

# **Non-Publication of Details of Security Projects**

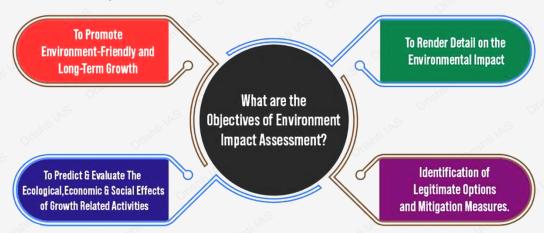
### **Source: HT**

Recently, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** stated that details of projects granted **environmental clearance** related to national security will **not** be available on its **PARIVESH portal**.

- The project processing will occur via PARIVESH 2.0 but defence-related projects will be masked and inaccessible to the public on the portal.
- The <u>Forest Conservation Act, 1980</u>, amended in 2023, exempted specific projects from seeking forest clearance.
  - Strategic linear projects (Roads, Railways etc) of national importance located within 100 km from international borders or the Line of Control/Actual Control.
  - Security-related infrastructure projects involving forest land up to 10 hectares.
  - Defence-related and public utility infrastructure in <u>Left Wing Extremism (LWE)</u> affected districts involving forest land upto 5 hectares.
  - Projects requiring up to 0.1 hectares of forest land for connectivity to road/rail amenities.
- PARIVESH 2.0 is a web-based application for online submission and monitoring of Environmental, Forest, Wildlife, and <u>Coastal Regulation Zone</u> clearances.

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

EIA is a study conducted in the early stages of development project planning to predict and address potential environmental impacts—



- Statutory Status: Environmental (Protection)
  Act, 1986 (Made EIA mandatory)
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
- Project Categorisation: EIA Notification of 2006 categorised the developmental projects in:
- Category A Project: Needed prior Environmental Clearance (EC) from MoEF&CC
- Category B Project: Needed prior EC from State/UT Govt.
  - Category B1 projects (Mandatorily requires EIA)
  - Category B2 projects (Do not require EIA)

There are 39 categories of projects that require an EC process and are subject to EIA

## EIA Process as per EIA Notification, 2006

Step	Objective	Carried Out By
Screening Scoping	■ Need of EIA ■ Identifies important issues for EIA	<ul> <li>State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) (Category B)</li> <li>Standard Term of Reference (ToR) prepared by MoEF&amp;CC with EAC/SEAC for Category B Projects</li> </ul>
■ Public Consultation	Addresses concerns of affected people	■ State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/ UT Pollution Control Board (UTPCB)
■ Project Appraisal	Scrutiny of Final EIA Report/ Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	■ EAC for category A Projects and SEAC for category B1 Projects
■ Decision Making	■ Granting EC	■ Category A: MoEf&CC  ■ Category B: State EIA Authority (SEIAA)
■ Monitoring (Post EC)	Compliance of general and specific conditions	■ SPCB / UTPCB and Regional Offices

### **Government Initiatives For EC**

- PARIVESH (Proactive and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous, and Environmental Single Window Hub): Single Window System for EC
  - Developed by MoEF&CC and National Information Centre (NIC)
- Environmental Information System (ENVIS): Collect, Collate, Storing, Retrieving and Disseminating Information Related to the Environment Sector
- Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2020: Published by MoEF&CC to replace existing EIA Notification, 2006



Read More: Environmental Impact Assessment

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/non-publication-of-details-of-security-projects

