

## **Brief summary of IYB 2010 celebration in India**

India has undertaken a number of activities to create awareness about biodiversity issues during the celebration of IYB in 2010. The IYB was formally launched in India on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, in which the Minister for Environment & Forests released a brochure on 'Achieving 2010 Biodiversity Target; India's Contributions', highlighting measure taken by India towards biodiversity conservation. A calendar for the year 2010 with 12 award-winning paintings by school children on the theme 'Our Rich Biodiversity', prepared by the National Museum of Natural History was also released on the occasion. A special session on 'Biodiversity and Sustainable Development' was organised on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 during the 97<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress held in Thiruvananthapuram. A special event focussing on biodiversity was organised during the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit in February, 2010. A special article on 'Biodiversity: We cannot afford its loss' was brought in the March, 2010 issue of 'Namaskaar', the inflight magazine of the national carrier, Air India. A commemorative stamp and cover on Biodiversity was brought out by the Department of Posts, and was released on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 to mark the World Environment Day, the theme for which in that year was 'Biodiversity: Connecting with Nature'. Plantation drives were taken up along the route of Queen's Baton Relay covering 20,000 km. in all 28 States and seven Union Territories for the Commonwealth Games held in Delhi on 3-14 October, 2010. In addition, many Ministries in the Central Government, State Governments, Centres of Excellence and other organisations have also undertaken activities for celebration of IYB. The Press Information Bureau has issued seven exclusive press releases on biodiversity and uploaded three features and one backgrounder on their website.

The National Biodiversity Authority organised a number of events all over the country and also extended catalytic support for the celebration of IYB 2010 in partnership with agencies like UNDP. The State Biodiversity Boards as well as Biodiversity Management Committees held a variety of programmes.

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