Environmental issues in Chhattisgarh

Experiences of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan &
Cases dealt with by Janhit.
Environmental public hearings
The only opportunity for people to participate.

- When companies defraud, suppress or falsify information. (D.S. Maliya’s case)
- No level playing field for the people, and the way vested interests operate.
- Public hearings under the shadow of repression. (Adivasi Mazdoor Ekta Sangathan)
Mining Issues

- Granting lease – consent for private lands, consultation for communal lands, proximity and right of way. (Karam Singh, Bhagat Ram Sahu, Sarthak case)
- Mining Plan – Drainage of water, dumping of overburden, green belt, backfilling. (Dongamahua)
- Mining techniques – drilling, transportation, dust issues, underground mining. (Dukalu Ram & Ors.)
Forest issues

- Inviolate, dense, pristine, biodiverse forests. (Alok Shukla & Ors)
- Granting forest clearance without granting forest rights - individual and community rights as a prerequisite. (Chuiyaram Ekka & Hira Singh Markam)
- Wildlife issues - elephant corridor, tigers, reserve forests. (Dharamjaigarh, Achanakmar)
- Mineral - yes, Tiger - yes, Adivasi - No?
Ash Dykes.
Of seas of ash and regular breaches

- The nature of ash as a by product.
- Air, Soil and Water pollution of ash dykes in Korba. (Vinod Kumar Pandey)
- Measuring pollutants ourselves. (Dukalu Ram) and efforts in Korba now.
Sponge Iron Plants

- The political economy of the sponge iron plants - in the middle of the pyramid.
- The struggle over installing Electrostatic Precipitators.

(The Chaurenga story)
A disappearing rice bowl

- Acquisition of double cropped agricultural lands for Naya Raipur, Kodatarai air strip, Industrial Corridors, Four and six lane highways....
- Rice varieties, Dr Richaria and Syngenta. Food security issues.

(Cases of Anand Ram, Agammati.....and so many more...)
Changing water use

- The story of Janjgir and the Rogda dam.
- Diverting agricultural dams to industry.
- A case of privatization – Radius Water.
- What Bailadila mines did to Shankini and Dankini.
- Effects of the Polavaram Dam.
- Small hydropower plants – are they harmless?
- Have we enough water for all these power plants?
Cumulative impacts and Critically polluted areas

- Designation of critically polluted areas.
- Moratorium and “action plan” for critically polluted areas.
- Korba is no longer critically polluted?!
Bending town planning principles

- The case of JP Cement building a cement plant on a green belt. (Raza Ahmed’s case)
Who will regulate the regulators?

- Functioning of the Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board.
  (Abhay Kumar Dubey’s case)
- The Secretary of CECB is responsible to ensure that the EIA Report is according to the TOR.
  (Ramesh Agrawal’s case)
Threats to the environment defenders.

- Attack on Ramesh Agrawal.
- How Jangsay Poya faced a claim of 35 lakhs... (SECL Vs Jangsay)
- If the villagers don’t go to the town, the town comes to the villagers... the story of Premnagar. (Jugga Devi’s case)
- How DB Power harassed DS Maliya.
- Malicious prosecution – rule rather than exception – late Ram Kumar Agrawal.