

## **Role and Mandate of the Ministry**

The Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal agency in the Central Government for overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies and programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources including lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, forests and wildlife, and prevention and abatement of pollution. While implementing these policies and programmes, the Ministry is guided by the principle of sustainable development.

The Ministry is also the nodal agency for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Ministry also coordinates with multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and regional bodies such as Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to environment. The broad objectives of the Ministry are:

- i. Conservation and survey of flora, fauna, forests and wildlife
- ii. Prevention and control of pollution
- iii. Afforestation and regeneration of degraded areas
- iv. Protection of environment.

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 also guide the Ministry's work.

### **Subjects under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

The following items of work have been allocated to the MoEF&CC:

1. Environment and Ecology, including environment in coastal waters, in mangroves and coral reefs but excluding marine environment on the high seas.
2. Environment Research and Development, education, training, information and awareness.
3. Green Skill Development Programme
4. National Environmental Geodatabase
5. Environmental Health.
6. Environmental Impact Assessment.

7. Forest Development Agency and Joint Forest Management Programme for conservation, management and afforestation.
8. Survey and Exploration of Natural Resources particularly of Forest, Flora, Fauna, Ecosystems etc.
9. Bio-diversity Conservation including that of lakes and Wetlands.
10. Conservation, development, management and abatement of pollution of rivers excluding the river Ganga and its tributaries.
11. National River Conservation Directorate.
12. Wildlife conservation, preservation, protection planning, research, education, training and awareness including Project Tiger and Project Elephant.
13. International co-operation on Issues concerning Environment, Forestry and Wildlife.
14. Botanical Survey of India and Botanical Gardens.
15. Zoological Survey of India.
16. National Museum of Natural History.
17. Biosphere Reserve Programme.
18. National Forest Policy and Forestry Development in the country, including Social Forestry.
19. All matters relating to Forest and Forest Administration in the Union territories.
20. Indian Forest Service.
21. Wild Life Preservation and protection of wild birds and animals.
22. Fundamental and applied research and training including higher education in forestry.
23. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.
24. National Assistance to Forestry Development Schemes.
25. Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore.
26. Afforestation and Eco-Development which shall include National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board.
27. Bio-fuel plantations in forest, wastelands and environmental issues concerning biofuels.
28. Desert and Desertification.
29. Forest Survey of India.

30. Indian Institute of Bio-diversity, Itanagar.
31. Central Pollution Control Board.
32. G.B.Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development.
33. Wildlife Institute of India and Indian Board for Wildlife.
34. Indian Institute of Forest Management.
35. Central Zoo Authority including National Zoo Park.
36. Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education.
37. Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited.
38. Climate change and all other matters related thereto.
39. The National Green Tribunal Act, 1995 (27 of 1995).
40. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
41. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
42. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
43. The Indian Forest Act, 1927
44. Indian Forest (Amendment) Act, 2017
45. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
46. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
47. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
48. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
49. Planning, overseeing and implementation of the policies and programmes on the management of hazardous substances and chemical emergencies. The mandate of this division is to promote safety in the management and use of hazardous substances including hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes with the objective of preventing and mitigating damage to health and environment due to hazardous chemicals and wastes. The activities can be grouped under three main thrust areas, viz., Chemical Safety; Hazardous Wastes Management and Solid Waste Management.
50. Green Skill Development.