



सत्यमेव जयते

State Of Environment Report



India
2009



जहाँ है हरियाली ।
वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥

**Ministry of Environment & Forests
Government of India**

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FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this year's edition of the 'State of Environment Report India 2009'. This year has been of particular significance and has seen the phenomenon of climate change come home to India. Not just in terms of effect but in terms of greater awareness and consciousness amongst our citizens. In numerous times in the past our country has been called upon repeatedly to balance economic growth with environmentally sustainable practices, to temper growth with environmental equity, sustainability and social justice. It is in this year that we have answered that call with conclusive steps forward.

It is also in this year that GDP has acquired the alternative and equally meaningful connotation of 'Green' Domestic Product. This exemplifies the need to infuse greater sensitivity towards the environment in our collective conscience. It is vital to maintain a healthy balance between rapid development while conserving our rich bio-diversity and natural resources.

The State of Environment Report works towards providing data on the country's environmental status that is comprehensive and available easily in one compendium. I congratulate all those who were involved in this assignment. I am glad that *Development Alternatives* have participated as equal partners in the production of this national report. I am confident that this report will serve as a useful tool and will find favour as being informative and user friendly by planners, policy makers, academicians, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and all those interested in becoming more familiar with the state of our country's environment.


(Jairam Ramesh)



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PREFACE

The State of Environment Report India 2009 presents an overview of the environmental scenario of our country. Its objective is to serve as a baseline document to help assist decision making and policy formulation.

The report has been prepared by Development Alternatives in active collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & Forests. A robust participatory process of consulting a range of stakeholders has been followed. The key environmental issues identified are: climate change, food security, water security, energy security and urban management. I am confident that the report will help all government agencies, NGOs and civil society in planning and policy formulation, and as a useful reference document.

I wish to thank Shri R.H. Khwaja, Dr. S.P. Sharma, Shri Nilkanth Ghosh and Shri Debabrata De, my colleagues in the Ministry, for their hard work in helping to prepare this Report. My appreciation is also due to the project team of Development Alternatives comprising of Shri Anand Kumar, Ms. Neelam Rana, Shri George C Varughese, and Dr. K. Vijaya Lakshmi.


(Vijai Sharma)



CONTENTS

Executive Summary

I. Overview	.....	1-7
General Profile	.....	2
II. State and Trends of the Environment	.....	9-71
Land	.....	10
Air	.....	20
Water	.....	40
Biodiversity	.....	50
III. Key Environmental Issues	.....	73-157
Climate Change	.....	74
Food Security	.....	90
Water Security	.....	102
Energy Security	.....	116
Managing Urbanization	134
IV. Policy and Institutional Options	159-167

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