



Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

New Initiatives and Efforts

2014 - 2016



स्वच्छ रहै पंचतत्व

MISSION

- 🌳 Clean water
- 🌳 Clean Air
- 🌳 Clean Energy
- 🌳 Clean Environment
- 🌳 More Green

VISION

- 🌳 Our vision is to have Sustainable Development
- 🌳 Our vision is to have Growth and Environment Protection
- 🌳 Our vision is Development without Destruction
- 🌳 Our vision is Poverty Eradication and Green Growth

Highlights Of Two Years In Office: 2014 - 2016

Forest cover **increased**

Industrial pollution **better monitored**
and **controlled**

2000 approvals have unlocked ₹10 lakh crore
of investment and **10 lakh job potential**

Project Approval Period **Reduced**

Protected **India's** interest in **Paris**



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

“ We, the present generation, have the responsibility to act as a trustee of the rich natural wealth for the future generations. The issue is not merely about climate change; it is about climate justice. ”



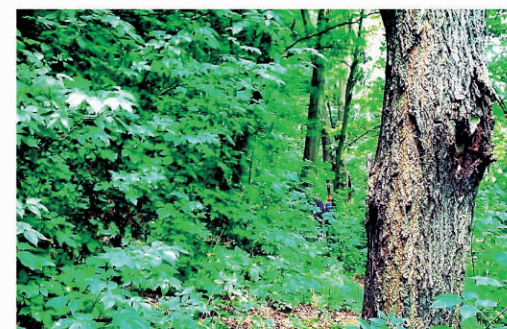
FOREST INITIATIVES



The total growing stock of India's forest and trees outside forests is estimated at 5,768.39 million cubic meter, which comprises 4,234.98 million cubic meter inside the forests and 1,533.41 million cubic meter outside the forests. A focus on forest management activities and synergy has led to an increase in forest cover. The ongoing study by Forest Survey Of India indicates a robust trend of growing green cover. The study is under finalization, and as a result of increased focus, monitoring, and work done under flagship programs like Green India Mission, a robust trend has been indicated by the FSI study.

Afforestation

CAMPA Bill to provide Rs 42,000 Crore to states for afforestation



In compliance of an Order passed by the Supreme Court, the amounts realized from the project proponents to mitigate impacts of diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose are deposited with an ad-hoc body consisting of three officials and one representative of the Central Empowered Committee. These amounts are presently kept outside the Government accounting system in the Bank deposits. In the absence of proper institutional mechanism, more than Rs. 42,000 crore has been accumulated with the said ad-hoc body. To provide for appropriate institutional mechanism for utilization of these

amounts in an efficient and transparent manner, as well as to bring this fund within the government accounting system and within the overall parliamentary scrutiny, the Ministry has introduced the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015 in Parliament and Lok Sabha has passed it unanimously.

New schemes like Urban Forest and School Nursery

In urban areas, there is forest land but as it is not protected, encroachments take place. Ministry has launched a new scheme called Nagar Van Udyan Scheme (Urban Forest). This is being taken up in cities for providing wholesome living environment. NCAC will fund the Schemes on 80:20 basis, with 20 % counterpart funding from the States. Identified forest land of area between 20 ha and 100 ha is to be taken up. A maximum grant of Rs.2.00 crores is allowed for each Nagar Van, with total financial grant of Rs.50 crores in the current year. It is expected that more funds will be available once the CAMPA bill is passed.





School Nursery

School children must learn to grow with plants. To create ownership amongst children for the plants, students from classes 6 to 10 will be taught how to prepare the nursery, how to sow the seeds, how to care for the plant, and after



one year of care, the students will take the grown plant with them along with their annual results. It will be their own creation. It's their own tree. They will plant it in their house or nearby area where it can be protected. School Nurseries are to be taken up in all recognized Schools in the States. A provision of Rs. 2.5 crores per year is to be provided from CAMPA funds.

In progress

PPP for Afforestation in degraded forest

The country imports timber worth Rs. 40,000 crores every year, and on the other hand we have nearly 30 million hectares of degraded forest land. The private industries will be allowed to grow forest and harvest it for their use. This will create employment, save on imports, and will create carbon sinks. The ownership and character of land will not change. Rights of forest dwellers will be protected and land will be leased in a transparent manner with bidding for revenue share and rent.

Afforestation of degraded forest areas will improve flow of various ecological services including enhanced productivity.



Policy for incentivizing tree cover outside forest

We have only 21% of forest land, but our target for tree cover is 33%. This can be achieved by increasing tree cover outside forests. Agro forestry and plantation activities need to be incentivized. This needs an assurance that any amount of tree cover grown outside forests through private initiatives, will not be declared as forest.

Partnership in greening Highways, Railways and banks of Ganga, has been initiated.

Ministry of Railways, in consultation with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has finalized a model agreement between Zonal Railways and State Forest Departments for plantation on Railway land along the track. Five crore trees are envisaged for plantation along the tracks. Northern Railway has already entered into agreements with Governments of Punjab and Haryana for plantation on railway land along side railway track.

The notable feature of this agreement is that although Forest Department will be taking up plantation on railway lands, the land ownership will remain vested with Railway authorities, and prior approval from forest department will not be needed for future Developmental works by railways.



Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, has recently launched Green Highways (plantation, transplantation, beautification & maintenance) Policy-2015 to promote plantation of trees along National Highways, turfing with grasses, shrub/herb and planting on medians/special landscapes/ embankment slopes. MoEF&CC will provide technical support to NHAI for planting of trees along the National Highways covering a distance of approximately 1 lakh kilometers.

Forest research institute has done a study for afforestation in catchment area of River Ganga. In partnership with Ministry of Water Resources, this ministry has embarked on greening the catchment area and banks of Ganga from origin to confluence.





Corridor protection

MoEFCC will incentivize offering CA land in corridor areas so that corridors can be protected better. Major tiger and elephant corridors have been mapped across the country, using field data from 2006 onwards with modelling using Circuitscape and Least Cost Pathways, resulting in effective decision- making for development activities. AP government has offered CA land in corridors in lieu of land diverted for creation of new state capital at Amravati.

Water and Fodder

Augmentation in Protected Areas

Under central component of CAMPA, MoEFCC has proposed assistance to states for enriching wild life habitats with fodder and water resources. Fodder species will be grown with augmented irrigation systems like drip and micro provisions for irrigating the planted plants. Water will be conserved by water harvesting systems suited to localities. This work will be taken up in the areas where wildlife are known to stray out of forests due to lack of food and water and cause human wildlife conflict. Rs. 5 Crores have been earmarked to begin with under central component of CAMPA. It will be augmented as the program progresses.



