



सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

आर पी गुप्ता
R P Gupta

D.O.No.2411/5/2021-GC

11th August, 2021

I am writing this letter indicating the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) during the month of **July, 2021**:

International Tiger Day (Theme: "Their survival is in our hands") was celebrated on 29th July, 2021 to mark the importance of tiger conservation and to protect their habitat from degradation. The event was streamed live on YouTube. On this occasion, Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of MoEF&CC and Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble MoS, MOEF&CC addressed.

World Nature Conservation Day (Theme: "Forest and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet") was celebrated on 28th July, 2021. The theme once again hinted at the importance of the co-existence of people and resources on the planet.

A "Joint Communication" was signed by Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, in the presence of Minister of Tribal Affairs and Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on 06.07.2021. This Joint Communication has been issued to all Chief Secretaries of States/UTs, regarding effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 and for harnessing the potential for livelihood improvement of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers.

G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting: The G20 Environment Ministers' meeting was organised by its current Italian Presidency on 22 July 2021 in Naples, Italy. Indian delegation, led by the Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Second Session of Heads of Environmental Ministries and Departments of the SCO Member States held on 29th July 2021: Indian delegation, led by Shri R.P. Gupta, Secretary, MoEF&CC attended the Second Session of Heads of Environmental Ministries and Departments of the SCO Member States, held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, via video conferencing. The interventions made by India include:

Senior Officers of Climate Change Division virtually attended 'G-20 Energy Transition and Climate Sustainability Working Groups Drafting Session – Extraordinary Session on Draft Joint Ministerial Communique' on 9th July, 14th, 15th, 22nd & 23rd July, 2021.

Hon'ble MEFCC and Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC) virtually attended the Joint Climate and Energy Ministerial Meeting on 23 July, 2021.

Senior Officers virtually attended meetings of Quad Climate Working Group – Adaptation Resilience & Preparedness Pillar and Climate Action & Ambition Pillar on 13th July and 14th July, 2021 respectively.

Secretary EFCC along with other Senior Officers virtually attended IMF's 2021 Article IV consultations with Government of India officials on 27 July and 28 July, 2021.

Compliance of CoS Decision: CoS/4560/8- MoEFCC may follow up with Ministry of Steel to resolve the matter of fixing of reserve price of movable assets of A&N Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation by FSNL.: The e-auction for the movable assets of A&N Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. (ANIFPDCL) was held by MSTC Ltd. on November 20, 2019. The movable assets were divided into five lots. Two lots of movable properties for which eligible bids were received were disposed of. Out of the remaining lots, serviceable items were handed over to A&N Forest Department as per the advice of NITI Aayog. It was decided by the Ministry that all remaining movable items will be put up for auction on 'as is where is' basis without fixing any base value. Accordingly, auction was conducted on 28th August, 2020 by MSTC Ltd. and 3 eligible bids were received. The bids were accepted by the Competent Authority. M/s MSTC Limited has informed over phone that the full payment has been received for two lots and delivery order has been issued. The movable properties of North Andaman Division, Mayabunder and Corporate Office, Port Blair have been taken over by the representative of the highest bidder. Further action is being taken by the management of ANIFPDCL for delivery of rest of movable assets to highest bidder. The Ministry is actively taking up matter with ANIFPDCL, Port Blair for fully implementation of closure plan.

Compliance of CoS Decision: CoS/2644/7 – Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Corporation Ltd Recommendation: MoEF& CC may examine the possibility of transferring the management of the Corporation to the UT of A& N Islands. (ii) MoEF& CC may also consider diversifying mandate of the Corporate to bring in eco-tourism and renewable energy in consultation with M/o New and Renewable Energy and M/o Tourism. (iii) In case the above options do not fructify, MoEF& CC may consider closing the company by offering VRS/redeploying staff with the UT administration.

- (i) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in its meeting held on 16th August, 2017, approved the closure of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Corporation Ltd (ANIFPDCL), Port Blair by offering VRS/VSS to all its employees and disposal of movable/immovable assets. The Ministry is implementing the closure plan of ANIFPDCL.
- (ii) The Ministry is actively taking up matter with ANIFPDCL, Port Blair, A&N Administration and other concerned organisations for fully implementation of closure plan.

