



Green Action for National Dandi Heritage Initiative (GANDHI) Launched

7th July 2010.

The Union Minister for Environment and Forests, Jairam Ramesh, and Gopal Krishna Gandhi, Chairman, Dandi Memorial Committee launched the Green Action for National Dandi Heritage Initiative (GANDHI) Memorial Project today. To celebrate 80 years of the Dandi march, the Rs 25 crore project (with the aid of the World Bank) will focus on overall development and conservation of the environment of Dandi and the surrounding villages based on Gandhian Principles.

The project will promote Dandi as an eco-tourism destination through landscape development and introduction of nature trails, in addition to promoting integrated village and community development. It will also introduce initiatives to conserve the Dandi coast and its coastal resources and adopt nature-based development of resources in the area. About 100 ha of mangroves and 50 ha of bio-shield will be planted along the 8 km coastline. The Gandhian approach to living will be promoted through the setting up of solar and wind plants as well as interventions for water conservation and waste management.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said “Gandhiji’s commitment to the environment and to sustainable living is a modern day talisman for us, as we grapple with the critical issue of environmental pollution, climate change and biodiversity preservation. The Green Action for National Dandi Heritage Initiative (GANDHI) Memorial is a small but, important step in recognizing Gandhiji’s vision for environment and biodiversity. We must make concepts embodied in the GANDHI Memorial integral to our personal lives and our policy frameworks.”

The project will be implemented by the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) in collaboration with the Gujarat Vidyapith (Ahmedabad) and Gujarat Ecology Commission (Govt. of Gujarat). It is expected that in two years time, the entire Heritage Area will become a major center for learning on Gandhian thought and philosophy on sustainable development.
