

# Paryavaran Mitra

April 2011 – march 2012

## **Paryavaran Mitra**

502, Raj Avenue, Bhaikakanagar Road,  
Thaltej, Ahmedabad.380059

Phone: 079.26851321, 079.26851801

Fax: 079.26851321

Email: [paryavaranmitra@yahoo.com](mailto:paryavaranmitra@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://paryavaranmitra.org.in>

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**EPH**  
**(Environment Public Hearing)**

During the year (April –March,2012),we participated in 50 public by sending written comments as a plausible stakeholder.

- We informed local people/organizations through letters, e-mails, telephonic talk and small meetings and encouraged them to participate.
  - We empowered people by providing information about procedure of EPH, project detail, points to represent during EPH & also helping them to prepare written presentation.
- We studied the Environment Impact Assessment of 20 companies and sent our comments, views and objections for all the Environment Public Hearing.

<b>S. NO</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Project Name and Place</b>
1	April 27, 2011	<b>M/s Narayan Organics Pvt. Ltd.</b> Tal.Jambusar, Dist.Bharuch
2.	May 12, 2011	<b>M/s Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd.,</b> Tal.Rajula, Dist.Amreli
3.	May 17, 2011	<b>M/s Organic Coatings Limited,</b> , Tal.Padra, Dist.Vadodara
4.	May 24, 2011	<b>M/s Sam Finechem Limited,</b> Tal.Kotda Sanghani, Dist.Rajkot
5.	June 3, 2011	<b>M/s. Omkar Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd.,</b> at Dist.Ahmedabad
6.	June 7, 2011	<b>M/s. Omkar Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd.,</b> at Dist.Gandhinagar
7.	June 8, 2011	<b>M/s. Olympic Laminates Pvt. Ltd.,</b> Tal.Kalol, Dist.Gandhinagar
8.	June 15,2011	<b>M/s.DMICDC Vaghel Power Company Limited,</b> ,Tal.Sami, Dist.Patan
9.	June 15, 2011	<b>M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Energy (Gujarat) Pvt. Ltd.,</b> , Tal. Kodinar, Dist. Junagadh
10.	June 21, 2011	<b>M/s.Alumina Refinery Limited,</b>

		Tal.Bhuj, Dist.Kutch Tal.Kalol, Dist.Gandhinagar
11.	June 22 , 2011	<b>M/s. Globex Laboratories (R&amp;D) Limited,</b> ,Tal.Padra, Dist.Vadodara
12	June 24, 2011	<b>M/s.IPCA Laboratories Limited,</b> Tal.Padra, Dist.Vadodara
13.	July 1, 2011	<b>M/s. Asutosh Pellets,</b> Taluka.Kadi, Dist.Mehsana
14.	July 1, 2011	<b>M/s. Ajmera Cement Pvt. Ltd.,</b> , Taluka.Malia Hatina,Dist.Junagadh
15.	July 1, 2011	<b>M/s. Ajmera Cement Pvt. Ltd.,</b> Taluka.Malia Hatina,Dist.Junagadh
16.	July 2, 2011	<b>M/s. Ajmera Cement Pvt.Ltd.,</b> , Taluka.Malia Dist.Junagadh
17.	July 2, 2011	<b>M/s. Ajmera Cement Pvt.Ltd.,</b> Taluka.Malia,Dist.Junagadh
18.	July 14, 2011	<b>M/s. Stellar Chemical Laboratories Pvt.Ltd.,</b> Tal.Kalol, Dist.Panchmahal
19.	July 12, 2011	<b>M/s.Allchem Laboratories,</b> Tal.Savli, Dist.Vadodara
20	July 29, 2011	<b>M/s National Highway Authority of India,</b> Dist. Dahod.

- Representative of Paryavaran Mitra visited affected villages with local NGOs and encouraged people to participate in EPH. We attended 13 public hearings
- We wrote to Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) regarding the violations of environmental guidelines and EIA Notification 2006 after public hearings of APM terminal Pipavav, Amreli as EPH was not conducted in a democratic manner. People didn't get chance to present their views. We got many complaints from local about this.
- As minutes of EPH of M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Energy (Gujarat) Pvt. Ltd. had not uploaded on website of Gujarat Pollution Control Board in due time limit , we wrote to GPCB about the matter and asked them to take corrective action.
- Gujarat Pollution Control Board had announced EPH at same time and at same date for M/s. Ajmera cement limited's two different projects on 1st July 2011. This was violation of the EIA notification that, at one time only one EPH can be

held at one place. This is also a violation of judgment given by high court of Gujarat in case of MPSEZ EPH & Kutch power generation projects at Mundra - October 2010.

- Draft EIA report of Sam fine chem was uploaded on the GPCB website but 240 pages were missing in that report so we reported this to the Gujarat Pollution Control Board. Gujarat Pollution Control Board uploaded the report again and the date of the EPH was postponed (from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> May)

**List of intervened EPHs is as follows,**

S.No.	Date	Name of Project	Efforts
1.	April 24,2011	Samfine Chem Ltd., Hadamtala , Rajkot	Sent comments, mobilized people and attended EPH Demanded meeting minutes on behalf of affected people Coordination with PVK Rajkot and Gondal Forest Youth Form for mobilization
2.	April 27,2011	Narayan Organics Vendor, Jambusar, Baroda	Sent comments and conducted meeting with affected people before EPH Follow up for the EPH meeting Coordination with four organizations for mobilization and awareness about EPH Mahisagar Sakti Sangathan , Vikas Sanstha Jambusar , Yuva Vikas Kendra Waghra
3.	May 12,2011	Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd. ,Rajula , Amreli	Sent comments, mobilized people and attended EPH Coordination with Amreli District Paraleganl Mandal Complaint to MoEF for cancellation of EPH for non compliance of rule
4.	May 17,2011	Organic Cottings Ltd. , Padara, Varodara	Sent comments , Coordination with Baroda District Paraleganl Mandal Effluent Channel Project and Agriculture loss and Ground water contamination issues were raised during the EPH.
5.	June 15,2011	Olympic laminates , Kalol,Gandhinagar	Sent comments, Coordination with

6.	June 15,2011	DMIC Waghel Power Pt. Ltd.	<p>Sent comments, mobilized people and attended EPH</p> <p>Coordination with Motibhai foundation for EPH</p> <p>EPH meeting minutes were demanded by the people and a letter in this regard was sent.</p> <p>People have protested against the company as it has taken forest land and they are depended on the forest for cattle grazing and there livelihood as people are doing beekeeping.</p> <p>People have raised the issue of water as the mentioned company will use 28 lakh liters per day and local farmers are not getting water even for irrigation. Issue of Green Belt and pollution was also raised by the people.</p> <p>Demanded compensation for electric pole installation.</p> <p>A historical pond of 250 Acers will be in threat due to company operation.</p>
7.	June 15,2011	Sapurjee Palonjee Energy(Gujarat) Ltd, Kodinar, Junagadh	<p>Sent comments, mobilized people and attended EPH</p> <p>Coordination with Paryavaran Vikas Kendra for mobilization</p> <p>A letter has been sent to GPCB for not uploading the Meeting Minutes in the website. GPCB has thanked us for the information and uploaded the meeting minutes.</p>
8.	June 22,2011	Globance Laborites Ltd, Padra, Baroda	<p>Sent comments, mobilized people and attended EPH</p> <p>Coordination with Mahisagar Shakti Sangathan and Borada district paralegal Mandal for mobilization.</p> <p>People have raised the following issues regarding</p> <p>ECP channel</p> <p>Contamination of Ground Water</p>

