

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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# The concept

- Defined as the study to predict the effect of a proposed activity/project on the environment.
- A decision making tool that helps evaluate different options available
- EIA systematically examines both beneficial and adverse consequences of the project and ensures that these effects are taken into account during project design.

# Recent controversies

- The Mumbai coastal road project granted clearance
- Proposed amendments (2018) for the Realty sector
- The urban re-development project in Nauroji Nagar in south Delhi (2018)
- NGT had quashed the 2016 amendment that constituted the district-level EIA authorities

# Evolution

- Began with the implementation of the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) 1969 in the US.
- In 1989, the WB adopted EIA for major development projects, in which a borrower country had to undertake an EIA under the Bank's supervision
- In India, it began in 1976-77 when the Planning Commission asked the DoST to examine the river-valley projects from an environmental angle.

# 1994: a watershed

- On 27 Jan 1994, the MoEF, under Environmental (Protection) Act 1986, promulgated an EIA notification making Environmental Clearance (EC) mandatory for expansion or modernisation of any activity or for setting up new projects listed in Schedule 1 of the notification.
- Since then there have been 12 amendments made in the EIA notification of 1994.
- The MoEF notified new EIA legislation in Sept 2006.
- Mandatory today for more than 30 categories of projects in India.

# Advantages of eia

- It helps to identify possible environmental effects of the proposed project
- It proposes measures to mitigate adverse effects & predicts whether there will be significant adverse environmental effects, even after the mitigation is implemented
- Ensures protection of environment, optimum utilisation of resources and saving of time and cost of the project
- Properly conducted EIA also lessens conflicts by promoting community participation, informing decision makers, and helping lay the base for environmentally sound projects

# Stages of eia

STAGE	DESCRIPTION
Screening	Whether EIA needed, & what level of assessment required
Scoping	Identifies the key issues. Defines the boundary and time limit of the study.
Impact analysis	Identifies & predicts the likely envt. & social impact & evaluates the significance
Mitigation	Recommends the actions to reduce & avoid the potential adverse consequences
Reporting	Presents the result of EIA in a form of a report for DM
Review of EIA	Examines the adequacy and effectiveness of the EIA report
Decision	Decides whether the project is rejected, approved or needs further change
Post-monitoring	Ensures that impacts & mitigation measures are as described in the EIA report

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment</b>
Technical instrument	Political instrument
Reactive approach	Proactive approach
Identifies specific impacts in envt.	Addresses issues of Sust. Devt.
Limited review of cumulative effects	Early warning of cumulative effects
Emphasis on mitigating & minimising environmental impacts	Prevention as per identified environmental objectives

# THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Participation	Transparency
Certainty	Credibility
Cost effectiveness	Accountability
Flexibility	Practicality

Proponent

Assessor

Reviewer

Stakeholders

Experts

Media

DM

# SHORT-COMINGS OF EIA

Wider applicability needed	Composition of committees
Early public hearing needed	Credibility of data
Quality of EIA	Monitoring & compliance

Thank you