

# BEST REPORTING ON ENVIRONMENT OF 2008 PREM BHATIA AWARD

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### Keya Acharya

IPS is pleased to announce that our journalist Keya Acharya has been awarded the influential Prem Bhatia Award for the Best Reporting on Environment of 2008. The prize is awarded by the India-based Prem Bhatia Memorial Trust, set up in 1995 to honour prominent journalist Prem Bhatia.

Keya is based in Bangalore and New Delhi, and specialises in environment and development issues. She is the recipient of several other awards and fellowships, including from the National Foundation for India, the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, and the Press Institute of India.

A selection of recent stories for IPS:

#### INDIA: Urged to Lead UNEP Upgrade

By Keya Acharya

NEW DELHI - India is sitting out on an opportunity to take the lead in ensuring its own and developing countries' interests in the ongoing debate to upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) into a stronger body, says a leading expert on international environment law.

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#### INDIA: 'City of Joy' Turns Model for Street Food Hygiene

By Keya Acharya

KOLKATA - Ranjini Gupta who works with the urban development department located in the heart of this bustling city snacks occasionally at the street food stalls nearby unmindful of food safety concerns.

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#### ENVIRONMENT-INDIA: Water Aplenty, Nor a Drop to Drink

By Keya Acharya

NEW DELHI - Over 37.7 million people in India are affected by water-borne diseases due to contaminated drinking water supply and an estimated 1.5 million children die of diarrhoea each year, according to newly available statistics.

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#### ENVIRONMENT-INDIA: Villages Coopted Into Conservation

By Keya Acharya

KOLAR, Karnataka - An initiative in India to introduce environmental conservation into village administration is making good headway in this rural district some 120 km from Bangalore, capital of southern Karnataka state.

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#### ENVIRONMENT-INDIA: Tribal Rights Won't Trouble Tiger Health

By Keya Acharya

BANGALORE - Walking through morning sunlight streaming through tall teak trees, A.K. Singh deputy conservator of forests, points out the 'core, critical tiger habitat' in the heart of this sprawling national park.

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Her interest in the environment, she says in **her blog**, "probably stems from both my childhood and a good part of my adult years. I grew up amidst the beauty of natural wildlands in the tea gardens in Northeastern India, bordering Bhutan and Sikkim. I remember as a child going on bird watching trips with an aunt. Her husband was the first person to teach me how to keep notes on what I saw in the jungles."



#### Prem Bhatia Memorial Trust

► **Dahr Jamail** - Fellow Winner of Martha Gellhorn Prize

► **Mohammed Omer** - Fellow Winner of Martha Gellhorn Prize

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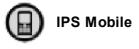
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