

PLACES OF TOURIST ATTRACTION IN KACHCHH

The Kachchh region of Gujarat occasionally described as India's "wild west" hosts an immense stretch of largely barren and harsh desert landscape. Kachchh consists of seasonal wetlands known as the Great Rann of Kachchh famous for its salt desert and Rann Mohotsav during winter season and smaller Little Rann of Kachchh. Bhuj, the capital city of Kachchh, is an excellent launching point for exploring the region. Though much of the city was destroyed during 2001 Earthquake, the architectural treasures still stand in the walled city like Prag Mahal and Aina Mahal. Other attractions in Bhuj include its many temples like the new Swaminarayan temple, museums, markets and bazaars and Hamirsar Lake. Kachchh, is also famous for its port city of Mandvi sustaining a legacy of 400 years of ship building yard and vast crystal clear sun-drenched beaches.



Shree Swaminarayan Temple Bhuj



Harappan Archaeological site, Dholavira



Mandvi Beach



Kalo Dungar or Black Hills of Kachchh



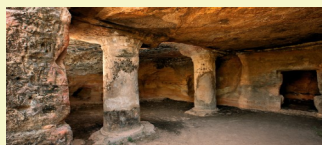
The White Desert: Rann of Kachchh



Historical Site, Lakhpat Fort



Vijay Vilas Palace, Mandvi



Kateshwar Buddhist caves, Siyot

The villages of Kachchh have preserved their own traditions and culture in the form of essence of Art that have been passed down from generation to generation, making this one of the main attractions for tourists. The simplicity and quietness of life in Kachchh is really striking and meaningful. Kachchh is an amazing place to visit, learn and get another perspective on life. It's both inspiring and humbling.

Organising Committee

Patron

Dr. C. B. Jadeja
Vice Chancellor,
KSKV Kachchh University

Secretary

Dr. Tejal Sheth
Registrar,
KSKV Kachchh University

Chairman

Dr. Pamposh Kumar
Scientist F/Director
Mission Eco next,
NCSTC division, D/O Science and Technology,
New Delhi

Co-ordinator

Dr. Seema B Sharma
Assistant Professor
Department of Earth and Environmental Science,
KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj, Gujarat

Co- Coordinator

Dr. M. G. Thakkar
Professor and Head,
Department of Earth and Environmental Science,
KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj, Gujarat

Local Organising Committee

Dr. Subhash Bhandari
Dr. Mrugesh H Trivedi
Dr. C. P. Mistry
Dr. G. A. Baxi
Dr. Gaurav D. Chauhan
Mr. Paresh Katua
Mrs. Vimla Maheshwari

Correspondance

For further details about the Eco Media Lab/workshop kindly contact:

Dr. Seema B Sharma
Assistant Professor
Department of Earth and Environmental Science,
KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj, Kachchh
Gujarat, India

Email: seemabhargavsharma@gmail.com
Mob-75767568127



Mission Eco Next Eco NEXT Connect (Regional Youth Meet) & Eco Media Lab Workshop

(28-29th November 2018)

on

“Eco Next Miles Challenge”

And

6th meeting of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Science
and Technology communication Programme ‘Mission Eco Next’
(30th November 2018)

At

KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj, Gujarat

Organised by

**Department of Earth and Environmental Science,
KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj, Gujarat**

In Association With

**Department of Science and Technology
Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India
National Council for Science and Technology Communication**

INVITATION

Effective science communication can change ways of community learning, peoples' access to knowledge & resources, and societal paradigms. The science behind management of ecological resources, habitat & ecosystem services is central to our wellbeing and ability to work. It thus addresses critical life cycle needs and complexities of social, economic and ecological nature.

Eco NEXT 'CONNECT', an NCSTC coordinated initiatives under Mission Eco Next are meant for Technical Assistance and capacity Building, Sharing Experiences, Tools and Methodologies, Dialogue and Hand-holding. Representations from diverse sections of stakeholders shall share Experiences, Tools and Methodologies and synthesize innovative World views, while synergizing capacities and experiences especially under the following critical domains of field action and capacity of action groups-

- **Needs assessment**
- **Planning and design**
- **Implementation**
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**
- **Social Innovation**
- **Dialogue and Hand-holding for Eco-social support & Innovation**

Suggested Stakeholders: Media, Not for Profit organizations, Educational and Technical Institution, District administration, etc. chosen based on their experience in fostering cross-sector collaborations, and developing common languages and approaches for addressing complex community issues along with development of youth leadership.

Conference Theme

Kachchh eco region is a witness to several manmade and natural climate change vagaries. The Native population of different micro ecosystems that exist in Kachchh, have in recent past seen the harsh impact of unplanned anthropogenic developmental activities and also natural disasters that have affected their basic survival. The Eco Media Lab & Regional Youth Meet (Eco Next Connect) is planned with the objective of orienting the resource persons, young students, with the help of TAC members, towards harnessing the hidden potential of the youth with a flare to be change makers and strengthening the communities as well as the environment. It is envisaged to deliver the following outcomes:

- a) Bringing out the hidden potential of the local youth of the region, who have witnessed the ecological vagaries in one form or the other.
- b) Some important issues to be handled for Vulnerability Assessment in the region & figuring out S&T based communicative action under Eco Next.

