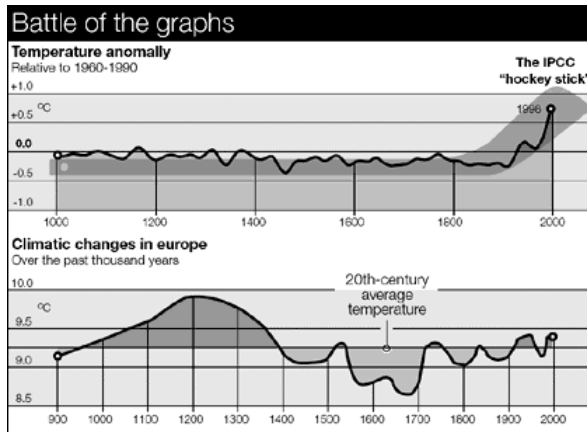
We are told that carbon emissions are directly responsible for global warming.

We are told that if we, as individuals, cut down our use of electricity, use more public transport instead of driving all around the town, turn our TVs off at night instead of leaving them on standby, this will make a noticeable effect on our carbon footprint. Some disagree.

Among the dissenters is The Telegraph claim to present data that raises serious doubts as to all we have been told so far about the state of global warming and the shape of things to come. In this guide to Monckton's contrarian position, which has been both supported and denied by scientists in the field, I look at the fundamental differences between the official line, the findings of those that disagree with it, and the reactions that have arisen from this challenge to the status quo.

Challenging climate change theory

In the first of his two articles, Climate Chaos? Don't Believe It, Monckton raises questions around the dramatic climate changes we are told to expect, and their connection to CO2 emissions. Explaining a 1996 UN report that indicated a dramatic upturn in temperature over the past decade, Monckton claims that certain key data was left out that makes for a vital



difference in how the facts might be interpreted. He writes that the report of 1996:

"...showed a 1,000-year graph demonstrating that temperature in the middle ages was warmer than today.

But the 2001 report contained a new graph showing no medieval warm period. It wrongly concluded that the 20th century was the warmest for 1,000 years. The graph looked like an ice hockey-stick. The wrongly flat AD1000-AD1900 temperature line was the shaft: the uptick from 1900 to 2000 was the blade.

Here's how they did it:

- They gave one technique for reconstructing pre-thermometer temperature 390 times more weight than any other (but didn't say so).
- The technique they overweighted was one which the UN's 1996 report had said was unsafe: measurement of tree-rings from bristlecone pines. Tree-rings are wider in warmer years, but pine-rings are also wider when there's more carbon dioxide in the air: it's plant food. This carbon dioxide fertilisation distorts the calculations.
- They said they had included 24 data sets going back to 1400. Without saying so, they left out the set showing the medieval warm period, tucking it into a folder marked "Censored Data".
- They used a computer model to draw the graph from the data, but scientists later found that the model almost always drew hockey-sticks even if they fed in random, electronic "red noise."

Monckton's first controversial contention, then, is that CO₂ was not to blame for previous climate changes, that these radical and natural changes were deliberately brushed under the carpet to support the claims of the UN, and that the changes experienced in recent times are not so much an anomaly as changes with a precedent - a precedent caused not by CO₂ emissions, but by the sun.

Solar influence over climate change

The role of the sun in climate change, Monckton contends, was also played down in the UN Framework on Climate Change's vision of events. By manipulating the data that they had to hand to their advantage, it is argued, the UN managed to entirely sweep away the impact that the sun has had historically, and continues to have, on climate change.

How was this achieved?

Monckton writes that:

- "The UN dated its list of "forcings" (influences on temperature) from 1750, when the sun, and consequently air temperature, was almost as warm as now. But its start-date for the increase in world temperature was 1900, when the sun, and temperature, were much cooler."
- "Every "forcing" produces "climate feedbacks" making temperature rise faster. For instance, as temperature rises in response to a forcing, the air carries more water vapour, the most important greenhouse gas; and polar ice melts, increasing heat absorption. Up goes the temperature again. The UN more than doubled the base forcings from greenhouse gases to allow for climate feedbacks. It didn't do the same for the base solar forcing."