			Effect on Agriculture land and Agriculture yield
9.	June 24,2011	IPCA Laborites , Padra, Boroda	Sent comments, mobilized people and attended EPH Coordination with Mahisagar Shakti Sangathan and Borada district paralegal Mandal for mobilization. People have raised the following issues regarding ECP channel Contamination of Ground Water Effect on Agriculture land and Agriculture yield
10.	July 1, 2011	Ashutosh Pallets Waman Ltd , Kadi,	Sent comments, mobilized people and attended EPH Meeting with local people for mobilization. Following issues have been raised in the meeting: Meeting with the 20 villagers. A letter have been written to GPCL on behalf of people for a copy of meeting minutes
11.	July 14,2011	Steler Chemical Pvt.Ltd ,Kalal,Panchmahal	Sent comments, mobilized people and attended EPH Coordination with Nagriak Adhikar Kendra and Manav Fariad Nivaran Sangh Kalol for mobilization Meeting with local people regarding EPH
12.	July 12,2011	Allchem Labrotaries Pvt, Ltd.,Savali , Baroda	Sent comments, mobilized people and attended EPH Coordination with Akrti Trust. Meeting with the active villagers
13.	July 29,2011	National Highway 113,Limdi	Sent comments,

		,Dahod	Coordination with Prakruti foundation and Anhad foundation , WGWLO and Bhil Samaj Yuvak Mandal ,Panchayat Mahila Mandala and Anandi Bariya
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***EPH List – District wise August 2011 – March 2012***

<i>District name</i>	<i>No. of EPH</i>	<i>Type of Projects</i>
Sabarkantha	1	cement
Amreli	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cement</li> <li>• Coal based Thermal Power Project</li> </ul>
Jamnagar	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power project</li> <li>• Mining Project(3)</li> <li>• Thermal Power project</li> </ul>
Junagadh	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining Project</li> </ul>
Mehsana	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Captive Power Plant</li> <li>• Drilling of Wells</li> </ul>
Kutch	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power Plant</li> <li>• Captive Berge Jetty</li> <li>• Asbestos Fiber cement roofing sheets</li> </ul>
Bharuch	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drilling of Exploratory</li> <li>• SEZ</li> <li>• Polyester Yarn Plant</li> </ul>
Surat	2	Resin Product
Vadodara	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploratory Drilling operation in NELP</li> <li>• Pigment/dyes/intermediates Manufacturing Unit (5)</li> <li>• Installation of Co-generation Power Plant</li> </ul>
Kheda	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturing of Nicotine &amp; Nicotine Derivatives (2)</li> <li>• Manufacturing Bulk Drug Products</li> <li>• manufacturing of Resin</li> <li>• Expansion of Power Plant Project</li> </ul>
Ahmedabad	1	16 MW coal/lignite based Captive power plant
Valsad	1	Coal based Captive Power Plant
Rajkot	1	Construction of Multipurpose jetty for Cargo handling
Navasari	1	Fertilizer Manufacturing Unit
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>36</u></b>	

2.

**RTI(Right To Information)**

The **Right to Information Act 2005 (RTI)** is an Act of the Parliament of India "to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens." The Act applies to all States and Union Territories of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Paryavaran Mitra has used the Act to get information in environmental sectors to monitor and follow up of environmental laws. Also to testify the RTI Act and its clause, our main area of working:

- To strengthen RTI Act.
- To use RTI as a tool for environmental preservation and control pollution.

The following efforts were taken by Paryavaran Mitra under the RTI act :

**April-July,2011**

**During this period we filed 10 RTI applications**

- i. List of applications and petitions for Right to Information Act

S.No.	Date	Department/Office	Purpose/Objective
01	26 <sup>th</sup> March, 2011	C.I.C.(Chief Information Commissioner),Central Information Commission, New Delhi.	Expert Appraisal Committee (Industrial-2), copy of minutes of meeting dt.16-17 Sept, 2010 asked under RTI which was not given & decision of first appeal not proper hence second appeal filed.
02	26 <sup>th</sup> March, 2011	Chief Information Commissioner, Gujarat Information Commission, Gandhinagar.	Information asked about Gujarat GDP from Finance Deptt. Secretariat, Gandhinagar which was not furnished, hence petition under Information Act column18 was admitted.
03	06 <sup>th</sup> April,	Sabarmati River Front	Details on Sabarmati River Front



	2011	Dev.Corp.Ltd.,Ahmedabad. Muni.Corp. West Zone Office, Ahmedabad-13.	Scheme asked on dt.16 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 2011, full details were not given hence first appeal was admitted.
04	19 <sup>th</sup> April, 2011	Joint Secretary (Land), Revenue Deptt., Gandhinagar.	Hearing on appeal dt.25/02/11 to be planned.
05	29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2011	Sabarmati River Front Dev.Corp.Ltd.,Ahmedabad. Muni.Corp.West Zone Office, Ahmedabad-13	Obtaining copy of Sabarmati River Front Scheme Study report, E.I.A. report, Environmental clearance.
06	30 <sup>th</sup> April, 2011	Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Gandhinagar.	Details of C.C.A status on industries located at Padra Taluka.
07	16 <sup>th</sup> May, 2011	Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Gandhinagar	Written representation on hearing dt.17/05/2011
08	28 <sup>th</sup> June, 2011	Joint Secretary (Land), Revenue Deptt., Gandhinagar.	Forwarding judgment of the hearing.
09	4 <sup>th</sup> July, 2011	Chief Information Commissioner, Gujarat Information Commission, Gandhinagar.	Non-receipt of details of Industrial units, CCA status & unsatisfied judgment of first petition, so a second petition was admitted.

## ii. Use of Information received under Right to Information Act

- a) As per the information under RTI, for the Sabarmati River Front Project, no environmental clearance or a No Objection Certificate (N.O.C.) was obtained. The matter was taken up with M.O.E.F, who in turn issued show cause notice to A.M.C. & State Government, Gujarat. The information was shared with the MLAs and the issue was discussed in the state assembly.
- b) Situated in Jamnagar district, Reliance Infrastructure was allotted land in S E Z. As per the existing market value, additional amount of Rs. 19 crores (30%more) was to be deposited with Government This information was published in Gujarat Samachar daily based on details of RTI.
- c) Based on the information gained under RTI, the GDP growth of the state from the year 1992 to 2010 was presented in the assembly for discussions.
- d) As per the details obtained under RTI, Ekelbara village in Padra Taluka was affected by poisonous gas released by Onero Company, hampering not only the health of the community but also the human rights of that village. This information will be useful as a major evidence for taking action against the Company. Moreover this information

will be used for the affected public while filling their complaints and asking compensations.

e) As per Government Order, waste land is to be converted into agricultural land and allotted to land less in the villages. Shri Bhimasar Project P.Ltd., in Anjar Taluka, Kutchh was allotted 643.48 acres of wasteland for industrial purposes. Locals were suspicious about the motive of the company and feared that in future the land could be given to the company thus hampering their chances of getting land for agriculture. They filed a RTI application to know the provision under the act so that they could monitor the use of waste lands by the company and safeguard their lands against exploitation by the industry.

