



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 CHANGE

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

10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

I am writing this letter indicating the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) during the month of August, 2021:

2. In line with the clarion call given by Hon'ble Prime Minister to phase out single use plastic by 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, prohibiting identified single use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential. The notification inter-alia include:

- i) Prohibition of the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities with effect from the 1st July, 2022.
- ii) Increasing the thickness of plastic carry bags from existing fifty microns to:-
  - a) Seventy-five microns with effect from 30th September, 2021,
  - b) One hundred and twenty microns with effect from the 31st December, 2022.
- iii) Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) have been given legal force through present amendment rules, for effective implementation.

3. Two Guidelines (policy decisions) were issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of August, 2021 which is as follows.

- i) Guidelines dated 23/08/2021: "Considering linear projects linked to mining projects as standalone projects
- ii) Guidelines dated 16/08/2021: "Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 - Revised guidelines for Tusser Cultivation (Vanya Silk Cultivation)

4. Scientists of BSI reported six taxa of plants as new additions to India viz. Gastrochilus yei (orchidaceae), Eriochloa meyeriana (Poaceae), Cloniophora plumsoa (Cloniophoraceae) and three wild mushrooms i.e. Lactarius ambiguus, L. hirtipes and L. kesiya from Arunachal Pradesh. Besides, they also reported five taxa as new additions to the state of Telangana and West Bengal. i.e. Urochloa trichopus, Schizachyrium brevifolium, Iphegnia magnifica from Telangana and Ischaemum ciliare (proceae), a new record for the flora of Telangana State and Leucophanes as a new generic record to West Bengal. Besides, BSI released its e-archival data base of

Types/ herbarium specimens on official website on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 for public reference.

5. Two species (One Genus *Andreimyrmex* Lelej, 1995 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) and one species of Fish, *Pseudamia gelatinosa* Smith, 1956) were reported for the first time in India.

6. MoEFCC celebrated "World Elephant Day 2021" on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. The proceedings were made available on YouTube also for the people who could not join Webex. Sh. Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC and Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS, MoEFCC were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour on this occasion. The meeting was addressed by Sh. R. P. Gupta, Secretary, MoEFCC and other high officials.

7. 75 years of Independence was celebrated as Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav on 15<sup>th</sup> August and a video created by RMNH, Bhubaneswar and NMNH, New Delhi entitled "SANKALP" was released by Headquarters in its YouTube channel on this occasion. In this regard many other events have been planned and are being executed to celebrate 75 years of independence.

8. Hon'ble MEFCC held a meeting with U.K. Delegation led by Rt. Hon'ble Alok Sharma, CoP 26 President Designate, UK to India on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

9. India-U.S. Bilateral: Telephonic Discussion held between Hon'ble MEFCC and U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC) Mr. John Kerry on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

10. BRICS Virtual Meeting of Environment Ministers held on 27 August, 2021 under Indian Presidency, and it was preceded by BRICS Senior Officers JWG Meeting on 26 August, 2021

11. **Environmental Clearances: Number of projects appraised:** During the Expert Appraisal Committee meetings held in **August 2021**, a total of **121 projects** pertaining to different sectors were appraised. **Number of projects cleared:** During the month, **65 projects** were accorded environmental clearance and **34 projects** were prescribed ToRs. Thus, a total of **99 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.*)

12. **Forest Clearances:** During the month, **1835.75 ha of forestland** in **133 cases** were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use for non-forest purposes. **1348.13 ha of non-forest land** and **2391.46 ha of degraded forestland** were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

13. **Total Expenditure:** An expenditure of **Rs 481.93 Crores (Provisional)** has been incurred until **31<sup>st</sup> August 2021** against the Net budget estimate of **Rs 3136.58 crores** for FY 2021-22.

14. **Eco sensitive Zone:** Out of **662 Protected Areas (PAs)** in the country, the Ministry has issued ESZ Notifications for **574 PAs**, including Draft Notifications for **131 PAs** and Final Notifications for **443 PAs**. Further, ESZ notifications for **7 PAs** have been approved and are under process for publications.

15. **Public Grievances:** During the month **288 Public Grievances** were redressed and **171 Grievances** were pending.

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 of Govt. of India

*consultant (IT)*

  
[ Jigmet Takpa ]  
Joint Secretary

## Status of Environment Clearance and Terms of Reference of Projects for the month of August, 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	21	17	27	1	2	2	17	5	8	10	31	32	22	9	19	10	29	9	176	95
Projects received during the month/ respond	12	22	51	6	0	1	0	1	3	2	6	7	10	4	4	4	15	5	101	52
Projects cleared during the month	10	12	12	2	0	0	5	1	0	4	9	4	7	3	2	3	20	5	65	34
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
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	1	0	0	0	1
Projects withdrawn/ returned/ transferred/ duplicate	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
Projects kept in abeyance/ delisted	2	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	2	2	13	8
EDS raised during the month *	5	2	19	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	5	3	34	19
Pending at PP due to Additional details sought *	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	1	4	0	12	12	3	3	4	1	1	1	29	7
Projects pending at the end of the month *	13	15	52	5	1	3	12	5	10	9	27	26	16	8	19	9	17	19	167	99

\* The total pending projects does not include the projects which are pending due to EDS. However, the EDS proposals have been included in the projects received during the month.