



June 10, 2022

D.O. No.2411/5/2022-GC

Dear Sir,

The following are the main activities of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change during the month ~~May 2022~~

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

A 'Sensitization-cum-Review Workshop' was organized on May 21-22 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, with participation of State Government officials / officials from Municipal Authorities, from the southern region. During the sessions, the current status of the NCAP was discussed. It was highlighted that the air quality improvement efforts have shown positive trends in achievement of better air quality in 94 cities across the country whereas 35 cities have shown deterioration and there is no change in 3. The initiatives of Tamil Nadu Government like 'ECOmmute' were appreciated, while best practices of Trichy, Nalgonda, etc were shared for wider replication.

International Biodiversity Day

Various events were organised on the occasion of the International Day on Biological Diversity (IDB) on May 22, 2022. The theme of IDB 2022 was "Building a shared future for all life". On this occasion, a biodiversity exhibition on the theme "Biodiversity, Nutritional Security and Human Well-being" was organised in Chennai where State Biodiversity Boards, ZSI, BSI, etc showcased their activities for conservation, protection and management of biodiversity. Prizes were given to the winners of 3 National Level Competitions organised by NBA to create awareness about environment protection and biodiversity conservation. A "Special Cover" of India Post was also released.

There was a Workshop in which detailed interactions were held with the representatives of State Biodiversity Boards, UT Biodiversity Councils, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), and the Business sector wherein use of funds by Biodiversity Management Committees, Capacity Building of BMCs and inclusion of Biodiversity Conservation under CSR activities were discussed.

Workshop on Conservation and Wise-Use of Wetlands

A National Workshop for Developing a Roadmap for Participatory Conservation and Wise-Use of Wetlands was organised on May 21, 2022, at the National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The workshop was attended by over 150 participants which included wetlands managers from 75 wetlands of international and national importance, representatives from State and UT Wetland Authorities, Corporates, Wetland champions from different States, NGOs, Knowledge Partners and Experts.

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Roundtables were held on building convergence and creating participatory governance mechanisms for bridging the Science-policy action divide. Experiences were shared by Wetland Champions who work at the grassroot levels and they were felicitated for their exemplary work. An MoU was also signed between the MoEFCC and CII for participation of Corporates in the conservation of wetlands.

Environment, CRZ Clearance and Forest Clearances

During the month, diversion of 647.1599 ha. of forest land in 94 cases, was approved (in-principle) under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. 179.6817 ha. of non-forest land and 892.6204 ha. of degraded forest land were earmarked and approved for carrying out Compensatory Afforestation. Further, 39 projects were accorded Environmental Clearance (EC)/ CRZ Clearance.

Five ESZ Notifications involving 05 Protected Areas have been issued by the Ministry during the month of May. Out of these, 05 Notifications, 03 draft Notifications are in respect of the Protected Areas of Kamlang Tiger Reserve (Arunachal Pradesh), Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh) and Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary (Andhra Pradesh), and two final Notifications have been issued in respect of the Protected Areas of Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary (Himachal Pradesh) and Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary (UT of Jammu & Kashmir).

Further, several notifications/clarifications were issued with regard to streamlining of Environment Clearances:

- Permissibility of Gas based power plants in Island Protection Zone (IPZ) and Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ).
- Special dispensation for 50% expansion in coal mining projects, within the existing premises/mine leases area, without additional land acquisition.
- Amendment in provisions related to public hearing.
- Non-applicability of the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 for manufacturing and utilization of Polyurethane Foam.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Leena Nandan
(Leena Nandan)

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