However we feel about Monckton's other claims, if these allegations of data fondling hold any truth, as supporters in the scientific community would contend that they do, then a campaign of deliberate misinformation is taking place. A campaign that apparently manipulates undesirable data to distort and greatly simplify the reality of the situation. No one is contending that we are not going through a climate change, but the extent and causes of this change are being opened to debate by these findings. The case of the UN, and the mass-media push an anthropogenic model of climate change - in other words, climate change caused by man.

Monckton, and those that support his case, argue that people's role in these changes is perhaps not as great as is being suggested, if relevant at all. He goes on to note that:

- "Sami Solanki, a solar physicist, says that in the past half-century the sun has been warmer, for longer, than at any time in at least the past 11,400 years, contributing a base forcing equivalent to a quarter of the past century's warming. That's before adding climate feedbacks."
- The UN expresses its heat-energy forcings in watts per square meter per second. It estimates that the sun caused just 0.3 watts of forcing since

1750. Begin in 1900 to match the temperature start-date, and the base solar forcing more than doubles to 0.7 watts. Multiply by 2.7, which the Royal Society suggests is the UN's current factor for climate feedbacks, and you get 1.9 watts – more than six times the UN's figure.

- The entire 20th-century warming from all sources was below 2 watts. The sun could have caused just about all of it."

Whether you agree that climate change is entirely due to the sun or that carbon emissions have played a role in the process, the fundamental issue is one of information policing, and misrepresentation of the facts. But the misinformation doesn't stop there, Monckton argues.

Who to trust?

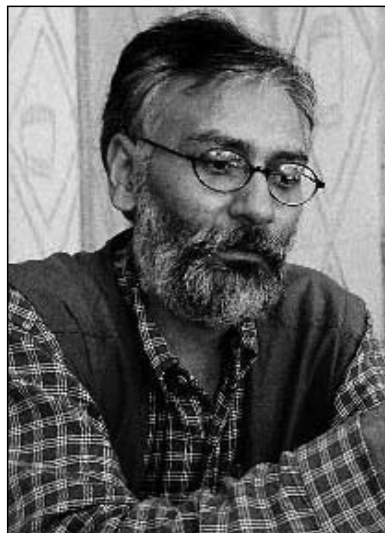
Regardless of how you feel about Monckton's research, the key factor in all of this is the need to question those that would support to serve up panic after panic, only to rescind on their initial claims with the next turning of the tide. Mass media news, quite often the mouthpiece of governments and the corporations behind them, need to be questioned and challenged at every turn.

We have already learned at our expense that behind the artificially-created "story" of weapons of mass destruction lied an excuse to secure oil and increase military spending. Though you not like to look into the face of such historical truths, the panic-inducing apparatus, attempting to keep us in a constant state of mild panic - fear about our health, how we look, how we fare against our neighbours, whether those neighbours are terrorists, if the world is even going to be here tomorrow - is a long and very well established means of keeping people in control, obedient and spending their money on things they neither want or need. Go back to check some history books before calling names and double check some of the above facts before saying that who asks these questions, like I am doing here, is all but a paranoid.

Next time you see another story on the TV news about Chinese pollution, followed by a commercial for the latest Humvee, ask sincerely yourself whether when you watch those apparently genuine news documentaries you are really being served the unimpeded, unfiltered truth or if someone else's interests are also somewhat being taken care, all along the way.

Source: <http://www.masternewmedia.org>

Facets



Nandan Saxena

A postgraduate in English literature from the University of Delhi and a post-graduate diploma in journalism, Nandan started his career as a print journalist. He then worked for Mr Vinod Dua's 'The Communication Group' as a correspondent for the newsmagazine Parakh. A weekly programme on DD, Northeast File, took him to the north-east India where he was stationed for two years as Chief of Bureau. Subsequently, he joined Asian News International, looking after their Northeast bureau. Working in this insurgency-infested terrain, he grew interest in developmental issues, which reflects, in his films.

In 1996, he and Kavita founded Top Quark and branched out on their own.

Nandan directed and produced a documentary for Doordarshan on the Agaria tribals. The film: Agaria-The Sons of Fire was well received at the 6th Mumbai International Film Festival.

Some of the film directed by Nandan Saxena
The Homecoming; 27 mins

Hollow Cylinder; 23 mins 24 secs

Science at your Doorstep; 28 mins 30 secs

Nimiya Ka Ped; 2 mins 58 secs

Power to the People; 28 mins 30 secs

Yamuna; 27 mins 30 secs

You can reach Nandan at: nandansaxena@hotmail.com

Open Windows

Theme: Climate change

Climate Change is talk of the town!