Wildlife

70% of world's tiger population in India at 2226

India's successful tiger conservation initiatives have resulted in an increase in the number of tigers. According to the last count in 2014, the number of tigers in the country stood at 2226, compared to 1710 in 2010. A host of measures like standard Operating Procedures, Increased fund allocation for Project Tiger from Rs. 185 crores to Rs. 380 crores, and notification of new tiger reserves at Bor in Maharashtra, Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Rajaji tiger reserve in Uttarakhand, and Orang in Assam have contributed to an increase in numbers.

In the words of our Prime Minister, "Tiger Conservation is not a choice, but an imperative".

Robust wildlife with 30,000+ elephants; 3000+ Single Horn Rhinos

Population of elephants in the country is rising and has exceeded 30,000 elephants.

Dandeli Elephant Reserve, with an area of 2321.12 sq kms has been notified on 26.03.2015. Area of Mysore Elephant Reserve in Karnataka has been increased by 1331.94 sq kms by inclusion of Bhadra Wildlife sanctuary within Mysore Elephant Reserve. The process of crops insurance due to depredation caused by elephants and other wildlife has been taken up with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare as part of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. India and Bangladesh have initiated the process of trans-boundary conservation of elephants in two countries.





NBWL approved 400+ projects

Reconstitution of National Board for Wildlife was due since September 2013. This had resulted in pendency of about 271 cases.

The Board was reconstituted in August 2014. Regular functioning of the Board resulted in consideration and decision on more than 400 cases. Most of these activities are for improvement of the existing public infrastructure like roads, transmission lines etc related to need of the local people and the country. Appropriate mitigation measures have been insisted in all cases for wildlife and environment. 8 meetings were held since August 2014 till date.

This has ensured that proposals are not parked in the ministry and states are encouraged to provide complete information for considered decisions, and there is no pendency now.

SC decided that NBWL approval is final and no SC concurrence is needed

In 2002, Supreme Court had mandated that each NBWL decision would be ratified by it.

Considering the performance and consistency in the working of Standing Committee, the Supreme Court has now directed that NBWL decisions will be final and no separate ratification is needed.

Finalized Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) proposals for 404 PAs out of 646

The objective of notifying eco-sensitive zones is to create a buffer as further protection around Protected Areas (PAs) -

Without demarcation of these eco sensitive zones, the Supreme Court had prohibited any non-forest activity within 10 KMs from boundary of the PAs. As a result there was a lot of uncertainty.

Till May 15, 2014, the Ministry had issued a total of 31 ESZ notifications for Protected Areas (PAs) in the country.

Due to consistent efforts, the Ministry has been able to finalise ESZs for more than 400 PAs out of a total of 646 PAs in the country.



Special Efforts to avoid Animal Human Conflict

Funds were earmarked for human wildlife conflict management to provide assistance for creating barriers like electric fence, animal proof trenches, walls, and also for payment of ex gratia to victims. Funding was increased by more than Rs 45 Crore during the last year.

Standard Operating Procedures have been put in place for dealing with tiger, leopard and elephants.

A scheme has been launched for augmenting fodder and water availability in forests to improve the habitat of wild animals.

Voluntary relocation done for 25 villages and 3000 families

Financial support to States enhanced for voluntary village relocation or rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats. The assistance was increased from Rs. 1 lakh per family to Rs. 10 lakhs per adult in the family, with the proviso, that children over 18 years shall be treated as separate family and also be eligible for the benefit individually.



Other measures include Rehabilitation or resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, main streaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves, and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation. In last two years, 25 villages and 3000 families have been successfully relocated to carry out their livelihood in a better way. There is demand for more funds for voluntary relocation, and CAMPA fund can help bridge the gap.





Discoveries and Technology

6 patents filed by institutes of forestry research

6 patents were filed/obtained by various institutions under the MoEFCC.

New 655 flora discoveries

Scientists from Botanical Survey of India have made many discoveries through their continuous research and field efforts. During the last two years, 655 new plants have been discovered. Besides 26 new trees and 18 new climbers, wild germ-plasms of many economically important and ornamental plants have also been discovered.



New 115 fauna discoveries

In the last two years 115 new fauna discoveries have been made. 63 new species of animal are described by scientists of ZSI which are new to world. Besides, 81 species of animals are recorded for the first time in India. DNA barcode of more than 1000 specimens have been collated.



Coral which disappeared from Gulf of Kutch 1000 years ago have been again replanted successfully.

Use of technologies like Drones, E-surveillance, satellite, GPS tagging for better Forest and Wildlife Management

The last two years have witnessed increasing use of technology. The Tiger count was conducted through camera traps, which captured 1700 images of individual tigers.

Drones and electronic surveillance towers are being used to track movement in wild life sanctuaries. It has helped in preventing poaching, illegal tree felling and other wild life crimes.

We have radio collared tigers and other wild life animals, as well as geo-tagging birds like Amur Falcon.



POLLUTION INITIATIVES



Adoption of technology and revision of standards has led to better monitoring and control of pollution. Emission norms for 20 polluting industrial sectors have been revised upward, making them stringent, with fixed timelines for switch over. Many industries have implemented the norms; some are in various stages of implementation.

Nearly 3400 polluting industrial units were identified and mandated to install 24x7 air and effluent monitoring mechanism. 2400 industries have installed the mechanism and 650 industries have been closed down. Operations are allowed to be resumed once there is improvement.

Emission standards upgraded for many industries

Emission norms for 20 polluting industrial sectors have been revised. These sectors include DG sets, Thermal power plant, Sugar, CERP, Cement, Brick kiln, Man-made fibre, Slaughter houses, Textile, STP, Paint, Fertilizer, Pulp & Paper, Steel, Automobile, Coffee, Fermentation, Water quality criteria.

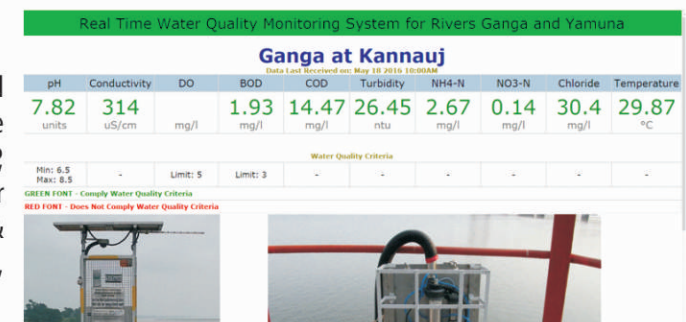
The emission norms have been made stringent and thereby the pollution load has reduced. Many industries have implemented the norms. Each industry has been given time to switch over to the new norms.