### **August-March,2012**

During this period, we followed, a total number of 28 applications (followed up and Fresh ones) were made by Paryavaran Mitra.

Apart from new RTI applications, we constantly did follow-up for appeals at different authorities, Gujarat Information Commission and Central Information Commission

### **Use of Information received under Right to Information Act**

- We contacted media persons to spread information we got through RTI – i.e. Monsanto seed, sabarmati riverfront
- We did RTI applications to get real picture of land/water quality of Padra taluka for further actions in that region.

The list of applications under RTI filed by Paryavaran Mitra were

### **List of applications under Right to Information Act**

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Department/Office</i>	<i>Objective</i>
1	Aug 8,2011	Public Information Officer District Collector Office, Himmatnagar, District Sabarkantha	An application was made to disclose the information concerning the cancellation of Environment Public Hearing (EPH) of Dhara Cement, Gadu, Khetbrahma. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Why GPCB postponed the EPH of Dhara Cement which was schedule on August 5,, 2011 with immediate effect?</li> <li>➤ Provide the reasons for postponing?</li> </ul>

2	Sep 16,2011	Public Information Officer, Industrial Extension Bureau , Managing Director Office, Block no 17-18, Second Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Gandhinagar	Following information regarding Mahatma Mandir were sought under the RTI application Proposed construction area of the Mahatma Mandir Project. Cost of construction of Mahatma Mandir? Who is developer of Mahatma Mandir? How many trees were uprooted in the development area for the project purpose? What kinds of construction were demolished to clean the area for the construction of the Mahatma Mandir? How many slum dwellers were displaced due to the construction? What are the rehabilitations and resettlements policy for the displaced of the project?
3	Sep 6,2011	Public Information Officer, Mamlatdar office, Taluka Sanad, Ahmedabad	Application was filed to know the following information: I) Motor projects established in the Sanand Taluka? ii) Land acquired for the Tata motors (Nano), Peugeot Citroen, Ford Motors and Maruti Suzuki. iii) No of People and families are displaced or will be displaced due to Tata motors (Nano), Peugeot Citroen, Ford Motors and Maruti Suzuki projects.  iv) Compensations given to the displaced families due to Tata motors (Nano), Peugeot Citroen, Ford Motors and Maruti Suzuki projects and the procedures adopted for estimate the compensation. V) Rehabilitations and resettlements alternatives provided to the affected families who have to displace due to Tata motors (Nano), Peugeot Citroen, Ford Motors and Maruti Suzuki projects.  v) Procedure followed for the estimation of land value (Jantri or District estimation

			<p>committee) or any other method</p> <p>vi) Revenue generated due to land acquisition and sale of land of above mentioned companies.</p> <p>vii) Types of land provided to the mentioned companies and money received and for what purpose the money will be used?</p> <p>viii) Grazing land acquired for establishing of the mentioned companies.</p>
4	Sep 9,2011	Public Information Officer, SEAC,GPCB,Gandhinagar	<p>Following information was requested regarding Mahatma Mandir.</p> <p>Information about the environmental clearance f Mahatma mandir.</p> <p>Who is developer of Mahatma Mandir</p> <p>How many slum dwellers were displaced due to the construction?</p>
5	Sep 13,11	Center Public Information Officer, Ministry of Environment and Forests, CGO Complex, Lodi Road	<p>Application was made to know that actions taken by the Ministry after receiving the letters regarding the following issues</p> <p>I. Need for a fact- finding mission into the socio- environmental concerns and Environmental Clearance for the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project.</p> <p>II. Fact-finding commission to investigate violation of EIA Notification, 2006 of Mahatma Mandir at Gandhinagar</p>
6	Sep 13,11	Center Public Information Officer, Ministry of Environment and Forests, CGO Complex, Lodi Road	<p>Application was made to know that actions taken by the Ministry after receiving the letters regarding the following issues</p> <p>I. Need for a fact- finding mission into the socio- environmental concerns and Environmental Clearance for the Sabarmati Riverfront Development</p>

			<p>Project.</p> <p>II. Fact-finding commission to investigate violation of EIA Notification, 2006 of Mahatma Mandir at Gandhinagar</p>
7	Sep 16,11	Center Public Information Officer, National Board for wildlife Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road	<p>An application was made for the disclosure of following information under Section 33 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.</p> <p>i) Approvals provided for constructing commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos and safari parks inside a Sanctuary and National park in Gujarat in the last five years by National Board for wild life.</p> <p>ii) Projects recommended by the Gujarat state for constructing commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos and safari parks inside a Sanctuary and National park in Gujarat in the last five years and authorities or persons who have given the recommendation from the state to initiate such constructions inside a Sanctuary and National Park in Gujarat</p> <p>iii) Recommendations given by the Gujarat Wild life State Advisory Board for the construction of commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos and safari parks inside a Sanctuary and National park in Gujarat in the last five years.</p>
8	Sep 16,11	Center Public Information Officer, Ministry of Environment and Forests, CGO Complex, Lodi Road New Delhi	<p>Following information were sought under the section 4 subsections</p> <p>(iii) Projects of Category B treated as category A in the absence of duly constituted SEIAA or SEAC in the Gujarat state?</p> <p>ii) Guidelines issued by Ministry of Environment and Forest as per mentioned EIA notification 2006 section 7 (I) stage 1- Screening</p>
10	Nov 3,2011	Public Information Officer Chief Forest Conservator, Arayan Bhavan Sector 10, Gandhinagar	<p>Following information were sought under RTI application.</p> <p>How many hospitals are available for the treatment for the animals kept under</p>

			<p>National Park and where are these hospitals?</p> <p>How many veterinarians are available for the purpose?</p> <p>Details of the following were asked</p> <p>How many veterinarians are available in each hospital?</p> <p>What is the post allotted for veterinarians in each hospital .How many posts are vacant?</p> <p>If posts are vacant than for how much time?</p>
9	Nov 10,11	Public Information Officer, Unit head Office, Ahmedabad Unit, Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhavan, Gandhinagar	<p>Following information was asked regarding shopping mall and commercial mall in Ahmedabad</p> <p>Environment Clearance of the shopping malls and commercial places?</p> <p>Compliance Report of the shopping malls and commercial places?</p> <p>Visit reports of the shopping malls and commercial places?</p>
	Jan 5,2012	First appeal officer, GPCB, Gandhinagar	First appeal was make about to transfer the RTI at wrong dept
	Jan 5,2012	First appeal officer, SEIAA GPCB, Gandhinagar	First appeal: Wrong, incomplete and additional information was given
	Jan 5,2012	First appeal officer, SEAC GPCB, Gandhinagar	First appeal: No information was given
10	Nov 16,2011	Public Information Officer, Gujrat water supply and drainage system board, Mehsana	<p>About to release water in the Thor lake. RTI was transfferd to Gujrat water supply and drainage system board, Jalseva, Mehasana and again RTI was transfferd to Sujlam suflam dept, Kherava</p>
11	Nov 15,2011	Public Information Officer, GPCB, Gandhinagar	RTI about Biomedical waste facility in Gujarat
12	Nov 16,2011	Public Information Officer, Executive engineer, Gujrat water supply and drainage system board, Jalsevabhavan, Gandhinagar	<p>About to release water in the Thor lake. RTI was transferred to Gujrat water supply and drainage system board, Jalseva, Mehasana and again RTI was transferred to Sujlam suflam dept, Kherava</p>