It is very important to understand the issue and contribute at your own level to mitigate its impact. Here are some unique, authentic and interesting websites on climate change for enhancing your knowledge and understanding on the issue.

Climate Change Media Partnership

<http://www.climatemediapartnership.org/>



Climate Change Media Partnership is a collaborative effort of Internews, Panos and IIED to support developing world journalism and perspectives from the heart of the international climate negotiations. The website has details of over 40 journalists from Asia, Africa and Latin America are participating in a climate media fellowship programme designed to improve media coverage of the Bali UN Climate Summit and climate change issues in developing countries.

Greenpeace

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/climate-change>



A very interesting, interactive and must visit website on climate change. The website advocate revolutions in energy policy and focus on sustainable development and energy for all. If you need tips on how to save the climate download the booklet of tips. Series of climate-energy reports, press releases, news, impact, solutions, science all can be browsed on this website. Well designed graphics break the monotony and helps you to hook on for quite some time and make repeated visits on Greenpeace website.

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

http://www.cseindia.org/html/eyou/climate/index_climate.htm



The website inform about the CSE campaigns for equal rights as the basis for climate negotiations, which will form a model for sharing common property resources in future. Links to press releases, fact sheets and down to earth stories on climate change are added features.

Edugreen

<http://www.edugreen.teri.res.in>



Do you sometimes feel that each summer seems to be hotter than the last or that each winter is colder than the previous one? For facts visit this website exclusively designed for children. Information about Green house gases, causes of climate change, its impact, mitigation adaptation measures, tips for collective and individual

action can be downloaded from this website. The website provide clear concepts and understanding about the issue in a simple and systematic manner.

Climate Hotmap

<http://www.climatehotmap.org/>



If you are looking for maps illustrating the local consequences of global warming, visit this website. A combined endeavour, of the organizations like Environmental Defense, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, World Resources Institute and World Wildlife Fund produced GLOBAL WARMING: Early Warning Signs.

The maps in the websites are illustrating following:
FINGERPRINTS: • Heat waves and periods of unusually warm weather; • Ocean warming, sea-level rise and coastal flooding; • Glaciers melting; • Arctic and Antarctic warming.

HARBINGERS: • Spreading disease; • Earlier spring arrival; • Plant and animal range shifts and population changes; • Coral reef bleaching; • Downpours, heavy snowfalls, and flooding; • Droughts and fires.

Global Cool

<http://www.globalcool.org/>



Be Cool is the mantra for global cool website. An entertaining and engaging information hub on climate change. The website is about lifestyles, sustainable fixtures, cool mart, cool tips, global latest, how can you calculate your carbon footprints, 10 facts about global cool, what global who's say about the planet and much more. Do visit this website if you feel the heat of global warming.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

<http://unfccc.int>



This is the website of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is maintained to support arrangements for meetings organized under the Convention, to transmit official documents and reports, and to assist Parties in communicating other information related to the Convention; it also serves the Kyoto Protocol.

The website is targeted primarily at people working in government who have policy or technical responsibilities related to the Climate Change Convention. Members of nongovernmental organizations - be they environmental, business, or related to local government - will find the latest information on what is happening. In addition, staff of United Nations and other international organizations, researchers, academics and journalists will find a valuable information resource.

For those who need a quick introduction to climate change and the Convention, a specially prepared web article, "feeling the heat", will guide you through the main concepts and issues. For a more in-depth introduction, download one of the guidebooks under the "publications" section, or click on the links to the right.

For the "old hands", the sections on "documentation" and "meetings" provide most of the information you need, while the other sections provide entry points by key subject area.

Media Analysis

Source: CMS Media Lab

Technology has effectively become a new language in media today. It has its specific intricacies that synchronize with the mindsets of the society. Moreover it essentially manages to bring about new ideas and create a platform for understanding them with alacrity. For long now electronic media has not been able to do justice with the environment related issues. Quantitatively it cannot be omitted from notifying that news channels, acclaimed features of the electronic media have still not impressively taken up the cause of environment related issues. They still seem to be staggering to push in the environment news and actually not given its deserving space. CMS ENVIS Centre has been regularly providing analysis on the coverage of environmental issues in the seven mainstream 24X7 news channels.