24x7 real-time emission and effluent monitoring installed in 2400 polluting industries; 650 Closure notices Issued

In a revolutionary decision, highly polluting industries were mandated to install 24x7 air/effluent monitoring devices. This has ensured constant monitoring and its tracking.

Out of 3400 polluting industrial units identified, more than 2400 industries have already installed the mechanism and the results are encouraging. If pollution norms for any parameter are exceeded continuously for more than 15 minutes, SMS alert is generated and sent to all concerned individuals/regulatory agencies.

650 industries have been closed down based on these inputs. The industries are allowed to operate again once the parameters improve.





Industrial Pollution in Ganga reduced by 35%

In a revolutionary measures directions were issued to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) for pulp & paper, distillery, sugar, textiles and tannery installations in the Ganga Basin.

The Grossly Polluting Industries (GPI) were also mandated to install Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) Out of 764 GPIs, 544 have installed OCEMS.

Closure directions have been issued to 150 such units under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for non-installation of OCEMS.

The spent wash and black liquor, the two main pollutants of river have been banned and are not flowing into River Ganga.

This consistent monitoring and effort has resulted in reduction of industrial pollution in Ganga by almost 35%.

Efforts for pollution control in Delhi in cooperation with EPCA

The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) for the National Capital Region was re-constituted to represent various stakeholders and sectors.

Co-ordination with 5 states in Delhi air shed

Periodical review meetings were held with Environment Ministers of Government of NCT of Delhi and Governments of States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab to implement the short-term and long-term action plans. Five such meetings have taken place and are yielding good results.

The stubble burning in Punjab has reduced by 40% and in Haryana by 17%.

Measures taken in respect of 5 states in Delhi air-shed include establishment of Control Room at CPCB, comprehensive amendments to various waste management rules, revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries; promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, pollution under control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance, leapfrogging to BS-VI emissions standards by April 1, 2020, commissioning of eastern and western expressway, restriction of non-destined vehicles, environment compensation charges.



Waste Management

Waste management rules revamped:

After a long hiatus, the Ministry has comprehensively revised waste management rules with the objective of Swachh Bharat. The major objectives of these Rules are to recover the resources for gainful utilisation through the process of recycling, which in turn would generate income and employment.

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

The salient features are:

Segregation of waste at source made mandatory for partnership in Swachh Bharat.

Used Sanitary Waste like diapers, sanitary pads to be wrapped securely in pouches provided by manufacturers. Generator will have to pay 'User Fee' to waste collector.

'Spot Fine' for Littering and non-segregation.

Integration of waste pickers and waste dealers by State Governments.

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

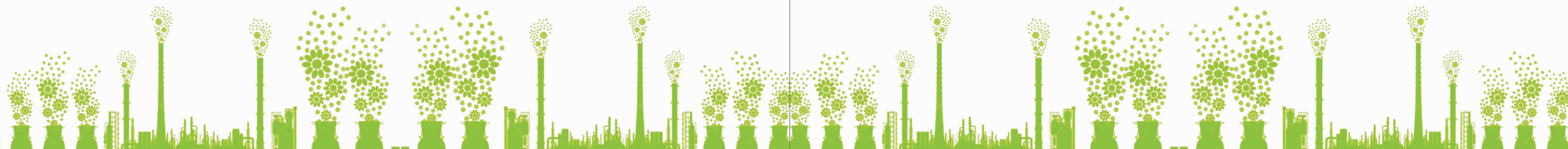
The salient features are:

Plastic sheets or Carry-bags, made of virgin or recycled plastic, shall not be less than 50 microns in thickness.

Plastic Sachets shall not be used for storing, packing or selling gutkha, tobacco and pan-masala.

Institutional generators and event organisers shall not litter and hand over the plastic waste to authorised agency or pay user fee.

All producers and/or brand owners to work out modalities for waste collection system for plastic waste.





The local body shall be responsible for plastic waste management system.

The registered shop keepers shall display at prominent place that plastic carry bags are given on payment.

Bio- Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016

The salient features are:

Authorisation process for hospitals simplified and co-terminus with Consent to Operate.

Bar code system for biomedical waste bags or containers Stringent norms for incinerators to reduce the air pollution.

No on-site treatment and disposal in hospital if common biomedical waste treatment is available within 75 kms.

E-Waste Management Rules, 2016

The Salient Features are:

The applicability of the rules has been extended to components, consumables, spares, Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) and other mercury containing lamps.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has been introduced for collection of e-waste by producers.

The safety, health and skill development of the workers involved in the dismantling and recycling operations is ensured.

The transportation of e-waste shall be carried out as per the manifest system.



Hazardous Waste Management & Trans-boundary Rules

The Salient Features are:

Single window clearance for setting up of hazardous waste disposal facility and import of other wastes.

Co-processing of waste is preferred over disposal. The approval for co-processing of hazardous waste to recover energy has been streamlined on emission norms basis.

Import/export of waste under the Rules has been streamlined and revising the list of waste regulated for import/export.

The import of metal scrap, paper waste and various categories of electrical and electronic equipments for re-use purpose have been exempted from the need of obtaining Ministry's permission.

A new Rule, namely, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016 has been notified for the first time.

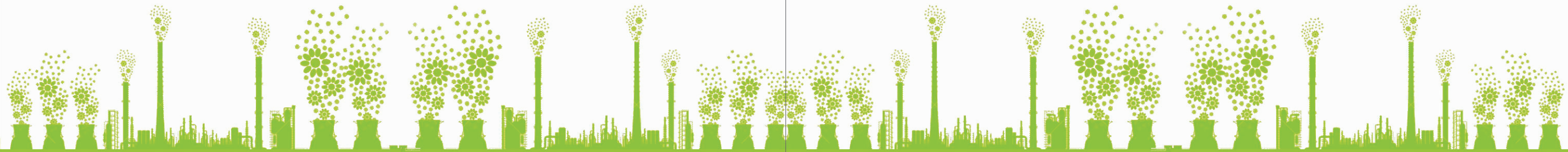
For the first time, Construction & Demolition Waste Rules are being notified by the Ministry. The main feature are:

The construction and demolition can be done only after covering the site, watering the debris, movement of debris in covered trucks and proper disposal of debris.

Local authorities have to mandatorily commission C&D waste based plants in million plus cities within one and half years, within two years for cities with population of 5 to 10 lakhs and for other cities (5 lakh populations) within three years.

Large generators to prepare waste management plan and to pay relevant charges for collection, transportation, processing and disposal.

