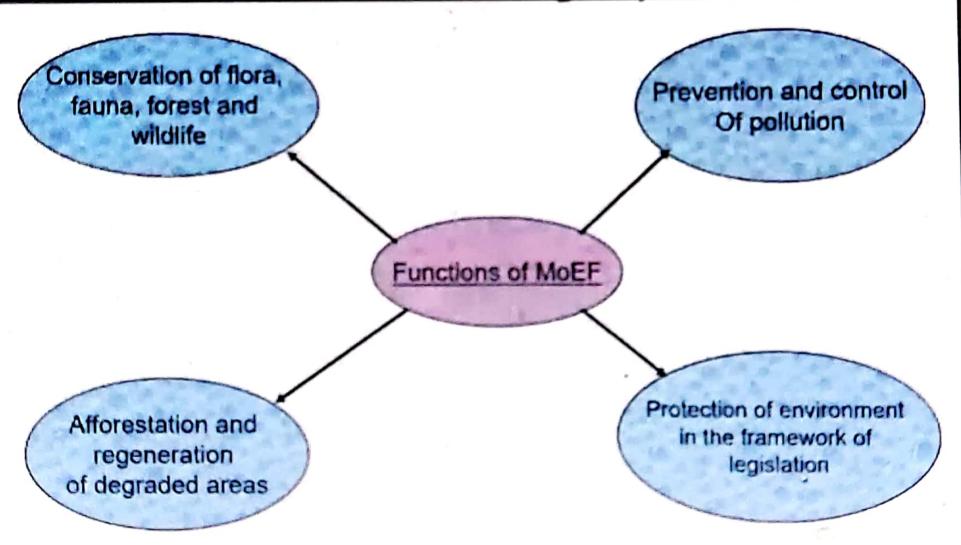


Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF)

- * The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change is the <u>nodal agency</u> in the administrative structure of the Central Government, for the:
- Objectives of MoEF&CC;
 - > To plan
 - > To promote
 - > To co-ordinate
 - > To implement environmental and forestry programmes.
- * Nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Functions of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)



MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIONS IN INDIA

- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act-1974
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act-1981
- Environment (Protection) Act-1986
 - Noise Pollution (Regulation And Control) Rules, 2000
 - Municipal Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2016
 - Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016
 - Coastal Regulation Zone, 1991
 - Environment Impact Assessment of Development Projects, 1994
 - Chemical Accidents (Emergency planning, preparedness and response) Rules, 1996
 - Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998
 - Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 2009

- The main Acts and their Amendments framed after the year 1972 for the protection of Environment in India are as given below:
- (1) The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974
- (2) The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Cess Act 1977
- (3) The Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981
- (4) The Environment (Protection) Act-1986,

The Bhopal Gas tragedy in the year <u>1984</u> changed the scenario for India with respect to Environmental Legislation. It resulted in a comprehensive law, aimed at including all the components of the Environment viz. water, air, noise, solid waste, hazardous waste etc.

This resulted in the framing of The Environment (Protection) Act-1986, which is also known as an <u>umbrella legislation</u>.



The forest and wildlife wing of the Ministry consists of the following Divisions:

- (a) Forest Survey of Utilization.
- (b) Forest Conservation.
- (c) Forest Policy.
- (d) Forest Research (Education and Training).
- (e) Externally Aided Projects Division.
- (f) Wildlife Conservation Division.
- (g) Forest Fire Control and Air Operation Wing.
- (h) Regional Offices (HQ) Division.
- (i) Indian Forest Service.
- (j) Animal Welfare.
- (k) Forest Establishment Branch.
- (I) Forestry International Co-operation Division.

The Comprises of two wings

- A) Environment
- B) Forests & Wildlife

The Environment Wing consists of the following divisions:-

- (a) Conservation and Survey
- (b) Impact Assessment
- (c) Control of Pollution
- (d) Hazardous Substances Management
- (e) Research Division
- (f) Environment Education
- (g) Environment Information
- (h) Policy & Law
- (i) International Cooperation
- (j) Clean Technology
- (k) NGO Cell
- (I) Public Grievances Redressal Cell

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- (I) Forestry International Co-operation Division.

STRUCTURE:

- The CPCB shall consist of the following members, namely:-
 - > a full-time chairman to be nominated by the Central Government
 - > members nominated by the Central Government to represent the Government
 - > members of the State Pollution Control Boards
 - > members to represent the interests of agriculture, fishery or industry or trade
 - two persons to represent the companies or corporations owned
 - > a full-time member-secretary, possessing qualifications, knowledge and experience of scientific, engineering or management aspects of pollution control

FUNCTIONS OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD:

- The CPCB was constituted in September 1974 under the Water Act-1974. All the <u>29</u> states of the Union have adopted the Act and respective State Pollution Control Boards have been set up.
- The work of setting and upgrading the environmental standards is looked after by the Pollution Control Unit of the Board.
- The environmental standards developed by the CPCB find its place in various schedules of the Environment (Protection) Rules-1986.
- The CPCB advices the Central Government in matters related to prevention and control of pollution.

- The CPCB co-ordinates the activities of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) and provides them technical assistance and guidance.
- The CPCB organizes training programme for prevention and control of pollution.
- The CPCB collects, compiles and publishes technical and statistical data related to pollution.
- The CPCB lays down standards for water quality parameters.
- The CPCB establishes and recognizes laboratories for analysis of water, sewage or trade (industrial) effluent sample.
- The CPCB plans and organizes comprehensive programmes on pollution related issues through mass media.

National Green Tribunal:

- Different countries have globally established separate "Green Courts" or "Green Tribunal" or "Environmental Courts" to deal with the environment related litigations.
- Perhaps, India is the third country after Australia and New Zealand to have a specialized environment court.
- India is one of the pioneers in establishing the green court among developing countries.
- In India, National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in 2010 under "Article 21" of the Indian Constitution.

- The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act-2010.
- It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts.
- The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for <u>disposal of applications or</u> <u>appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the</u> <u>same</u>.

- Structure of NGT;
 - Principal Bench New Delhi
 - Central Zone Bhopal
 - Eastern Zone Kolkata
 - Southern Zone Chennai
 - Western Zone Pune
- Composition of NGT; [Under Section-5]
 - A full time Chairperson
 - Full time Judicial Members, not less than 10 but subject to maximum of 20, as Central Government may specify.
 - Full time Expert members, not less than 10 but subject to maximum of 20, as Central Government may specify.