



## **Government of Tamilnadu**

### **Department of Employment and Training**

Course : TNPSC Group I Mains Material  
Subject : Environment, Biodiversity and Disaster Management  
Topic : Environmental Clearance and Auditing

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**Commissioner,**

**Department of Employment and Training.**



# ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

## ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

Environmental clearance is the procedure for obtaining government clearance for certain projects to be 'installed' and 'modified'. For projects that can cause high environmental pollution, environmental clearance is mandatory.

Environmental Clearance on the basis of environmental impact assessment is mandatory for various development projects. A beginning in this direction was made in our country with the impact assessment of river valley projects in 1978-79 and the scope has subsequently been enhanced to cover other developmental sectors such as industries, thermal power projects, mining schemes, etc.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING:

Environmental auditing is essentially an environmental management tool for measuring the effects of certain activities on the environment against set criteria or standards. Depending on the types of standards and the focus of the audit, there are different types of environmental audit. Organizations of all kinds now recognize the importance of environmental matters and accept that their environmental performance will be scrutinized by a wide range of interested parties. Environmental auditing is carried out when a development is already in place, and is used to check on existing practices, assessing the environmental effects of current activities (ex post). Environmental auditing therefore provides a 'snap-shot' of looking at what is happening at that point in time in an organization.

Environmental auditing is used to

1. investigate
2. understand
3. identify

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These are used to help improve existing human activities, with the aim of reducing the adverse effects of these activities on the environment. An environmental auditor will study an organizations environmental effects in a systematic and documented manner and will produce an environmental audit report. There are many reasons for undertaking an environmental audit, which include issues such as environmental legislation and pressure from customers.

**Question:**

1. Give short notes on Environmental Auditing and Environmental clearance.

