



आर पी गुप्ता
R P Gupta



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

D.O.No.2411/3/2020-GC

September 9, 2020

I am writing this letter indicating the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry during the month of **August, 2020**.

The Hon'ble Minister for Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) held a meeting with Forest Ministers of States & UTs on 17th August 2020, to discuss various initiatives taken by the Ministry for enhancing forest quality, increasing forest cover and other efforts made by States to achieve various goals and objectives.

On 18th August, 2020, Hon'ble MoEF&CC chaired a meeting with all the Divisional Heads and Nodal Officers (Social Media) along with the PIB officers and the Social Media Team in the Ministry and directed them to share details of significant activities and success stories on the Social Media Platform of the Ministry and in the Print & Electronic Media.

A National Biodiversity Authority – UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) webinar series on "Biodiversity and Biological Diversity Act 2002" was launched by the Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC during the International Day of Biological Diversity on 22nd May, 2020.

I held a meeting through video conferencing with Mr. Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union on 26th August, 2020, to discuss the way forward under India- EU Cooperation in the areas of Environment and Climate Change.

A Consultation meeting was organized to identify the possible schemes/bilateral cooperation etc. with neighbouring countries under India's Neighbourhood First policy.

While Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India attended National and International Webinars, delivered lectures, and imparted training to the students and selectors, Scientists of the Botanical Survey of India reported 1 novel plant species new to science from peninsular India and also reported 18 plant species as new additions to various States of India.

A webinar was organized for trainee teachers on 28th August 2020 on the theme- "Restoring Biodiversity for Environmental Sustainability" by the National Museum of Natural History.

Total of four guidelines were issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of August 2020. The guidelines are regularly updated on the Ministry's website [www.parivesh.nic.in].

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During the Expert Appraisal Committee meetings held in August 2020, a total of 144 projects pertaining to different sectors were appraised. 31 projects were accorded environmental clearance and 29 projects were prescribed Terms of Reference (ToRs). Thus, a total of 60 proposals were cleared during the month. The status of environmental clearances and TORs for 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).

During the month, 633.66791 ha of forestland in 92 cases were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use for non-forest purposes. 304.663 ha of non-forest land and 739.63 ha of degraded forestland were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

An expenditure of Rs 774.16 Crores (Provisional) has been incurred until 31st August 2020 against the Net Budget Estimate of Rs 3209.78 crores for FY 2020-21.

Out of 662 Protected Areas (PAs) in the country, the Ministry has issued ESZ Notifications for 548 PAs, including Draft Notifications for 152 PAs and Final Notifications for 396 PAs. Further, ESZ notifications for 20 PAs have been approved and are under process for publications.

During the month 490 Public Grievances were redressed and 86 Grievances were pending.

Encl: as above

Yours sincerely,

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, PMO, South Block, New Delhi.

Sd/-
[R P Gupta]

Copy also to:

- i) PS to Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC
- ii) PS to Hon'ble Minister of State, EF&CC
- iii) All Ministries / Departments of Govt. of India

iv) Consultant (IT)

Geeta Menon
[Geeta Menon]
Joint Secretary

Status of Environment Clearance and Terms of Reference of Projects for the month of August, 2020

	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		Total	
	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	25	17	99	6	3	3	12	17	15	9	36	36	33	17	20	4	243	109
Projects received during the month/ respond	11	15	28	21	0	1	0	3	1	4	2	12	10	5	6	4	58	65
Projects cleared during the month	1	5	14	10	0	0	0	2	0	0	10	4	6	6	0	2	31	29
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
Projects exempted during the month	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project closed during the month (due to non-submission of info.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects withdrawn/ returned/ transferred/ duplicate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Projects kept in abeyance/ delisted	1	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	4	2	0	0	0	11	5
EDS raised during the month *	5	3	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	2	1	3	0	24	9
Pending at PP due to Additional details sought *	4	1	18	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	8	5	6	1	1	0	41	7
Projects pending at the end of the month *	26	19	99	15	3	4	10	18	16	12	32	31	32	11	22	5	240	115

* 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.