"Miles" Challenge are as follows:

- i.) Mangrove Restoration activities in coastal areas
- ii.) Prosopis ingress in Banni Grasslands. Find such dashboards to see how much area is still under grasslands, that can develop eco designs for future.
- iii.) Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) based agriculture management systems and prospect of eco innovations in these TEK systems with respect to agriculture.
- iv.) Impact of increased Tourism industry (The White Rann Desert Festival around Banni) on communities and environment
- v.) Intrusion of coastal creeks and coastal belts by industries and its impact on fishing communities and livelihood patterns.
- vi.) Changing of agricultural land to commercial land and its consequences.
- vii.) Decline in fodder production and its impact on Banni people.
- viii.) How industrial development in coastal Kachchh has disrupted the social structure.
- ix.) Decrease in grazing land and livestock tending problems in Banni grasslands.
- ix.) Causes of declining Camel population in Banni.

The Challenges at Eco Next Connect

The Meet shall focus on regional sensitization to "Eco Next Miles Challenge" under Mission Eco Next of Department of Science & Technology. The Challenge has a premise that effective & far reaching S&T Communication skills can help address barriers created by inaccessibility, disruption, stress and vulnerability. The skills can be harnessed under a challenging context to alter not only behaviour but also the capacity to support community rehabilitation, ecologically balanced development & lifestyle choices. The growth of Eco Next Initiatives of NCSTC has witnessed diverse, transdisciplinary, transformative options emerging in these directions. The communities affected by natural disasters or man made ecological crises, can show a path to resilience by nurturing and adopting the eco-talents of young change makers & difference makers. These Change Makers would communicate & promote eco-resilience thereby triggering far reaching resurgence & transformations. The 'Challenge' aims at fostering and Re-shaping Eco-cultural Talents & Productive Eco Talents, especially for –

- **Eco Torch bearers**
- **Young Eco Life Coaches providing Science based eco- restorative life coach & communication service**
- **Youth SHG as Eco-social enterprises**
- **Social Innovation**
- **Dialogue and Hand-holding for Eco-social support & Innovation**
- **Social Capital & Productive Eco Intelligence**

The initiative aims to demonstrate that reaching out, across and deeper is possible by crisis hot spot approach reinforced by eco-cultural, eco-health and eco-rehab centric science communication. Risk science communication and rehab science communication for Fragile Eco Systems & Challenged Communities are the core content areas in this endeavour. The challenged ecosystems and communities, the target of this initiative, can benefit from resulting eco-restoration and rehabilitation.

The extra miles necessary for the cause, are the Eco Next Miles, which normally one would not normally travel to reach the unreachable and to meet the challenges of S&T based communicative action for challenged ecosystems/communities. These Miles of Action would need to be travelled in unearthing and nurturing eco talents, ecological rehabilitation, and building communities of learning. The outcome measures of these Miles would be the extent of severity of challenges & ecological gaps intended to be addressed through eco-science communication in terms of - access, criticality, nature, scale & size of crises & challenges, and achievement goals in terms of numbers & kinds of young talents & Torchbearers or expected Community based Learning to meet the future, but not limited to these!

Eco Next Media Workshop Action Points

The Following Action Points are being planned-

Communicative Action		Eco Next Miles
Reaching out to :	Crises Hot Spots	Magnitude of inaccessibility/ complexity of the location Nature, scale & size of the crises & ecological issues to be addressed
Reaching out to	Challenged Communities	Criticality of the challenges & ecological gaps identified to be addressed through Next generation ecological talents
Reaching across:	Community Based Learning	Goals in Community Based Learning
Reaching deeper:	Unearthing & Nurturing Young Eco Talent	Targeted numbers and kind of Young Eco Talents Targeted numbers and desired roles of Young Torchbearers

Expected Outcome

- **Sensitization of prospective , voluntary groups & institutions towards Eco NEXT "Miles" challenge**
- **Sensitization of youth towards roles like, Eco Torch bearers, Young Eco Life Coaches providing Science based eco-restorative life coach & communication service, Youth SHG as Eco-social enterprises Dialogue and Hand-holding for Eco-social support & Innovation, building Communities of Eco Cultural Learning**
- **Blue print for an eco- regional Atlas for the profiling of the region for signature strengths, identification of potent problems (that could turn into a future crisis) and understand the ecological integrity and this map shall pave way for bigger actions by the stake holders as well as people/institutes involved in grass root level work.**
- **Eco Media Lab for Kachchh Region Proceedings (under the aegis of Eco Visioning Forum/Environment Cell, D/O Earth & Environment Science, KSKV Kachchh University, Bhuj)**