Littering or obstruction to public drains, water bodies, traffic, direct dumping in landfill sites is prohibited;





Large generators to prepare waste management plan and to pay relevant charges for collection, transportation, processing and disposal.

Littering or obstruction to public drains, water bodies, traffic, direct dumping in landfill sites is prohibited; The service providers for telecom, water supply, sewage, gas pipeline etc to remove all construction and demolition waste.

State Government/ construction agencies have to mandatorily utilise 10-20% materials from construction and demolition waste.

Geo-Mapping of 30000 industries which generate hazardous substance

Integrated Waste Management System (IWMS) will provide a customized GIS-based information system for the country. GIS mapping of 33,000 and MIS data of 27,500 hazardous waste industries has been completed. This user-friendly application can also track the movement of hazardous waste and help in ensuring its proper management.

CEPI reviewed - a new scientific formula adopted

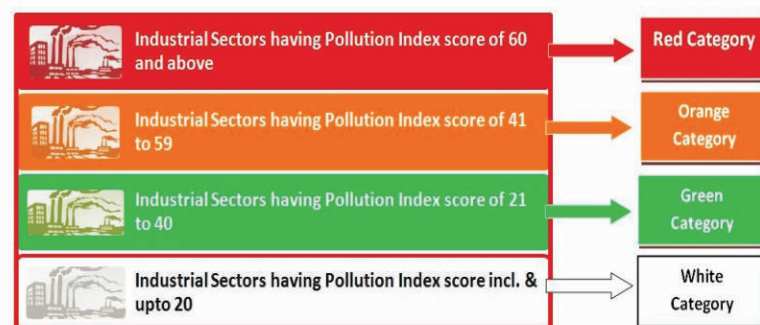
The criteria for calculating CEPI (Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index) score for industrial areas has been revamped to make it objective.

The Ministry has approved the revised concept/criteria for calculating CEPI score, which is based on quality of air and water pollutants generated, hazardous waste generated and consumption of resources.

This will give relief to areas which have achieved less pollution score with multiple effort and give pre-warning to the areas which are on the threshold of crossing the permissible limit.

Re-categorization of industries on the basis of pollution load- Red, Orange, Green, White

Industries have been re-categorised, based on the relative pollution potential of the industrial sectors. Under the new concept, Pollution Index scores have been



worked out, based on the emissions (air pollutants), effluents (water pollutants), hazardous wastes generated and consumption of resources, for various industrial categories.

Based on the relative scores, the industries have been categorized as Red category having score more than or equal to 60, Orange category- having score between 41 to 59, Green category - having score between 21 to 40, and White category - having score less than 20.

Under the "Ease of Doing Responsible Business", the Ministry has approved self-certification for industries which fall in 'White Category'.

National Air Quality Index launched

The National Air Quality Index (AQI) has been launched by Prime Minister on April 06, 2015. This is a web-based system designed to provide AQI on real-time basis.

This covers eight pollutants i.e. Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Lead, Ozone, PM 10, PM 2.5, Carbon Monoxide and Ammonia.

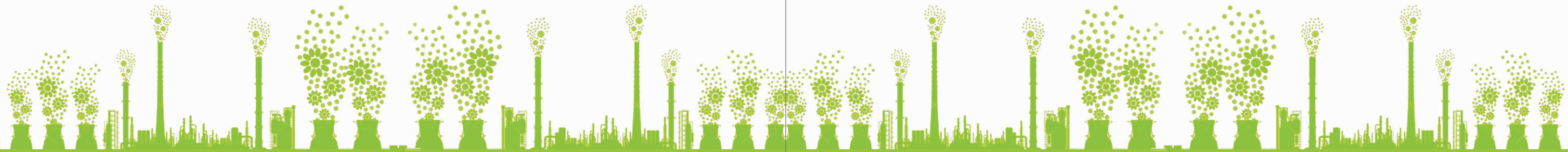
There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each of these categories is decided, based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is also disseminating the Air Quality Index (AQI) for 23 cities, which are connected to the web-based system of National AQI. They are Agra, Ahmadabad, Bangaluru, Chandrapur, Chennai, Delhi, Faridabad, Gaya, Gurgaon, Haldia, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mumbai, Muzaffarpur, Navi Mumbai, Panchkula, Patna, Pune, Solapur and Varanasi.

It is planned to strengthen the network of monitoring systems in all 46 cities having population more than a million and 20 State Capitals, and networking them to the central AQI portal, in phased manner.

STPs of 256 mld capacity added and STPs of 640 mld capacity initiative

Discharge of untreated and partially treated sewage from cities / towns and industrial effluents constitutes a major source of pollution in rivers and lakes. Sewage treatment capacity of 256 million litres per day (mld) has been created in the last 2 years at Kolhapur, Sangli in Maharashtra, and at Jalandhar, Hoshiyarpur, Phagwara, Banga, Phillaur, Mukerian and Nawanshehar in Punjab.





16 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with capacity of 640 mld have been sanctioned in the last 2 years under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)/National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA). This includes Sabarmati River Conservation Project (Phase II) at Ahmedabad, JICA assisted Mula-Mutha river project at Pune and conservation of Laxmi Tal lake at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

Mula- Mutha river cleaning programme approved

The central government has taken upon itself repayment obligation of JICA loan to clean up Mula-Mutha River of Pune. The central assistance thus will be Rs 840 crores, which will be used for creation of 11 STPs of 352 MLD capacity and drainage pipeline of 135 kms.

The project will have significantly impact the pollution load in the river and improvement in its water quality, besides collateral benefits like use of tertiary treated effluent for irrigation, and employment opportunities particularly in the construction stage. The project will also improve the aesthetics and sanitation in the town.

Bengaluru lake development issues addressed

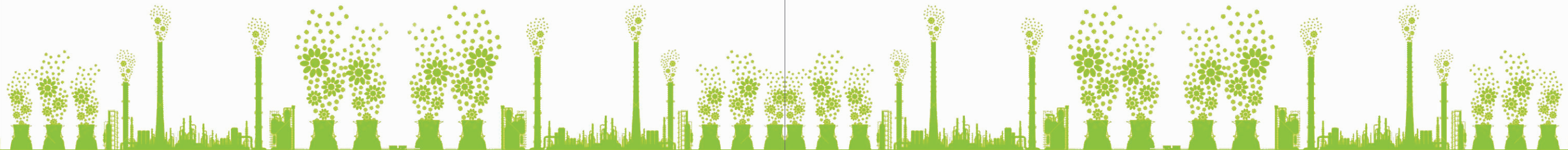
Discharge of untreated sewage generated in the city is one of the major sources of pollution of lakes in Bengaluru. Rs. 724.80 crore has been sanctioned for a sewage project in Bengaluru under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme. This will rejuvenate the lakes in Bengaluru by reducing the incoming pollution load..

