

Meeting of the Forest Ministers of all the States/UTs

“Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is focused on enhancing forest quality and increasing tree cover for maximizing carbon stock. With a view to achieve these objectives, Ministry has taken several initiatives to bring out transformational changes in our policies and programmes and has also initiated implementation of various schemes which includes massive tree plantation, promoting urban forestry through Nagar Van Scheme, Landscape based catchment treatment of 13 major rivers, LiDAR based survey of degraded forest areas for soil moisture conservation projects and launch of National Transit Portal. Ministry is also going to announce implementation of School Nursery Scheme shortly”, said the Hon’ble Minister Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar during the meeting with Forest Ministers of all the States held on 17th August, 2020. Shri Babul Supriyo, Hon’ble Minister of State, other officials in the Ministry, two Chief Ministers of the State of Arunachal Pradesh and Goa, Deputy Chief Ministers and 24 Forest Ministers from various States also participated in the meeting.

These efforts made by Ministry are critical to meet various national and international goals under National Forest Policy, Nationally Determined Commitments and restoration of degraded forest land.

The Nagar Van Scheme was announced by Hon’ble Minister of EF&CC, Govt. of India for creation of 200 Nagar Van, on forest land by adopting a collaborative approach, involving various agencies like forest and other departments, NGOs, Corporate Bodies, Industries etc., for which Ministry will be giving grants for fencing and soil moisture works. Primary objective is to create forested area in cities with Municipal Corporation. School Nursery scheme aims at involving schools students from the young age in nursery and plantation operations. The objective is to inculcate the spirit of forest and environment in the mind of young students. Scheme guidelines will be shared with the States shortly. The study given to ICFRE for river rejuvenation of 13 major rivers will promote afforestation along the rivers, increase ground water recharge and reduce erosion. Similarly, LiDAR technology, an airborne remote sensing method will assist in identification of the degraded land for construction of soil and water conservation structures. National Transit Portal has been launched to promote smooth inter-state movement of forest produce.

This meeting was organized in the Ministry on 17th August, 2020 under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Minister EF&CC, with Forest Ministers of all the States/UTs, with a view to ensure participation and coordination of all the States in taking forward various initiatives of Govt. of India to meet our National and International Goals. The preparedness of States and issues related to various schemes were discussed in detail with States. During the meeting the States presented their status of preparedness for implementation of various programmes initiated by Ministry and also conveyed their willingness to associate with all other initiatives of Government of India to promote green cover. States have shown enthusiasm and expressed cooperation with MoEF&CC in this endeavour.
