

**F. No: 17-18/2022-RT**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Research and Training Division)**

4th Floor, Agni Wing  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003.  
**Dated: as per e-signature**

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Nomination of two eminent experts as Members of the High-Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) of NIRANTAR -regarding.**

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of the order dated 22.11.2022 (copy enclosed) regarding reorganization of institutes of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and setting up of Platform called as National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR).

2. In this regard, following Eminent experts have been nominated as member of High-Powered Steering Committee chaired by the Hon'ble Minister, EFCC for a period of two years from the date of nomination or till a successor is nominated whichever is later;

(i) Dr. Gopal Singh Rawat, Former Director and Dean at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun

(ii) Shri Rajbir S. Panwar, IFS (Retd.)

3. This issues with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC.

**Encl: - as above**

Digitally signed by  
Sangeeta Mahala  
Date: 23-06-2026  
16:38:38

**(Sangeeta Mahala)**  
**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

To,

(i) Dr. Gopal Singh Rawat, Former Director and Dean at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, 52, Doon Officers' Enclave Chandrabani, Wildlife Road Dehradun – 248002, Uttarakhand (India), email: gsrawat59@gmail.com, Mobile : 9690253814

(ii) Shri Rajbir S Panwar, IFS (Retd.), House No. G-15, Hudco Place, Andrewsganj Extension, New Delhi-110049, e-mail: rajbir1991@yahoo.com, mobile: +91 9999996693

**Copy for information to:**

- i. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC, New Delhi
- ii. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State (EF&CC), New Delhi
- iii. PSO to Secretary (EF&CC), New Delhi
- iv. Sr. PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- v. Sr.PPS to CEO (CAMPAA)/ Addl. DGF (FC) / Addl. DGF (WL)/ AS(AG)/ AS (AG)/AS&FA, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- vi. The Director General, ICFRE Dehradun
- vii. The Director, IIFM, Bhopal
- viii. The Director, BSI, Kolkata, West Bengal
- ix. The Director, NCSCM, Chennai – 600025, Tamil Nadu

F. No: - 17-18/2022-RT  
 Government of India  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
 (Research & Training Division)

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Agni Wing,  
 Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
 Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003.  
 Dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2022

**ORDER**

**Subject: Reorganization of institutes of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and setting up of Platform called as National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR)-regarding.**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal Ministry in the Central Government for overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies, programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources, its biodiversity, forests and wildlife, and prevention and abatement of pollution. In such a scenario, there is a pressing need to reassess the resources of the country and recalibrate them for better outcomes. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has established many Institutions for survey and monitoring as well as research. To take benefit of their synergy in terms of facilities and manpower along with filling the gaps therein, a need was felt to review and revisit the existing institutional arrangements. In order to make them more effective and responsive to the fast changing local and global challenges, It was decided to establish a new Platform named National Institution for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR). It will lead to enhanced Cooperation and Collaboration among various institutes of the Ministry without establishing any institution or increasing manpower.

2. This platform/institution of MoEF&CC called NIRANTAR (National Institution for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and build Resilience) will steer a strong research, training and capacity building agenda on Environment, Forest and Climate Change with a science - policy interface to drive a sustainable, climate resilient economy.

The NIRANTAR Platform would help in achieving the following objectives:-

- (i) consolidation of knowledge, its sharing with different stakeholders and application thereof for the benefit of the country;
- (ii) creation and implementation of a common vision and mission across these institutions, including overarching forums to decide research priorities;



(iii) sharing/ lateral movement of manpower and expertise and leveraging, infrastructure for effective utilization thereof;

(iv) development of inter disciplinary approach in research; with each institute remaining independent yet interdependent while complementing each other for mutual betterment;

(v) increase in clarity of roles, with each institution drawing learning from other institutions for their deliverables, within the framework set by the MoEF&CC and streamlining of administrative processes involved.

(vi) creation of a momentum of force multiplier by bringing in convergence of actions from multiple key stakeholders and institutions;

(vii) creation of institutional mechanism for enabling these institutes and authorities to effectively participate and contribute in policy formulation.

(viii) creation of a repository of documents related to different international treaties & conventions.

(ix) creation of resource centers for Mission LiFE, land neutrality initiative, climate change initiatives and biodiversity.

3. NIRANTAR Platform will be headed by a "High Powered Steering Committee". The structure, duties and powers of High Powered Steering Committee are as under:

(a) High-Powered Steering Committee of NIRANTAR Platform shall consist of the following members: -

Sl. No	Name	Designation
(i)	Minister-in-charge of the portfolio of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the Union Cabinet	Chairman
(ii)	Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Member
(iii)	Secretaries in-charge of the following Ministries/ Departments /Organizations of Government of India designated as ex-officio member:- a. NITI Aayog b. Ministry of Science and Technology c. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare d. Department for Promotion for Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) e. Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Member
(iv)	Director General of Forest and Special Secretary (DGF&SS), MoEF&CC	Member
(v)	Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun	Member
(vi)	Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)	Member

(vii)	All Directors of the Institutes under NIRANTAR	Member
(viii)	Director, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun	Member
(ix)	Two eminent persons in the field of Ecology, Forestry, Environment etc.-to be nominated by Chairperson	Member
(x)	Addl. DGF, MoEF & CC /Addl Secretary Level officer working in the ministry and nominated by President of the High Powered Steering Committee	Member Secretary

(b) The powers of High-Powered Steering Committee are as under: -

(i) The High-Powered Steering Committee shall have, full authority to perform all acts and issue such directions as may be considered necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objectives of NIRANTAR.

(ii) Review the achievements of various Institutes and ongoing Projects.