The Environment Minister has personally reviewed the status of the lakes in Bengaluru and various short-term and long-term measures have been identified to be taken up by the Government of Karnataka in this regard.

Emphasis on wetland protection

Wetlands are lifelines for a large populace and an important source of fresh water. They provide a multitude of ecosystem services in addition to being host to rich biodiversity.

Under the National Wetland Conservation Programme (NCWP)/NPCA, Plans for taking up conservation works in 43 identified wetlands in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, West Bengal, Puducherry have been sanctioned and funds amounting to Rs. 13. 51 crore released during the last two years.



EASE OF DOING 'RESPONSIBLE' BUSINESS



EASE OF DOING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

Prior to 26th May, 2014, the process of Environmental Clearance was seen as one of the biggest barriers to development.

The Ministry took up the challenge and a series of strategic measures to streamline the process have made it more transparent and responsive. The delays at every stage have been deleted. More than 2000 approvals have given a much needed boost to the economy by paving the way for more than 10 lakh crore investments, with the potential for million plus jobs.

POLICIES

General approval for strategic defence installation infrastructure, Border Roads and road infrastructure in LWE areas

The execution of several strategic road projects to improve connectivity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts was getting delayed due to pending forest approvals.

To equip defence and paramilitary forces along the Indo-China border, the Ministry has accorded general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) for construction and widening of two-lane roads within 100 kilometer aerial distance from the LAC.

General approval has also been accorded for construction and widening of two-lane roads in 117 LWE affected districts to improve connectivity in these areas and help the security forces to effectively combat LWE.

The Ministry has also accorded general approval under the FC Act for construction of border roads, border fencing, outposts and other border security related infrastructure within five kilometers aerial distance from the International Borders.



Real estate environmental guidelines standardized

The process of approval for building construction by State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities suffered from delays in many States thereby blocking huge investments.

The Ministry has standardized the environmental conditions for different segments of buildings. Integration of standard environmental conditions with local town and country planning guidelines by Local bodies will obviate the need for separate approval from the Ministry





EASE OF DOING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

EC for industrial sheds and education sector done away with standard guidelines

The Ministry has done away with requirement of Environmental Clearance for construction of industrial sheds and educational institutions including universities and has prescribed standard environmental safeguards for compliance.

Permission for upgradation for existing forest roads

Permission for upgradation of existing forest roads has been accorded, in the interest of tribals and forest dwellers who use these roads.

Widening of National Highways passing through forests

The Ministry has allowed four laning of national highways passing through forest and protected areas, with proper mitigation measures. The Supreme Court has also approved of this policy decision.



Validity of EC increased from 5 to 7 years

Due to poor market conditions and other factors beyond control of the proponent, many projects could not be completed on time and were languishing for extension of validity. The Ministry, has extended the validity of Environmental Clearance from 5 years to 7 years, to be extended by a further three years.

Permission of forest diversion for creation of new capital city

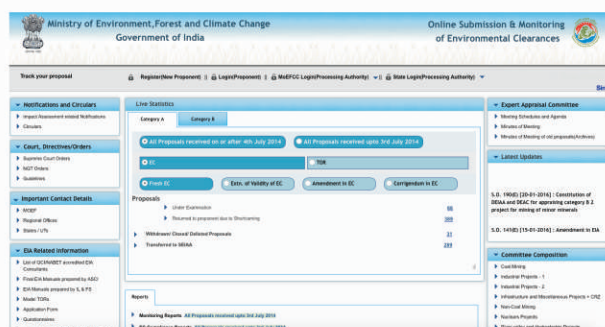
Bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh necessitated setting up of a new capital city at Amravati for the reorganised state of Andhra Pradesh. The Ministry has taken a policy decision to grant permission for use of forest land for construction of a new capital city for the newly-created State of Andhra Pradesh.

TRANSPARENT PROCESSES

Online application and tracking of status and delays launched

The Ministry has launched a web portal for online submission and monitoring the status of Environment and Forest approvals.

This has enable the Ministry, as well as the project proponents to track the movement of files, and cut down delays.



EASE OF DOING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

More expert appraisal committees formed to overcome the issue of pendency

In order to expedite pending cases, the number of Environment Appraisal Committees was increased. This has also contributed significantly in reducing the approval period.

TORs standardized which has resulted in deleting the delays

The Ministry has standardized the Terms of References for all the 39 sectors, which require prior Environmental Clearance.

The process of issuing Terms of References for Environment Impact Assessment studies used to take as long as six to nine months earlier. The Ministry has now mandated that the Terms of References have to be issued to the project proponent within 30 days of acceptance of application.

This has drastically reduced the time for environment approvals.

DECENTRALIZATION

Forest approval below 40 hectares decentralized through regional offices with states participation

The Ministry has delegated powers to 10 regional offices to decide on forest approvals for area less than 40 hectares.

The states are included in the decision making process and two senior Officers from States, alongwith experts are members of the Regional Empowered Committee set up to decide on such cases.

This has resulted in reduction of 90% files coming to the ministry.

Linear projects like roads/ rail/ drinking water canal/ irrigation water canal/ transmission/ laying pipe and cables of any size are approved through regional offices

Majority of the linear projects such as roads, railway lines, drinking water canals, irrigation water canals, transmission lines, telecommunication lines/cables are of public utility in nature and are implemented for benefit of the public at large.

In view of this, the RECs have been empowered to grant Forest approval for all such proposals.

SEIAA processes fast-tracked reviewed and time lines given

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities have been directed to accept online applications for Terms of References and Environmental Approvals. The web portal for the same was launched by the Ministry on July 2, 2015. This has resulted in better monitoring, and transparent process.





EASE OF DOING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

APPROVALS

As a result of policy based decisions, streamlining measures, decentralization, use of technology and changes in processes without compromising with the rigour of the process of Environmental approvals, the time required for Environmental approvals has reduced from 600 days in 2014 to 190 days at present.

Similarly, time required for approvals of forest approval cases with mitigating measures has reduced from 580 days in 2014 to 180 days at present.

