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SECRETARY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST  
& CLIMATE CHANGE

D.O.No.2411/5/2022-GC  
April 12, 2023

*Dear Sir,*

The following are the main activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change during the month of March, 2023:

**A. G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting at Gandhinagar – March 27-29, 2023**

The second meeting of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG), under India's G20 Presidency was held in Gandhinagar during March 27-29, which was attended by 130 delegates from G20 countries, 11 guest countries, and 14 international organizations. The Ministry of Jal Shakti led the Side Event with thematic site visits on the first day to the Adalaj Vav, Sabarmati siphon, Sabarmati River front and Narmada main canal, showcasing India's ancient water management traditions along with modern day practices for managing and conserving our water resources.

**B. Amendment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**

With a view to inter-alia removing ambiguity in the applicability of the provisions of the FC Act, promoting plantation in private lands and farms, achieving the targets envisaged in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and further to align with dynamic changes in the ecological, security-related and development regimes, the Ministry moved a proposal to amend the said Act. The Union Cabinet approved the proposed changes, following which the concerned Bill was introduced in both Houses of Parliament on March 29, 2023.

**C. Aravalli Green Wall Project**

The Aravalli Green Wall Project was launched to revive the Aravallis through various initiatives like single-use plastic ban, water conservation efforts and natural resources protection with a major initiative to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi. This Project will not only increase the green cover and biodiversity of the Aravallis through afforestation, reforestation and restoration of water bodies, but also improve the soil fertility, water availability and climate resilience of the region.

....2.

**D. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Synthesis Report**

MoEFCC participated in the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC at Interlaken, Switzerland from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. IPCC's Sixth Assessment Synthesis Report scientifically re-inforces India's position on the historical responsibility of developed countries for usurping the Carbon Budget and excessive emissions. The Report reaffirmed the role of unsustainable lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production, and reiterated the fact that financial support from developed to developing countries is a critical enabler of climate action while also highlighting that current flows are inadequate.

**E. Forest Clearance & Environmental Clearance**

During the month, 1951.5454 ha. of forest land in 126 cases, was approved (In-Principle) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. 1730.2655 ha. of non-forest land and 1368.8687 ha. of degraded forest land have been earmarked and approved for carrying out Compensatory Afforestation.

A total of 179 projects pertaining to different sectors were appraised by the EAC in March 2023. 44 projects were accorded environmental clearance and 38 projects were prescribed TORs across the country.

*Regards,*

Yours sincerely,



(Leena Nandan)

**Shri Rajiv Gauba**  
Cabinet Secretary  
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