13	Nov 16,2011	Public Information Officer, GPCB,Gandhinagar	Following information was asked regarding tourist trips during vacation period at Gir forest. How many tourists visited the Gir? How much income by the tourists in Gir? Is there any impact on the lions due to 150 tourist trips in the Gir forest?
14	2.12.2011	Public Information Officer,GPCB.gandhinagar	Effects on the environment due to improper operation of GEPIL and action taken by GPCB *information was asked within 48 hours under RTI section 7(1) First appeal made to GPCB,Gandhinagar Letter written for provide information on pay of cost
15	10.12.2011	Public Information Officer, Ahmedabad municipal corporation ,Ahmedabad	RTI about the management of Municipal solid waste
16	10.12.2011	Public Information Officer, municipal corporation	RTI about the management of Municipal solid waste
17	10.12.2011	Public Information Officer,Rajkot municipal corporation	RTI about the management of Municipal solid waste
18	10.12.2011	Public Information Officer Surat municipal corporation	RTI about the management of Municipal solid waste
19	10.12.2011	Public information officer, directorate of Economic and statistics, government of Gujarat, Sector 18,Gandhinagar	RTI about the fluctuation in the grazing land and the received price of grazing land from the Industries Application was transferred to Agriculture director Then transferred to revenue department First appeal was made to joint director of agriculture First appeal was made to Additional secretary (land)
20	12.12.2011	Public information officer,Udhyog Bhavan,Gandhinagar	RTI about SEZ, production, VAT remission etc

21	12.12.2011	Public Information Officer Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board, 8th floor, Block No. 18 , Udhyog Bhavan, Gandhinagar	Information about the number of approved SIR
22	16.12.2011	Public Information Officer, GPCB,Gandhinagar	Information asked about the action taken against the industrial area spreading pollution at Pipalaj-Narol area
23	19.12.2011	Public Information Officer, GPCB,Gandhinagar	Information was asked regarding the Pre- EC construction of M/s Kejarival Project,Kareli,Surat
24	19.12.2011	Public Information Officer, Town planner,Udhyog Bhavan,Gandhinagar	RTI about the Cd of Dholera SIR public consultation
25	31.12.2011	Public Information Officer, Health Department, Ahmedabad District panchayat office, Laldarvaja ,Ahmedabad	RTI about the illegal fetus sex determination and registered sonography clinics First appeal was made to District health officer
26	1.02.2012	Public Information Officer, Climate change department, Ministry of Environment and Forests, CGO Complex, Lodi Road New Delhi	Information was asked to know the increment in the concentration of Green house gases
27	17.2.2012	Public Information Officer,AMC,Danapith, Ahmedabad	RTI about the management of Municipal solid waste
28	20.2.2012	Public Information Officer, Deputy municipal Commissioner office, AMC west zone, Usmanpura,Ahmedabad	RTI about the management of Municipal solid waste



### **Paryavaran Mitra's Paper was selected for Regional workshop**

Regional Public consultation was organized on 08.10.2012 at YASHADA (Pune) by Department of personal and public Grievance department under Government of India. The theme of the consultation was "Five Years of RTI and looking ahead". Paryavaran Mitra participated in the consultation and raised the issue of improper and ineffective implementation of RTI in Gujarat. In addition; we also raised the issue of government's failure to table the Annual report of GIC in the assembly.

Two papers were sent by Paryavaran Mitra and both the papers (paper on Carbon Credit & Shopping Mall) were considered, both have RTI success stories. Mahesh Pandya presented the paper of Carbon Credit and also received certificate and cash prize for that.

3.

### **CDM(Clean Development Mechanism)**

- CDM projects are implemented globally under Kyoto Protocol to reduce green house gases emission and Global warming by UNFCCC.
- India is second most potential country to implement CDM projects. But it is necessary to scan CDM projects as it should not only mean for money exchange CDM is a market based mechanism under Kyoto Protocol which allows trading of carbon as commodity.
- Developing country can reduce their green house gas emission and earn CER – Certified Emission Reduction which can be traded to developed countries. Apart from project participants UNFCCC and third party validators are involved in this process.
- India is a hot destination for CDM project due to diversity in project, skilled people and easy permission from national authority. India has highest number of registered CDM projects in world.

**Public Consultation:** We participated and encouraged people to take part in public consultation of upcoming CDM project at Fatepura village (Ta. Dasada Dist Surendranagar). We contacted the company to get project related documents but they didn't provide us the detail. Small scale solar power project by AMCO private limited organized a public consultation on date but didn't conduct that neutrally. Project people refused to take any presentation from public and also tried to threaten villagers. We visited 4 villages (Fatepura, Dhama, Bhalgam, Aadriyana) and informed around 40 people about the consultation.

**Comments sent to UNFCCC :**

- When CDM projects coming to UNFCCC for validation, we get a chance to raise our voice as a stakeholder. We studied PDD for Gujarat's CDM projects and sent comments. We sent comments for 53 CDM projects during April 2011 – March 2012.
- We submitted comments for UNFCCC's call for public input for validation process in August 2011.
- We submitted comments for UNFCCC's calls for Inputs on the Policy Dialogue in January 2012.
- We sent comments and suggestions for local stakeholder consultation process for Gold Standard projects to the CDM- gold standard organization in March 2012

The comments sent to UNFCCC period-wise ( April-July,11 and Aug-March,12) are listed below:

**April-July,2011**

During this period, we sent comments to UNFCCC for the following projects at validation stage:

<i>Sr No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Project Name</i>
1	14 April 2011	Grid-connected electricity generation from 21 MW wind energy by GACL in Gujarat
2	4th May 2011	Biomass based project activity by Pradip Overseas Limited, Chacharwadi, Vasna, Ahmedabad
3	17th may 2011	Wind Energy Power Project at Khodasar, Gujarat State (India)
4	17th may 2011	Fossil fuel switch in trigeneration plant at Jhagadia, Bharuch, Gujarat, India
5	17th may 2011	Jangi 91.8 MW wind farm in Gujarat
6	17th may 2011	Bundled Wind Power Project- EnKing International (CDM.June-10-01)

7	17th may 2011	Captive Wind Bundle Project
8	17th may 2011	Natural Gas based Co-generation project by LANXESS India Private Limited, Jhagadia, Gujarat , India
9	1st June 2011	18 MW Wind Mill Project of GSFC Ltd
10	1st June 2011	9.9 MW Biomass based power project in Ahmedabad District, Gujarat, India.
11	6th July 2011	5 MWp bundled solar power project in Gujarat
12	6th July 2011	Adani Enterprises Limited Solar PV Power Project in Gujarat, India
13	6th July 2011	5.4 MW bundled Wind power project activity in kutch district of Gujarat
14	6th July 2011	Solar PV power project at Patan, India
15	6th July 2011	Solar Thermal Power project at Kutch District in Gujarat
16	6th July 2011	15 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant in Gujarat
17	15th July 2011	GHG Emission Reductions through grid connected high efficiency power generation

#### **August-March,2012:**

On below mentioned projects, comments were sent to UNFCCC in the respective period:

<i>Sno.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Project name</i>
1		Bundled Wind Power Project in Jamnagar, Gujarat
2		15 MW bundled grid connected wind energy project in Gujarat, India
3		6MW bundled Wind Power Project in Rajkot and Kutch districts of Gujarat
4		AES Saurashtra Wind farms
5		12 MW Wind Mill Project of GSFC Ltd
6		1.25 MW Wind Power Project in Gujarat
7		10 MW Biomass based renewable energy generation for grid by Junagadh Power Projects (P) Ltd.in Junagadh District, Gujarat
8		Energy efficient power generation at Dahej in Gujarat, In
9		Fuel Switch, process improvement and energy efficiency

		initiatives at brick manufacturing plant in Golan,Gujarat, India
10		Wind Power Project at Bhachau by Powerica Limited
11		Grid-connected electricity generation from 21 MW wind energy by GACL in Gujarat
12		Biomass based project activity by Pradip Overseas Limit Chacharwadi, Vasna, Ahmedabad
13		Wind Energy Power Project at Khodasar, Gujarat State (India)
14		Fossil fuel switch in trigeneration plant at Jhagadia, Bhar Gujarat, India
15		Solar Power Project in Gujarat, India by Waa Solar Priva Limited
16		Jangi 91.8 MW wind farm in Gujarat
17		Bundled Wind Power Project- EnKing International (CDM.June-10-01)
18		Natural Gas based Co-generation project by LANXESS India Private Limited, Jhagadia, Gujarat , India
19		Captive Wind Bundle Project
20		18 MW Wind Mill Project of GSFC Ltd
21		9.9 MW Biomass based power project in Ahmedabad District, Gujarat, India.
22		5 MWp bundled solar power project in Gujarat
23		Adani Enterprises Limited Solar PV Power Project in Gujarat, India
24		5.4 MW bundled Wind power project activity in kutch district of Gujarat
25		Solar PV power project at Patan, India

26		Solar Thermal Power project at Kutch District in Gujarat
27		15 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant in Gujarat
28		GHG Emission Reductions through grid connected high efficiency power generation
29		Solar Power Project by Sun Borne Energy Gujarat One Private Limited
30		Wind Energy Project in Gujarat
31		Clean Energy Generation in Gujarat, India
32		Cepco Wind Power Project in Gujarat
33		1.2 MW Biomass Gasification Power Generation Project Vadodara District of Gujarat, India
34		Renewable biomass residue based co generation project in Ihsedu Speciality Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. (ISCPL), Gujarat, India
35		Wind Project bundled Small Scale in Indian State-Gujarat

#### 4. Public Awareness and Capacity Building:

Paryavaran Mitra aims to spread public awareness through a exclusive series of lectures making people aware about various environmental issues and problems.

Climate Change Lecture Series was initiated by Paryavaran Mitra in November 2008 on every second and forth Saturday per month. After March 2010, it was decided to arrange only one lecture per month. We initiated CCLS as a common platform to share and discuss the climate change issue. . From October 2011, University school of Law collaborated with us and provided a fix venue for the CCLS.

From April 2011-March,2012 , a total of **57** lectures have been delivered by various experts on variety of subjects related to climate change till March,2012.

The lectures delivered during the year April,2011-March,2012 is as follows:

S.no.	Date	Speaker	Topic
1	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2011	Mr. Praveen Prakash (Programme Co-ordinator ,Industries Group, CEE)	CLIMATE CHANGE & IMPACT ON ECOSYSTEM
2	28th May 2011.	Mr. Mahender Jethmalani (Programme Director, Patheya)	Environment, Forest & Budget
3	25th June 2011	ENGINEER SURESH KUMAR MADHAVLAL (Add. Asst. Engineer, Ahmedabad)	HAM RADIO-ITS USEFULNESS & CLIMATE CHANGE
4	23rd July 2011	Ms. Shailaja Pillai (Advocate, Gujarat High Court) Mr. Bhushan Oza (Senior Advocate, Gujarat High Court)	National Green Tribunal - Hope for Justice
5.	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug.2011	How changes in Land use affect our Environment?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Sagar Rabari ( Gujarat Lok Samiti)</li> <li>2. Mr. Darshan Parekh (Environment Manager)</li> <li>3. Mr. Snehal Satyapanthi (Environment Manager)</li> <li>4. Ms. Alka Palrecha (Architect &amp; Planner)</li> </ol>
6.	24 .Sep.2011	ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES: “shock absorbers” for the protected areas.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shri P. G. Majithia (Retd. Officer, Forest Dept.)</li> <li>2. Shri Manish Vaidya (Wildlife Activist)</li> <li>3. Shri Himanshu Banker (Human Rights Activist)</li> </ol>
7.	22 .Oct. 2011	Let's Understand Climate Change with the help of Technology	Dr. Nirzar Lakhia Honorary Co-Ordinator –M.Sc. (Climate change & Impact management)
8.	26.Nov.2011	Climate Change: Natural or Man – made?	Dr. P. S.Thakker (Scientist)
9.	24.Dec..2011	Today’s Burning Problem : GLOBAL WARMING	Dr. P. N. Pathak (Scientist & Writer of many informative books)

10.	28.Jan.2012	How Changes in water trends affects the Ecology? -Case study of Nal Sarovar	Rohan Thakker (Visiting Faculty, Climate Change dept. Gujarat Uni )
11.	25.Feb.,2012	Cut the Carbon : E-waste management	1. Dipen Shah (Eco-Sarjan) 2. Prakash Vaghela (Environment Manager)
12	24 March 2012	Resources conservation & waste management	Shri S. M Jha (Rt senior environment scientist, GPCB)

## **Other Activities:**

### 1. **Enviro Paralegals:**

#### **1. Rajula**

i. Enviro Paralegals have initiated a campaign to protect the fertile agriculture land from acquisition. Farmers groups has been formed in Uchaiya , Bhachadar villages where land acquisition for Videocon and Torrent power industries is in process . Enviro Paralegals have informed farmers about the rules and regulations for land acquisition. Land of the area is fertile and people's livelihood is based on the agriculture and allied activities. People were mobilized and prepared to fight against the unfair decision of taking fertile agriculture land for industrial development.

ii. Gujarat Heavy Chemical Limited is a salt producing company, set in the area some time ago. People in the area are heavily affected by their industrial operation. The locals were also promised employment in the factory but they are not being employed by the company. The problem of stress migration has been increasing in the area. The paralegals held a meeting and helped the locals form an union to press the company to provide employment to the locals as per the promise made while setting up the factory.

iii. A complaint under the CRPC act section 133 was made to Sub Divisional Magistrate on May 7, 2010 against Railway yard Pipavav. The complaint was made both orally as well as in written regarding environmental issues such as decline in agriculture productivity and land and water degradation in the area because of the activities of the Railway Yard.

iv. The paralegals held a meeting with communities of Pipavan , Kadiyari, Vad, Bhachadar , Bharai, and Ramapara II villages were conducted to inform them about the affect of the industries being proposed in their region. The people were encouraged and motivated to participate in the EPH being held by APM Terminal Pipavav and also facilitated in preparing a letter stating the problems that were being caused by the factories.

v. The paralegals participated in the EPH of APM terminal Pipavav. A written complaint was filed against the company for continuously violating the environmental laws. Company had received environment clearance in the year 2000, 2004, 2009 but they have been continuously violating the guidelines and the negative impact of their activities was highlighted in the EPH by Enviro paralegal. A demand for not giving further environmental clearance was raised in the EPH. Enviro Para- legals facilitated the people to write a letter and send their grievances to the MoEF, New Delhi, Gujarat



Pollution Control Board, Gandhinagar and other authorities. Violation of EIA notification and EPH procedure by the company was also highlighted in the letters.

vi. Amreli District Environment Para legal Manch, Rajula in collaboration with Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Gandhinagar and Paryavaran Mitra, Ahmedabad organised a seminar on environmental awareness and industrial pollution on June 5, 2011, the World Environment Day. In this seminar, 50 people from the surrounding villages participated. The main issues discussed in the seminar were:

- Environment safety and care
- Strict implementation of environmental laws
- People's action for raising the issues of environment pollution done by the industries in the Taluka in front of the concerned authorities and ensure that timely action is taken against the culprits.