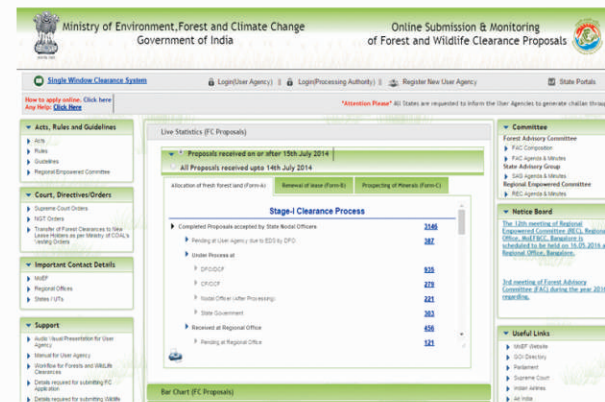
Standardization of TORs for 39 industries has made it possible to get TOR within 45 days, whereas it used to take almost one year earlier.

Time for Environmental and Forest approvals brought down

Process changes and streamlining, without compromising with the rigour of the process, has brought down the time required for Environmental Approvals, from **600 days to 190 days**.

Forest approval average time has been brought down from **580 days to 180 days**

By launching the web portal for online submission and monitoring of forest clearance proposal and continuous monitoring of the proposals uploaded thereon, the average time taken by the Ministry and its Regional offices for forest approvals has reduced from 580 days to 180 days. Efforts are being made to further reduce the time taken to take a decision on such proposals.



2000 approvals have unlocked 10 lakh crore of investment and 10 lakh job potential

The Ministry, which saw delays for various reasons, has been streamlined. The policy decisions and processes have been standardised, decentralised and made transparent.

In 2 years, 2000 Environmental, Forest and National Board of Wildlife approvals have been accorded, following stringent environment norms. These approvals have resulted in unlocking Rs. 10 lakh crore of investment, with employment potential of more than ten lakh jobs. Pendency has now been completely done away with.

All pending Important Public Infrastructure projects approved. No backlog

All pending public importance projects like road, rail, canal, transmission and pipelines, as well as irrigation projects have been approved.



COASTAL INITIATIVES



With a proactive approach, India led the developing world and secured the interests of the country and that of the developing world at COP 21.

The dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who took the lead in renewable energy and other programmes, spurred the inclusion of the concepts of Climate Justice and Sustainable lifestyle in the COP 21 agreement at Paris.

India could secure development opportunity and carbon space for future through this agreement. India's INDCs are ambitious and were well received. We are committed to walk the sustainable development path.

Mangroves increased by more than 100 sq Km

For intensive conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs, the Government has identified 42 sites (38 mangroves + 4 coral reefs) sites throughout the country.

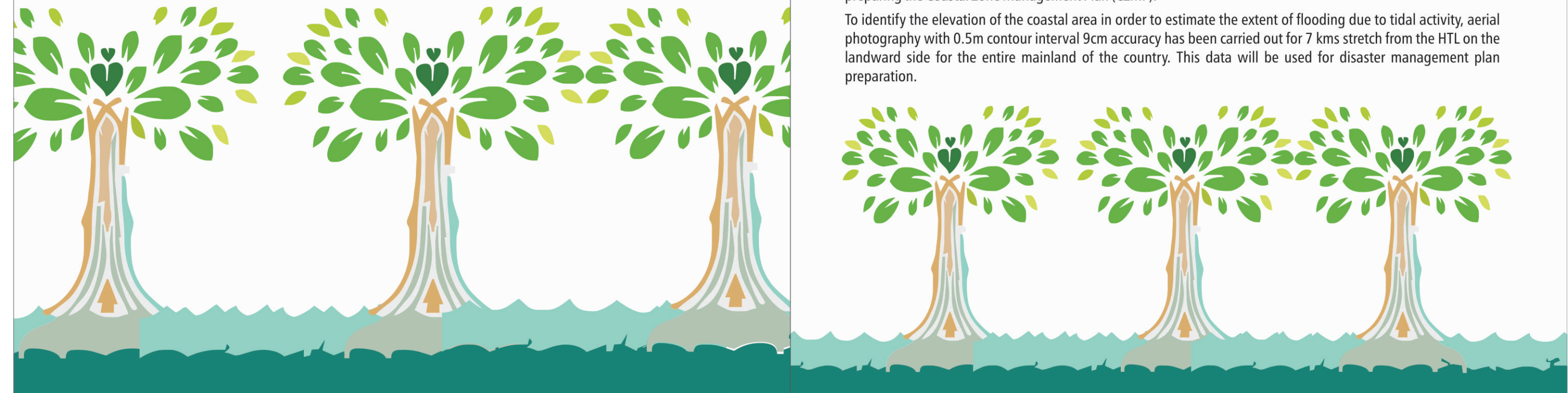
Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs, the Ministry has allocated an amount of Rs. 11.37 crore during the last two years to various coastal States and UTs.



Detailed high resolution coastal map and HTL drawn with high resolution technology and low flying survey

Based on aerial photographs and high resolution satellite images, the High Tide Line (HTL) has been demarcated for the entire coastline of the country in 1:10,000 scale, and provided to the coastal States/Union Territories for preparing the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP).

To identify the elevation of the coastal area in order to estimate the extent of flooding due to tidal activity, aerial photography with 0.5m contour interval 9cm accuracy has been carried out for 7 kms stretch from the HTL on the landward side for the entire mainland of the country. This data will be used for disaster management plan preparation.



COP21@PARIS

Comprehensive INDCs Welcomed all over the World

The stage for the final negotiations of a climate deal to come into force post-2020 was set at 20th Conference of Parties (COP-20) held at Lima, Peru in December 2014, which ultimately led to the adoption of Paris Agreement at COP-21 at Paris, France in December 2015.

In the run-up to COP-21 at Paris, India submitted its comprehensive Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 2nd October 2015, which was welcomed with positive reviews all over the world.

India's INDCs were formulated under the leadership and guidance of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, with his clarion call for 'Convenient Action' to deal with the 'inconvenient truth' of Climate Change.



Targets are as Under

- Target of reducing emission intensity by 35%,
- Increasing non-fossil fuel share of energy mix capacity to 40%,
- Creating carbon sink of 2.5 bn tones



Effective representation of countries' interest in COP at Lima and at Paris; Network with LMDCs, SAARC, LDCs, SIDCs, BASIC, BRICS and Africa group effectively

The Indian delegation effectively represented the country's interest at Conference of Parties at Lima (COP-20) and at Paris (COP-21).

India took a proactive and leadership role during negotiations and networked effectively with LMDCs, SAARC, LDCs, SIDCs, BASIC, BRICS and Africa group.

The adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP-21, which will operate under the Convention, provides for development space for India and developing countries.



