

'One Nation-One Pass' launched for smooth transit of forest produce

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NEW DELHI: In a move which may provide a significant impetus to the agroforestry sector, the environment ministry launched the National Transit Pass System (NTPS) as a "One Nation-One Pass" regime to facilitate seamless transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce across the country.

Currently, transit permits are issued by different states based on state-specific transit rules. Since each state has its own regulations, one has to get a separate transit pass issued in every state. The entire process, therefore, makes it quite a time-consuming process, causing hurdles in transporting timber and forest products.

NTPS, launched by environment minister Bhupendra Yadav last Friday, will enable seamless transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce. Flagging-off two vehicles carrying produce from Gujarat and J&K which were bound for West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, Yadav said the impact of the NTPS extends beyond merely encouraging agroforestry and tree farming as it promises to incentivise the entire value chain. "The system will also serve as a bridge between the rural and urban economy," he said.

Under the new system, the QR coded transit permits will help check-gates across various states to verify the validity of the permits and allow seamless transit.