Methodology:

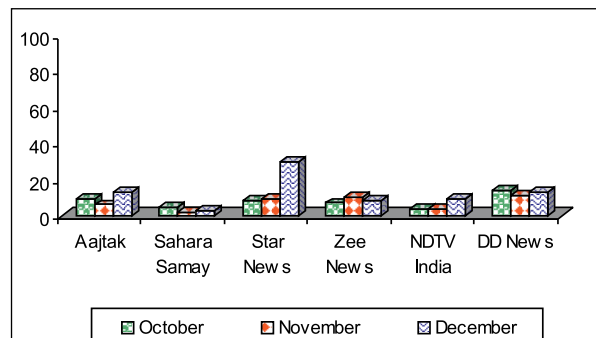
CMS Media Lab has undertaken significant experimentation over the years to develop a robust and rigorous methodology. The content analysis broadly covers qualitative and Quantitative aspects.

1. Prime time band of study. The prime programming is the industry benchmark in News television for all significant events and issues that are prominently covered on a particular day.
2. Seven mainstream Hindi news channels were included. i.e. DD News Aaj Tak, NDTV India, NDTV 24X7, Star News, Zee News and Sahara Samay.
3. The recorded tapes were then previewed and the news stories listed under various classifications and categories to generate quantitative data.
4. The news content on the above mentioned channels were listed and documented in the log sheets.
5. The stories were classified and separately coded (Ex politics, Business, Sports, Environmental news etc.).
6. Environmental related stories are being separately reviewed.

In the month of October 2007, except DD News, all the news channels had less than 10 stories in the prime time. NDTV India being the lowest with four stories and DD News the maximum with 14 stories. In majority of the channels time spent on environmental issues was less than ten minutes in a month. In exceptional cases the time spent was approx. two hours.

In comparison to October 2007, the month of November had 58 stories of approx. 5 hours. ZEE News, DD News and NDTV 24X 7 had 10, 11 and 16 environmental stories respectively. In December 1.6% of the stories had environment focus with maximum stories incorporated by Star News (30).

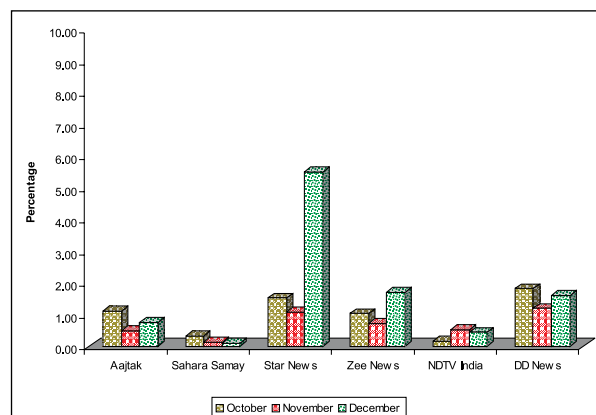
No. of environment & wildlife stories in Oct, Nov, Dec 2007



Source: CMS Media Lab

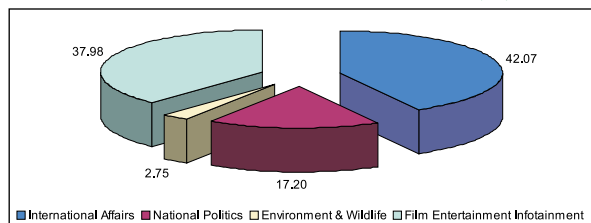
In October and November 2007, total time spent by the news channel is approx. 0.95 %. Regarding devoting time, Star News takes the lead with around 5.5% of the channel time spent on stories related to environmental issues. Amongst other channels, DD News and ZEE News had spent around 2% of their prime time on green issues.