Proactive and leadership role

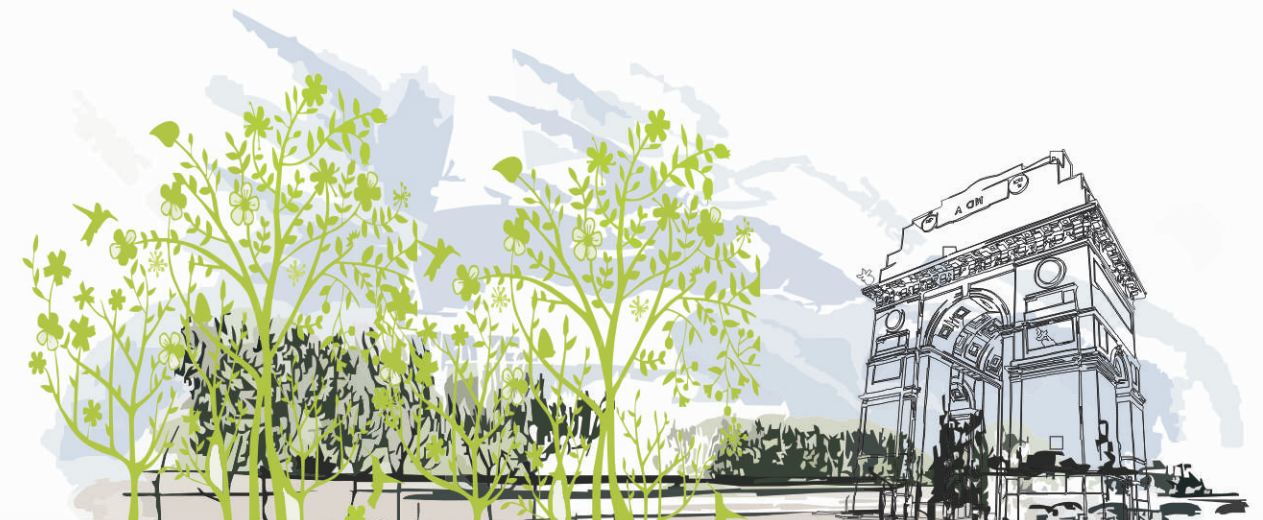
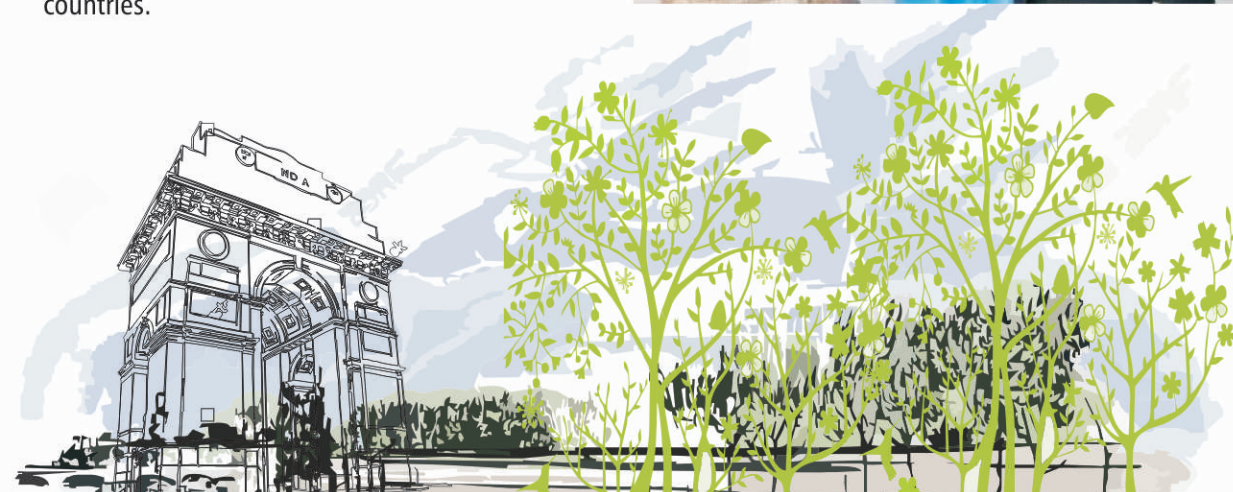
A global leaders event was held at the outset of COP-21 on 30th November 2015, in which 150 Heads of States/Governments participated. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, representing the largest democracy in the world, conveyed our seriousness and preparations to tackle the threat of climate change. He interacted extensively with world leaders at COP-21, and shared his vision and views with them.

Prime Minister of India, jointly with the President of France, Mr. François Hollande, launched the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an alliance of 121 tropical countries lying fully, or partially, between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn on November 30, 2015 at Paris, France. This alliance will promote joint efforts through innovative policies, projects, programmes, capacity building measures and financial instruments to mobilize more than 1000 Billion US dollars of investments 2030 that are needed for the massive deployment of affordable solar energy. ISA headquarters are being anchored in India.



Indian Pavilion was attraction of Paris COP

Indian Pavilion, inaugurated by Prime Minister, was one of the major attractions of Paris COP. This pavilion was designed as a window to our heritage and our progress; our traditions and our technology; our aspirations and our achievements. An interactive electronic display of the challenges faced by the country, and measures adopted to counter global warming was also on display.



Secured interests of India and developing countries

The agreement emphasizes the principles of Convention including Common but Differentiated Responsibilities & Respective Capabilities (CBRD-RC) and Equity, thus safeguarding interests of developing countries and maintaining differentiation in all pillars of the agreement i.e., mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of action and support, and capacity-building.

It further recognizes importance of climate justice and sustainable lifestyles, as advocated by India.

India consistently took the lead in asking developed countries to commit to their obligations to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and to adhere to mobilization and provide jointly USD 100 billion annually, taking into account the needs and priorities of the developing countries in the Paris decision text.

India, along with 174 other parties to the Convention, signed the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016. The agreement will now have to be ratified by Parties for it to come into effect.



POST-PARIS

National action follow-up started with all stakeholders

Following the Paris COP, national action follow-up has been started with all stakeholders and mitigation and adaptation initiatives by various ministries, states and industries/ agencies are being closely monitored.

