



आर पी गुप्ता  
R P Gupta

D.O.No.2411/3/2020-GC



सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
SECRETARY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

October 9, 2020

I am writing this letter indicating the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry during the month of September, 2020.

The Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 countries was held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 through video conferencing under the Presidency of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Prior, to this meeting, a two-day meeting of Environment Deputies Meeting took place on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Representing India, Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar, congratulated the Saudi Presidency for exemplary work in bringing together the nations of the world to address the urgent environmental challenges and propose impactful solutions.

The Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change virtually participated in the Ministerial Roundtable on "Biodiversity Beyond 2020: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth" on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 organized by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China which served as a well timed and constructive event preceding the UN Biodiversity Summit in New York held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 and the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming to be held in 2021.

The Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change participated through a pre-recorded message on "Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development" at the Biodiversity Summit on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 held during the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The Summit in itself was a landmark event, being the first of its kind organized by the UNGA.

The following activities were undertaken by the Ministry under Swachhta Action Plan during the month of September 2020:-

- Awareness on Open Defecation in rural areas
- Dust to Dustbin Campaign
- Anti-litter Campaign
- Plantation Drive
- Awareness on Covid 19

A meeting between Secretaries of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and this Ministry on issues of mutual concern related to Forest Rights Act, 2006 was organized on 10.9.2020 and issues addressed holistically.

An advisory dated 07.09.2020 was also issued to All States/UTs regarding implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006.

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MoEF&CC's in-principle concurrence on establishing National Chemical Authority (under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 provisions) under the administrative control of DCPC for implementing the Draft Chemical (Management and Safety) Rules was communicated to DCPC. This will significantly streamline the management and safety issues pertaining to chemicals.

An Online Painting Competition was organized by the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) on the occasion of Teacher's Day. NMNH also organised an online Quiz Contest for College Students on the occasion of the International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer.

During the Expert Appraisal Committee meetings held in September 2020, a total of 138 projects pertaining to different sectors were appraised. 26 projects were accorded environmental clearance and 28 projects were prescribed Terms of Reference (ToRs). Thus, a total of 54 proposals were cleared during the month. The status of environmental clearances and TORs for 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.)

During the month, 1687.806431 ha of forestland in 172 cases were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use for non-forest purposes. 644.5164 ha of non-forest land and 2157.174548 ha of degraded forestland were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

Out of 662 Protected Areas (PAs) in the country, the Ministry has issued ESZ Notifications for 548 PAs, including Draft Notifications for 144 PAs and Final Notifications for 404 PAs. Further, ESZ notifications for 24 PAs have been approved and are under process for publications.

In terms of expenditure, I would like to inform you that until 30th September, 2020, an expenditure of Rs 1081.18 crores (Provisional) has been incurred against the Net budget estimate of Rs 3209.78 crores for FY 2020-21.

During the month 381 Public Grievances were redressed and 55 Grievances were pending.

Encl: as above

Yours sincerely,

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, PMO, South Block, New Delhi.

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

iv) Consultant (IT)

*Geeta Menon*

[Geeta Menon]  
Joint Secretary

**Status of Environment Clearance and Terms of Reference of Projects for the month of September, 2020**

	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		Total	
	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	24	19	93	15	3	4	10	18	16	12	32	31	31	11	21	5	230	115
Projects received during the month/ respond	10	18	55	31	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	16	14	14	15	1	98	83
Projects cleared during the month	5	11	12	4	0	2	0	3	1	1	1	4	3	3	4	0	26	28
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
Projects exempted during the month	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	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Project closed during the month (due to non-submission of info.)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Projects withdrawn/ returned/ transferred/ duplicate	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Projects kept in abeyance/ delisted	1	2	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	8	2	0	0	0	14	10
EDS raised during the month *	2	3	25	16	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	6	3	3	0	40	24
Pending at PP due to Additional details sought *	3	0	15	0	1	0	2	0	5	0	4	4	3	1	2	0	35	5
Projects pending at the end of the month *	24	15	96	12	3	1	9	10	15	10	32	27	42	20	31	6	252	101

\* 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.