



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

August 10, 2022

Dear Sir,

The following are the main activities of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change during the month of ~~July~~ 2022:

Haryali Mahotsav

Haryali Saptah was celebrated across the country from July 1 to 8, 2022. This is an activity which encourages large-scale participation in plantation drives for planting and nurturing native trees during the Monsoon season. The Ministry organized a Tree Festival, at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi, on July 8, an initiative to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The event was organised in collaboration with the State Government, as also with Delhi Police and local schools, for awareness generation about environment protection and conservation.

Forest and Environment Clearances

During the month of July, diversion of 796.2303 ha. of forest land for 97 projects, was approved (In-Principle) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. A total of 263.3902 ha. of non-forest land and 1266.9540 ha. of degraded forest land were earmarked and approved for carrying out Compensatory Afforestation.

Further, a total of 129 projects pertaining to different sectors were appraised and 55 projects were accorded Environmental Clearance.

Wetlands

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for implementation of 'SAHBHAGITA' mission was prepared and circulated among Wetlands Authorities of States/UTs, Knowledge Partners and State Govts. / UT administrations.

In July, India added 5 more wetlands as Ramsar sites, taking the total to 54 in the country. The 5 new sites include Pichavaram Mangrove, Pallikaranal Marsh Reserve Forest & Karikali Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Pala Wetland in Mizoram and Sakhya Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. Designation of these wetlands as Ramsar sites would help in their conservation and management, and also for ensuring prudent use of their resources.

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National Clean Air Programme

The 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee for the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was held on July 29, 2022. Municipal Commissioners of Akola, Pune, Lucknow, Varanasi, Tuticorin, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Srinagar made presentations on best practices adopted for improvement of air quality in their cities.

It was suggested that all the State Governments / UT Administrations should identify and implement city specific measures for air quality improvement based on their population, infrastructure & development, transportation, land use, industries and energy sources, for achieving air quality targets under NCAP.

Elimination of single use plastic items

The ban on identified single-use plastic items, notified on August 12, 2021 vide Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2021, came into effect on July 1, 2022.

A pan India awareness and enforcement campaign on single-use plastic ban was organized from July 1 to 31, 2022. The Ministry also notified the Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022, on July 6, 2022, to align with the Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility on Plastic packaging, provide a framework for use of biodegradable plastics and for levy of environmental compensation on "polluter pays" principle.

Zoological Survey of India /Botanical Survey of India

The 107th Foundation Day of Zoological Survey of India was celebrated on July 1, 2022. During the month, the Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC), Solan organised the First Women Scientists' Faunal Expedition to Lahaul Valley, Himachal Pradesh.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Leena

[Leena Nandan]

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