

## Environment Audit Rules, 2025

*Prelims - Current events of National and International importance| General issues on Environmental ecology| Governance.*

### Why in News?

Recently, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced the Environment Audit Rules, 2025.

- **Environment Audit Rules** - It establish a formal and structured framework for environmental auditing across India.
- The framework introduces a structured system for certifying and registering Environment Auditors, also establishing a Designated agency to oversee the entire audit ecosystem.
- Under the new rules, **private agencies** can get themselves accredited as auditors.
- **Objective** - To bridge the manpower and infrastructure deficits faced by regulatory authorities.
- To strengthen the effective implementation of environmental compliance mechanisms.
- **Key Features** -
  - **Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA)** -Notified by the **Central Government** from time to time, responsible for overall management of the Environment Audit.
    - **Responsibilities of EADA** - Certification, registration, and oversight of auditors.
    - Monitoring performance and providing training.
    - Taking disciplinary action when required.
  - **Certified Environment Auditors** - The certification of environment auditors shall be carried out by the EADA through the following two modes
    - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
    - National Certification Examination (NCE)
  - **Registered Environment Auditor (REAs)** -Auditing is undertaken only by REAs, certified by the Environment Audit Designated Agency.
    - **Roles of REAs** - Conduct audit of emissions, effluents, and waste.
    - Assess the performance of pollution control systems.
    - Report non-compliance and compute environmental compensation
    - Verify self-compliance reports
    - Undertake assignments from Central pollution Control Boards, State Pollution control Boards, or project proponents
- **Two-Tiered System of Compliance** -

- **Tier-1** - Government regulators (CPCB, SPCBs, MoEFCC regional offices) will review compliance.
- **Tier-2** - Audits will be conducted by REAs for third-party verification.
- **Oversight and Monitoring** - The implementation is overseen a Steering Committee, led by an Additional Secretary from MoEFCC.
- **Green approvals** - Any approval, clearance, authorisation, licence, or permission granted under
  - Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
  - Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
  - Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
  - Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980,
  - Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

## References

1. [The Hindu| Environment Audit Rules 2025.](#)
2. [The Gazette of India| Roles of Environment Audits.](#)

