

# TheGreen BULLETIN

Stay Informed, Act Green  
April 2024

CEDM-HPNLU

National

## NGT Directs DGCA for Noise Pollution Control

On June 18th, 2018, the MoEFCC issued circular establishing noise standards for Indian airports based on annual aircraft movements. Busy airports (over 50,000 movements) had daytime limits of 75 dB(A) and nighttime limits of 65 dBA, while other airports (15,000 to 50,000 movements) had lower thresholds. NGT directed DGCA on March 21st, 2024, to ensure compliance by issuing circulars to such effect for the same, noting AAI's need for similar action within two months.

Source - Hindustan Times,  
DownToEarth

National

## March 2020 Notification Granting Blanket Exemption for Earth Extraction Struck Down by Supreme Court

During the nationwide lockdown in India, a March 28th, 2020 government notification exempted certain projects like road construction from prior environmental clearance. This blanket exemption was challenged before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), leading to the issuance of additional safeguards notified in August 2023.

However, the Supreme Court declared the notification unconstitutional on March 21st, 2024, citing a lack of specificity in defining projects and failure to consider public opinion, violating citizens' right to a pollution-free environment under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Source- Hindustan Times, Mint

## National

# NGT Takes Cognisance of Environmental Violations in the Netravati Riverfront Project

The Netravati Riverfront project in Mangaluru, focusing on promenade development, faces scrutiny from the NGT due to concerns about Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) violations and environmental impact. The NGT, responding to complaints by the local National Environmental Conservation Foundation chapter, directed the formation of a joint committee on March 21st to assess the project's environmental impact, CRZ compliance, and measures for stakeholder rehabilitation.

*Source-The Hindu, DowntoEarth*

## International

# The Council Approves a New EU Law that Imposes Stricter Penalties and Broadens the Range of Environmental Offences

The EU Council endorsed a new directive to bolster environmental protection via criminal law, replacing the 2008 legislation. It broadens the recognised environmental offences to include illegal timber trade and chemical law violations. Introducing a "qualified offence" provision, intentional acts causing significant harm carry a minimum 10-year prison term. Companies can face fines of 5% of global turnover or €40 million for severe offences, and 3% or €24 million for others. Member states must align their laws within two years.

*Source- Press Release Council of EU*

## International

# Earth Hour: Dimming Lights For Climate Activism

On March 23rd, UN Secretary-General António Guterres urges global participation in Earth Hour, citing 2023's record global warmth. He emphasises the event's significance as a collective effort toward a better future amid the climate crisis. Guterres invites individuals worldwide to join in turning off lights, with the UN Secretariat building also participating. Highlighting Earth Hour's role in demonstrating individual empowerment, he highlights Earth Hour's role in demonstrating individual empowerment and calls for unified action to address pressing environmental challenges.

*Source- UN News*