Eminent personality such as Rajesh Maheta (Leader, Labour Union, Pipavav port ) addressed the audience regarding the responsibilities of employees to safeguard environment. Local Advocate Shri Navchetan Parmer enlightened the audience about the forest protection and gave vital information regarding the provision of Saurashtra tree cutting act.

A RTI application was filed to know the status of Ramapara Grazing land under Mumbai Land Revenue Act.

## **2. Padra**

i. A meeting with local farmers was organised and facilitated for filing complaint against the Onero company in Regional GPCL, Vadodara as well as GPCL main office at Gandhinagar. Onero company at Akalbara is releasing hazardous gas from its factory which is gravely damaging the standing crop and other plants of surrounding area. In this regard, a village meeting was called to discuss the negative impacts of the industries in the area. Umaraya villages' crops and others plants are seriously damaged by the hazardous gas released by Bodal Company. Enviro Paralegals have facilitated the meeting and motivated the people to file complaints against the mentioned company at GPCL regional office, Vododara and GPCL, Gandhinagar.

ii. Intensive awareness generation campaign were organised by the Enviro Paralegal in the Luna, Umraya , Ekalbara , Dabhasa, Chokari, Narsinhpura and Ranu Villages of the Taluka to make them aware about the scheduled Environment Public Hearing, people's rights and impact of industrial pollution caused by the three companies namely Organic Coatings Ltd, Globex Company and IPCA laboratories. EPH were scheduled on May 17<sup>th</sup>, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 respectively .People were mobilized and motivated to participate and raise issues of their concern in the hearings. Enviro Paralegal were present in all the EPHs and raised the issue of violation of environment laws, water and land pollution, especially regarding the water contamination by waste chemical effluents released by the industries in the Padra area. Written complaints

regarding the environmental rule violations by the industries were submitted to the concerned authorities.

iii. On 5<sup>th</sup> June, the World Environment day, June, Vadodara District Enviro Paralegal Manch organised an awareness seminar on in collaboration with Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Gandhinagar and Paryavaran Mitra Ahmedabad. 55 youth from 14 villages of Padra Taluka participated in this programme. Mr. S.V. Chauhan, a chemical engineer by profession, talked about addressing the issues of industrial pollution and importance of people's participation and communities' awareness in tackling the issue. Local leader, Mr. Ranawat Singh talked about the issues of environmental risks and accidents. He alerted the people not to give heed to rumors and requested people to first get the details of the risks and accidents and then inform the concerned authorities for immediate action. A discussion followed on the rapid industrialization in the area and need for all to be aware regarding the environmental pollution so that the government is duly informed for taking remedial actions.

iv. The Enviro Paralegals of the taluka participated in several other workshops and seminars, whose details are as mentioned below:

- Participated in the preparation of annual planning organised by Jan Vikas during 30 Mar- 3 April, 2011.
- Participated in environment awareness seminar organised by Meithei Choudhary Foundation, Mahesana at Datewada during April 25-26, 2011. the paralegals also gave a presentation on Climate change and its impact during the seminar.
- Participated in environment awareness seminar organised by Yuvak Vikas Trust, Ahmedabad on May 23, 2011 and gave a presentation on biodiversity.
- Participated in environment awareness seminar organised by Samudayik Shishan Kendra, Ahmedabad on May 24, 2011 and gave a presentation on biodiversity.
- Participated in "Wada Na Todo Abhiyan" at Delhi during 23-24 June, 2011.
- Field visits were done with the paralegals of Padra and continuous help provided to them for preparing a memorandum regarding local Environmental issues and planned for rally.
- Meeting with paralegals and preparation for rally and memorandum. Farmers of Padra and members of "Parayavaran ane Janjagruti samiti, padra" organized a rally and submitted the memorandum to the Governor of Gujarat by Mamalatdar of Padra.
- Organized a meeting with NGO of Vadodara namely, Jivdaya rakshak, Canain group, united youth, Bapasitaram etc, regarding to prepare a memorandum for the issue of tree cutting for widen the roads and submitted to Municipal commissioner, vadodara and because of these effort abundant in the tree cutting for 10 days.
- Field visit at Padra regarding Environmental issues of There with Ms. Ida (Activist from Norway on 22.12.2011

### RTI filed by Paralegal

information District Collector office Vadodara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>information pertaining to encroachment of grazing land at Padra Taluka</li></ul>
information District Collector office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Environmental problems due to industries in Padra</li></ul>

### 3. Zagadiya

- A meeting was held with the affected community of 2 villages, namely Untiya and Navagam regarding land acquisition for the proposed SEZ and GIDC in the area. The meeting was attended by 2 paralegals along with 35 members of the community. The paralegals informed the people about the proposed land acquisition. Some land in the area has already been acquired by the GIDC but has not been put to any use till date. The paralegals gathered information about the use of previously acquired land and the purpose of proposed land acquisition. On basis of the information gathered, the paralegals informed and motivated the locals to fight against the proposed land acquisition. They visited the affected villages namely, Untiya Foolvadi, Santarpura, Dadheda, navagam, Kapalsadi, Randhedi. They also focused on Agricultural Lands, which are allotting to G I D C. Along with these, they discussed problems on Land Acquisition, and prepared a strategy for application. Presentation for Land acquisition in S E Z and G I D C was forwarded along with affected people to Chief Minister, Revenue Minister and related offices. Problems of Query Pollution was presented to Bharuch Collector.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 a seminar organized by Bharuch Jilla Paryavarniya Paralegal Manch at Zagadiya in collaboration with Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Gandhinagar and Paryavaran Mitra, Ahmedabad in the occasion of The World Environmental Day. Mr Mahesh Pandya from Paryavaran Mitra appreciated the Enviro Paralegal's effort to organize the event and hoped that they would

continue their efforts. Understanding and importance of environment was also given to participants. Regional officer from Gujarat Pollution Control Board also shared provisions of different environmental laws .

- Inclusion of new paralegal and strengthening of the existing Paralegal Association was done.
- Refresher course was organized for capacity building of enviro- paralegals at Bharuch on 13,14<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 in which 22 paralegals were present.