Time spent on environment & wildlife stories in Oct, Nov, Dec 2007 (in Minutes)

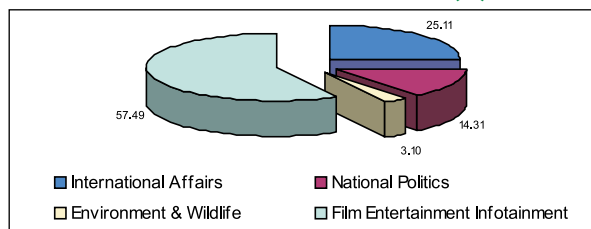


Source: CMS Media Lab

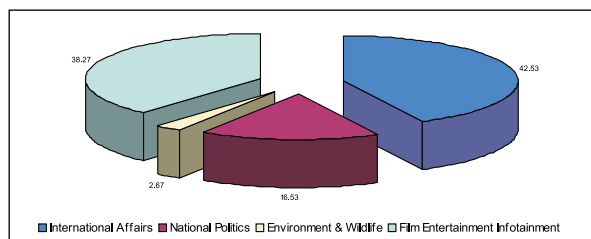
In the 24X7 news channels the priority for covering environmental news has been very low in comparison to politics, crime, sports. In the month of October, 42.07% of the total coverage was given to international affairs, 37.98% was on film and entertainment, 17.20% was given to politics whereas environment and wildlife were 2.75%. The time devoted to film and entertainment was around 57.49% and to environment was approx. 3.10 %. In the month of December around 50% of the total stories were on international affairs. Trend has been the same in November and December 2007.

Number of stories in October 2007 (%)

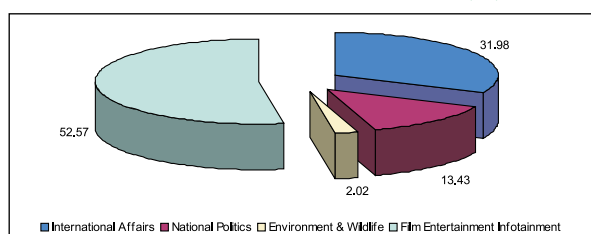
Source: CMS Media Lab

Time devoted in October 2007 (%)

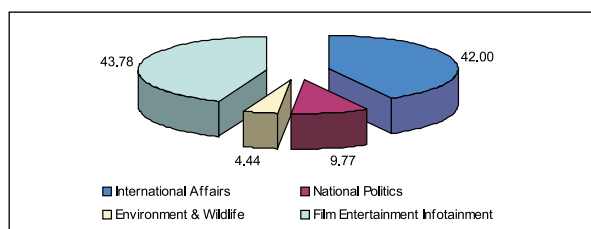
Source: CMS Media Lab

Number of stories in November 2007 (%)

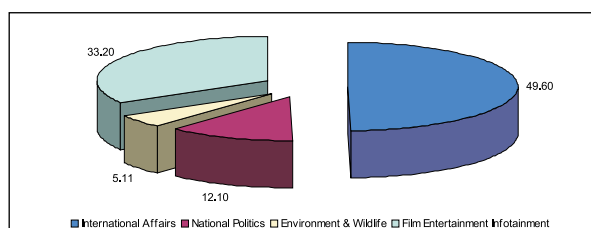
Source: CMS Media Lab

Time devoted in November 2007 (%)

Source: CMS Media Lab

Time devoted in December 2007 (%)

Source: CMS Media Lab

Number of stories in December 2007 (%)

Source: CMS Media Lab

In a Nutshell

Where does Media position itself in such a scenario? What can be done to widen the canvass of Environmental programming so that it just doesn't remain a niche fare. Also in what way can media bring the ever-larger audiences in the fold, to appreciate, and conserve the limited and precious natures bounties. First things first, media is the torchbearer of the society. Given media's power and reach, it sets the issues and agenda. It becomes imperative that media doesn't just respond to the stimuli and be a mere chronicler of environmental disasters and events, but also become a forerunner in leading the environmental movement and awakening.

Over the years environmental debate has been polarized. A catch 22 situation has arisen. Perhaps a moral dilemma too. Isn't it tantamount to "romanticizing" environment at the expense of development and livelihood issues? Famous environmental lawyer M.C. Mehta who initiated a legal campaign to save the Taj Mahal from environmental pollution thinks not. "There cannot be any moral dilemmas, environment should come first and foremost" after all it is the sum and substance of our existence and it should be protected at all costs". Fair enough!

Thus media has to tackle environmental debate by positioning itself, as not just from a critique point of view of the past and present, but also socio-economic, health and quality of life issues should be at the core of the argument. Because health and economic analysis of the environmental devastation is the ultimate soul-quake, that can steer people and policy makers into action.

