



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 C

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

9th April, 2021

I am writing to you regarding the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) during the month of **March, 2021**.

Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC virtually attended the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Climate Action held on 23/03/2021 and highlighted the key climate achievements made by India. He also drew attention to the need for collective R&D for developing technologies for grid stability, battery storage, direct air capture of carbon, carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS), green hydrogen etc.

A virtual Ministerial Meeting on Climate and Development on 31/03/2021, was attended by the Hon'ble Minister for EF&CC. In the meeting, Hon'ble Minister underlined the importance of discussing only one issue at a time to arrive at concrete acceptable solutions. He also stressed that commercial finance should not be treated as Climate Finance, promised by the Developed Countries under the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC.

International Day of Forests 2021 was celebrated on the theme "*Forest Restoration: A path to recovery and well-being*" by hosting a virtual meeting with forestry institutions. Winners of theme-based competitions were announced during the meeting. Secretary, EF&CC, DGF&SS and ADG(WL) delivered the key messages on the occasion to the participants.

The National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) conducted an online webinar to observe "World Wildlife Day" on 3rd March, 2021. Another webinar was conducted on International Day of Forests on 21.03.21(Sunday) by NMNH for college students of Delhi, trainee teachers & pass out students of DIET, R.K. Puram, N. Delhi and students of Great Mission Institute for Teacher's Training, Dwarka, Delhi.

A webinar on the topic "Women and Climate Change-Grassroots Perspectives and the Global Scenario" was organized on

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the occasion of International Women's Day by the NMNH and coordinated by the Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore on 8th March 2021.

A series of steps were taken during the month to streamline the process of issuing Environmental Clearances. Gazette Notification SO. No.980(E) dated 02.03.2021 was issued permitting increase in production capacity in respect of processing or production or manufacturing sectors (listed against item numbers 2,3, 4 and 5 in the Schedule to the EIA notification) without the requirement of Prior Environmental Clearance provided that there is no increase in pollution load.

Another Gazette Notification SO 1247 (E) dated 18.03.2021 was issued regarding exemption from public hearing in respect of projects which apply for fresh EC since their activities/commissioning could not be completed within period of validity of the EC provided they more than fifty percent of the construction in physical form is complete.

During the Expert Appraisal Committee meetings held in March 2021, a total of 119 projects pertaining to different sectors were appraised. 49 projects were accorded environmental clearance and 81 projects were prescribed ToRs. Thus, a total of 130 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.)*

Two policy Guidelines were issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of March 2021 (The Guidelines are regularly updated on the MoEF&CC website [www.parivesh.nic.in]).

During the month, 1804.78 ha of forestland in 143 cases were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use for non-forest purposes. 226.80 ha of non-forest land and 2512.88 ha of degraded forestland were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

Under the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP), 8 courses had commenced and 39 courses culminated in the month of March, 2021.

Scientists at Botanical Survey of India (BSI) reported three plant species as new to science and six taxa of plants as new additions.

During this month, 18 publications have been published by BSI Scientists in various international and national research journals.

Out of 662 Protected Areas (PAs) in the country, the Ministry has issued ESZ Notifications for 562 PAs, including Draft Notifications for 130 PAs and Final Notifications for 432 PAs. Further, ESZ notifications for 16 PAs have been approved and are under process for publications.

During the month 429 Public Grievances were redressed and 151 Grievances are pending.

An expenditure of Rs 2062.70 Crores (Provisional) has been incurred until 31st March 2021 against the Net budget estimate of Rs 3209.78 crores for FY 2020-21.

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.

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

Consultant (IT)

Geeta Menon
[Geeta Menon]
Joint Secretary

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

	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	12	12	26	5	1	0	13	12	14	11	28	43	28	4	20	9	28	4	170	100
Projects received during the month/ respond	23	29	14	17	0	0	1	2	2	3	12	19	8	9	3	9	46	30	109	118
Projects cleared during the month	7	15	13	11	0	0	1	6	4	2	5	10	12	3	0	4	7	30	49	81
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)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
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	1	0	1	0
Projects withdrawn/ returned/ transferred/ duplicate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
Projects kept in abeyance/ delisted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
EDS raised during the month *	8	10	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	8	1	0	0	0	5	1	28	7
Pending at PP due to Additional details sought *	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	9	5	2	0	2	1	1	0	22	24
Projects pending at the end of the month *	18	9	15	3	1	0	13	6	12	9	27	28	24	10	23	14	47	22	180	101

* The total pending projects does not include the projects which are pending due to EDS. However, the EDS proposals have been submitted to the concerned authorities.