(c) A nominated member of the above committee shall hold office for a period of two years from the date of his nomination or till his successor is appointed whichever is later.

(d) The above Committee shall be assisted by the Administrative Committee headed by the Secretary (EF & CC), MoEF & CC. The High-Powered Steering Committee shall meet at least twice in a year.

4 The administrative committee shall function under the supervision, direction and control of the High Powered Steering Committee. The structure, duties and powers of Administrative Committee are as under: -

(a) Administrative Committee shall consist of the following members: -

SI. No	Name	Designation
(i)	Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Chairman
(ii)	Director General of Forest and Special Secretary (DGF&SS), MoEF&CC	Vice-Chairman
(iii)	Director General , ICFRE, Dehradun	Member
(iv)	All Addl. DGF, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Member
(v)	All Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Member

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(vi)	All Directors of the Institutes under NIRANTAR	Member
(vii)	Concerned Divisional Heads of each Vertical	Member
(viii)	DIGF (RT), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi	<b>Member Secretary</b>

(b) The duties and powers of Administrative Committee are as under: -

(i) Formulate broad framework for consolidation of knowledge, its sharing with different stakeholders and application thereof;

(ii) Formulate such mechanisms to create and implement a common vision and mission across these institutions, including overarching forums to decide research priorities;

(iii) Formulate such procedures to ensure clarity of roles, with each institution drawing learnings from other institutions for their deliverables, within the framework set by the MoEF&CC and streamlining of administrative processes involved;

(iv) Provide an institutional mechanism for enabling these institutes and authorities to effectively participate and contribute in policy formulation;

(v) Formulate such procedures for sharing/lateral movement of manpower and expertise and leveraging infrastructure for effective utilization thereof;

(vi) Present its decisions to the steering committee for information;

(vii) Review of ongoing Research and Scientific projects and monitoring of the Progress;

(viii) Undertake any other work as may be assigned by the Steering committee, from time to time;

(ix) The Administrative Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter;

(x) The Administrative Committee can also constitute different 'Technical-cum-Financial Appraisal Committees (TFACs)' headed by Chairperson of concerned verticals for different research schemes wherein research projects are being funded independently by MoEF&CC.

5. The reorganization of institutions and authorities under these thematic verticals is proposed as follows:-

**(a) Ecosystem Survey & Analysis:** The Mandate of this vertical will be survey, assessment and analytics on Forests, Flora, Fauna & other natural resources and Development and Maintenance of Ex-Situ Conservation Measures, such as, libraries, gene banks, herbariums, museums of natural history. The following Institutes will be under this vertical:

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- (i) Forest Survey of India (FSI)
- (ii) Botanical Survey of India (BSI)
- (iii) Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
- (iv) National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)
- (v) National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

The said vertical shall be chaired by the Addl. DGF, MoEF & CC looking after Research & Training Division.

**(b) Research and Management of Ecosystem Service:** The Mandate of this vertical will be to achieve long-term ecological stability, sustainable development and socio-economic security through research and scientific management of ecosystems, provide specific research support on green growth, research on appropriate and advance forestry management methods and techniques, development of protection plans, wildlife action plans, coordinate research activities related to wildlife and wetland ecosystems. The following Institutes will be under this vertical: -

- (i) Institutes under the umbrella of ICFRE (FRI and its eight other sister institutes-one institute IWST has been included in other vertical)
- (ii) Wildlife Institute of Indian (WII)
- (iii) National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
- (iv) Central Zoo Authority (CZA)

The said vertical shall be chaired by the Addl. DGF, MoEF & CC looking after Wildlife Division.

**(c) Capacity Development Support:** The Mandate of this vertical will be to continue research, education and development for capacity building on forest management and forest products aimed at Environmental conservation and sustainable natural resource management. Special focus would be accorded to creation of a pool of trained professionals in sustainable resource management, forest certification, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation and nature based solutions. The following Institutes will be under this vertical:

- (i) Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST)
- (ii) Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)

The said vertical shall be chaired by the Addl. DGF, MoEF & CC looking after Forest Conservation division.

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- (d) **Climate Change Support:** The mandate of this vertical will be to conduct research in sustainable development of blue economy and management of Himalayan ecosystems, prepare specific plans for blue growth and prosperity, implementation of integrated/coordinated plans under National Climate Missions, support in implementation of CCAP, NAFCC, National Coastal Mission, and Blue Economy Missions.

The following Institutes will be under this vertical:

- (i) National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)
- (ii) G B Pant National Institute for Himalayan Studies (NIHE)
- (iii) Salim Ali center for Ornithology and Natural History(SACON)

The said vertical shall be chaired by the AS, MoEF & CC looking after climate change division.

6. This issues with the approval of the competent authority

*AKM*  
22/11/2022  
(Anand Kumar Prabhakar)  
Deputy Inspector General of Forest (RT)  
Phone:- 011-20819375  
E-mail:-or154.ifs@nic.in

**Distribution: -**

- i. PS to Hon'ble Union Minister (E,F&CC), New Delhi
- ii. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State (E,F&CC) New Delhi
- iii. Sr. PPS to Secretary (E,F&CC), New Delhi
- iv. Sr. PPS to DGF & SS, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- v. PPS to All Addl. DGF, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- vi. PPS to All Addl. Secretary, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- vii. PPS to All Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- viii. PPS to All IGFs/JSS/CCA/CE(CCU), MoEF&CC
- ix. All Institutions under MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- x. All Integrated Regional Offices (IROs) of MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- xi. All DIGs/DS/Director level officers of MoEF&CC
- xii. US (Media)/Consultant (IT) for updation on Ministry's Website