A "National Webinar Series" was organized on the occasion of "Van Mahotsav Week- 2021" from 1st to 7th July, 2021. Scientists and experts were invited to deliver talks/lectures/presentations during this week-long webinar series. Indian delegation attended the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference of Subsidiary Bodies held virtually during 31st May, 2021 to 17th June, 2021

A National Webinar was organised on the occasion of "International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove and Ecosystem" on 26th July, 2021. The webinar was co-ordinated by RMNH-Bhubaneswar and was organised on GoToMeeting platform from 11:00 am onwards.

A National Webinar was organised on the occasion of "International Tiger Day" on 29th July, 2021. Shri Ravi Agrawal, IRS, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC was the ChiefGuest.

A webinar on "Awareness and Capacity Building on Biodiversity Conservation in Himachal Pradesh" as organized on 30th June, 2021 for sensitization of government school students of Himachal Pradesh on conservation education.

A training program cum workshop was organized on "Promotion of cultivation of high value medicinal plants (Picrorhiza kurroa & Swertia chirayita)" under DBT funded project at Deori Village, Sainj valley, Kullu on 06.07.2021.

Environmental Clearances: Number of projects appraised: During the Expert Appraisal Committee meetings held in **July 2021**, a total of **173 projects** pertaining to different sectors were appraised. **Number of projects cleared:** During the month, **22 projects** were accorded environmental clearance and **50 projects** were prescribed ToRs. Thus, a total of **72 proposals** were cleared during the month. The status of environmental clearance and TOR of Projects for the month is at **Annexure-I**. (**Number of projects appraised and number of projects cleared during the month are not correlated as the appraisal and grant of clearance of a project may not necessarily occur during the same month.*)

Forest Clearances: During the month, **2074.00 ha of forestland** in **193 cases** were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use for non-forest purposes. **1055.85 ha of non-forest land and 2128.84 ha of degraded forestland** were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

Total Expenditure: An expenditure of **Rs 423.71 Crores (Provisional)** has been incurred until **31st July 2021** against the Net budget estimate of **Rs 3136.58 crores** for FY 2021-22.

Eco sensitive Zone: Out of **662 Protected Areas (PAs)** in the country, the Ministry has issued ESZ Notifications for **573 PAs**, including Draft Notifications for **131 PAs** and Final Notifications for **442 PAs**. Further, ESZ notifications for **2 PAs** have been approved and are under process for publications.

Public Grievances: During the month **396** Public Grievances were redressed and **130** Grievances were pending.

Yours sincerely,

Encl: as above

sd/-

[R P Gupta]

Shri Rajiv Gauba
Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Secretariat
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001

Copy to:

The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Office,
South Block, New Delhi -110001.



[R P Gupta]

Status of Environment Clearance and Terms of Reference of Projects for the month of July, 2021

ANNEXURE - I

	Industry-(I)		Industry-(II)		Thermal		River Valley & Hydro-Electric		Mining(Coal)		Mining(Non-Coal)		Infrastructure and Miscellaneous Projects + CRZ		New Construction Projects and Industrial Estates		Industry-(III)		Total	
	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR
No. of projects at beginning of the month	19	8	19	0	1	2	15	6	6	9	28	34	12	7	20	10	26	17	146	93
Projects received during the month/ respond	18	30	36	5	1	0	3	1	4	5	6	14	14	4	4	4	18	19	104	82
Projects cleared during the month	5	10	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	4	7	6	0	2	0	4	9	19	22	50
Projects converted from EC to TOR due change of scope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects exempted during the month	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project rejected during the month (on merit)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Project closed during the month (due to non-submission of info.)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Projects withdrawn/ returned/ transferred/ duplicate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Projects kept in abeyance/ delisted	0	2	4	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	16	2	2	4	0	0	3	13	28
EDS raised during the month *	5	7	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	8	24	14
Pending at PP due to Additional details sought *	2	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	8	8	3	3	2	1	4	1	26	17
Projects pending at the end of the month *	24	17	36	1	2	2	17	5	8	10	31	32	22	9	19	10	30	9	189	95

* The total pending projects does not include the projects which are pending due to EDS. However, the EDS proposals have been included in the projects received during the month