



*Role and
Mandate of the
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The primary concerns of the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the Government structure are Implementation of policies and programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources including lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, forests and wildlife, ensuring the welfare of animals and prevention and abatement of pollution. While implementing these policies and programmes, the Ministry is guided by the principle of sustainable development and enhancement of human well-being. The Ministry also serves as the nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and for the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Ministry is also entrusted with the issues relating to multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and of regional bodies like Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to environment.

The broad objectives of the Ministry are:

- ☞ Conservation and survey of flora, fauna, forests and wildlife,
- ☞ Prevention and control of pollution,
- ☞ Afforestation and regeneration of degraded areas,

- ☞ Protection of the environment, and
- ☞ Ensuring the welfare of animals.

These objectives are well supported by a set of legislative and regulatory measures, aimed at the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment. Besides the legislative measures, a National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development, 1992, National Forest Policy, 1988, a Policy Statement on Abatement of Pollution, 1992 and a National Environment Policy, 2006 have also been evolved.

The organization structure of the Ministry indicating various Divisions and its autonomous and subordinate offices is given at Annexure-I-A & I-B.

Mandate of the Ministry

Allocation of Business

- ☞ Environment and Ecology, including environment in coastal waters, in mangroves and coral reefs but excluding marine environment on the high seas.
- ☞ Survey and Exploration of Natural Resources particularly of Forest, Flora, Fauna, Ecosystems etc.
- ☞ Bio-diversity Conservation including that of lakes and wetlands.
- ☞ Conservation, development, management and abatement of pollution of rivers which shall include National River Conservation Directorate.
- ☞ Environmental Impact Assessment.

- ☞ Environment research and development, education, training, information and awareness.
- ☞ Environmental Health.
- ☞ Forest Development Agency and Joint Forest Management Programme for conservation, management and afforestation.
- ☞ Wildlife conservation, preservation, protection planning, research, education, training and awareness including Project Tiger and Project Elephant.
- ☞ International co-operation on issues concerning Environment, Forestry and Wildlife.
- ☞ Botanical Survey of India and Botanical Gardens.
- ☞ Zoological Survey of India.
- ☞ National Museum of Natural History.
- ☞ Biosphere Reserve Programme.
- ☞ National Forest Policy and Forestry Development in the country including Social Forestry.
- ☞ All matters relating to Forest and Forest Administration in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ☞ Indian Forest Service.
- ☞ Wild Life Preservation and protection of wild birds and animals.
- ☞ Fundamental and applied research and training including higher education in forestry.
- ☞ Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological park.
- ☞ National Assistance to Forestry Development Schemes.
- ☞ Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore.
- ☞ Afforestation and Eco-development which shall include National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board.
- ☞ Desert and Desertification.
- ☞ Forest Survey of India.
- ☞ Indian Institute of Bio-diversity, Itanagar.
- ☞ Central Pollution Control Board.
- ☞ G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development.
- ☞ Wildlife Institute of India and Indian Board for Wildlife.
- ☞ Indian Institute of Forest Management.
- ☞ Central Zoo Authority including National Zoological Park.
- ☞ Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education.
- ☞ Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited.
- ☞ Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- ☞ Matters relating to pounds and cattle trespass.
- ☞ Gaushalas and Gausadans.
- ☞ The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960).

- ☞ The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 (27 of 1995).
- ☞ The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997 (22 of 1997).
- ☞ The Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974 (6 of 1974).
- ☞ The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 (36 of 1977).
- ☞ The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (14 of 1981).
- ☞ The Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927).
- ☞ The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972).
- ☞ The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980).
- ☞ The Environment (Protection), Act, 1986 (29 of 1986).
- ☞ The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 (6 of 1991).