



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

April 11, 2022

Dear Sir,

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

1. International Cooperation

I participated in the resumed Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly from 28th February to 2nd March, 2022, and presented the National Statement on action initiated by India for combating plastic pollution. India played a proactive role in building consensus regarding voluntary steps to be taken by countries for elimination of plastic, based on the principle of 'national circumstances'. The resumed Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly concluded with the adoption of a historic resolution on Plastic Pollution by 175 countries.

2. Notification on Gene Editing

An Office Memorandum was issued on 30th March 2022 for exemption from Biosafety assessment by GEAC, of Genome Edited plants falling under the categories of SDN1 and SDN2 free from exogenous introduced DNA. This is expected to facilitate testing and trial of food crops, for boosting their productivity and disease resistance.

3. Wetland

A total of Rs 26.75 crore was released for conservation and management of wetlands under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-System Scheme (NPCA). A handholding workshop for uploading shape files and data on the Wetlands Portal was organized in Bhopal on 10th-11th March 2022, for the Wetlands Authorities of Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

4. Forest Clearance

During the month, diversion of 1559.35 ha. of forest land in 129 cases was approved (*in principle*) under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. An area of 712.66 ha of non-forest land and 1822.65 ha of degraded



forest land have been earmarked and approved for carrying out Compensatory Afforestation.

5. National Clean Air Programme

A Workshop 'Interactive Dialogue towards Clean Air' was organized on 7-8 March by the Commission for Air Quality Management and MoEF&CC in collaboration with all stakeholders of Delhi and NCR, on the issue of air quality improvement in NCR Region. Topics such as Urban Solid Waste Management; Management of Dust from Construction and Demolition activities; Shifting of Industries and Transport to PNG/cleaner fuels; Ex-situ Utilization of Agricultural Stubble in coal-based Thermal Power Plants; In-situ management of Agricultural Stubble through bio-decomposers and Greening and Plantation Programme, etc., were discussed in this workshop.

As per the approved framework of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, an amount of Rs. 1833 crore was released to State Governments / UTs on the basis of their performance in respect of air quality improvement. This would enable action on part of the municipal authorities for further corrective measures.

6. Expenditure Statement

Net expenditure on all projects and schemes had been only Rs.1620.40 crore till December 31, 2021. Through continuous follow-up with States/UTs, it was ensured that the State Nodal Agencies were mapped on PFMS. This enabled release of funds for key projects like Project Tiger, Protection / Development of Wildlife Habitats etc and a net expenditure of Rs.2444.62 crore was incurred till 31st March 2022 against the Final Estimate of Rs.2471.08 crore (98.93%) for FY 2021-22.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Leena
(Leena Nandan)

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