

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

10th February, 2022

Dear Sir,

The following are the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry of environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) during the month of January, 2022 are as below:

1. Based upon on the inputs received from stakeholders including industry, Central Pollution Control Board and concerned ministries of Government of India, the Ministry published a draft notification for amending the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 on 18th January 2022. The proposed amendment seeks to strengthen Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework, reduce compliance burden for ease of doing business and promote the development of alternatives to plastics.
2. Through the Expert Appraisal Committee meetings, a total number of 178 projects pertaining to different sectors were appraised, 31 projects were accorded Environmental Clearance and 32 projects were prescribed ToRs across the country.
3. With a view to fast-tracking processes, a methodology has been devised for enhancing the competitiveness of States through star-rating of SEIAAs. The same was circulated to all States / UTs during the month.
4. Scientists of BSI reported a two taxa as new to science viz *Elotespora mumbaiensis*, an anamorphic fungus from Peninsular India and *Impatiens jurpia* from Arunachal Pradesh. ZSI conducted long term surveys to Great Nicobar Island, as also Asian Water bird census surveys at South Andaman and Little Andaman; Lakshadweep. In addition, the protected area, Khichan Bird Sanctuary, Phalodi, Rajasthan was surveyed. Altogether 17331 faunal specimens comprising 2386 species were identified and registered as National Zoological Collections, of which four species are newly described while 16 species are new to India.

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5. The National Museum of Natural History compiled a video on children's views on Nature Conservation and Green Good Deeds as part of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav", wherein children from different parts of the country took a pledge to conserve nature and follow green good deeds, under the concept of "Pratigya".

In view of the extensive work requirements in this Ministry, it is requested that two Joint Secretaries may kindly be posted in this Ministry against the officers recently promoted from Joint Secretary level to Additional Secretary.

Regards

Yours sincerely,

Leena

[Leena Nandan]

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