The media's stereotypical reportage treat environment as either exotic or present the dreadful face of it. Isn't there much more between these two extremes to fill in the gap that needs our immediate attention. Issues that seem innocuous in the first sight, but pose larger health problems till the time it comes to light. To begin with there're many silent health hazards that we are living through in our day-to-day lives. Thus media has to balance the micro issues with macro concerns of the debate. Infact the near and immediate is as important as the gradual and larger health effects that are waiting to happen. Media thus needs to be a "whistleblower" before it is too late.

Green Film Bazaar

Theme : Climate Change

A Degree of Concern

Syed Fayaz
English, 13 Min



Synopsis: "A Degree of Concern". The film takes a very close look at how climate change has hit Himalayas. The in-depth research, scientific inputs and the climate related data from resources like FRL - DRDO makes this film very unique. The film is first of its kind to tell a story that most of us are ignorant about. The film showcases Mr. Chewing Norphel, award winning retired civil engineer's work of making an artificial glacier. Over the last 10 years Mr. Norphel has created 5 artificial glaciers in the region, the longest being nearly 2 km long. This is the first video evidence of climate change trends in Ladakh, for example migratory birds like some ruddy shelduck have started becoming resident of the cold desert. It may not sound disturbing but scientists believe that it is one of the first indicators of major ecological imbalance in the region. The film also shot another human tragedy that unfolded in 2006 on the Zaskar River. Due to increase in the temperature the famous Zaskar River melted in February itself, leaving 95 people stranded.

The film is an honest attempt to tell a complex issue of climate change through some interesting efforts like making of artificial glaciers to harvest water and also by highlighting some unknown / undermined factors of climate change that are already visible all over the region. The facts like, every year nearly 50 feet of glaciers are retreating is not something that we can afford to ignore...

Trading Pollution for Clean Development

Sashi Sivramkrishna
English, 16 Min



Synopsis: One of the most challenging environmental issues facing the world today is global warming and climate change, arising from increasing emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement that attempts to control carbon dioxide emissions is based on the work of the economist, Ronald Coase. This film gives the viewer a simple understanding of how property rights over pollution are assigned to countries and who must then trade these rights when they exceed their quotas. Trading pollution could actually help in slowing down the process of global warming. An NGO in Karnataka is presently trading reduced carbon emissions to fund a biogas project, substituting firewood used by villagers.

Strange Days on Planet Earth - The one degree Factor

Rob Whittlesey
English, 57 Min



Synopsis: Scientist are making astonishing connections between forces thousands of miles apart, leading them to believe life on Earth is being pushed to extremes by a one degree rise in average temperature.

Climate Change Season: Can we save Planet Earth

Nick Brown
English, 59 Min

Synopsis: David Attenborough explores just how much climate change is altering our planet. He looks ahead to find out what needs to be done to save Planet Earth from the worst impact of global warming and discovers what could happen to the planet once a 'tipping point' of carbon emissions is reached. He also discusses the solutions we can all adopt to prevent catastrophic change.

The Story of Flying Weavers

Dip Bhuyan
English, 20 Min



Synopsis: Out of the eight species and subspecies of the Weaver birds found in the Indian subcontinent four have recorded in the North-Eastern States of Assam, once which were available in all parts of the state.

But now surprisingly these insect pest controller birds have visible been disappeared and can rarely be sighted in those places which may be due to use of pesticides in the paddy field, scarcity of nest building material because of mass destruction of forest and pollution. Proper attention and research is needed to conserve these magnificent birds without which it may very soon become an endangered species and be on the path of extinction.

Climates First Orphans

Nila Madhab Panda
English, Oriya, 21 Min



Synopsis: As the world wakes up hesitantly to the reality of climate change, the coastal state of Orissa in India is sure that global warming induced sea level rise is already threatening the existence of local residents. 'Climate's First Orphans' is a heart wrenching documentary depicting the existential dilemma of 20,000 homeless villagers who have lost their houses to the rising and ravaging Bay of Bengal that has mercilessly engulfed more than half the villages in the district of Orissa in India, in a time span of just five years. Global warming and its impact on climate change has so far been limited as a topic of discussion in the scientific communities and the intellectual circuits of the society. For the first time here is a film that touches the subject at the most humane level, with real victims accepting their defeat at the hands of Mother Nature. 'Climate's First Orphans' brings in live examples and covers both sides of the story giving it a scientific relevance and showing its direct impact on the people.

