



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

May 10, 2022

Dear Sir,

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

### Elimination of single use plastic

- (i) MoEFCC organized an event in CPCB where an Awareness Mascot "Prakriti" was launched on April 5, 2022. Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC was the Chief Guest. Secretary (Drinking Water and Sanitation) and Secretary (Panchayati Raj) also participated and assured convergence with their outreach and advocacy activities. During the event, other green initiatives for plastic waste management were also launched, viz. National Dashboard on Elimination of Single Use Plastic; Extended Producer Responsibility Portal for Plastic Packaging; and Mobile App for Grievance Redressal.
- (ii) On this occasion, the G.B Pant Institute for Himalayan Studies signed an MoU with regard to their patent for Industrial Production of Graphene from Waste Plastic. The Technology has been developed by Kumaun University, Nainital under the research project funded by National Mission on Himalayan Studies, and has been licensed to M/s. Hexorp Industries Pvt. Ltd., Nainital through the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), New Delhi. This technology is for industrial-scale production of Graphene from waste plastics and would encourage more industries to come forward for converting plastic waste into multi-utility products.
- (iii) Further, seven (7) Winners of the India Plastic Challenge-Hackathon 2021 were felicitated for their digital solutions for plastic waste mitigation and elimination of Single-Use Plastic. An exhibition of innovative models developed by Start-Ups was also organised on the occasion.

### Reforms

Major systemic reforms have been undertaken by the Ministry in the last few months for streamlining the Environment Clearance and Forest Clearance process. As many as 10 notifications and OMs were issued in the month of April, regarding proposed exemptions from environment clearance; expansion of manufacturing/mining activities upto an additional 50% of the sanctioned EC limit; provision of Compensatory Afforestation on degraded forest lands in respect of captive coal

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blocks, etc. A meeting was conducted with all the SEIAAs on April 29, 2022 to sensitize them regarding the said reforms and about the recent delegation of powers, and also to review the functioning of SEIAAs.

**Convergence with Scientific Ministries**

A meeting was held with the Secretaries of Departments of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and DG-CSIR for discussing training and capacity building of scientists through DSIR; convergence of activities with DST for tapping the bio-diversity potential of the country; and synergising research findings of the Ministry of Earth Sciences with coastal conservation programmes of MoEFCC.

**Forestry related activities**

- (i) During the month, diversion of 1790.109179 ha. of forest land in 121 cases was approved under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Further, 314.4888 ha. of non-forest land and 2105.22395 ha. of degraded forest land have been earmarked and approved for carrying out Compensatory Afforestation.
- (ii) The Ministry, vide letter No. 5-17/2020-SU dated April 20, 2022 has recommended to DGFT to amend the export policy and allow export of bamboo charcoal.
- (iii) In view of the close linkages of agroforestry with the activities and mandate of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, a note with respect to transferring the subject of Agroforestry from the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to MoEFCC, has been moved on April 12, 2022, for Inter-Ministerial Consultation.

*Regards,*

Yours sincerely,



(Leena Nandan)

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