

Fifth meeting held on 19.02.2019

1	Relaxation/ De-notification of "No Go" Zone for exploration of oil blocks in A&N Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the Exclusive Economic Zone of A &N Islands of area about 6 lakh sq. km (forming around 30% of total EEZ of the country), one of the area for economic development is offshore oil exploration. • But over 90% of the EEZ is declared as a 'No Go Zone' as per Directorate of Hydrocarbon. • On request of UT Administration, the Ministry of Petroleum/DGH is examining relaxation/de-notification of No Go Zone in consultation Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Space, so as to arrive a workable template for offshore oil exploration.
2	Compensatory Afforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the acute shortage of land available for Compensatory Afforestation in A & N Islands, the Ministry of Environment & Forest is considering request of A&N Administration for granting exemption from providing Compensatory Afforestation land for diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. • States/UTs with less forest cover are proposed to be tagged with A & N Islands so that compensatory Afforestation (as mandated in Forest Conservation Act, 1980) can be taken up in such States/UTs for forest diversion proposal in A & N Islands.
3	Deemed Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request of A & N Administration for exemption from compensatory Afforestation as per the provisions of Forest Conservation Act 1980 with reference to deemed forest is under active consideration in the Ministry of Environment and Forest.