Ozzy Ozone

TVE, UNEP
English, 10 Min

Synopsis: In this animated video, Ozzy Ozone and Alberta the Albatross take a voyage of discovery to find out exactly who and what is attacking the ozone layer and how children can play an important role in making a difference.

October - December 2007

G r e e n V o i c e

CMS ENVIS GREEN MEDIA E-NEWSLETTER



Daily e-newsletter Green Media, an electronic documentation of news and features, which appear in English News dailies in India.

Green Media satisfies information requirements of environmentalists, wild lifers, conservation activists, researchers, media professionals, filmmakers, political activists, NGOs/ scientific organizations, mass communication institutes, lobbyists and advocacy groups in an effective and functional manner. The newsletter reaches to more than 3000 email boxes every day.

This e-newsletter also facilitates easy organization, maintenance of archival material electronically and quick retrieval of information. Presently, over twenty national

dailies in India are documented in Green Media — the largest ever-daily compilation on environment and wildlife.

With the click of the mouse, you gain access to all news and features and other updates on environmental issues including environmental management, air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, ecology, wild life, nature and natural resources conservation, health toxicology, solid and hazardous waste, energy, policy matters etc. These topics are also available in the archives of CMS ENVIS. CMS has established this site to provide access to back files on news and features related to environment, wildlife and conservation issues.

For subscription email to:
Web Master at webmaster@cmsindia.org

CMS ENVIS Centre on Media and environment

Operational since 2000, CMS ENVIS Centre had initiated several activities towards making itself effectively functional. The area in which CMS has expertise is communication strategies specifically in the context of the electronic media. It has been working in developing itself as a resource centre, as a coordinating body and as a centre for dissemination of environmental related information. In the short span CMS ENVIS Centre has identified the database on different parameters. Also initiated innovative programmes to highlight the environmental concerns.

Among its various activities the centre has been indexing coverage of environmental issues from print media as well as electronic media, conducting small research studies to bridge the information gaps, the mailing list with addresses of agencies, individuals, institutions, departments NGOs, Radio and TV channels, advertisers along with computerized database of Audio-Visual resources has been updated regularly, media orientation programmes including screening of films, discussions and interactive sessions on different environmental topics are conducted. The main thrust is upon maintaining ENVIS CENTRE/ NODE websites.

www.cmsindia.org/cmsenvis

State of the Rivers in India

A Seminar Report



Organized by



CMS environment

Year: 2007
21.5 X 28 cm; 24 pp (soft bound)

Language: English
Cover Price: Rs. 200.00

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E: envteam@cmsindia.org

For online orders:
www.cmsindia.org/cmsenvironment
www.cmsvatavaran.org

Environment calendar

January

- 4 - Oil Conservation Week
- 15 - Oil Conservation Fortnight
- 30 - National Cleanliness Day

February

- 2 - World Wetlands Day
- 28 - National Science Day

March

- 2-4 - World Sustainable Day
- 21 - World Forestry day
- 22 - World Water Day
- 23 - World Meteorological Day

April

- 5 - National Maritime Day
- 7 - World Health Day
- 18 - World Heritage Day
- 22 - World Earth Day

May

- 11 - International Migratory Day
- 22 - International Biodiversity Day
- 31 - World No Tobacco Day

June

- 5 - World Environment Day
- 8 - World Ocean Day
- 17 - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

July

- 11 - World Population Day
- 28 - World Nature Conservation Day

August

- 6 - Hiroshima Day
- 9 - Nagasaki Day
- 9 - International Day of the World Indigenous people
- 12 - International Youth Day

September

- 16 - World Ozone Day
- 28 - Green Consumer Day

October

- 1-7 - Wild Life Week
- 4 - World Animal welfare Day
- 6 - World Habitat Day
- 10 - International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
- 16 - World Food Day

November

- 6 - International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Arm Conflict
- 10 - World Science Day
- 14 - Children's Day in India
- 20 - Universal Children's Day
- 21 - World Television Day

December

- 2 - Bhopal Tragedy day/ National Pollution Day
- 11 - International Mountain Day
- 14 - National Energy Conservation Day

World Habitat Day October 6, 2007

The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

If you are interested in sending us articles, features or any other relevant information please contact us at webmaster@cmsindia.org

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