#### **4. Khambhat**

- A case was filed against J H Kharawala Company for non compliance of Environmental law. The company was disposed waste water at the check dam near the village which was spoiling the fresh water. Court had directed the company to fulfill the provisions of environment law and ordered to release polluted water through 13 Km long pipeline. Even though the company had not followed order and polluted water continued to spread in Check Dam and Bhatha area.
- Complaint was filed against J H Kharawala Company of Khambhat to GPCB and Collector also asked for information from GPCB under Right to Information Act, and prepared presentation as evidence against pollution done by J H Kharawala.
- An awareness meeting was organized on 10.03.2012 at village Ralej –Khambhat for the Paralegals.
- Some of the challenges we faced during this trip were :
  - Many para-legals had been empowered but to sustain and work actively in local situation is hard for them due to different forces.

- Lack of committed local person is another problem – due to inadequate financial remuneration and pressure from local forces they can't sustain for longer.

2. Media and Awareness

- **Audio-visual media** – Members of Paryavaran Mitra participated in Paryavaran Darshan (weekly programme of Door Darshan Ahmedabad) and other programmes of different other local channels as an expert/anchor. The list of subjects are mentioned below:

Sr no	Date	Topic	Program
1.	7/8/2011	Carbon credit - emission control	Parayavaran Darshan
2.	14/8/2011	Carbon credit	Parayavaran Darshan
3.	21/8/2011	Carbon credit-Green house gases	Parayavaran Darshan
4.	24/8/2011	Tribal Upliftment	Vikaspath
5.	25/9/2011	Ground water part-2	Parayavaran Darshan
6.	18/9/2011	Ground water part-1	Parayavaran Darshan
7.	12/10/2011	Pollution issues of sabarmati river	TV-9
8.	23/10/2011	Eco sensitive zone	Parayavaran Darshan
9.	6/11/2011	EIA 1	Parayavaran Darshan
10.	3/11/2011	National green tribunal act	Drastikon
11.	13/11/2011	C.S.R. 1	Parayavaran Darshan
12.	20/11/2011	C.S.R. 2	Parayavaran Darshan
13.	24/11/2012	How to celebrate Eco-friendly Diwali?	TV – 9
14.	26/11/2011	India allocates least funds to save environment	V-TV
15.	11/12/2011	EIA 2	Parayavaran Darshan
16.	24/12/2011	Pollution by crackers	GTPL
17.	01/01/2012	E-waste	Parayavaran Darshan
18.	8/1/2012	Plastic Waste	Parayavaran Darshan
19.	28/1/2012	industrialization and heath of	Parayavaran Darshan

		workers	
20.	18/2/2012	Vivad – analysis of working of Gujarat assembly	V-TV

- Apart from above list, member of Paryavaran Mitra gave interviews for different news channel as well as for newspapers.
- Provide information to different media persons for highlighting development issues.
- 4 programs were recorded of “Prakruti program” at AIR(7.12.2011)

3.

Legal advocacy:

- Submitted questions to ask in Parliament to Dr. Kirit Solanki, MP-Ahmedabad and Shri Jagdish Thakor-MP-Patan on various environmental issues.
- Regular meeting with Shri Shaktisinh Golil (leader of opposition) to raise various issues effectively in Gujarat Assembly during budget session and monsoon session.
- Also gave time-to-time analytical information about different environmental and human right issues to state president of congress party Mr.Arjun Modhvadia.
- During Monsoon session we intervened through following ways.
  1. Gave inputs in draft bill related to animal cruelty
  2. Provided information to ask questions to be ask as starred and un starred by MLAs
- Advocacy on Environmental issues in the State Legislative Assembly:

We have provided support and input to the Members of Legislative Assembly in

raising stared and non stared questions of public interest, especially on environment issues like Forest Act, Climate change, social justice and home affairs. Input has also been provided for the following proposed bills:

- Authorization of illegal construction
- Gujarat Trust Act
- Mobile Tower Bill
- Green Cess Bill

### **Working of Gujarat Assembly: An Analysis (8<sup>th</sup> session)**

A discussion meet was organized on 18.02.2012 at Ahmedabad to share the outcomes of an analysis of last budget session (8<sup>th</sup> session of 12<sup>th</sup> Gujarat Assembly). More than 80 people participated in the programme from different cross sections of the society - Academicians, Politicians, Researchers, Media Persons, Technocrats, etc.

With the help of National Social Watch Coalition, on behalf of Gujarat Social Watch we published a booklet (Vidhan Tantra – Aam Aadmi Ni Najre) containing detail analysis of working of Gujarat assembly's 8<sup>th</sup> session.

In the beginning, Mahesh Pandya welcomed on behalf of Gujarat Social Watch. A booklet **Vidhan Tantra : Aam Aadmi Ni Najre** containing research data of working of 8th session was released by prominent activist, Gagan Sethi.

Editor of Naya Marg and activist Mr Indu Kumar Jani chaired the meet. Well known political analyst Shri Rohit Shukla spoke about the political scenario of Gujarat . He said that there is a hidden emergency in the state and voiceless culture grew in the society. Leader of opposition in Gujarat Assembly, Shri Shaktisinh Gohil reacted on the data presented during the programme.

4.

### **Policy level Intervention**

- **Land Right Issue: Land Right Issue**
  - Paryavaran Mitra has provided legal and technical insight to the civil societies about the present land acquisition policy adopted by Government of Gujarat. In addition to this, advocacy for the issue was also done in the Gujarat State Legislative assembly.
  - We participated in consultation organized by CSJ and Gujarat Lok Samiti for preparing comments on draft LARR bill 2011.
  - Research on land issues – Paryavaran Mitra contributed actively in research study on the impact of land acquisition as well as land alienation in Gujarat with other organizations.

Dholera SIR: Public meetings at village level –

- Dholera special investment region development authority, Gandhinagar put a draft TP scheme to make special investment region at Dholera and they organized public meeting of Land owners at affected villages in November 2012. Representative of PM visited affected villages to aware the local people regarding this issue and inspired them to take part in the public meeting at Kadipur and Gogala villages.

- Written application was prepared for the affected people to get the minutes and video CD of the public meeting organized at Kadipur, Gogala and Ambali. Authorities not provided minutes and video CD so we help the affected people to prepare a RTI regarding this.
- Dahej SEZ was visited, organise meeting with rural people of Dahej and Vagra, understand their questions and provide them proper guidelines.(20.11.2011). in this meeting Parsis Jinvala(BSC), Pro. Vipin Makwana(Gadhda MSW college) and Badribhai Joshi(Sarvodaya Karyakar, Shantigram-Amod) were also present

Field visit at Navagam village, Ta:Lalpur, Jamnagar and provide information regarding Land acquisition for Reliance industries and environmental problems to the local affected people

**2. Changes in land Policy:** The present Government in Gujarat has made landmark changes in the land policy. Four major changes were brought without any discussions and debate in State Legislative Assembly. No public consultation or comments were invited on the issues. The changes that were made are as follows:

- i. Change in grazing land policy for Special Economic Zone (SEZ)2006
- ii. Wasteland Notification -2005
- iii. Land acquisition for Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation(GIDC) and Private industrialists

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### **3. Land acquisition for Gujarat Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals special Investment for Regional Development:**

Gujarat government had earmarked the agricultural land for the proposed **Gujarat Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals special Investment for Regional Development**. The Government published a public notice in Times of India (English) and Gujarat Samachar (Gujarati) on 13 April 2011, seeking public suggestions, objections and comments for proposed investment zone within 60 days after the publication of the notification. It was mentioned in notification that 452.99 sq km land of 44 villages (33 of Vagra Taluka and 11 of Bharuch Taluka) would be acquired for the purpose. A reference of a website was given where the details of the project could be accessed. The mentioned document is 700 pages long and is in English, so it was beyond the comprehension of the local people who were directly affected by the land acquisition. Paryavaran Mitra had written a letter to the State Government and demanded that the Gujarati Version of the document should be published. In addition to this, the organization had also strongly demanded initiation of consultation with all the affected villages.

