



D.O.No.24011/9/2016-GC (Vol.II)

December 13, 2016

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 **November, 2016**:

1. Rules/Notifications/Policy Decisions

- 1.1 **Four Guidelines** on diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of November, 2016 has been issued.
- 1.2 The Gazette Notification regarding Amendment in EIA Notification, 2016- Product Mix Pet Coke vide S.O. 3518(E) dated 23.11.2016 has been issued.
- 1.3 In compliance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 5.10.2015 in writ petition (C), No. 202 of 1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India and others, the Gazette Notification regarding "**Wood-Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016**" has been issued dated 16.11.2016.

2. Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and other activities

- 2.1 **The Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP-22)** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Marrakech (Morocco) from 7th to 18th November, 2016. Indian Delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change participated in the Conference. Our stand in the negotiations was firmly rooted in the principle of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.
- 2.2 **The Inter-Governmental Science-Policy Platform on Bio-diversity and Eco System Services (IPBES) Asia-Pacific Workshop on Diverse Values**, were held on 10-11th November, 2016 at Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The objectives of the workshop were to (i) introduce the values guide to people conducting biodiversity and ecosystem assessments in Africa, the Americas and The Asia-Pacific regions. (ii) Reflect on its generic application at a local level and make recommendations to IPBES where practical application may be challenging and (iii) plant seeds for a future integration of multiple conceptualizations of values within the global assessment.

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- 2.3 Sensitization workshop on 'Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation' was held on 19th November, 2016 at Lucknow.
- 2.4 International Workshop on "Eld's Deer Conservation" was organized by WII, Dehradun on 24-26th November, 2016 at Imphal, Manipur. The sessions were based on Eld's Deer ecology and conservation, community based conservation issues and challenges and Global Captive Management of Eld's Deer. The participants were invited from different range countries, international institutions and state forest departments.
- 2.5 The National Intangible Heritage Festival 2016 was organized at Amaravati Heritage Centre & Museum, Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh) during November 15-18, 2016 in the collaboration with Tourism, Culture and Heritage Departments of the State by Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Mysore.
- 2.7 A taxidermy mounted specimen of Nilgiri tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) from the reserve collection was developed as exhibit of the month by RMNH, Mysore. The display panel was supplemented with colourful photo depicting the habitat of Nilgiri tahr and label containing information on distribution, IUCN status, habit and habitat.
- 2.8 On the occasion of The Constitution Day, Secretary (EF & CC) together with all the officers and staff read the Preamble to the Constitution of India on 25th November, 2016, in Indira Parayavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh, New Delhi. Fund raising event was also organized on the occasion of Communal Harmony Week.
- 2.9 The proposal regarding the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and Australia in Cooperation in the field of Environment, Climate and Wildlife has been approved by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 15/11/2016

2.10 Eco Sensitive Zones

A total of 438 proposals of a total **646 Protected Areas (PAs)** in the country have been received so far for notifying an eco-sensitive zone. Of these, ESZ proposals of 416 Protected Areas have been notified/approved.

2.11 Environmental Clearances

During the month, a total of **131 projects** pertaining to different sectors were appraised, out of which **16 projects were accorded environmental clearance** and **32 projects were prescribed TORs** in various meetings of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC). So, a total of **48 proposals** were cleared during the month. The status of environment clearance and Terms of Reference of various projects is at **Annexure-I**.

2.12 Forest Clearances

During the month, **507.20** ha of forest land in **55** cases were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. **126.53** ha of non-forest land and **500** ha of degraded forest land were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

2.13 Plan Expenditure

The Plan Expenditure against the 9 Umbrella Schemes being administered by the Ministry incurred till **30th November, 2016** was **Rs.1175.70 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**

No. of CoS decisions pending for compliance	Proposed action plan/time lines for compliance of CoS decisions	Remarks
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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:

Total No. of Files	Total No. E-files
50,000 approx (includes recorded files)	12,120

Most of the current files have been shifted to the e-Office platform.

8. Status of Public Grievances:

No. of Public Grievances redressed during the month	No. of Public Grievances pending at the end of the month
519	1210

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,

sd/-

(A. N. Jha)

Encl: 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.

sd/-

(A. N. Jha)

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


(Anil Sant)
Joint Secretary

ANNEXURE - I

Status of Environment Clearance and Terms of Reference of Projects for the month of November, 2016

	Industry-(I)			Industry-(II)			Thermal		River Valley & Hydro-Electric		Mining (Coal)		Mining (Non-Coal)		Infrastructure-I		Infrastructure-II		Nuclear, Defence & Others		Total	
	EC	ToR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	ToR	EC	ToR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR
No. of projects at the beginning of the month	49	44	103	67	4	3	25	14	26	16	138	53	47	5	21	15	14	-	-	-	427	217
Projects received during the month/ reopened	3	5	14	22	3	5	-	2	2	-	25	15	17	11	52	14	1	-	-	-	117	74
Projects cleared during the month	2	6	1	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	4	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	16	32
Projects converted from EC to ToR due change of scope	-	-	-	-	-	-	-2	+2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-2	+2
Projects exempted during the month	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Projects rejected during the month (on merit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Projects closed during the month (due to non-submission of inf.)	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
Projects withdrawn/ Transferred/Returned/Duplicate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0
Projects kept in abeyance/delisted	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	8
Projects pending at the end of the month	50	43	112	73	5	8	23	18	28	16	134	58	56	15	69	21	15	-	-	492	252	