Dear

Following are the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for the month of September, 2016:

1. **Rules/Notifications/Policy Decisions**

   1.1 Two Guidelines on diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of August, 2016 has been issued.

2. **Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and other activities**

   2.1 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) hosted the second BRICS Environment Ministers meeting at Goa on 15-16th September, 2016. The Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation was agreed upon. The Ministers announced the setting up of a Joint Working Group while adopting the Ministerial Deceleration. The areas agreed for mutual cooperation are abatement and control of air and water pollution, efficient management of liquid and solid waste, climate change and biodiversity conservation.

   2.2 National Workshop on Environmental Dimension of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was organized by the Ministry in New Delhi on 30th September, 2016 to discuss the ways, means, roadmap and measurable indicators for achieving 41 SDG environment-related targets assigned by NITI Aayog to the Ministry.

   2.3 A WB/GEF project on “India: Program to Establish Pilots for Access through Renewable Energy” worth USD 12.844 million of GEF grant was approved. The project aims to provide enhanced energy access to villages in Uttar Pradesh and other states through solar mini-grids following VGF-based bidding model for domestic as well as commercial use.

   2.4 The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrated the International Ozone Day on September 16, 2016. It has initiated an ambitious collaborative R&D programme to develop next generation, sustainable refrigerant technologies as alternatives to HydroFluroCarbons (HFCs). The R&D initiative brings together Government, research institutes, industry and civil society to develop long term technology solutions to mitigate impact to the ozone layer and climate issues.

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2.5 On the occasion of International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer, various competitions were organized at Regional Centres (Mysuru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Sawai Madhopur) of National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) on 16th September, 2016.

2.6 Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhopal organized a workshop on “Urban Biodiversity Watch” for the school teachers in September 7, 2016, in collaboration with M.P. State Biodiversity Board, Bhopal and Bhopal Birds, NGO.

2.7 RMNH, Bhubaneswar observed Teachers Day on 10th September, 2016 in collaboration with Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) of West Bengal Government, and SN Patnaik Memorial Trust.

2.8 Odisha Development Conclave 2016 was also organized in collaboration with Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), Bhubaneswar at RMNH, Bhubaneswar.

2.9 A stuffed specimen of Common Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*), also known as the southern eland or eland antelope, from the reserve collection of RMNH, Mysuru was exhibited. This is a savannah and plains antelope found in East and Southern Africa, and belongs to the family **Bovidae** and genus *Taurotragus*.

2.10 The 7th ‘Himalaya Day’ was celebrated on 9th September, 2016 by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to create awareness to save the Himalayan range. This year’s Theme was ‘Ecological Services of Rivers’.

2.11 Training Workshop on Disaster Damage and Loss Assessment in Natural Heritage and Cultural Sites using Geospatial Techniques was organized at UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia-Pacific Region, WII; and the Centre for Space Science & Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP), Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun.

2.12 Wildlife Institute of India’s XXX Annual Research Seminar was conducted during 29-30th September, 2016 at WII under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.M. Kutty, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman, WII –Governing Body. Five Publications prepared by the Scientists of the Institute were released during the inaugural session of the ARS.

2.13 Two capacity building training programmes on investigation of wildlife offences was conducted by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) for state police and forest officials at Cuttack, Odisha and Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Karnataka.

2.14 11th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards was held under the auspices of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai on 30th September and 1st October, 2016. The Challenges and good practices were discussed during the meet.
2.15 In response to the directions issued to 3377 highly polluting industries under 17 Category for installation of online system for effluent/emission monitoring, 1925 units have installed the monitoring system and 510 units are in the process of installation, 1142 units have been issued Closure directions for non-compliance.

2.16 Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

All Museums under the NMNH organize cleaning/Swachhta Programmes on regular basis.

2.17 Eco Sensitive Zones

297 complete proposals have been received so far for notifying 432 Protected Areas (PAs) of a total 646 PAs in the country. Of these, 279 ESZ proposals have been notified/approved consisting of a total of 412 Protected Areas.

2.18 Environment Clearance

During the monthly a total 138 projects pertaining to different sectors were appraised, out of which 28 projects/proposals were accorded environment Clearance and 30 projects were prescribed Terms of Reference (ToRS), in various meetings of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC). So, a total of 58 proposals, were cleared during the month. The status of adequate environmental safeguards of various projects is at Annexure-A

2.19 Forest Clearances

During the month, 1471.47 ha of forest land in 37 cases were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. 71.05 ha of non-forest land and 1699.26 ha of degraded forest land were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

2.20 Plan Expenditure

The Plan Expenditure against the 9 Umbrella Schemes being administered by the Ministry incurred till 30th September, 2016 was Rs.1058.85 crore against the budget estimates for 2016-17 of Rs.2000.00 crore.

3. Important policy matters held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations: NIL

4. Compliance of COS decisions: NIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of CoS decisions pending for compliance</th>
<th>Proposed plan/time lines for compliance of CoS actions</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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5. Number of cases of ‘sanction for prosecution’ pending for more than three months: **NIL**

6. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government: **NIL**

7. Status of implementation of e-Governance:

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<th>Total No. of Files</th>
<th>Total No. E-files</th>
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E-office is proposed to be implemented from 3rd October, 2016. The training of all officers have been completed. In the next monthly d.o. the number of files which have been handled through e-office would be indicated.

8. Status of Public Grievances:

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<th>No. of Public Grievances redressed during the month</th>
<th>No. of Public Grievances pending at the end of the month</th>
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9. Information on the specific steps taken by the Ministry/Department for utilization of the Space Technology based tools and applications in Governance and Development:

Ministry has its own Decision Support System developed by FSI based on combining GIS platform and remotely sensed imagery obtained by Indian Satellite IRS P-6 Liss-III. This system is used for Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Management and decision making related with these issues.

Yours sincerely,

*End: as above*

**Shri P.K. Sinha,**
Cabinet Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
**New Delhi-110001**

*Copy to: The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, PMO, South Block, New Delhi-110001*

*sd/- (A. N. Jha)*

*Copy also to: PS to Hon’ble Minister, Environment, Forest & Climate Change.*

*sd/- (Anil Sant)*

Joint Secretary
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**Table:** Status of Environment Clearance and Terms of Reference of Projects for the Month of September 2016

**Annexure - I**