On May 26, 2011 in collaboration with the Paryavaran Mitra and farmer leaders of Waghra (Bharuch), local MLA Mr. Iqbal Patel called for a mass meeting on June 10, 2011. The meeting was attended by 4000 farmers from the villages coming under the proposed land acquisition. Mahesh Pandya from Paryavaran Mitra, Veteran Gandhian Chunibhai Vaidh from Gujarat Lok Samiti and opposition leader of Gujarat legislative



Shri ShaktiSingh Gohil participated in the meeting to oppose the proposed land acquisition which would affect the livelihood of more than 50000 families in the area. Paryavaran Mitra has sent comments, views and objections to the Governor, Chairperson of GPCPSIRDA, Member secretary GPCPSIRDA and District Collector Bharuch, requesting them to consider the well being of these people before taking any decision on the land acquisition for putting up the industry.

## 6. Meeting with Minister of Environment & Forest:

We led a delegation to meet the environment minister, Shri Jai Ram Ramesh, Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) on March 9, 2011. In this meeting, we acquainted the honorable minister about the violation of different Environment laws and Forest Act in Gujarat state. Violation of environment laws by the following projects were discussed during the meeting

- Nirma Cement factory ,Mahua , Bhavnagar
- Sabarmati River Front, Ahmedabad
- Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar
- Nuclear Power Project , Mithi virdi , Bhavnagar

Sr. no	Date	Subject	Department
1.	05.08.11	Comments on establishment of PCPIR (petroleum, chemical & petro chemical investment region)	Chairman, GPCPSIRDA Collector , Bharuch
2.	26.08.11	Comments on draft LARR bill 2011	Rural development department
3.	01.09.11	Representation regarding LOKPAL bill	Parliamentary Standing committee
4.	03.09.11	Comments on draft notification to declare Eco-sensitive zones – 4 places from Gujarat	Ministry of Environment & Forest
5.	09.09.11	regarding MGNREGA and Bio diversity register	Ministry of Rural Development
6.	23.09.11	Comments on Reform in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee ACT (MGNREGA) Implementation	Rural development department
7.	01.10.11	Comments on Draft Rules - Hazardous Substances (Classification, Packaging and Labelling), 2011	Ministry of Environment and Forests
8.	22.11.11	Comments on Draft bill - Citizens Right to Grievance Redress Bill, 2011	Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances

9.	15.11.11	Comments on the draft Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011.	Ministry of Environment & Forest
10.	13.12.11	Comments/Suggestions on report of the committee Constituted for Development of Criteria and Formulation of Guidelines of Non-Compliances into the Category of Serious and Not-so-serious.	Ministry of Environment & Forest
11.	29.12.11	: Draft Guidelines for Species Recovery Programmes of GIB and Lesser Florican	Ministry of Environment & Forest
12.	29.12.11	Draft Guidelines for Species Recovery Programmes of Bengal_florican	Ministry of Environment & Forest
13.	27.01.12	Comments on SECOND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF INDIA - DRAFT	Ministry of External Affairs
14.	28.02.12	Draft National Water Policy	Ministry of Water Resources

#### **Publications:**

5.

- Newsletter of Paryavaran Mitra is a bi-monthly publication. It has completed 166 issues. It contains articles on policy level changes in Environmental legislation and other burning environmental issues.
- Research, science, development, book release etc. topics were covered in six issues. Around 1400 subscribers in govt. agencies, NGO and voluntary organization, individual experts, academic institutes, libraries are registered. Regular feedback is received from our readers who appreciate and comment with suggestions for modification of further issues.
- For voluntary contributions to this newsletter we suggest a minimum of Rs. 120/ p.a. for which can be sent by cash, money order, cheque or D.D. Cheque or D.D. may be send in name of 'Janvikas CSJ LF Paryavaran Mitra'.

Issues covered in publication month-wise has been listed below :

#### **March-April 2011**

- Editorial – about proceeding of Assembly

- CCLS – Importance of protecting bio-diversity
- CCLS – importance of celebrating different environmental days
- CDM – Indian Doe for afforestation projects
- Plastic waste: problem for all, solution by all
- Spending of compensation money obtained for gaucher land –
- Research about millet crops
- Compilation of Questions asked in Assembly
- CAG report: environment issues
- Research project: waste management in rural areas
- Measurement of pollution in Indian cities

### **May June 2011**

- Editorial - Land grabbing
- Circular from Ministry of Environment and Forest
- 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011 – world environment day, theme – forest at our service
- Article about birds
- Report about Gujarat release of 6<sup>th</sup> citizen's report on development and governance
- Compilation of Questions asked in Assembly
- Reality of implementation of CRZ notification – workshop report
- People's participation in development issues
- Coastal belt of Saurashtra – natural resource management, livelihood issues & situation of environment
- Climate change department : information about activities for next year
- Gujarat Pollution Control Board : information about activities for next year
- CCLS : effects of climate change on ecosystem
- CCLS : effects on Maldharies
- From CAG report – money wasted on construction of vandh bandhara

### **September – October,2011**

- Impact of Mobile towers on insects and animals
- Report on EPHs from different parts of Gujarat,
- Circulars from MoEF,
- Information from Sansad & Vidhan Sabha,
- Tribute to Wangari Maathai,
- WHO report on indoor pollution,
- Article on Forest,
- CCLS -climate change lecture series – on the issue of land use.

### **November – December 2011**

- Changing Democratic values in Gujarat state
- Global warming - Man-made or natural process? - reports of Climate Change Lecture Series
- Projects waiting to get green nod
- Programme on E-waste

- Death of flamingo birds in kutch
- Action plan for conservation of GIB and Lesser florican
- Report of national convention of farmers cultivating millet crops
- Outcome of Durban climate talk
- Article on committee's report - "serious" and "not so serious" categories offences relating to environmental clearance
- Detail about PILs in Gujarat High Court by ParyavaranMitra - Banni grassland and tree-cutting in Mehsana district,
- Information from Sansad - Loksabha & RajyaSabha, etc.

### **January-February 2012**

- Last Decade : Problem of migranats, opportunity for industries
- Pollution problems of Padra taluka
- E-waste management in USA - An overview
- Green Clearance - How much green?
- Questions from Gujarat Assembly
- Resolution on Dark zone
- Assembly - the Platform to raise people's voice
- Proper way to give effective message
- Environment and Forest Clerances
- Role of People after EPH
- Greenex

### **New Publication : Vidhan Tantra – Aam Aadmi Ni Najre**

With the help of National Social Watch Coalition, on behalf of Gujarat Social Watch we published a booklet (Vidhan Tantra – Aam Aadmi Ni Najre) containing detail analysis of working of Gujarat assembly's 8<sup>th</sup> session.