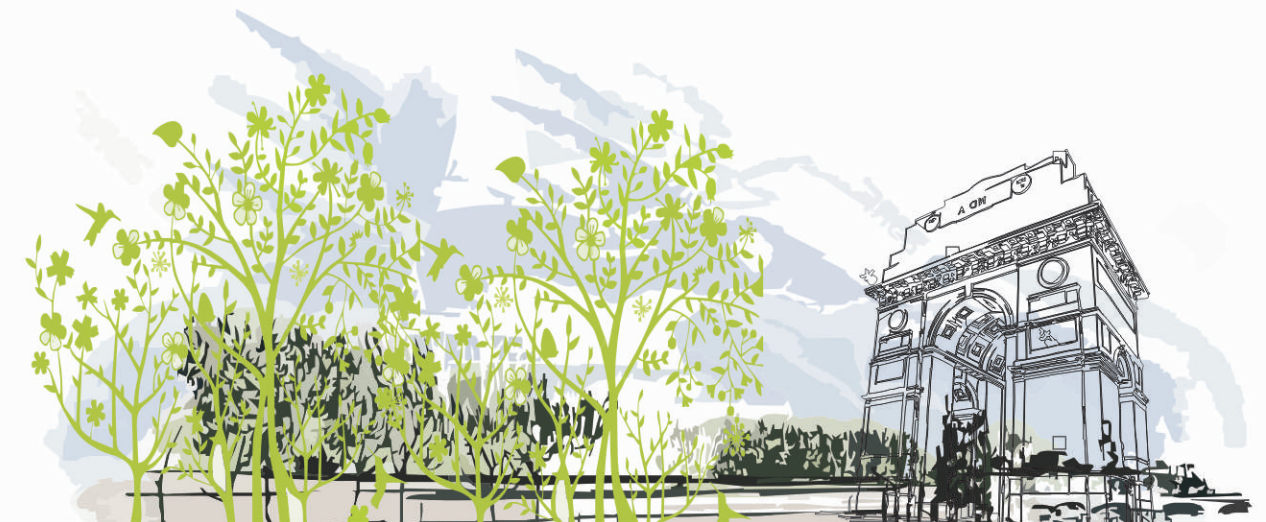
NCCAP activated

New missions are being planned for coastal areas. health and wind energy are being taken up with financial support from National Clean Energy Fund. Under the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), activities on waste to energy are being taken up with the financial support from National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF).

Closely monitoring mitigation and adaptation initiatives by various ministries, states and industries/ agencies

In order to prepare a clear and time-bound roadmap for the implementation of the INDC, an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee, with various stakeholders has been set up. Internal consultations have been started to develop a plan of action for INDC implementation. Mapping of schemes having linkages with INDC is also being undertaken.

India's Nationally Determined Contribution provides for sustainable lifestyle, clean development, increasing share of non-fossil fuel based electricity, enhancing carbon sink, adaptation, capacity building, etc.



OTHER INITIATIVES

Sustainable sand mining and minor mineral policy notified

The Ministry has finalized guidelines for environmentally sustainable, as well as socially responsible mining of sand and gravel extraction in a sustainable way.

Satellite imagery is mandated to be used to decide the quantum and location of sand to be mined.

Bar Coded security featured receipts, and technology tracking of movement of excavated sand.

Small projects of mining minor minerals to be dealt at district level now.

River improvement programme undertaken on 12 rivers in 27 towns of 8 states

Himalayan ecology study undertaken

The Ministry has launched the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) in December, 2015, with the objective of building scientific and traditional knowledge, bringing together a network of practitioners (individual and institutions), and to demonstrate workable/implementation/replicable solutions to the problems in 25 identified thematic areas during the next 5 years through studies, pilots and interventions.

A total of 27 studies have been approved in NMHS for implementation during the next 3 years with focus on Himalayan forest, water and land.

Preparation of building new National Museum of Natural History

A new National Museum of Natural History will be built near Pragati Maidan on 6.5 acres of land.

This building would be an integrated complex of NMNH, NZP, National Science & Craft Museum.

The concept design proposed by the consultant has been approved by the competent authority. The schedule for various sub-activities has been drawn up for construction of the new building complex in a time-bound manner.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

More than one lakh Eco-clubs in schools and colleges are being made active

Since children can be catalysts in promoting mass movement, it has been decided to associate eco-clubs for Swachh Bharat activities. It is proposed to take up Cleanliness drives within school/college campus, encourage paper re-cycling thereby promoting the three Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, Identify dirty/unclean spots and take up cleanliness drives outside the school premises, Carry out campaign against plastic and leaf burning and their proper disposal, create awareness about water conservation, and Take up massive program for plantation.



Bio diversity Special and Climate Express has visited 120 stations and 45 lakh people/ students saw the exhibition

MoEF&CC has successfully run the Science Express Bio diversity Special which covered 56 stations, 19,000 Km, and saw 23 lakh visitors in 2014-15.

Climate Action Special train, was flagged off on October 15, 2015 for spreading awareness on Climate Change and mitigation measures. The train completed its long journey of 19,800 kms, covering 64 Stations. More than 23 lakh visitors, including students from more than 6,000 Schools/Colleges visited this exhibition on rails



Plastic waste collection by students became successful

A massive outdoor campaign "Plastic Garbage Free Pune", spearheaded by the Minister of State (IC) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change was launched to promote awareness about plastic waste.

Nearly two lakh students from over 1000 schools and colleges in Pune, participated in the campaign. They collected 100MT plastic waste in two hours.

Earlier, two pilot campaigns were held in Shirur and Ratnagiri, where about 6,000 and 10,000 students had participated respectively.

Environmentally friendly building of the ministry opened for the students & public.

The new building housing the Ministry is a Net-Zero Energy building. It has a five-star GRIHA & LEED-India Platinum Green Building Ratings. It is characterized by green features like hollow fly ash bricks, chilled beam system for air-conditioning, sensor activated lights, and modern design incorporating access of natural light and air. Regular program of visits of school and college students are organised to increase environmental awareness.

Nature walk with students in Asola Bhatti

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, in collaboration with Govt. of NCT of Delhi, celebrated the International Day of Forests on March 21 this year with a 'Nature Walk' in Asola Bhatti Wildlife sanctuary. Environment Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar accompanied by Shri Imran Hussain, Minister of Forests, Government of NCT of Delhi and students from ten local schools, participated in this event.



BUILDING A TEAM THROUGH MOTIVATION

In order to motivate and rejuvenate the work force of officials, Three Chintan Shivirs were conducted at Bengaluru, Bhopal and Guwahati.

Officers from forest department and environment wings were called upon to share their experiences and suggest measures for good governance. The Shivirs were attended by more than 600 officers, with active participation and discussion by more than 200 officers.

The Minister also administered a pledge for good governance to staff on January 14, 2016.

An E-magazine has been launched to promote interaction and awareness amongst staff.

Efforts are on to promote more effective communication with all divisions, scientists, field staff.



Shri. Prakash Javadekar
Union Minister of State (IC)
for Environment, Forest and
Climate Change

“Through team work and public participation we will, achieve”
CLEAN INDIA GREEN INDIA



Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

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